



PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: May 28, 2026 - June 04, 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

This analysis could not be generated due to a technical issue.

Key Developments

- Unable to generate a security analysis for Philippines at this time.
- Please try again later or select an alternative analysis method.

Outlook

Please check back later for an updated analysis.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

- ['Ex-Marines' drags Marcos, Tito Sotto, Erwin Tulfo, De Lima to flood control mess](#) (2026-06-04 05:52)

Individuals claiming to be former members of Marines alleged Thursday that they delivered suitcases of money to former President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, Senators Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Erwin Tulfo, and Representatives Leila de Lima and France Castro, among others.

- [PNP releases mugshots of Jinggoy Estrada, co-accused in flood control mess](#) (2026-06-04 05:47)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday officially released to the media blurred mugshots of Senator Jinggoy Estrada and his other co-accused in the P573-million plunder and graft charges in connection with the flood control mess.

- [NBI's Matibag: Informant said Mike Defensor bribed 18 'ex-Marines'](#) (2026-06-04 05:44)

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag on Thursday said an informant told the bureau that former AnaKalusugan Representative Mike Defensor bribed alleged former Marines and soldiers to make claims that several personalities received cash from former Ako Bicol Party-List Representative Zaldy Co.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Alan Peter Cayetano bloc holds flood control hearing \(June 4, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-04 05:34)

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee's hearing on the flood control mess has been postponed "until further notice."

- [Gatchalian bloc: Cayetano flood control hearing 'bogus'](#) (2026-06-04 05:17)

The Gatchalian bloc on Thursday slammed the Senate hearing on the flood control mess held by the Cayetano bloc, describing it as "bogus, unofficial, and unauthorized."

- [Marcos 'inclined' to call for Congress special session -- Usec. Castro](#) (2026-06-04 05:16)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. is inclined to call for a special session of Congress amid the sine die adjournment should acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian request for one, Malacañang said Thursday.

- [Jinggoy Estrada withdraws bail petition in P573-M plunder case](#) (2026-06-04 05:06)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada on Thursday withdrew his petition seeking bail to secure temporary liberty pending a P573-million plunder charge against him in connection with his alleged involvement in the flood control mess.

- [1k applying for refugee status in Philippines -- DOJ](#) (2026-06-04 04:02)

There are 1,000 individuals applying for refugee status or asylum in the Philippines, an official of the Department of Justice (DOJ) said Thursday.

- [Robin Padilla, Jonvic Remulla jostle as 18 ex-Marines enter Senate](#) (2026-06-04 03:35)

Senator Robin Padilla and Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla jostled each other inside the Senate on Thursday.

- [Jinggoy Estrada insists Cayetano still Senate President](#) (2026-06-04 03:35)

Estrada insists Cayetano is still Senate President

- [Sherwin Gatchalian allows Senate staff to leave early](#) (2026-06-04 03:29)

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday allowed Senate employees who reported to work onsite to leave the office beginning 10 a.m. in anticipation of the activities within and around the upper chamber's premises.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian to preside over Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-04 03:05)

Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian said Thursday he would preside over the looming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian: Senate to go back to work](#) (2026-06-04 02:13)

Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday said that the Senate will now resume its work after days of legislative standoff.

- [Pia Cayetano presides over Senate blue ribbon flood control mess hearing](#) (2026-06-04 02:05)

The Senate blue ribbon committee on Thursday resumed its hearing on flood control projects with Senator Pia Cayetano presiding over it.

- [Sandiganbayan resets arraignment of Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan in plunder and graft cases](#) (2026-06-04 01:43)

The Sandiganbayan has postponed the arraignment of Senator Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan in the P573-million plunder case and a separate graft case over their alleged involvement in the flood control mess.

- [Blue Ribbon flood control hearings postponed 'until further notice' --Erwin Tulfo](#) (2026-06-03 23:50)

Blue Ribbon flood control hearing postponed 'until further notice' --Erwin Tulfo

- [US House votes for measure that would end Iran war](#) (2026-06-03 22:11)

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday backed a Democratic-led resolution aiming to stop the Iran war until hostilities are authorized by Congress, reflecting growing congressional concern, even among President Donald Trump's Republicans, over the war.

- [PH Church joins preparations for 500th anniversary of Guadalupe apparitions](#) (2026-06-03 21:18)

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) announced that local churches are taking part in the preparations for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

- [House prosecutors ready for impeachment trial under any Senate leadership -- Ridon](#) (2026-06-03 17:42)

House Impeachment Prosecutor and Bicol Saro Party-list Representative Terry Ridon today assured that "the House Prosecution Panel is ready to proceed to trial in July under any Senate leadership and under any Presiding Officer of the Senate Impeachment Court."

- [Philippines fails in bid for UN Security Council non-permanent membership](#) (2026-06-03 17:03)

The Philippines failed in its bid to attain a seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-permanent member.

- [EXPLAINER: What is the Senate President Pro Tempore?](#) (2026-06-03 16:23)

The Senate President Pro Tempore is the second-highest-ranking official in the Senate and is elected by fellow senators.

- [Sherwin Gatchalian allows Senate staff to work from home on day of Alan Peter Cayetano's Blue Ribbon hearing](#) (2026-06-03 15:56)

Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday evening authorized Senate offices to shift to a work-from-home setup on Thursday, June 4, saying there was no official business on the said date.

- [House OKs bill punishing fake news peddlers with prison term, P2M fine](#) (2026-06-03 15:44)

The House of Representatives passed on final reading an anti-false information bill that imposes prison time and as much as a P2 million fine on those found guilty of willfully spreading false information.

- [SC ruling affirms validity of 12-senator quorum, says law expert](#) (2026-06-03 15:34)

The election of new Senate officers by 12 senators on Wednesday was valid under existing jurisprudence, a law expert said, pointing to the Supreme Court's ruling in Avelino v. Cuenco.

- [Chinese Embassy mum on Bajo de Masinloc, says 4th round of talks with PH set](#) (2026-06-03 15:17)

China is preparing for the fourth round of talks with the Philippines, Ambassador Jing Quan said, his remarks coinciding with reports of a structure being built by China at Bajo de Masinloc.

- [Nat'l Task Force for WPS validating alleged Chinese structure at Bajo de Masinloc](#) (2026-06-03 15:11)

The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on Wednesday night said it is validating reports of a structure at Bajo de Masinloc that is allegedly being built by China.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto jackpot draws on June 3, 2026](#) (2026-06-03 14:10)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said there were no winners of the major lotto jackpot draws on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano declares sine die adjournment through memo](#) (2026-06-03 14:01)

Without physically appearing before the Senate session, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday declared the sine die adjournment of the upper chamber through a memorandum that was circulated to senators present at the plenary hall.

- [Speaker Dy: Sherwin Gatchalian-led Senate will discharge duties with integrity](#) (2026-06-03 13:20)

House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III expressed the chamber's support to newly elected Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian.

- [EXPLAINER: What happened in Avelino v. Cuenco case on Senate leadership change?](#) (2026-06-03 13:17)

Amid the continued absence of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and other majority bloc senators, the remaining 12 senators on Wednesday elected Senator Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate President Pro Tempore and acting Senate President.

- [Jinggoy Estrada seeks bail in flood control plunder case](#) (2026-06-03 13:08)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada has asked the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division to allow him to post bail for his temporary liberty pending the P573 million plunder case against him over alleged pocketing of kickbacks from government flood control projects.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano warns of constitutional crisis: Do not padlock Senate](#) (2026-06-03 12:07)

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday warned of what he described as a brewing constitutional crisis, as he appealed for calm and urged that the Senate not be “padlocked” amid tensions over leadership and committee control.

- [Chiz Escudero joined session without preconditions, says Lacson](#) (2026-06-03 12:01)

There are no conditions or deals behind the decision of Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero to attend Wednesday's session and break the Senate impasse, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.

- [Death toll in Pampanga building collapse now at 27 - BFP Central Luzon](#) (2026-06-03 11:59)

The death toll in the collapse of an under-construction building in Angeles City, Pampanga last May 24 has climbed to 27 after the recovery of two more bodies on Wednesday night, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Central Luzon said.

- [CHED, UniFAST launch P103-M scholarship program for future teachers](#) (2026-06-03 11:39)

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Teacher Education Council (TEC) have launched a P103-million scholarship program aimed at attracting more students to teaching specializations facing persistent shortages in the country's education system.

- [House approves anti-crisis KALINGA bill on final reading](#) (2026-06-03 11:33)

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved on third and final reading the KALINGA Act, which outlines an aid distribution system in case of emergencies.

- [Erwin Tulfo: Senate blue ribbon panel's flood control probe to resume on June 8](#) (2026-06-03 11:32)

The resumption of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee's investigation into the anomalous flood control projects will be moved to Monday, June 8, Senator Erwin Tulfo said on Wednesday.

- [Marcos to young Pinoy innovators: Keep using your talent to help PH](#) (2026-06-03 11:13)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday called on young Filipino innovators to keep using their talents and develop technologies that could help improve the lives of their countrymen.

- [Iloilo Rep. Baronda files cyber libel complaint vs. 18 ex-marines, lawyer](#) (2026-06-03 11:10)

Iloilo Rep. Julianne Baronda has filed a cyber libel complaint with the DOJ against the 18 former marines and soldiers who claimed they delivered cash from Zaldy Co to various individuals.

- [Marcos receives credentials of newly-designated envoys to Manila](#) (2026-06-03 10:39)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday received the credentials of two newly-appointed ambassadors to the Philippines in Malacañang.

- [Solid Bloc 12: Alan Peter Cayetano ousted as Senate President](#) (2026-06-03 10:34)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano is no longer Senate President, a statement from the "new majority" said Wednesday.

- [CHED, UniFAST launch P103M scholarship program for future teachers](#) (2026-06-03 10:14)

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Teacher Education Council (TEC) on Wednesday launched a P103 million scholarship program aimed at attracting more students to teaching specializations that are beset with persistent shortages.

- [Cayetano calls Gatchalian election 'illegal coup'; says Blue Ribbon hearing to continue on June 4, 2026](#) (2026-06-03 10:05)

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano said on Wednesday that the installation of Senator Sherwin Gatchalian as Senate President Pro Tempore and acting Senate President was an “illegal coup d’etat” after the chamber reconvened with 12 senators present.

- [12 senators enough to muster quorum with absence of Estrada, Dela Rosa --NUPL head](#) (2026-06-03 10:01)

With the current number of sitting senators, 12 are enough to muster a quorum and elect an Acting Senate President. National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL) president Ephraim Cortez said.

- [House passes anti-political dynasty bill on final reading](#) (2026-06-03 09:41)

In an unprecedented move, the House of Representatives on Wednesday passed an anti-political dynasty bill banning relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from running for or occupying a post in the same constituency or jurisdiction on final reading.

- [Marcos vows equal protection, respect for LGBTQIA+ community](#) (2026-06-03 09:37)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that every Filipino—including members of the LGBTQIA+ community—is given equal protection, opportunities, and respect under the law.

- [Senate announces new committee chairmanships after latest leadership change](#) (2026-06-03 09:26)

The Senate on Wednesday named new chairpersons for several committees following another leadership change in the upper chamber.

- [Kiko Barzaga's expulsion is first without criminal raps, party-list led removal since 1987](#) (2026-06-03 09:20)

The expulsion of Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga as Cavite 4th District representative due to disorderly conduct is the first time that a lawmaker was removed from the House's ranks even without a criminal case or an expulsion stemming from a party-list decision.

- [DOJ probe into Senate shooting is independent of other investigations -- spox](#) (2026-06-03 05:50)

The Department of Justice's (DOJ) probe into the events at the Senate from May 11 to May 13, including the shooting incident, is independent of any other investigation, Justice spokesperson Polo Martinez said Wednesday.

- [Lino Cayetano is new PTV general manager](#) (2026-06-03 05:33)

Former Taguig City mayor Lino Cayetano has been appointed as the new General Manager of state-run People's Television Network (PTV).

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan transferred to private hospital --PNP](#) (2026-06-03 05:26)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan has been transferred to a private hospital, the Philippine National Police said on Wednesday.

- [SEC director nabbed in entrapment operation over alleged extortion](#) (2026-06-03 05:05)

A high-ranking official of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was arrested by operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in an entrapment operation over an alleged extortion racket.

- [Romualdez's bid to lift travel ban denied](#) (2026-06-03 04:54)

The Sandiganbayan has denied the bid of Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to lift the precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) issued against him pending government prosecutors' probe on his alleged involvement in the flood control mess.

- [Enrile's daughter Katrina disputes Alan Peter Cayetano remark](#) (2026-06-03 04:50)

The daughter of the late Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Juan Ponce Enrile on Wednesday called for historical accuracy in public references to her father, after Senate President Alan

Peter Cayetano cited his case in a recent remark.

- [Obstruction of justice complaint filed vs. Alan Peter Cayetano, Robin Padilla, Mao Ablasca](#) (2026-06-03 04:19)

Opposition coalition Tindig Pilipinas and rights groups on Wednesday filed a complaint for obstruction of justice against Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, Senator Robin Padilla and suspended acting Senate sergeant-at-arms Mao Ablasca over the May 13 shooting incident at the Senate.

- [Comelec summons Escudero, Marcoleta campaign donors](#) (2026-06-03 04:09)

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has issued subpoenas to the campaign contributors of Senators Francis “Chiz” Escudero and Rodante Marcoleta, according to Chairperson George Erwin Garcia.

- [Ex-DPWH chief Manuel Bonoan had 'elevated' lab results -- PNP Health Service](#) (2026-06-03 03:47)

The laboratory test results of former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan were elevated as he continues to receive medical attention following his arrest over graft and plunder charges.

- [PNP to increase presence at Senate amid political tensions](#) (2026-06-03 03:44)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said more cops will be deployed at the Senate and nearby government facilities as political tensions continue.

- [DTI eyes mandatory certification for solar power products](#) (2026-06-03 03:42)

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is proposing to place solar power system products under mandatory certification requirements.

- [VP Sara pens open letter for Kiko Barzaga: Being different is okay](#) (2026-06-03 03:39)

VP Sara pens open letter for Kiko Barzaga: Being different is okay

- [Drilon links Senate majority absences to VP Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-03 03:16)

Former Senate President Franklin Drilon on Wednesday hinted that the continued absence of

members of the Senate majority bloc from plenary sessions may be tied to the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [DILG's Remulla apologizes for raising voice at Alan Peter Cayetano during Jinggoy Estrada arrest](#) (2026-06-03 02:51)

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday apologized after raising his voice at Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano during the arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada inside the Senate premises.

- [Marcos to senators: Get back to work](#) (2026-06-03 02:19)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Wednesday called on senators to "get back to work," after plenary sessions have been stalled due to a “no show” from the majority bloc.

- [Lito Lapid's 'Committee on Silence' joke lightens mood in Senate plenary](#) (2026-06-02 21:47)

The tense mood in the Senate session hall got a dose of humor from Senator Lito Lapid on Tuesday, who jested that there would certainly be order if he were to preside in session. "Kapag ako pumukpok, walang magsasalita. Committee on Silence ako (If I bang the gavel, no one would talk. I'm the Committee on Silence)," Lapid quipped.

- [House OKs child online safety bill with AI safeguards](#) (2026-06-02 19:54)

The House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading a bill that seeks to strengthen the country's protections against online child sexual abuse and exploitation, with new safeguards addressing threats posed by artificial intelligence (AI).

- [OCTA survey: Filipinos back increased military presence in West Philippine Sea](#) (2026-06-02 17:52)

A majority of Filipinos want the Marcos administration to prioritize measures that reinforce the assertion of the Philippines' territorial rights and presence in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), according to a survey by OCTA Research.

- [PNP-ACG: 153 arrested, 145 cases filed in May 2026 anti-cybercrime drive](#) (2026-06-02 17:21)

Authorities arrested 153 suspects in anti-cybercrime operations and referred 145 cases for filing for the month of May 2026, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.

- [Senate panel invites Romualdez, ex-Marines to flood control mess hearing](#) (2026-06-02 17:11)

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee has invited former Speaker and Leyte 1st District Rep. Martin Romualdez to the resumption of the panel's hearing on the flood control scandal.

- [Marcos signs law declaring April as Philippine Veterans' Month](#) (2026-06-02 16:11)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has enacted a measure declaring April of each year as Philippine Veterans' Month in honor of the heroism, sacrifices, and the enduring contributions of Filipino veterans.

- [Senate majority: Move to skip plenary session anew a 'lawful parliamentary tool'](#) (2026-06-02 15:49)

The Senate majority bloc on Tuesday explained its decision to skip the plenary session anew as a “lawful parliamentary tool” to protect ongoing Senate investigations and prevent changes in committee leaderships.

- [Erwin Tulfo says Alan Cayetano anxious over Senate presidency amid 11-11 split](#) (2026-06-02 15:23)

Senator Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday accused Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano of being “pretentious” in defending the current composition of the Blue Ribbon Committee, which is chaired by his sister, Sen. Pia Cayetano. In an interview on “24 Oras,” Tulfo suggested that Cayetano's real concern is the possibility of losing the Senate presidency amid the chamber's 11-11 split.

- [Tulfo brothers, Lito Lapid, JV Ejercito offered committee chairmanships](#) (2026-06-02 15:16)

Sen. Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday night said members of the Senate majority, led by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, tried to convince him, his brother Sen. Raffy Tulfo, Sen. Lito Lapid, and Sen. JV Ejercito to switch sides to beef up their ranks. In an interview with Vicky Morales on “24 Oras,” Tulfo said the senior members of the Senate minority, on the other hand, reached out to the Senate Pro Tempore Loren Legarda and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

- [PCSO: No jackpot winners for June 2, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-06-02 14:42)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

- [Senate minority sees patterns from Alan Peter Cayetano's term as House Speaker](#) (2026-06-02 14:19)

After failing to call for a session at the Senate, the minority bloc brought up the past actions of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano back when he was Speaker of the House of Representatives.

- [UP Diliman grad tops May 2026 CPA licensure examination](#) (2026-06-02 14:03)

A graduate of the University of the Philippines-Diliman achieved the highest score in the licensure examination for certified public accountants (CPA) given last month.

- [Alan Peter Cayetano to Raffy Tulfo: 'Kung hindi lang kayo Tulfo, isusumbong ko na kayo kay Tulfo'](#) (2026-06-02 12:06)

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday responded to Senator Raffy Tulfo's challenge by quipping that he would “report” him to his own public affairs program for daring him to appear in the Senate.

- [EXPLAINER: What is Brigada Eskwela?](#) (2026-06-02 12:05)

Highlighting the spirit of community for the Filipino youth, the Department of Education (DepEd) leads Brigada Eskwela before the start of each school year--its flagship event that calls on stakeholders to unite in preparing public schools across the country to become the best possible learning institutions for elementary and high school students.

- [Sara Duterte backs call to protect 'independence of institutions'](#) (2026-06-02 11:33)

Vice President Sara Duterte on Tuesday supported the call for the “independence” of institutions initially made by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano following the arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada for a plunder charge.

- [Kiko Barzaga expelled by House of Representatives for disorderly behavior](#) (2026-06-02 11:27)

The House of Representatives has expelled Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga over disorderly behavior and conduct unbecoming of a House member, including repeated failure to perform his duty as a lawmaker.

- [Alan Cayetano invites minority bloc to meeting before flood control hearing resumes](#) (2026-06-02 11:05)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano has invited the minority senators for a meeting on Wednesday to address their doubts over the resumption of the Senate Blue Ribbon panel's hearing on the flood control mess on Thursday, June 4.

- [NAPOLCOM supports church-backed truth commission on EJKs](#) (2026-06-02 10:39)

The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) is willing to study and act on recommendations of the church-backed Philippine Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which aims to conduct and investigation of alleged killings and abuses under the Duterte administration's war on drugs.

- [Marcos backs key satellite programs during Space Council meeting](#) (2026-06-02 10:03)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday presided over the 9th Philippine Space Council (PSC) meeting at Malacañang Palace, where officials presented initiatives designed to advance the country's space science and technology industry.

- [NBI files ethics complaint vs. Kiko Barzaga](#) (2026-06-02 09:54)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday filed an ethics complaint against Cavite Fourth District Representative Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga over his alleged statements that NBI agents were deployed to assassinate senators.

- [Defense asks Sandiganbayan to let Jinggoy Estrada wear plain clothes in court hearings](#) (2026-06-02 09:52)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada has asked the Sandiganbayan to let him attend court hearings for his plunder and graft cases wearing plain clothes instead of a Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) uniform.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Senate majority skips sessions \(June, 2, 2026\)](#) (2026-06-02 09:49)

Here are the latest news and updates after the Majority skipped the plenary on Tuesday, June 2, 2025.

- [FDA still reviewing proposed dengue vaccine -- Palace](#) (2026-06-02 09:46)

Citing information from the Department of Health (DOH), Malacañang on Tuesday said the application for a new dengue vaccine remains pending before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), even as the government braces for the rainy season.

- [Sandiganbayan resets Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan arraignment in flood control graft case](#) (2026-06-02 08:57)

The Sandiganbayan Second Division has postponed the arraignment of Senator Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works chief Manuel Bonoan on graft charges in connection with the alleged flood control mess until June 4.

- [DOJ refers to NBI legal action vs. fake posts on Bato dela Rosa case](#) (2026-06-02 08:49)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) said Tuesday it would refer to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) the probe and appropriate action regarding the spread of false information on the case of embattled Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan back to PNP General Hospital amid hospital arrest appeal](#) (2026-06-02 08:46)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan returned to the Philippine National Police General Hospital (PNPGH) Tuesday afternoon amid his pending motion for hospital arrest.

- [Palace: Proposed P240 immigration fee still under study](#) (2026-06-02 08:35)

Malacañang on Tuesday allayed concerns regarding the proposed P240 fee for travelers entering and leaving the country, saying it is still under study and has not yet been approved.

- [Minority senators to Alan Peter Cayetano: Resign](#) (2026-06-02 08:32)

Minority senators on Tuesday called for the resignation of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano over the majority bloc's continued absence in the plenary sessions

- [AFP generals' promotions affected by Senate tension, spox says](#) (2026-06-02 08:27)

At least five generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have been affected by delays in their confirmation hearings amid tensions in the Senate, an official said Tuesday.

- [Malacañang laments effects of Senate 'drama' on Marcos priority bills](#) (2026-06-02 05:58)

Malacañang on Tuesday said the weeks-long altercations in the Senate may affect the passage of the priority measures of the Marcos administration before the sine die adjournment of the first regular session of the 20th Congress this week.

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan leaves PNP hospital for Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-02 05:39)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan was discharged from the Philippine National Police General Hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

- [Malacañang: No obstruction of justice in Jinggoy Estrada arrest](#) (2026-06-02 05:07)

Malacañang on Tuesday said there was no obstruction of justice on the part of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano despite his tense exchange with Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla during the serving of an arrest warrant against Senator Jinggoy Estrada on Monday.

- [Bonoan received medical clearance, ready for transfer to Sandiganbayan -- PNP hospital](#) (2026-06-02 04:53)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan has been issued a medical clearance and is ready to be transferred to the Sandiganbayan, the Philippine National Police General Hospital (PNPGH) said Tuesday.

- [Erwin Tulfo describes majority bloc's session absence as 'boycott'](#) (2026-06-02 04:46)

Erwin Tulfo describes majority bloc's session absence as 'boycott'

- [DPWH engineer: Contractors paid around P10-M 'kickback' per project to Henry Alcantara](#) (2026-06-02 03:58)

Prosecution witness and DPWH engineer John Carlo Rivera testified that at least five contractors paid P10 million per project as commitment fee or kickback fee to former DPWH district engineer Henry Alcantara.

- [Marcos tells DepEd: Ensure School Year 2026-2027 learning continuity](#) (2026-06-02 03:33)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday advised the Department of Education (DepEd) to prepare adequately for the opening of School Year 2026-2027 to ensure learning continuity and avoid unnecessary disruptions.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Jinggoy Estrada in detention for alleged plunder](#) (2026-06-02 01:33)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada spent the night at the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas, Quezon City after he was served the arrest warrant issued by the Sandiganbayan on Monday for alleged plunder in connection with flood control projects.

- [Jinggoy Estrada, 3 co-accused in flood control mess now detained at QC jail --BJMP](#) (2026-06-02 01:11)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada and three of his co-accused in a flood control case are now detained at the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory located in Payatas after being transferred to the facility on Monday, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said Tuesday.

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan stayed overnight at PNP hospital](#) (2026-06-02 00:32)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan stayed overnight at a hospital after his surrender to authorities on Monday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday.

- [Chinese vessels spotted in West Philippine Sea increased to 82 in May --AFP](#) (2026-06-02 00:10)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines on Tuesday said a total of 82 Chinese vessels were monitored in some West Philippine Sea features in May.

- [PNP gears up disaster preparations for rainy season](#) (2026-06-01 19:55)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday said it is ramping up its preparedness and response measures in anticipation of the rainy season and possible typhoons that may affect the country.

- [Alan Cayetano has no control over Senate with only 11 in majority, says Drilon](#) (2026-06-01 17:53)

Former Senate President Franklin Drilon has likened Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano to a “king without a kingdom” after the 13 members of the Senate majority who are expected to attend sessions dwindled to 11 after the arrest on Monday of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for plunder.

- [JV Ejercito says he's sad for brother Jinggoy Estrada after arrest for plunder](#) (2026-06-01 17:21)

Sen. JV Ejercito said he's sad for his brother and colleague, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who was arrested on Monday on plunder charges tied to congressional insertions and anomalous flood control projects.

- [DSWD: 1.6M PUV drivers given P5k cash relief aid to cope with higher oil prices](#) (2026-06-01 16:17)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Monday said it has disbursed P8.214 million in cash relief assistance so far to 1,642,837 public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers across the country affected by the high prices of fuel due to the Middle East conflict.

- [Jinggoy Estrada detained in Payatas QC jail for plunder](#) (2026-06-01 15:02)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada is now detained at the Quezon City jail after he was ordered arrested on Monday by the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division for the charge of plunder, a non-bailable offense.

- [Senate minority won't heed Alan Cayetano's 'boycott call' after Jinggoy Estrada's arrest](#) (2026-06-01 14:32)

Members of the minority in the Senate on Monday rejected Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano's call to let the Senate "fall silent" after Sen. Jinggoy Estrada's arrest on plunder charges.

- [No jackpot winners in PCSO's June 1, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-06-01 14:26)

No one took home the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Monday night, June 1, 2026.

- [EXPLAINER: What is the difference between graft and plunder?](#) (2026-06-01 14:13)

What is the difference between graft and plunder? And, how come one can post bail in graft cases while in plunder cases this is not allowed?

- [Ombudsman on Jinggoy Estrada charges: Accountability, not politics](#) (2026-06-01 13:39)

Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano denied that the P573-million plunder and graft charges filed against Senator Jinggoy Estrada and four others are politically motivated.

- [Alan Cayetano asks minority to make stand for independence, let Senate 'go quiet'](#) (2026-06-01 13:36)

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday asked members of the minority in the Senate to join the majority in letting the Senate fall silent after Sen. Jinggoy Estrada was taken into custody after he was charged with plunder before the Sandiganbayan.

- [VP Sara Duterte files answer to impeachment case](#) (2026-06-01 13:10)

Vice President Sara Duterte, through her legal team, formally filed on Monday her answer to the Articles of Impeachment filed against her.

- [Majority senators absent as Jinggoy Estrada arrested for plunder](#) (2026-06-01 12:26)

The Senate held no session on Monday after members of the majority skipped the proceedings following the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in connection with the plunder case he is facing over alleged congressional insertions and kickbacks tied to anomalous flood control projects.

- [UP-OU grad tops environmental planners computer-based licensure exam](#) (2026-06-01 12:11)

A graduate of the University of the Philippines' Open University achieved the highest score in the computer-based licensure examination for environmental planners.

- [Alan Cayetano, Jonvic Remulla figure in heated exchange amid Jinggoy's Senate arrest](#) (2026-06-01 11:18)

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla figured in a tense exchange on Monday after members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) served an arrest warrant against Senator Jinggoy Estrada at the Senate over plunder charges.

- [PH, Vietnam strengthen defense, economic ties under enhanced partnership](#) (2026-06-01 11:03)

The Philippines and Vietnam on Monday formally upgraded their ties to an enhanced strategic partnership, which would deepen the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

- [Bonoan brought to PNP hospital after surrendering to authorities](#) (2026-06-01 10:37)

Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan was brought to a hospital after surrendering to authorities, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Monday.

- [EXPLAINER: What is earth-balling?](#) (2026-06-01 10:34)

Earth-balling is a process where a tree is dug up along with its roots so to be relocated or replanted in another area.

- [PCO seeks DOJ probe vs. fake posts on Bato Dela Rosa's case](#) (2026-06-01 10:31)

The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Monday endorsed to the Department of Justice (DOJ) the possible filing of charges against four Facebook accounts that allegedly claimed the Supreme Court had blocked the arrest of Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa.

- [Malacañang commends Jinggoy's voluntary surrender: 'Unlike Bato'](#) (2026-06-01 10:01)

Malacañang on Monday welcomed Senator Jinggoy Estrada's voluntary surrender to the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG), saying it was different from what Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa is currently doing.

- [Jinggoy Estrada says he will not use Senate custody as shield against plunder case](#) (2026-06-01 09:52)

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, before surrendering to the police, issued a statement saying he would neither seek custody from the Senate nor use it to shield himself from the allegations against him. Facing arrest and detention on the non-bailable charge of plunder, Estrada said he has instructed the Senate secretary to place his salary on hold.

- [Jinggoy Estrada, four others, to be detained in Payatas, QC jail over plunder charge](#) (2026-06-01 09:11)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada and his four other co-accused in the ₱573 million plunder and graft charges over their alleged involvement in the flood control mess will be detained at the New Quezon City Male Dormitory Jail in Payatas, Quezon City, the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division confirmed Monday.

- [House prosecutors won't seek inhibition of VP Sara allies from impeach vote](#) (2026-06-01 08:56)

The House prosecution panel won't seek the inhibition of the senator-judges who are allied with Vice President Sara Duterte during her impeachment trial, said the head of the panel, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro.

- [Gov't readies for Habagat, possible Super El Niño overlap](#) (2026-06-01 08:37)

Malacañang said Monday that preparations are underway for the potential impacts of the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat), which may coincide with a Super El Niño.

- [Former DPWH chief Manuel Bonoan surrenders to CIDG amid warrant](#) (2026-06-01 08:26)

Former DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan surrendered to authorities on Monday afternoon following an arrest warrant issued by the Sandiganbayan 5th Division.

- [Jinggoy Estrada surrenders to PNP-CIDG](#) (2026-06-01 07:59)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada surrendered Monday afternoon to the members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in light of an arrest warrant issued against him by the Sandiganbayan.

- [Claire Castro greets VP Sara Duterte for birthday with edited poster](#) (2026-06-01 07:51)

Palace Press Officer Usec. Claire Castro on Monday belatedly greeted Vice President Sara Duterte for her birthday, posing with an edited poster of the official's supposed birthday greeting for self-confessed bagman Ramil Madriaga.

- [PNP-CIDG seen at Senate amid arrest warrant vs Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-06-01 07:18)

Members of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) were seen at the Senate on Monday shortly after the Sandiganbayan 5th Division issued an arrest warrant against Senator Jinggoy Estrada.

- [DICT: eGovPH app optimization ongoing as downloads hit 51M](#) (2026-06-01 07:11)

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) said Monday that optimization efforts for the eGovPH app are ongoing as downloads have reached 51 million.

- [Over 55,000 to be deployed for Balik Eskwela 2026 -- PNP](#) (2026-06-01 05:22)

More than 55,000 police personnel and force multipliers will be deployed nationwide for the opening of classes on June 8, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday.

- [PNP: Focus crime rate down nationwide by over 25% in May 2026](#) (2026-06-01 05:10)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday reported a 25% decline in focus crimes in May 2026 compared to the same period last year.

- [NBI subpoenas Mao Ablasca, 3 others linked to last sighting of Bato Dela Rosa](#) (2026-06-01 05:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued subpoenas to Acting Senate

Sergeant-at-Arms Mao Aplasca and three others who were last seen with Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa before he allegedly went into hiding amid an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant, NBI chief Melvin Matibag said Monday.

- [PH, Vietnam renew 2010 defense cooperation deal](#) (2026-06-01 04:43)

The Philippines and Vietnam on Monday signed the renewal of a 16-year-old memorandum of agreement on defense cooperation, which would strengthen the two countries' joint capabilities in maritime security.

- [PNP has leads on Bato dela Rosa's whereabouts](#) (2026-06-01 04:08)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday it has received information on the possible whereabouts of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa and is actively pursuing all available leads to locate and arrest him.

- [PNP to arrest Jinggoy Estrada despite possible Senate protective custody](#) (2026-06-01 03:39)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday it would implement a potential arrest warrant against Senator Jinggoy Estrada even if he is placed under Senate protective custody.

- [Jinggoy Estrada seeks dismissal of plunder, graft raps over flood control mess](#) (2026-06-01 03:33)

The camp of Senator Jinggoy Estrada on Monday asked the Sandiganbayan to junk the plunder and two counts of graft charges that the Office of the Ombudsman filed against him in connection with the flood control mess.

- [2 majority senators may join minority bloc --Raffy Tulfo](#) (2026-06-01 03:09)

Senator Raffy Tulfo on Monday said that two senators from the majority bloc may transfer to the minority amid dissatisfaction over a proposal to amend Senate rules and allow lawmakers to participate in plenary sessions remotely.

- [Scheduled Senate visit of Vietnam President Tô Lâm canceled](#) (2026-06-01 03:01)

The scheduled visit of Vietnamese President and Communist Party General Secretary Tô Lâm to the Senate on Monday, June 1, has been canceled.

- [Marcos hosts Vietnam's Tô Lâm for bilateral talks in Malacañang](#) (2026-06-01 02:36)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday morning welcomed Vietnamese President and Communist Party General Secretary Tô Lâm in Malacañang Palace as both leaders seek to strengthen the strategic partnership between the Philippines and Vietnam.

- [LIVE UPDATES: Jinggoy Estrada's plunder and graft cases at Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-01 01:18)

Here are the latest news and updates on Senator Jinggoy Estrada and the complaints filed against him at the Sandiganbayan over his alleged involvement in anomalous flood control projects.

- [Marcos holds phone call with US Secretary of State Rubio](#) (2026-06-01 01:08)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Monday morning had a phone conversation with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

- [7 out of 10 Filipinos support a Senate impeachment trial vs VP Sara Duterte --OCTA](#) (2026-06-01 00:17)

The percentage of Filipinos who believe Vice President Sara Duterte should face a Senate impeachment trial increased from 69% in March to 74% in April, according to the OCTA Research survey released on Monday.

- [Arrest warrant for Jinggoy Estrada in plunder raps? Up to Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-05-31 22:02)

The liberty of Senator Jinggoy Estrada now hinges on whether the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division will give due course to his motions seeking a judicial determination of probable cause of the P573 million non-bailable plunder case against him.

- [CAAP to public: Don't point laser beams at aircraft](#) (2026-05-31 19:20)

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on Sunday cautioned the public not to point laser beams and other high-intensity lights on aircraft so as not to endanger its flight.

- [Duterte's lawyer asks ICC to order re-determination of fitness to stand trial](#) (2026-05-31 18:32)

Former President Rodrigo Duterte's lawyer has asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III to order another medical examination of the 81-year-old Duterte and

determine his fitness to stand trial in his crimes against humanity cases.

- [No jackpot winners in PCSO's May 31, 2026 major lotto draws](#) (2026-05-31 14:11)

No one hit the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

- [VP Sara Duterte's camp to file response to impeachment articles on Monday](#) (2026-05-31 13:14)

The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte is expected to file its response to the Senate on Monday, June 1 in relation to the impeachment complaints filed against her.

- [AFP debunks alleged Chinese military drills in Bajo de Masinloc](#) (2026-05-31 09:05)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Sunday denied reports of coordinated military drills by China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA-N) and China Coast Guard (CCG) near Bajo de Masinloc in the West Philippine Sea.

- [NBI says subpoena on Bato's wife not meant to locate senator](#) (2026-05-31 08:23)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said on Sunday that its plan to issue a subpoena to Nancy dela Rosa, wife of embattled Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, is not intended to determine the lawmaker's whereabouts.

- [PHLPost revamps customer notification system to curb parcel delays](#) (2026-05-31 08:22)

The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) announced Sunday a new initiative that aims to “strengthen customer notification and communication efforts” in response to delays in delivering international parcels to customers.

- [House's 'birthday gift' to VP Sara Duterte is due process, says spox](#) (2026-05-31 08:12)

The “gift” the House of Representatives could give Vice President Sara Duterte on her birthday is due process, House trial spokesperson Kabataan Party-list Rep. Renee Co said Sunday.

- [Senate bill seeks free board, bar exams for qualified indigents](#) (2026-05-31 07:42)

Qualified indigents may soon be exempted from paying board and bar examination fees under Senate Bill No. 2035, or the proposed “Free Professional Examinations Act,” filed by Senator

Erwin Tulfo.

- [De Lima files bill seeking 'ultra-wealth tax' on PH billionaires](#) (2026-05-31 07:27)

ML Party-list Rep. Leila de Lima has filed a bill seeking to impose an annual ultra-wealth tax on the country's billionaires, particularly those whose net taxable assets exceed P1 billion.

- [PH, US troops boost interoperability in joint maritime drills](#) (2026-05-31 06:39)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) conducted a bilateral Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA) with the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) in the vicinity of Bajo de Masinloc in the West Philippine Sea from May 26 to 30.

- [China patrols Scarborough Shoal after Philippines warns of threat](#) (2026-05-31 06:30)

China's military and coast guard said they carried out patrols near Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea on Sunday, a day after the Philippine defense secretary said Manila remained under threat from Beijing despite a recent easing in US-China tensions.

- [Vietnam President Tô Lâm arrives in PH for 2-day state visit](#) (2026-05-31 05:42)

Vietnamese President Tô Lâm arrived in the Philippines on Sunday for a two-day state visit that will run until June 1, 2026.

- [PH, US mark 75th mutual defense treaty anniversary amid rising tension in the Indo-Pacific](#) (2026-05-31 04:15)

The Philippines has reaffirmed its long-standing alliance with the United States as the two countries mark the 75th anniversary of their Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) amid growing tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region.

- [NCRPO working with OSAA to secure Senate compound amid Sara Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-05-31 03:06)

The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) is coordinating with the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA) to ensure security and order outside the premises of the Senate, as the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte is set to begin on July 6, 2026.

- [Philippines remains under threat from China despite Trump-Xi summit --Teodoro](#) (2026-05-30 23:05)

The Philippines remains under "severe threat" from China, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr said on Saturday, despite a recent thaw in US-China tensions after the summit between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping earlier this month.

- [Sotto flags legality of planned Senate flood control subcommittee](#) (2026-05-30 20:50)

Senate Minority Leader Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Saturday questioned the legality of a planned Senate subcommittee that would revive the investigation into alleged anomalies in flood control projects, saying the move was not properly authorized.

- [Lacson: Debating rules not wrong; rushing motion is](#) (2026-05-30 15:40)

Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Saturday said he is not opposed to discussing proposed amendments to Senate rules, but criticized attempts to rush the process.

- [Sara Duterte maintains lead over Robredo in 2028 presidential election poll](#) (2026-05-30 15:24)

Vice President Sara Duterte remains ahead of Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical two-way race for the 2028 presidential election, based on a new Pulse Asia survey commissioned by the Stratbase Group, an advisory and research consultancy firm.

- [US to transfer Coast Guard vessel to PH for territorial patrols](#) (2026-05-30 15:16)

The United States has announced the transfer of a US Coast Guard vessel to the Philippines for maritime and territorial patrol operations, US War Secretary Pete Hegseth said during the Shangri-La Dialogue on Saturday.

- [Robin Padilla: Long-term senators failed the poor, workers](#) (2026-05-30 14:15)

Senator Robin Padilla on Saturday criticized some of his colleagues in the Senate, particularly long-serving lawmakers, accusing them of failing to deliver meaningful improvements for ordinary Filipinos.

- [DOST retires over 3,300 worn PH flags ahead of Independence Day](#) (2026-05-30 13:35)

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has collected and retired more than 3,300 worn Philippine flags ahead of Independence Day, reminding the public to properly dispose of damaged national symbols in accordance with the law.

- [DepEd, DOLE to tap 240,000 TUPAD workers for Brigada Eskwela 2026](#) (2026-05-30 12:45)

The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will mobilize 240,000 beneficiaries of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program for Brigada Eskwela 2026.

- [DepEd expects enrollment to reach 28 million for SY 2026-2027](#) (2026-05-30 11:03)

The Department of Education (DepEd) is projecting between 26 million and 28 million students for School Year (SY) 2026-2027, which will begin on June 8, Assistant Secretary Jocelyn Andaya said on Saturday.

- [PH gearing up for SOVFA with New Zealand, 'convergence' with other nations](#) (2026-05-30 10:16)

The Philippines wants to hit the ground running with New Zealand as soon as the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) between the two nations is ratified, even as Manila is set to present itself to other nations as a regional convergence hub.

- [Tingog's Acidre questions timing of Senate's planned resumption of flood control probe](#) (2026-05-30 09:14)

A lawmaker on Saturday questioned the timing of the Senate's plan to resume its investigation into the flood control mess.

- [Sara Duterte's net satisfaction rating rose slightly in March 2026 - SWS](#) (2026-05-30 08:37)

Vice President Sara Duterte's net satisfaction rating increased marginally in March 2026 amid the impeachment proceedings against her in the House of Representatives, according to a new survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS).

- [Who is Tony Meloto?](#) (2026-05-30 08:07)

The 76-year-old Antonio “Tony” Meloto, the man behind Gawad Kalinga, recently made headlines after his arrest in Bulacan due to alleged sex trafficking.

- [China calls Japan-Philippines sea border talks 'illegal'](#) (2026-05-30 03:39)

China expressed strong opposition on Friday to a decision by Japan and the Philippines to start maritime border negotiations, calling the talks "illegal" and claiming exclusive control over the waters concerned.

- [Gawad Kalinga founder Tony Meloto arrested in Bulacan](#) (2026-05-29 17:23)

Police arrested Gawad Kalinga founder Tony Meloto in Bulacan, authorities confirmed on Friday.

- [Mike Defensor denies asking for, receiving favors for donation to Marcoleta's campaign](#) (2026-05-29 17:11)

Former AnaKalusugan Rep. Mike Defensor on Friday denied asking for and receiving any favor in return for the donation he gave to Sen. Rodante Marcoleta's campaign in the 2025 midterm elections.

- [21 remote schools gain internet, solar power through DepEd-ADB project](#) (2026-05-29 15:30)

Twenty-one geographically isolated schools across the country have been equipped with satellite internet, solar-powered facilities, tablets, and digitized learning materials under a P112-million project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd).

- [Taiwan Coast Guard's large ship with hospital shown to Asian journalists](#) (2026-05-29 15:17)

For the first time, the Taiwan Coast Guard showed Asian journalists one of their biggest ships, the CG5002, also known as Hsinchu.

- [No winners of major lotto draws on Friday, May 29, 2026](#) (2026-05-29 14:18)

There were no winners of either of the major lotto jackpots offered on Friday, May 29, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) announced.

- [Alan Cayetano: Some majority senators have option to present evidence of threats](#) (2026-05-29 14:09)

Senate President Allan Peter Cayetano on Friday said that some members of the majority have the option to release evidence of threats they received from the administration to force them to defect to the minority to form a new majority and leadership.

- [Marcos back in PH after 'productive' Japan state visit](#) (2026-05-29 11:21)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has returned to Manila following a four-day state

visit to Japan, which he described as “very constructive and highly productive.”

- [Sandiganbayan chief: No arrest warrant for Estrada, four others in plunder case yet](#) (2026-05-29 11:11)

The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division has not issued a warrant of arrest against Senator Jinggoy Estrada for plunder in connection with alleged involvement in anomalous flood control projects, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Geraldine Econg said.

- [Kin of missing sabungeros file obstruction of justice vs. Atong Ang's lawyer](#) (2026-05-29 10:42)

Families of missing sabungeros or cockfight enthusiasts filed Friday an obstruction of justice complaint with the Department of Justice (DOJ) against the lawyer of businessman Atong Ang for allegedly offering cash to their group in exchange for not attending trial hearings.

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan posts P90K bail for graft charge](#) (2026-05-29 10:25)

Former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan has posted a P90,000 bail before the Sandiganbayan Second Division on Friday to secure temporary freedom amid a pending graft charge filed against him, Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Geraldine Econg said.

- [House prosecution panel says it has 25 witnesses for VP Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-29 10:16)

The lead prosecutor for the House impeachment prosecution panel today revealed that they have listed 25 witnesses who may be presented during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Ping Lacson suggests asking courts to allow senators to attend impeachment trial if detained](#) (2026-05-29 10:09)

Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Friday suggested that the Senate impeachment tribunal ask the Sandiganbayan or other courts to allow senator-judges who are facing complaints or charges to physically participate in the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte should they be arrested and detained.

- [NBI to subpoena Bato dela Rosa's wife](#) (2026-05-29 10:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will issue a subpoena to Nancy Dela Rosa, the wife of Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, and other individuals who were last with him before he left

the protective custody of the Senate.

- [Targeting majority? Marcos says cases vs. senators result of flood control probe](#) (2026-05-29 09:41)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. denied Friday allegations that the administration is targeting the 13-man Senate majority bloc, saying the legal cases filed against some of them were part of the results of the flood control investigation.

- [Senate probe on flood control scam to resume on June 4 --Alan Cayetano](#) (2026-05-29 09:32)

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano said that Senator Rodante Marcoleta is tasked on Monday, June 1, to issue the notices to continue the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee's flood control scandal hearing on Thursday, June 4.

- [Unique bond forged as Marcos shares halo-halo recipe with Emperor Naruhito](#) (2026-05-29 09:12)

TOKYO - How does a Filipino visitor give the emperor of Japan the gift of halo-halo when the monarch may only eat food prepared by his chef? According to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., give Emperor Naruhito a tall glass with which to enjoy the Philippine dessert of mixed fruits, milk, and ice. Throw in a long spoon, and the recipe for good measure, and one seals an "intimate connection" between the two leaders and their countries.

- [Jinggoy Estrada posts P90K bail for graft case over flood control mess](#) (2026-05-29 09:01)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada on Friday posted a P90,000 bail with the Sandiganbayan for his temporary liberty amid a graft case filed against him over his alleged involvement in the flood control mess.

- [Topacio asks SC to cite Sarah Elago for indirect contempt](#) (2026-05-29 08:31)

Lawyer Ferdinand Topacio on Friday asked the Supreme Court (SC) to cite Gabriela party-list Representative Sarah Elago for indirect contempt for disclosing the filing of a disbarment case against him in an internal advisory and repeatedly discussing the disbarment case.

- [Cold storage facilities eyed for Filipino fishers in West Philippine Sea -- AFP](#) (2026-05-29 08:28)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Friday the government is looking into

establishing cold storage facilities for Filipino fishermen in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

- [PNP proposes increasing police clearance fee to P200](#) (2026-05-29 08:18)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said it is proposing to increase the national police clearance fee from P150 to P200, citing inflation and rising operational costs.

- [Turn down the political heat? It's them, not me, says Marcos](#) (2026-05-29 08:17)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said Friday it is not up to him to turn down the political heat currently confronting his administration.

- [Sandiganbayan issues arrest warrant, HDO vs Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-05-29 05:54)

The Sandiganbayan Second Division issued Friday a warrant of arrest and hold departure order against Senator Jinggoy Estrada over alleged kickbacks in the flood control projects, GMA News' Joseph Morong reported.

- [Ombudsman places Catanduanes vice gov under preventive suspension over cash aid mess](#) (2026-05-29 05:39)

Ombudsman places Catanduanes vice gov under preventive suspension over cash aid mess

- [Luistro challenges Bato to attend Sara Duterte impeachment trial in Senate](#) (2026-05-29 05:38)

Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa should display even more courage in risking his liberty so that he can personally participate in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte in the Senate, House lead prosecutor and Batangas 2nd District Representative Gerville Luistro said Friday.

- [Online voting for senators? Bongbong Marcos disagrees](#) (2026-05-29 05:33)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is against moves by the Senate majority bloc to amend the rules to allow senators to cast their votes online.

- [DBM approves over 22,000 non-teaching posts for public schools](#) (2026-05-29 05:26)

DBM approves over 22,000 non-teaching posts for public schools

- [Marcos thanks Japan for help in Navotas landfill fire](#) (2026-05-29 04:22)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has extended gratitude to the Japanese government for its assistance in addressing the massive fire that hit the Navotas sanitary landfill recently.

- [House prosecutors to seek opening of VP Sara's bank accounts in impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-29 04:15)

The House prosecution panel will seek for the opening of the bank accounts of Vice President Sara Duterte when her trial at the Senate impeachment court begins, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Second District Rep. Gerville Luistro said.

- [DILG considering reward for Bato dela Rosa's arrest](#) (2026-05-29 04:11)

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is considering offering a reward for information that could lead to the arrest of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.

- [Jinggoy Estrada would 'most probably' surrender once arrest warrant out](#) (2026-05-29 03:24)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada would most probably surrender in case the Sandiganbayan issues an arrest warrant against him over alleged kickbacks from flood control projects, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Friday.

- [PNP to deploy cops nationwide for safe opening of classes on June 8, 2026](#) (2026-05-29 01:43)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said it will deploy cops nationwide to secure schools, transport hubs, and major roads ahead of the opening of classes on June 8.

- [Media exec Elmer Catulpos proclaimed as 1 Tahanan Party-List representative](#) (2026-05-29 01:30)

Media exec Elmer Catulpos proclaimed as 1 Tahanan Party-List representative

- [DepEd credits teacher exchange with South Korea for boosting innovation](#) (2026-05-28 17:10)

The Department of Education highlighted how Filipino teachers who joined an exchange program with South Korea brought home new teaching approaches and community-based education initiatives after immersing themselves in another country's school system.

- [1.3 million Grade 11 students have poor reading comprehension -- EDCOM](#) (2026-05-28 16:08)

Over one million Grade 11 students nationwide have difficulty understanding what they are reading, the report by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) showed.

- [Marcos: Japan played indispensable role in PH economic dev't](#) (2026-05-28 15:38)

In his address before the National Diet or the National Legislature of Japan on Thursday, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. acknowledged Japan's role in the Philippines' economic development, going as far back as the normalization of their diplomatic relations in 1956.

- [Jonvic Remulla says he gave Jinggoy Estrada options amid senator's expected arrest](#) (2026-05-28 14:57)

Interior Secretary Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla has discussed with Sen. Jinggoy Estrada the latter's options amid the expected issuance of a warrant of arrest by the Sandiganbayan. Remulla said this after the Ombudsman announced it had filed plunder and graft charges against Estrada in connection with the flood control projects scandal, specifically alleged illegal budget insertions in the Department of Public Works and Highways, as well as illicit payouts amounting to P573 million.

- [EXPLAINER: What is a General Security of Military Information Agreement?](#) (2026-05-28 14:52)

The Philippines and Japan have agreed to begin talks for a General Security of Military Information Agreement - a move which President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is aimed at boosting the two nations' defense cooperation.

- [Impeachment prosecutor opposes remote participation in trial](#) (2026-05-28 14:43)

House impeachment prosecutor Lordan Suan said the participation of senators via remote means in the Senate proceedings or the impeachment trial should not be allowed.

- [Japan to support PH oil stockpiling program](#) (2026-05-28 14:28)

The Japanese government has pledged to support the Philippines' planned petroleum reserve program amid the energy crisis caused by the tensions in the Middle East.

- [Robin Padilla says Bato dela Rosa, No. 3 senator, must be allowed to serve online](#) (2026-05-28 14:20)

Senator Robin Padilla on Thursday maintained that Senator Ronald Dela Rosa, who's the subject of a warrant of arrest from the International Criminal Court, should be allowed to fulfill his mandate as a lawmaker via online. "Maging sinuman na senador hangga't walang final conviction, ibig sabihin, hindi pa kriminal ang tao, kaya't dapat gawin niya ang mandato niya dahil ibinoto siya ng mga Pilipino," Padilla said on Facebook.

- [Antipolo Cathedral joins Pope Leo's global rosary for peace on May 30, 2026](#) (2026-05-28 14:02)

The Antipolo Cathedral has been chosen as one of six international Marian shrines to participate in the recitation of the Holy Rosary for peace that will be led by Pope Leo XIV on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

- [PCSO: No winners of major lotto draws on May 28, 2026](#) (2026-05-28 13:53)

There were no winners of the major lotto jackpots drawn on Thursday, May 28, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

- [Marcos: PH, Japan to start talks for General Security of Military Information deal](#) (2026-05-28 12:44)

The Philippine and Japanese governments have agreed to begin negotiations for a General Security of Military Information Agreement, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Thursday.

- [Jinggoy Estrada's third plunder case in 25 years](#) (2026-05-28 11:51)

The plunder and two counts of graft that the Ombudsman filed against Senator Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada before the Sandiganbayan on Thursday over P573 million in alleged kickbacks from flood control projects marked the third time that he was charged with plunder in the past 25 years.

- [PH seeks to export pomelos to Japan before end of 2026 - DA](#) (2026-05-28 11:28)

The Philippine government is seeking to bring pomelos to Japan before the year ends, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday.

- [Experts push for stronger flu vaccination efforts in workplaces](#) (2026-05-28 11:22)

Experts on Thursday urged employers to strengthen their flu vaccination efforts to protect employees, reduce healthcare costs, and maintain productivity.

- [CIDG files obstruction of justice complaint vs. Robin Padilla](#) (2026-05-28 11:12)

The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) on Thursday filed a complaint for obstruction of justice against Senator Robin Padilla and others with the Department of Justice, according to Prosecutor General Richard Fadullon.

- [Marcos tells Japan parliament: Rules must govern seas, not force](#) (2026-05-28 10:29)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday said that the Philippines and Japan pledged to strengthen maritime cooperation amid tensions in the South China Sea.

- [Ex-DBM chief Pangandaman faces raps over P60 billion PhilHealth fund transfer](#) (2026-05-28 10:00)

Former Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman is facing a complaint for alleged technical malversation, graft, and other administrative raps over the unconstitutional transfer of the P60 billion excess funds of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the P107 billion funds of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to the national treasury.

- [Estrada vows to use all legal remedies vs. plunder, graft accusations](#) (2026-05-28 09:44)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada on Thursday vowed to "exhaust all legal remedies" after plunder and graft cases were filed against him with the Sandiganbayan in relation to the massive flood control controversy.

- [DOJ has not yet received PNP referral vs. Robin Padilla --Fadullon](#) (2026-05-28 09:08)

The DOJ has not received the PNP-CIDG's referral against Senator Robin Padilla, Prosecutor General Richard Fadullon said Thursday.

- [DFA: Law enforcement actions vs Chinese based on evidence, not nationality](#) (2026-05-28 08:11)

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Thursday said Philippine law enforcement operations against Chinese nationals are conducted in accordance with laws and are "not directed against any nationality."

- [DA ramps up preps for El Niño amid threat to PH food supply](#) (2026-05-28 07:53)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is ramping preparations for a severe El Niño phenomenon

later this year as prolonged dry spell could hit crop production, hurt farmers' incomes, and drive up food prices.

- [Ombudsman files plunder, graft cases vs Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-05-28 06:28)

The Office of the Ombudsman on Thursday filed plunder and graft cases against Senator Jinggoy Estrada with the Sandiganbayan over alleged kickbacks from the government's flood control projects.

- [Senate shooting, Bato dela Rosa escape 'related' -- CIDG](#) (2026-05-28 06:27)

The PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) said Thursday the shooting incident at the Senate and the escape of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa are “related.”

- [CIDG bares other possible implicated persons over Bato dela Rosa escape](#) (2026-05-28 06:06)

The PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Thursday identified other individuals that may be implicated in the escape of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.

- [DepEd launches Oplan Balik Eskwela ahead of June 8 class opening](#) (2026-05-28 05:37)

The Department of Education has activated its nationwide Oplan Balik Eskwela program ahead of the opening of classes for School Year 2026-2027, with multiple government agencies tapped to help ensure a smooth and orderly return to school on June 8.

- [Group protests against 'fake' anti-political dynasty bill](#) (2026-05-28 05:35)

The Partido Lakas ng Masa conducted a protest action outside the House of Representatives Thursday morning against the current version of the anti-political dynasty bill.

- [DOE, NAPOCOR, AboitizPower to do feasibility study on nuclear sites](#) (2026-05-28 05:21)

The Department of Energy (DOE) is teaming up with the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR) and Aboitiz Power Corporation to study potential sites for nuclear power generation.

- [What is force majeure?](#) (2026-05-28 04:17)

Amid efforts to amend Senate rules to allow senators to participate in plenary sessions through teleconferencing, Senator Robin Padilla cited force majeure as a possible basis for the proposed changes.

- [Bato dela Rosa camp to appeal revocation of gun license](#) (2026-05-28 03:33)

Bato Dela Rosa camp to appeal revocation of gun license

- [Risa Hontiveros rejects Robin Padilla's force majeure claim](#) (2026-05-28 01:00)

According to Hontiveros, existing Senate rules permit online voting only in cases of national emergency or force majeure, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Drilon: Senate majority may have committed 'abuse' over virtual voting push](#) (2026-05-28 00:43)

Former Senate President Franklin Drilon on Thursday said the Senate majority may have committed “grave abuse of discretion” in pushing amendments to Senate rules to allow virtual participation and voting by senators.

Source: PhilStar Global

- [Visayas grid issues may last 1 to 2 years, says DOE](#) (2026-06-03 23:00)

The Visayas power problem may not be a short summer squeeze.

- [Nurse found dead with 13 stab wounds](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

A nurse was found dead with 13 stab wounds in the body in this town yesterday morning.

- [PCSO turns over P26.5 million vehicles, medical equipment to Aklan](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has boosted the healthcare system of Aklan by turning over two patient transport vehicles and medical equipment worth P26.5 million to the provincial government and a hospital.

- [2 cyclones may enter PAR this month](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

Two tropical cyclones are expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this month, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

- [Angat water level receding despite rainfall](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

The water level in Angat Dam in Bulacan has continued to recede despite heavy rainfall in the past several days.

- [7 dead in Batangas vehicular mishap](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

Seven people died while two others were injured in a road accident involving a tricycle, a Honda sport utility vehicle (SUV) and a coaster bus in San Juan, Batangas on Tuesday afternoon.

- [4 more bodies retrieved from collapsed building](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

The number of fatalities in the collapse of a nine-story building in Barangay Balibago in this city has increased to 25 following the recovery of four more bodies yesterday.

- [DA: 70.14% Metro Manila retailers follow rice price cap](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

Around 70.14 percent of stalls in Metro Manila are complying with the P50-per-kilo imported rice price cap, the Department of Agriculture said yesterday.

- [Makati disburses P741 million for Yellow Card program](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

The Makati government has disbursed P741.47 million for various medical services rendered to patients under the city's Yellow Card program, according to Mayor Nancy Binay.

- [Quezon City to host Palarong Pambansa 2027](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

After 60 years, Quezon City has been declared as host of next year's Palarong Pambansa.

- [MMDA closing roads for June 12 rites](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

Several roads leading to Rizal Park in Manila will be closed on June 12 in observance of the 128th Independence Day celebration, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday.

- [BARMM residents welcome US-trained musicians from autonomous region](#) (2026-06-03 11:10)

Residents of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are looking forward to the June 21 piano and violin concert at the University of the Philippines Diliman featuring two members of prominent BARMM families who trained abroad.

- [3 of 5 suspects in BARMM town attack identified](#) (2026-06-03 11:02)

Local executives and ranking police and Army intelligence officials have identified three of the gunmen who killed with M16 assault rifles four villagers and wounded four others in an attack on Tuesday, June 2, in Barangay Malingao in Kadayangan town in Cotabato province.

- [Local fisherfolk in Bohol reassured of government support](#) (2026-06-03 03:01)

The chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting fisherfolk in Bohol province following a visit to check the current state of the local fishing industry.

- [Envoy affirms South Korea's support for Mindanao development](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

South Korean Ambassador Lee Sang-hwa has affirmed his country's support for the smooth conduct of the peace process and socioeconomic development efforts in Mindanao.

- [HIV treatment dropouts sadden AIDS panel](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

The Philippine National AIDS Council has lamented that thousands of people with human immunodeficiency virus have stopped receiving treatment.

- [CDO City to host 35th Mindanao Business Conference 2026](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

Preparations are in full swing for the 35th Mindanao Business Conference or MINBIZCON 2026, with the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation Inc. (Oro Chamber) expressing confidence in hosting one of the country's largest gatherings of business leaders and entrepreneurs.

- [AFP: Info on Chinese structures in Panatag under validation](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

Circulating information about China building structures on Panatag Shoal is still being verified, the Armed Forces of the Philippines said yesterday.

- [Voters warned vs fake news on BSKE delay](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

Netizens have been warned against spreading false information claiming that the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections have been postponed.

- [Soldier killed in another Negros clash](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

An Army soldier was killed in a fresh encounter that occurred in Negros Occidental on Monday.

- [Comelec eyes P6 billion budget cut for 2028 polls](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

The Commission on Elections is willing to trim around P6 billion from its proposed P25-billion budget for preparations for the 2028 general elections, Comelec Chairman George Garcia said yesterday.

- [LTO's Stradcom halted](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

Due to alleged corruption and the absence of a valid legal contract, the Stradcom IT system of the Land Transportation Office has been discontinued.

- [TUPAD workers tapped in Metro cleanup drive](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

Apart from Brigada Eskwela, the government will also tap beneficiaries of the TUPAD or Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers program to assist in a cleanup and de-clogging drive in Metro Manila in preparation for the rainy season, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said yesterday.

- [Palace, BI: P240 traveler fee still under review](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

Facing public outcry over its proposed additional fee on travelers, the Bureau of Immigration yesterday clarified that the Civil Aviation and Immigration Security Services project is still under review.

- [P6.8 million worth shabu seized from minor in Tawi-Tawi](#) (2026-06-02 11:07)

Anti-narcotics agents seized a kilo of shabu, costing P6.8 million, from a 13-year-old male courier entrapped in Barangay Simandaguit in Bongao town in Tawi-Tawi on Monday, May 1.

- [2 men killed, 6 hurt in Cotabato gun attack](#) (2026-06-02 11:02)

Two men were killed while six others, including minors, were wounded when gunmen shot them with M16 rifles on Tuesday morning, June 2, in Barangay Malingao in Kadayangan town in Cotabato province.

- [Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for June 2](#) (2026-06-01 23:00)

A major rollback this week.

- [Angara kicks off nationwide Brigada Eskwela in Agusan del Norte](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

Education Secretary Sonny Angara kicked off the nationwide Brigada Eskwela, the multisectoral school readiness campaign, in Agusan del Norte yesterday, in preparation for the opening of public basic education schools on June 8.

- [Kaogma Festival 2026 smashes records](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

The Kaogma Festival 2026 has officially cemented its status as “The Hottest Festival in the World,” shattering every previous attendance milestone through a weeklong celebration of culture, music and Bicolano pride

- [DPWH prioritizes completion of Cavite diversion road](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

The Department of Public Works and Highways is giving top priority to the completion of a three-kilometer diversion road in General Trias City, Cavite – a project that has been ongoing for the past 10 years due to funding gaps and legal snags.

- [PDEG: Mindoro shabu lab could produce 1 ton weekly](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

A shabu laboratory that could produce as much as one ton of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu in one week was uncovered in Occidental Mindoro, the Philippine National Police Drug Enforcement Group said.

- [26 Victory Liner buses grounded over fatal Benguet crash](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has suspended the operations of 26 Victory Liner buses, after a multi-vehicle crash along Marcos Highway that left one passenger dead and more than 90 others injured on Saturday.

- [PNP reshuffles 4 top cops](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has reassigned senior officers to key posts in Metro Manila as part of a reshuffle ordered by PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr.

- [No DNA match for bones in sabungero case – PNP](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

No DNA matches have been established so far between more than 1,400 human bones recovered from Taal Lake and the relatives of missing sabungeros, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

- [SMC: 51,000 seedlings replacing Quirino trees](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

The builder of the Southern Access Link Expressway has defended its tree cutting activities in Manila, saying it would replace the trees removed on Quirino Avenue with nearly 51,000 seedlings.

- [Escudero donor summoned](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

Former Senate president Francis Escudero's campaign donor in the 2022 elections has been subpoenaed, the Commission on Elections said yesterday.

- [1.2 million kids to receive measles, rubella vaccines](#) (2026-06-01 16:00)

The Department of Health yesterday rolled out a measles and rubella vaccination program targeting around 1.2 million children in Metro Manila.

- [Dawlah terrorist killed, 2 arrested in Maguindanao del Sur encounter](#) (2026-06-01 10:35)

A remnant of the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya terror group was killed, while two others were cornered and detained by soldiers in separate encounters in two areas in the upland town of Datu Hoffer in Maguindanao del Sur on Saturday, May 30.

- [PDEA seizes P13.6-M worth of shabu in 2 Mindanao operations](#) (2026-06-01 10:04)

Anti-narcotics agents seized two kilograms of shabu worth P13.6 million from four alleged dealers in separate entrapment operations in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Administrative Region 12 within just two days.

- [More MILF members join Bangsamoro Federalist Party](#) (2026-06-01 09:50)

More than 1,000 members of the two large units of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) joined the Bangsamoro Federalist Party on Saturday, May 30, making them part of one of the 16 regional parties gearing up for the September 14 Bangsamoro parliamentary polls.

- [Alleged 'shabu queen' busted in P3.4-M drug sting by PDEA-12](#) (2026-06-01 09:33)

Anti-narcotics agents entrapped a known "shabu queen" operating in two Bangsamoro provinces during an operation on Friday, May 29, in Barangay Calumpang, General Santos City in Administrative Region 12.

- [Typhoon Domeng weakens but rains to persist – PAGASA](#) (2026-06-01 03:33)

No wind signal is up for Domeng, but monsoon rains remain the main threat.

- [Another body retrieved in Angeles rubble as death toll climbs to 12](#) (2026-06-01 02:30)

Another body was recovered from the rubble of a collapsed building in Angeles City, Pampanga.

- [Government agencies gear up to detect, disrupt mobile scams](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

One of the country's major telecommunications firms conducted a technical deep dive session to equip authorities with the skills needed to operationalize IMSI Catcher Detectors to enhance efforts against mobile-based scams.

- [Bong Go aids Quezon City indigents](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Sen. Bong Go has provided support to indigent residents in Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

- [Makati Pride event cut short](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Organizers of Pride Night in Makati had to end the program early due to a generator that caught fire.

- [DOTr: MRT-7 to operate with 14 stations](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

The San Jose del Monte station in Bulacan will still be a part of the Metro Rail Transit Line 7 (MRT-7) project, the Department of Transportation announced yesterday.

- [DOJ, BOC, NBI combat smuggling bosses](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Enhanced joint probes and airtight cases will be utilized by the government against masterminds behind smuggling operations.

- [PNP eyes South Korea model to boost drive vs crime](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

The Philippine National Police is set to modernize the PNP's crime data management system through a partnership with South Korea aimed at improving investigative efficiency, accelerating response times and enhancing crime-solving capabilities.

- [Borongan swelters in 52 Celsius heat index](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Extreme danger heat index was recorded in Borongan, Eastern Samar at 52 degrees Celsius on Saturday, data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration showed.

- [Baguio brings blue lighting in public spaces](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Seeking to blend urban planning with mental health advocacy, the city government has launched Project BLUE or Baguio's Lifeline for Urban Emotional-wellness, introducing blue lighting in public spaces to create a safer and more supportive environment for both residents

and visitors.

- [2 cops tagged in death of Sultan Kudarat civilian](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Two policemen, who figured in a gunfight with robbers in Tacurong City on Thursday, were placed under restrictive custody after they were accused of causing the death of a passerby, the Soccsksargen police said.

- [Domeng exits PAR; agencies brace for monsoon](#) (2026-05-31 16:00)

Typhoon Domeng is set to exit the Philippine area of responsibility today, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

- [9 now found dead in Angeles City building collapse](#) (2026-05-31 09:43)

In a Facebook post, BFP Central Luzon confirmed that there is another fatality recorded from the collapse, from an earlier recorded 8.

- [39 areas to be under ‘danger’ heat index](#) (2026-05-31 03:23)

PAGASA said 39 areas may experience danger-level heat index readings of 42°C to 45°C on Sunday.

- [‘Domeng’ trough, habagat to bring rains Sunday](#) (2026-05-31 01:47)

Typhoon Domeng and the southwest monsoon expected to affect Luzon, Metro Manila, other areas.

- [Fish kill hits 2 Lanao towns](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

Another fish kill incidents have been recorded in the towns of Baroy and Tubod in Lanao del Norte, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

- [Weak quakes detected in Pangasinan waters](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

A series of weak earthquakes has been shaking the coastal waters of Bolinao, Pangasinan, prompting the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology to intensify its monitoring.

- [Domeng intensifies into typhoon](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

Tropical Storm Domeng has developed into a typhoon, but will not make landfall in any part of the country, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said yesterday.

- [2 Army trainees die from heat stroke](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

Two Army trainees died while undergoing training in Capas, Tarlac on Tuesday, according to the military.

- [Plebiscite needed for Naga’ s HUC conversion](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

The Commission on Elections is expected to hold a plebiscite to ratify Naga's conversion into a highly urbanized city.

- [Gawad Kalinga founder nabbed for trafficking](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

Gawad Kalinga founder Antonio Meloto was arrested over charges of qualified trafficking in Angat, Bulacan on Friday night.

- [Fake survivor in Pampanga building collapse arrested](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

A man who posed as a survivor in the recent collapse of a building in Barangay Balibago, Angeles City to be able to claim financial assistance has been arrested.

- [Makati rolls out midyear incentives for seniors](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

Makati has begun rolling out P356.48 million worth of midyear cash incentives for senior citizens through its Blu Card program.

- [3 arrested for beating up cop in Quezon City](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

Three men who allegedly mauled a police officer who caught them vandalizing a metal fence in Quezon City were arrested on Friday.

- [Nartatez welcomes Boses ng Bayan survey results](#) (2026-05-30 16:00)

After being ranked among the country's top-rate government officials in a recent survey, Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. vowed to improve the PNP's collaboration with communities and other stakeholders.

- [Villagers displaced as gunmen attack Cotabato enclave](#) (2026-05-30 10:24)

Hundreds of families that fled to safe areas after gunmen shot houses with rifles on Wednesday night, May 27, in their barangay in Kadayangan town in Cotabato province are reluctant to return to the area, apprehensive of a repeat of the attack.

- [Shabu dealer in Sarangani entrapped with help from relatives](#) (2026-05-30 10:00)

Various sectors and the chairperson of the Regional Peace and Order Council 12 lauded on Saturday, May 30, the relatives of a shabu dealer who helped entrap him on Wednesday, May 27, in Glan town in Sarangani province.

- [Suspect in barangay watchman, vendor's slay identified](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

Police have identified the suspect in the murder of a barangay watchman and a vendor in Dasmariñas, Cavite on Wednesday.

- [2 dead in Ilocos road mishap](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

Two women died while seven others were injured when their vehicle crashed into a tree in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte on Thursday.

- [Vice governor suspended over ‘anomalous’ disaster fund use](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

The vice governor of Catanduanes has been suspended along with 11 members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in connection with alleged irregularities in the use of the province’s emergency funds.

- [Special holidays declared in 6 areas](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

Malacañang has declared special non-working holidays in six areas of the country this June, to mark local anniversaries and festivities.

- [Domeng may intensify into typhoon](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

Tropical Storm Domeng is expected to intensify into a severe tropical storm before dawn today, and to a typhoon tomorrow before exiting the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

- [Filing of counter-affidavit in Carpio complaint moved to July](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

The filing of counter-affidavits on Manases Carpio’s data privacy and bank secrecy complaint was moved to July 3, his spokesperson lawyer Neil Abayon said yesterday.

- [6th fatality retrieved from collapsed building](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

Another male body was retrieved yesterday under the rubble of a building that collapsed in Barangay Balibago in this city a week ago.

- [PNP, Adamson back EJK Truth Commission](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Adamson University College of Law yesterday backed the creation of an EJK Truth Commission that would seek to document extrajudicial killings and other abuses during the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte.

- [1 dead, 20 injured in Quezon City road crash](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

A 62-year-old man died while 20 others were injured when a modern jeep rammed into an armored van in Quezon City early yesterday.

- [2 girls, 14, nabbed for human trafficking](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested two 14-year-old girls for their alleged involvement in trafficking fellow minors for sex, during an NBI sting in Novaliches, Quezon City.

- [Philippines, US Marines wrap up joint drills in Maguindanao del Norte](#) (2026-05-29 10:01)

Efforts by the business sector to entice investors to put up viable ventures in a peaceful town in Maguindanao del Norte got a boost with the conduct of combat drills by Filipino soldiers and their counterparts from the United States, officials said on Friday, May 29.

- [Marcos rejects remote Senate vote, tells Dela Rosa to show up instead](#) (2026-05-29 08:50)

The president says the proposal appears meant to benefit Sen. Bato dela Rosa.

- [6 confirmed dead after 6 days of rescue ops in Pampanga building collapse](#) (2026-05-29 05:05)

Relatives of the missing individuals in Angeles City building collapse are complaining about the slow progress of operations.

- [Oil price rollback highly possible next week, says DOE](#) (2026-05-29 03:59)

There's a high chance for a rollback.

- ['Domeng' enters PAR, may intensify into typhoon by Saturday](#) (2026-05-29 00:45)

Tropical Storm Domeng entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility early Friday morning, May 29, but is unlikely to make landfall in the country, state weather bureau PAGASA said.

- [Malabon residents earn cash from trash](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

Residents in Malabon earned extra cash yesterday after exchanging recyclable plastic bottles and other waste during a city-led recycling collection drive.

- [Manila seedling replacement set next week – DENR](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

After cutting trees along Quirino Avenue in Manila, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will focus on seedling replacement and transplantation activities.

- [Blackouts hit Visayas anew](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

Power consumers in the Visayas experienced rotational outages again yesterday as supply remained tight due to high electricity demand and the continued shutdown of major coal-powered plants.

- [Pampanga building collapse death toll now 5](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

The number of fatalities in the collapse of a building in this city has risen to five after another body was retrieved from the rubble yesterday morning.

- [American nabbed for keeping minors in Cebu condo](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

An American national has been arrested after he was allegedly found in the company of two boys inside a condominium unit in Cebu City.

- [Village councilman shot dead](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

A kagawad was shot dead by a lone assailant inside a village hall in this town on Wednesday.

- [Tropical Storm Domeng enters PAR today](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

Tropical Storm Domeng will enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) today, but it is not expected to make landfall.

- [5 dead in Benguet vehicular](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

Five people were killed while 25 others were injured when their truck rolled over along the Baguio-Nueva Vizcaya road in Barangay Poblacion in this town before noon yesterday.

- [BOC seizes P841 million counterfeit goods](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

The Bureau of Customs recently intercepted P841 million worth of counterfeit goods in a warehouse in Valenzuela City.

- [PCG expands health services for dependents, retirees](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

The Philippine Coast Guard has expanded the health care services for PCG personnel, dependents and, for the first time – its retirees.

- [Regional parties welcome peace office neutrality ahead of BARMM polls](#) (2026-05-28 11:13)

Officials of regional political parties took turns appreciating on Thursday, May 28, the assurance of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity of its neutrality on the September 14 parliamentary polls in the Bangsamoro region.

- [Smokey Mountain residents warned of risks from P26-B waste-to-energy project](#) (2026-05-28 00:00)

Smokey Mountain groups are raising alarm over a proposed incineration project.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- [2 alleged NPA rebels surrender in Occidental Mindoro](#) (2026-06-04 13:50)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Two alleged New People’s Army (NPA) rebels surrendered to authorities in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, on Tuesday in what police described as a result of sustained intelligence and peace-building efforts in the province. The surrender took place at the headquarters of the 402nd Battalion Maneuver Company (BMC) of the

- [Drug suspect nabbed with P204,000 ‘shabu,’ gun in Antipolo City](#) (2026-06-04 13:39)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Police arrested an alleged drug trafficker and seized more than P200,000 worth of “shabu” (crystal meth) and an unlicensed firearm during a buy-bust operation in Antipolo City, Rizal, on Wednesday night. In a report Thursday, the Police Regional Office 4-A said anti-drug operatives arrested the suspect, identified only as “Christopher,” after

- [Senate media slams Marcoleta’s ‘dangerous’ attack on press](#) (2026-06-04 13:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the Senate media on Thursday slammed Sen. Rodante Marcoleta over remarks he made during the Senate blue ribbon committee proceedings, where he accused members of mainstream media of being “bayaran,” or paid hacks. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Senate leadership dispute continues In a statement, members of the Senate media described Marcoleta’s

- [Rescuers aid false killer whale stranded 6th time in Calapan City](#) (2026-06-04 13:29)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A female false killer whale measuring 4.57 meters long is undergoing intensive medical care after being stranded for the sixth time along the coast of Barangay Balete in this city, said Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)-Mimaropa in a statement Thursday. The adult marine mammal, identified as a False

- [Senate majority hits Cayetano bloc hearing: Bogus, naked grab for power](#) (2026-06-04 13:29)

MANILA, Philippines – The new Senate majority bloc on Thursday branded as “bogus” and a “naked grab for power” a hearing conducted by some minority bloc colleagues led by Senator Alan Peter Cayetano. In a joint statement, the majority senators urged their colleagues to abandon the “bogus” hearing and instead “respect the rules, the quorum, and the duly

- [PTFOMS to Marcoleta: Prove ‘bayaran’ claim or retract, apologize](#) (2026-06-04 13:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) on Thursday urged Sen. Rodante Marcoleta to prove his claims that media personnel are “bayaran” (paid persons) or else retract his statement and apologize to journalists. “These sweeping statements threaten media credibility and expose them to potential harm. Journalists have a duty to report

- [‘Ex-marines’ repeat kickback claims; Sotto, Tulfo named](#) (2026-06-04 13:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The 18 alleged former Marines reiterated their accusations that lawmakers, including Senators Tito Sotto III and Erwin Tulfo, received money from the office of former Ako Bicol Rep. Zaldy Co. Joined by their legal counsel, Atty. Levi Baligod, the supposed former Marines, who claimed they were hired as Co’s “bagmen,” repeated the

- [Ridon: No money delivered to me; lies can’t stop impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-04 13:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon has disputed allegations made before the Senate blue ribbon committee that he received any money, saying that no amount of lies can stop the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. In a statement on Thursday, Ridon said that the testimony made by Jowly Cadio — one

- [Jinggoy Estrada can’t be detained at PNP Custodial Center – Nartatez](#) (2026-06-04 13:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada cannot be detained at the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame, Quezon City, the PNP said on Thursday. “I already

directed our Legal Service to prepare a response and explanation to the Sandiganbayan on this matter,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement

- [Cayetano dares Matibag to attend blue ribbon hearing](#) (2026-06-04 13:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday challenged National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) director Melvin Matibag to appear before the Senate blue ribbon committee and present evidence regarding the 18 alleged ex-Marines each being bribed P5 million to testify as “bagmen” for expelled Rep. Elizaldy Co. Cayetano made the pronouncement shortly after Matibag,

- [LOOK: PNP releases Estrada, Bonoan mugshots](#) (2026-06-04 13:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday released the mugshots of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan, and their three co-accused in the plunder and graft cases stemming from the flood control corruption scandal. The PNP has blurred their faces. READ: CIDG NCR: No detainee shirt fit

- [‘Link’ to Central Luzon drug syndicate falls in Bataan](#) (2026-06-04 13:02)

LIMAY, Bataan – Bataan police confiscated over 300 grams of meth or “shabu” during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Alangan in Limay town, Bataan, on Wednesday. Police withheld the identity of the suspect, who is said to be a member of a big drug syndicate operating in Central Luzon. Reports indicated that the arrest of

- [Fire injures Cauayan City police chief, guts P700,000 in properties](#) (2026-06-04 12:46)

CITY OF CAUAYAN, Isabela—Fire investigators have recorded P700,000 in property damage by a fire that gutted the office of this city’s police chief on Tuesday. The fire broke out at 10:35 p.m. at the city police station in Tagaran village. READ: 92-year-old woman killed in Isabela house fire Police Lt. Col. Avelino Canceran Jr., Cauayan

- [Detained Jinggoy Estrada rejects Wednesday’s Senate quorum](#) (2026-06-04 12:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Detained Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has rejected the quorum of a slim majority as declared by Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian. Currently, there are 24 elected senators, but Estrada was jailed at the New Quezon City jail in Barangay Payatas over his plunder case, while Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa is still

- [Alan Peter Cayetano is a ‘disgrace to the Senate’ — Negros lawmaker](#) (2026-06-04 12:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Negros Occidental Rep. Julio Ledesma IV called Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano a “disgrace to the Senate” after Cayetano led a two-day boycott that left the upper chamber paralyzed. Ledesma took to social media Wednesday night to voice his frustration with Cayetano over his bloc’s absence from plenary sessions since Monday, a move

- [Legarda: I haven't resigned yet as Senate president pro tempore](#) (2026-06-04 11:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda insisted on Thursday that she remains the Senate president pro tempore and has not yet resigned from the post. Her clarification came a day after she was removed and replaced by Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, who was installed during Wednesday's session attended by 12 senators. READ: Gatchalian elected Senate president pro tempore

- [Matibag: NBI received info that Defensor bribed '18 ex-Marines' P5M each](#) (2026-06-04 11:43)

MANILA, Philippines — National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag on Thursday revealed that they have received information that former congressman Mike Defensor bribed each of the "18 ex-Marines" P5 million to testify in the flood control anomalies. In a press conference on Thursday, Matibag said a relative of one of the 18 alleged

- [CIDG NCR: No detainee shirt fit Jinggoy Estrada during booking procedure](#) (2026-06-04 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group National Capital Region (CIDG NCR) explained that no orange detainee shirt had fit Sen. Jinggoy Estrada when he was undergoing the booking procedure. "There were time constraints during that time because we had to deliver him to the Sandiganbayan," CIDG NCR chief Col. John Guiagui told

- [Arraignment of Estrada, Bonoan set June 30; 3 co-accused plead not guilty](#) (2026-06-04 11:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The arraignment of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan for their graft and non-bailable plunder case has been rescheduled to June 30. Associate Justice Zaldy Trespeses, Sandiganbayan Fifth Division chairperson, issued the order as both camps have filed their respective motion to quash

- [Sovereignty or shield? ICC appeal grows as powerful convicts can be freed at home](#) (2026-06-04 11:07)

For the camp of former President Rodrigo Duterte and Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, intervention by the International Criminal Court (ICC) violates Philippine sovereignty. They argue that allegations of crimes related to the war on drugs should be litigated domestically rather than before an international court. They have said the Philippines, as a sovereign state,

- [Remulla says he was pushed during Senate faceoff with Padilla](#) (2026-06-04 11:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla maintained that he was pushed during a confrontation at the Senate between him and Sen. Robin Padilla. "I was walking out when I was pushed aside," Remulla told the Inquirer in a text message. Remulla was at the Senate at the request of Senate President

- [LOOK BACK: Senate declared quorum with 12 members present \(May 5, 2015\)](#) (2026-06-04 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines – The June 3 Senate session, which saw questions raised over attendance and the chamber’s ability to formally convene, has revived memories of a similar episode nearly a decade earlier when quorum rules were also put to the test amid political tension and limited presence of lawmakers. On May 5, 2015, the Senate

- [Senate employees sent home early for safety reasons](#) (2026-06-04 10:55)

MANILA, Philippines— Senate employees who reported on-site on Thursday, have been authorized by the new leadership of the chamber to leave the office early for their safety and well-being in light of the expected activities within and around the Senate premises. They were allowed to leave the Senate starting at 10:00 a.m., according to an

- [Taal Volcano triggers minor phreatomagmatic eruption – Phivolcs](#) (2026-06-04 10:51)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Taal Volcano in Batangas generated a minor phreatomagmatic eruption early Thursday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). Phivolcs said the eruptive activity occurred at 1:02 a.m., although the agency did not indicate how long the event lasted. The eruption generated plumes rising about 900 meters, as monitored

- [Sen. Padilla, DILG chief Remulla figure in Senate scuffle](#) (2026-06-04 10:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Tensions at the Senate have turned physical on Thursday as Sen. Robinhood Padilla and Interior Sec. Jonvic Remulla shoved each other right inside the Senate building. The physical altercation occurred while Padilla—along with Sen. Pia Cayetano—guided the 18 supposedly former Marines, who were invited as resource persons in Thursday’s Senate blue ribbon

- [Bonoan unable to attend arraignment due to ‘medical reasons’ — CIDG NCR](#) (2026-06-04 10:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan is unable to attend his arraignment hearings at the Sandiganbayan on Thursday due to “medical reasons,” the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group National Capital Region (CIDG NCR) said. “We have already coordinated with the Sandiganbayan 5th Division that he is unable

- [Zaldy Co’s lawyer arrives at Senate for flood control probe](#) (2026-06-04 10:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co’s legal counsel, Ruy Rondain arrived at the Senate to attend the blue ribbon committee hearing conducted by the Cayetano bloc. Co is facing graft and malversation charges for his alleged involvement in anomalous flood control projects in Oriental Mindoro. The former lawmaker is still on

- [WATCH: Alan Cayetano-led senators proceed with ‘blue ribbon hearing’](#) (2026-06-04 10:08)

MANILA, Philippines – Senators aligned with Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano pushed through with a hearing on the flood control scandal under the name of the blue ribbon committee Thursday despite the ongoing leadership dispute in the chamber. Cayetano, who continues to assert that he remains the legitimate Senate president, earlier said the hearing would proceed

- [Flood control probe commences under Cayetano bloc](#) (2026-06-04 09:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate blue ribbon committee hearing on the flood control scandal began on Thursday as set by the Cayetano bloc. Sen. Pia Cayetano presides over the hearing, but on Wednesday, Sen. Erwin Tulfo was elected as the panel’s head. READ: Tulfo-led Senate blue ribbon suspends June 4 hearing Five of the Cayetano bloc

- [Gatchalian: No hearing, no resource persons allowed in session hall](#) (2026-06-04 09:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian on Thursday said no resource persons would be allowed inside the session hall as the bloc of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano moves to proceed with a Blue Ribbon Committee hearing scheduled for the same day. Gatchalian made the statement during a press conference, maintaining that there would

- [Gatchalian to lead Duterte impeachment trial as acting Senate president](#) (2026-06-04 09:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday said he will preside over Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial as the acting Senate president after a recent leadership change in the upper chamber. “Well under the rules since ang Senate president pro tempore assumes the acting president, tayo ang magp-preside ng impeachment,” said Gatchalian. Asked

- [Cayetano, allies show up at Senate](#) (2026-06-04 09:24)

MANILA, Philippines — After three days of absence, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano and his allies arrived at the Senate on Thursday. He was joined by Sen. Robin Padilla and Sen. Pia Cayetano. Other members of the bloc are also anticipated to arrive. Prior to the Senate reorganization on Wednesday, Pia Cayetano set a blue ribbon

- [DILG chief Remulla oversees Senate security on Gatchalian’s request](#) (2026-06-04 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla went to the Senate on Thursday upon Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian’s request. Gatchalian confirmed during a press briefing. “I personally sought the assistance of Sec. Remulla to ensure order and that the Senate premises is well-protected,” Gatchalian said in Filipino. /gsg

- [Taal Volcano update: Sulfur dioxide emission up; Alert level 1 stays](#) (2026-06-04 09:00)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Taal Volcano in Batangas doubled its sulfur dioxide emission on Wednesday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Thursday. In its latest 24-hour monitoring, Phivolcs said the volcano emitted 6,287 tons of sulfur dioxide on Wednesday, nearly double the average daily emission of 3,234 tons recorded from May

- [WATCH: Acting Senate Prez Gatchalian holds press briefing](#) (2026-06-04 09:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian holds a press briefing on Thursday, June 4, to address issues surrounding the ongoing Senate leadership dispute./dp

- [PNP calls for calm as Senate tensions simmer](#) (2026-06-04 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged the public not to let recent political tensions in the Senate escalate. “While we acknowledge certain calls for a peaceful vigil, we strongly urge all groups—whether supporters or critics—to maintain sobriety, to exercise maximum restraint, and to respect our laws,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez

- [Dangerous heat index in 10 areas on Thursday; to peak at 49°C in Quezon](#) (2026-06-04 07:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Ten areas were forecast to experience a dangerous heat index on Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). A dangerous heat index is between 42°C and 51°C, which may cause heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In its latest heat index bulletin, Pagasa said the highest

- [LPA outside PAR may intensify into tropical cyclone – Pagasa](#) (2026-06-04 07:45)

MANILA, Philippines — A low pressure area (LPA) outside the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) has an even chance of developing into a tropical cyclone in the next 24 hours, the state weather bureau said on Thursday. In an early morning forecast, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Leanne Loreto said

- [Rainy Thursday in parts of Luzon due to ‘habagat’](#) (2026-06-04 07:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The southwest monsoon or “habagat” is expected to trigger rains in parts of Luzon on Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). “The habagat is still causing rains in many parts of Northern and Central Luzon as well as the western portion of the Southern Luzon,” Pagasa

- [PPI holds meeting, forum, media awards June 4-6](#) (2026-06-04 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — On its 62nd year, the Philippine Press Institute (PPI)—the national association of newspapers and online publications—continues to recognize initiatives that

benefit not just its members but the communities they serve. As digital innovations present both challenges and opportunities for the press, PPI tackles this shift with twingoes—maintaining credibility amid a wave

- [DOE seeks P1.18B in second case vs Leviste](#) (2026-06-04 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) has filed another case against young tycoon and Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste to compel him to shell out P1.18 billion over his alleged failure to deliver a 120-megawatt (MW) solar project. The agency filed a civil complaint against the lawmaker before the Regional Trial Court of Taguig

- [NBI nabs SEC director over extortion case](#) (2026-06-04 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), arrested an unnamed director of the corporate regulator who was accused of extorting funds from a private corporation. The SEC did not identify the official or disclose additional details to preserve the integrity of the investigation, saying only

- [Sandiganbayan denies Romualdez’ s motion to lift travel ban](#) (2026-06-04 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan’ s Seventh Division has denied for lack of merit the motion filed by former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to lift the precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against him. “It is not superfluous to restate that the essence of [a] PHDO is to address flight risk during preliminary investigation

- [House punishes Suntay for lewd, sexist remarks](#) (2026-06-04 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — After expelling Cavite Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga for acts unbecoming of a member of the chamber, the House of Representatives has reprimanded Quezon City Rep. Jesus “Bong” Suntay for his lewd and sexist remarks about actress Anne Curtis as it ordered him to attend gender-sensitivity trainings and render community service. During the plenary

- [Critics unhappy with House’ s final version of antidynasty bill](#) (2026-06-04 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed on final reading a bill barring second degree relatives from holding public office simultaneously, although minority lawmakers viewed the approved measure as a sham attempt at preventing dynastic clans from continuing to dominate politics. With 267 lawmakers in favor, 20 against and seven abstaining, the

- [This Cayetano has Palace backing – as new PTV 4 boss](#) (2026-06-04 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — At least one Cayetano is in Malacañang’ s good graces. President Marcos has appointed film director and former Taguig City congressman and Mayor Lino Cayetano as the new general manager of the state-run People’ s Television Network (PTV 4), the Palace said on Wednesday. The announcement came on the same day Lino’ s elder brother,

- [Blue ribbon: Pia Cayetano has plans, but Erwin Tulfo has say](#) (2026-06-04 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate blue ribbon committee is resuming its inquiry into the flood control scandal on Monday next week (June 8), instead of today, June 4, following yet another leadership shake-up that saw a revamp of key committee chairmanships on Wednesday. Sen. Erwin Tulfo made the announcement on Wednesday after he was elected

- [Gatchalian acting Senate prez as Escudero ends deadlock](#) (2026-06-04 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — A surprise appearance by Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero on Wednesday broke a three-day deadlock in the Senate, allowing the minority bloc led by former Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III to reclaim key leadership posts, reorganize the chamber, and bring an end—at least temporarily—to a paralysis that had threatened to push the

- [LTFRB suspends operation of 26 Victory Liner buses after Benguet crash](#) (2026-06-04 05:17)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has suspended the operation of 26 buses of Victory Liner Inc. following a road crash along Marcos Highway in Barangay Taloy Sur, Tuba, Benguet, on the evening of May 30. The agency also issued a show-cause order directing the bus company to explain why

- [Bus conductor, driver nabbed for allegedly selling meth in Mindoro](#) (2026-06-04 05:09)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — Authorities arrested two alleged high-value drug suspects and seized some P374,000 worth of suspected shabu during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Sta. Isabel here on June 2, according to a report released by police on Tuesday, June 3. The suspects, a 32-year-old bus conductor and a 41-year-old driver, both

- [Dead at toppled building now 27](#) (2026-06-04 05:06)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — The death toll from the May 24 collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago here rose to 27 on Wednesday after rescue workers recovered four more victims from the rubble of concrete and steel. The latest fatalities were recovered between 7:21 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday,

- [Siquijor resorts warned over illegal foreshore use](#) (2026-06-04 05:04)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged resort owners and occupants along the coastline of Siquijor province to comply with foreshore regulations and legal easement requirements, warning that violations could result in penalties and legal action. The DENR assessed 107 coastal resorts across the island province, based

- [Calls raised for rehab of Rio Grande de Mindanao](#) (2026-06-04 05:02)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The Rio Grande de Mindanao, the country’s second-largest river system, needs a massive rehabilitation to stop its ecological decline due to

worsening pollution, unchecked waste disposal, and human encroachment along its banks, a local legislator said. In a privilege speech before the Cotabato City council on Monday, Councilor Anwar Malang

- [Dizon vows year-round dredging of Pinacanauan-Cagayan river confluence](#) (2026-06-04 05:00)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon vowed to have a year-round dredging and desilting operation for the Pinacanauan-Cagayan river confluence along Gunnacao street in this city. Dizon, who inspected the ongoing works here on Tuesday, said the national government's Opan Kontra Baha project will continue to alleviate flooding as the city

- [3 in Pangasinan's most wanted list arrested](#) (2026-06-04 04:50)

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN, Philippines — Three of Pangasinan's most wanted persons, two facing charges of statutory rape and one charged with sexual assault, were arrested by joint police teams on Tuesday. In Binmaley town, authorities arrested two construction workers, aged 34 and 23, who are accused of raping a 14-year-old close family member on three separate

- [Cayetano proclaims sine die adjournment via letter](#) (2026-06-04 00:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Prior to his unseating as Senate President, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano sent on Wednesday a memorandum on-paper declaring sine die adjournment. This was confirmed by Majority Leader Sen. Migz Zubiri, who shared with the media the physical copy of the memorandum handed to the first 11 senators present at the session hall,

- [Cabral bypassed key office in budget amendments, DPWH exec tells court](#) (2026-06-04 00:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The late Department of Public Works and Highways Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral had skipped the agency's chain of command as she submitted budget amendments known as "errata" without a required endorsement from a division, a witness told the Sandiganbayan on Wednesday. Alex Bote, now an assistant secretary of the DPWH, made this

- [Tulfo-led Senate blue ribbon suspends June 4 hearing](#) (2026-06-03 23:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate blue ribbon committee, chaired by Sen. Erwin Tulfo, formally announced on Wednesday that the 9th public hearing on the flood control scandal is suspended until further notice. The hearing was supposed to be conducted on Thursday, June 4, 2026. The announcement came after Senate president pro tempore Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian

- [Gatchalian: No official business on June 4; WFH allowed for Senate staff](#) (2026-06-03 22:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate president pro tempore Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian announced that no official business will be held at the Senate on Thursday, June 4, with Senate staff

authorized to work from home “to preserve the neutrality of the Senate bureaucracy.” Gatchalian made the announcement through a Senate advisory, despite an earlier memorandum from Sen.

- [P2.26-M shabu seized, 2 nabbed in Quezon City buy-bust](#) (2026-06-03 22:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Suspected shabu (crystal meth) worth P2.26 million was confiscated by law enforcers in a buy-bust operation in Quezon City early Wednesday morning, leading to the arrest of two individuals, the police said. In a statement, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) said the suspects were caught in Barangay Del Monte at around

- [PNP chief orders faster DNA testing on recovered human bones](#) (2026-06-03 22:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered their Forensic Group to speed up DNA testing on the bones recovered by authorities from the Taal Lake as part of the investigation into the missing cockfighting aficionados (sabungeros). “Identifying over a thousand bone fragments is undeniably a tall order for

- [No winner for June 3 Grand Lotto, MegaLotto jackpots](#) (2026-06-03 21:55)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpots for the Grand Lotto 6/55 and MegaLotto 6/45 draws on Wednesday, June 3, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The winning combination for Grand Lotto 6/55 was 19-42-53-02-46-03 for a jackpot of ₱45 million. There was no jackpot winner. READ: May 30 PCSO lotto: No winners

- [Manila Water supports Oplan Balik Eskwela 2026, ensures readiness](#) (2026-06-03 21:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water threw its support to the Department of Education’s Oplan Balik-Eskwela 2026 as classes starts June 8, assuring that is prepared to provide reliable and safe water service for schools across its East Zone concession. The company is ensuring consistent water supply and pressure for 764 public schools and daycare centers

- [House leaders commend Bojie Dy for steady leadership, strong performance](#) (2026-06-03 21:23)

MANILA, Philippines — House of Representatives leaders on Wednesday night adopted a resolution commending Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III for providing what they described as stable, collaborative, and purposeful leadership. His stewardship, according to the resolution, enabled the House of Representatives to sustain its legislative momentum and public trust during the First Regular Session

- [Filipinos are still looking for concrete proof Congress is changing – Dy](#) (2026-06-03 21:17)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III understands that the people are still looking for concrete proof of changes in the chamber, despite the lawmakers’ passage of several priority and meaningful measures. In his speech on Wednesday before the House adjourned sine die — ending the first regular session of the 20th Congress — Dy

- [Juvenile Brahminy Kite eagle rescued in Zamboanga del Norte](#) (2026-06-03 21:08)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A juvenile Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) eagle was rescued in Barangay Timan, Liloy town, Zamboanga del Norte after a concerned resident reported the distressed bird to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO). Roserverico Tan, chief of the Regional Strategic Communication and Initiatives Group (RSCIG) of DENR-9, told

- [Senate finally convened: Why and how?](#) (2026-06-03 20:34)

The Senate resumed session Wednesday, June 3, despite the absence of senators allied with former Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, with Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian warning that continued inaction would put the chamber on the brink of a “constitutional violation.” Only 11 senators were initially present when the session was called to order

- [Visayas heat persists as areas record ‘danger’ heat index levels](#) (2026-06-03 20:10)

ILOILO CITY — Several areas in the Visayas experienced sweltering heat on Wednesday, June 3, with some stations recording “danger” heat index levels despite the onset of the rainy season. Based on the latest five-day computed heat index bulletin issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) as of 5 p.m., Roxas

- [Gibo Teodoro honors 10 Army troopers in Cagayan de Oro](#) (2026-06-03 20:08)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Defense Secretary Gilberto “Gibo” Teodoro Jr. on Wednesday, June 3, honored 10 military personnel for their exemplary service during a visit to the 4th Infantry Division (4ID) headquarters here. Teodoro commended the awardees at the division’s Montalvan Hall, pointing out the Department of National Defense’s (DND) continued commitment to supporting

- [AirAsia Philippines has until June 6 to settle debt, says Caap](#) (2026-06-03 20:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) on Wednesday said that it is giving AirAsia Philippines until June 6, 2026 to settle its unpaid financial obligations. Caap issued the statement after a cease and desist order was reportedly issued against AirAsia Philippines over P271.9 million in airport charges and other obligations allegedly

- [Alan Cayetano dismisses shake-up in Senate memo](#) (2026-06-03 19:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the reorganization of the Senate, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano reaffirmed his Senate presidency in a memorandum ordering to conduct the scheduled hearings set under his leadership. In a letter sent on Wednesday evening, Cayetano affirmed his role as Senate president to all Senate officials and personnel. “All Senate officials and personnel

- [Loren Legarda insists Senate leadership reorganization ‘invalid’](#) (2026-06-03 19:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda on Wednesday maintained that the Senate leadership reorganization done without her and the rest of her senator-allies was invalid as they failed to reach the required 13 votes, citing the 1987 Constitution. Legarda made the pronouncement as the new Senate majority convened on Wednesday after two days of canceled

- [Army commander seeks media support for peace in Mindanao](#) (2026-06-03 19:45)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — The newly appointed commander of the 4th Infantry Division (4ID) has called on the local press to act as vital partners in maintaining a stable security environment across Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions. Speaking at his first “Meet and Greet” event with the press at Camp Edilberto Evangelista in Cagayan

- [Death toll climbs to 26 in Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-06-03 19:36)

ANGELES CITY — The death toll from the collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago here rose to 26 on Thursday evening after responders recovered another victim from the rubble. The Unified Command said the latest casualty was successfully extricated at 6:40 p.m., as search, rescue, and retrieval operations continued at the

- [House OKs Dy-backed Kalinga bill allowing gov’ t action during oil crises](#) (2026-06-03 19:33)

[Updated June 3, 2026, 8:55 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The proposed Komprehensibong Alalay sa Livelihood, Inflation, Negosyo at Goods Assistance (KALINGA) Program, which seeks to institutionalize government action during oil crises, has been approved by the House of Representatives on third and final reading. During the session on Wednesday, House Bill (HB) No. 9305 was approved with

- [Watchdog: Fake news bill in current form threatens free speech online](#) (2026-06-03 19:27)

MANILA, Philippines — An international watchdog group has warned House lawmakers against passing the anti-fake news bill with “vague and overly broad” provisions that threaten to undermine — rather than protect — freedom of expression. Human Rights Watch expressed alarm over House Bill No. 9465 or the proposed Digital Media Anti-False Information Act, which was

- [Green groups urge gov’ t to fast-track energy transition](#) (2026-06-03 19:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental groups on Wednesday called on the government to fast-track the country’s transition to renewable energy given the worsening climate crisis. During a forum at the University of the Philippines Diliman, Jefferson Chua of Greenpeace Philippines stressed the need for a just energy transition as he pointed out the possibility of a

- [House approves anti-fake news bill on final reading](#) (2026-06-03 19:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved on third and final reading a bill penalizing disinformation that could cause public harm or threaten national

security. With 286 lawmakers voting in favor, three against, and seven abstaining, the chamberpassed House Bill No. 9465, which seeks to impose prison terms of six to

- [Legarda hails enactment of law declaring April as PH Veterans' Month](#) (2026-06-03 18:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, the principal author and sponsor of Republic Act No. 12320, also known as the Philippine Veterans' Month Act, welcomed its enactment, which officially designates April of every year as Philippine Veterans' Month. Signed into law by the President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on May 26, 2026,

- [Bantug back as Senate secretary; Corpus replaces Aplasca](#) (2026-06-03 18:25)

MANILA, Philippines – The new majority senators re-elected as Senate secretary on Wednesday Renato “Rey” Bantug Jr., while Police Maj. Gen. Alfred Sotto Corpus replaced Ma O. Aplasca as the Senate sergeant-at-arms. Replacing Jose Luis Montales, Bantug previously served as the Senate secretary from 2022 until early 2026 and was even honored through a Senate

- [Amended rules now allow other senators to preside over impeachment trials](#) (2026-06-03 18:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate has amended the rules of impeachment that would allow another senator to be elected by a majority vote of members present as presiding officer of the impeachment court. Senate Resolution No. 430 amended Rule II of the existing rules of procedure on impeachment trials, which explicitly states that the Senate

- [P4.1-M shabu seized in Quezon; 3 suspected traffickers held](#) (2026-06-03 18:19)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Police seized suspected shabu (crystal meth) worth more than P4.1 million from three alleged drug traffickers arrested in two buy-bust operations in Quezon province on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 2 and 3. Lt. Col. Ryan Hernandez, Lucena City police chief, reported that the suspects, identified only by their aliases “Archie,” 29,

- [House lawmakers hope Senate resumes work under Gatchalian](#) (2026-06-03 18:15)

MANILA, Philippines — House lawmakers have expressed hope that the Senate will resume its work following the election of Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as acting Senate president, after two consecutive days without a session. In a statement on Wednesday, Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Leila de Lima and Akbayan Party-list Rep. Percival Cendaña said they would expect

- [NBI nabs SEC-Butuan director for alleged P250,000 extortion try](#) (2026-06-03 18:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday confirmed that agents from its Caraga Regional Office arrested a director of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for allegedly trying to extort P250,000 from a private corporation. In a statement on Wednesday, the NBI said it arrested Atty. Jasoc Tan from the SEC

- [Alan Peter Cayetano ‘no longer SP’ – Senate majority](#) (2026-06-03 18:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is no longer the Senate president, the new majority said on Wednesday after the shake-up. In the absence of Cayetano and his allies in the chamber, 12 senators formed a quorum and, with no objections, approved to vacate all the Senate leadership positions less than four weeks after

- [Enrile’ s daughter to Cayetano: If you’ ll invoke my father’ s name, be accurate](#) (2026-06-03 17:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile’ s daughter on Wednesday called on those invoking her father’ s name, particularly Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, to at least be accurate and respectful of his record. Katrina Ponce Enrile, who currently serves as chief of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, issued the appeal after Cayetano cited

- [House reprimands Suntay for lewd remarks, requires sensitivity training](#) (2026-06-03 17:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City Rep. Jesus “Bong” Suntay has been reprimanded by the House of Representatives for his lewd and sexist remarks about actress Anne Curtis, with the chamber ordering him to attend gender-sensitivity training and render community service. During Wednesday’ s session, 263 House lawmakers voted in favor of adopting the recommendations of the

- [House approves anti-dynasty bill on third and final reading](#) (2026-06-03 17:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Wednesday passed on third and final reading a bill barring second-degree relatives from holding public office simultaneously, advancing the proposal further than any similar effort since the 1987 Constitution prohibited political dynasties. With 267 lawmakers voting in favor, 20 against and seven abstaining, the lower chamber approved

- [New Senate committee chairpersons named amid shake-up](#) (2026-06-03 17:07)

MANILA, Philippines – Another Senate shake-up installed new committee chairpersons on Wednesday following a motion declaring all Senate leadership positions vacant except the presidency. In the absence of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and his allies, the former 11-member minority bloc was joined by Sen. Francis Escudero, leaving Cayetano and his bloc with only 10

- [Why the Philippines needs a modern industrial policy](#) (2026-06-03 17:07)

(First of a series) The Philippines stands at a critical juncture in its economic history, facing entrenched structural dependency, underindustrialization and vulnerability to global shocks. Despite decades of reforms, the absence of a coherent industrial policy has left the nation reliant on remittances, services and import-dependent consumption. This paper synthesizes two complementary strands of

- [Dy congratulates Gatchalian, says fully functioning Senate needed](#) (2026-06-03 17:06)

[Updated June 3, 2026, 5:46 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III has congratulated acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian after his election, saying that a fully functioning Senate is needed to push for meaningful legislation and uphold democratic governance. “At a time when our nation looks to its institutions for stability and leadership,

- [Palace backs latest Senate shakeup: It’s within the rule of law](#) (2026-06-03 16:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has welcomed the latest change of leadership in the Senate, hoping the development would break the impasse in the chamber and allow the government to focus on other pressing issues. “What happened in the Senate this afternoon is in accordance with the law and the rule of law,” Palace press officer Claire

- [Death toll in Angeles building collapse reaches 25](#) (2026-06-03 16:57)

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga — The death toll from the collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago rose to 25 on Thursday after another individual was recovered from the rubble as retrieval operations continue despite heavy rain. The Unified Command said the latest victim was extricated at 3:45 p.m. from the debris field,

- [Cayetano: I am still the legitimate, legal, moral Senate president](#) (2026-06-03 16:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday said he remains the “legitimate, legal, and moral Senate president” following the Senate leadership reorganization. “This is an illegal coup that comes with the trampling of our Constitution,” he said during a Facebook Live session. With Senator Francis Escudero appearing on the Senate floor on Wednesday,

- [WATCH: Senate shakeup violates Constitution – Cayetano](#) (2026-06-03 16:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano reacts to a Senate shakeup happening on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, and calls for a prayer rally.

- [Senate would have violated charter if no session held for third day — solons](#) (2026-06-03 16:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate has resumed session on Wednesday, but a present and a former lawmaker separately said that the chamber would have violated the 1987 Constitution if it continued to skip exercising its duties. House Deputy Speaker Albee Benitez, in an earlier interview, said there is a provision in the 1987 Constitution stating that the

- [Napolcom chief, relieved Rizal cop clash over senior citizen arrest](#) (2026-06-03 16:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A relieved Rizal provincial police officer and National Police Commission (Napolcom) Commissioner Rafael Calinisan on Wednesday had a heated exchange over whether the former’s arrest of a senior citizen following a road crash in Taguig City was justified. Police Cpl. Simeon Suan arrested a 76-year-old man last Tuesday after both their vehicles

- [Pride Month: Marcos vows equality, inclusion for LGBTQIA+ Filipinos](#) (2026-06-03 16:26)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. joined the LGBTQIA+ community in celebrating Pride Month, reaffirming his administration's commitment to equality and inclusion for all Filipinos regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. In a message for Pride Month released on Wednesday, Marcos paid tribute to members of the LGBTQIA+ community whose struggles and sacrifices

- [WATCH: Erwin Tulfo gives briefing on Senate shakeup](#) (2026-06-03 16:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo gives a briefing on internal movements in the Senate amid an impasse caused by the continued absence of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and the former majority bloc. /atm

- [Landslides prompt closure of South Cotabato waterfalls attraction](#) (2026-06-03 16:14)

LAKE SEBU, South Cotabato – This rustic mountainous town, South Cotabato's major tourism destination, has closed the Traankini Resort, one of its key tourism attractions, to visitors for safety reasons as landslides hit the area anew. READ: Landslides destroy road in South Cotabato's coal mining area Mayor Antonio Fungan Jr. said that Traangkini Resort remained

- [Erwin Tulfo: Senate flood control probe moved to June 8](#) (2026-06-03 16:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Newly elected Senate blue ribbon committee Chair Erwin Tulfo said on Wednesday the probe into the flood control anomalies will be moved to Monday, June 8. Tulfo said the hearing was supposedly set for Thursday, June 4, under the leadership of Sen. Pia Cayetano. READ: Minority bloc pushes for Sherwin Gatchalian as 'coup' talk

- [Gatchalian elected Senate president pro tempore](#) (2026-06-03 15:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was elected Senate president pro tempore, replacing Sen. Loren Legarda. He presided over the session on Wednesday, two days after no plenary session was held. Twelve senators, including Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, an ally of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, provided the quorum. This is amid the detention of Sen.

- [Heavy rains expected in Zambales as 'habagat' strengthens – Pagasa](#) (2026-06-03 15:18)

OLONGAPO CITY — The southwest monsoon or Habagat is expected to bring several days of heavy rain in Zambales province, according to the state weather bureau on Wednesday. In an advisory at 11:00 a.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the province is expected to experience continuous monsoon rains from Wednesday, June

- [Senate finally convenes amid alleged Cayetano-led group's boycott](#) (2026-06-03 15:10)

[Updated June 3, 2026, 5:24 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Senate finally convened its session on Wednesday with Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, the lone member of the

13-member majority bloc, in attendance. Amid the applause erupting from the gallery of the session hall and from some of senators themselves, Escudero entered the session hall a little

- [Quezon town logs 49°C heat index amid start of rainy season](#) (2026-06-03 15:09)
- [Escudero shows up at Senate plenary amid Cayetano-led group's boycott](#) (2026-06-03 14:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero showed up at Wednesday’s plenary session amid an alleged boycott by his allies in the 13-member majority bloc. The Senate failed to convene in the past two days, with Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and other ranking Senate officials absent to call the session to order. The Senate

- [Senate chief Cayetano nixes resignation call: If you have 13, it's yours](#) (2026-06-03 14:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday rejected the minority’s resignation call, saying it is automatic once the 13 votes needed to replace him are reached. “I’ll repeat this. If there are 13 votes, it automatically means I don’t need to resign. It’s yours,” Cayetano said in Filipino in a Facebook live. With

- [Flood control mess: Stop giving Estrada, Bonoan jail privileges — group](#) (2026-06-03 14:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A support group for political prisoners on Wednesday denounced the “theatrical” medical excuses and privileges sought by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan in their graft and plunder case before the Sandiganbayan. “There must be no customized justice, no exemptions from standard jail protocols, and absolutely no special

- [Zamboanga residents warned vs eating shellfish from Dumanquillas Bay](#) (2026-06-03 14:31)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Authorities on Wednesday urged residents in Zamboanga del Sur to avoid consuming shellfish harvested from Dumanquillas Bay after a red tide toxin contamination was detected in the protected seascape. In its Shellfish Bulletin 13 Series of 2026, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Region 9 (BFAR-9) said

- [NBI agents nab 2 in Quezon City over alleged beauty clinic investment scam](#) (2026-06-03 14:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested two individuals in Quezon City, who had been hiding for over a year, over their alleged involvement in a multi-million peso beauty clinic investment scam. This is the same clinic where celebrities Rufa Mae Quinto and Neri Naig were previously linked to. According to the

- [Solon opposes Barzaga expulsion, claims double standards](#) (2026-06-03 14:09)

MANILA, Philippines — If former Cavite Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga was expelled for his disruptive and disorderly behavior, Kamanggagawa party-list Rep. Elijah San Fernando asked

why other lawmakers who exhibited the same traits — or did worse — were not removed from their posts. In a statement on Wednesday, San Fernando defended his decision to

- [24th body recovered from collapsed building in Angeles City](#) (2026-06-03 14:05)

ANGELES CITY — Rescuers recovered another body from the site of the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago on Wednesday, raising the death toll to 24. The Unified Command said another individual was successfully extricated from the collapse site at 10:57 a.m. Earlier, responders recovered two victims at 7:21 a.m. and 9:12 a.m. READ: 23

- [‘Bayanihan’ effort revives rivers in Albay town](#) (2026-06-03 13:55)

LEGAZPI CITY — A volunteer-led river rehabilitation program in Libon town, Albay, is drawing growing public support as it seeks to restore waterways, promote environmental responsibility, and reduce risks of flooding. The initiative, dubbed “Libon Forward, Sulong Ta, Linigon Ta Project,” was launched by environmental advocate John Liao following the success of a similar river

- [Lubang town imposes no-sail policy amid rough sea conditions](#) (2026-06-03 13:30)

Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro — The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) of Lubang has ordered the implementation of a no-sail policy from Wednesday to Friday due to rough sea conditions caused by the southwest monsoon or Habagat. In Memorandum No. 010, Series of 2026, signed by Mayor Michael L. Orayani, who also

- [UP scientists: SAI.Kit to boost justice for sexual assault victims](#) (2026-06-03 13:25)

MANILA, Philippines – After more than two decades of research and development, scientists at the University of the Philippines Diliman are moving closer to the wider rollout of the country’s first locally developed Sexual Assault Investigation Kit (SAI.Kit), a tool designed to strengthen how sexual assault evidence is collected and preserved. The kit, the scientists

- [Sara Duterte backs, comforts expelled Cavite Rep. Kiko Barzaga](#) (2026-06-03 13:11)

(Photo courtesy of the Office of the Vice President) MANILA, Philippines —Vice President Sara Duterte, in an open letter, expressed support for and comforted expelled Cavite 4th district Rep. Francis “Kiko” Barzaga, saying that “It takes grit to be yourself in a world that rewards conformity.” A total of 265 members of the House of

- [Cayetano: Senate to discuss NBI chase, gunfire on June 5](#) (2026-06-03 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate gunfire and the presence of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) when Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa resurfaced are set to be discussed by the chamber on June 5, Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano said. He disclosed the plan during a Facebook livestream on Wednesday. “On Friday, our Senate colleague,

- [Sandiganbayan denies Romualdez’ s bid to lift travel ban](#) (2026-06-03 12:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The bid of Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to lift the precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against him was denied by the Sandiganbayan. In a resolution dated June 1 but made public on Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan Seventh Division denied Romualdez’ s motion for reconsideration of the court-issued PHDO against him. The Sandiganbayan issued a

- [Marcos names Lino Cayetano as new PTV-4 general manager](#) (2026-06-03 12:50)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed former Taguig City Mayor Lino Cayetano as the new general manager of the state-run television network People’ s Television Network (PTV-4). Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Secretary Dave Gomez confirmed Cayetano’ s appointment on Wednesday. PTV-4 is an attached agency of the PCO. A film and television director, Cayetano

- [Cops seize smuggled cigarettes in Bataan](#) (2026-06-03 12:49)

PILAR, Bataan – Smuggled cigarettes worth P198,000 were confiscated by personnel of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group Region 3 during an entrapment operation in Villa Juana Compound in Barangay Rizal here on Tuesday. Police report said eight boxes of “Modern” cigarettes were held following the arrest of two suspects aged 32 and 40, whose

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan transferred to private hospital — PNP](#) (2026-06-03 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan has been transferred to a private hospital from the Philippine National Police – General Hospital (PNP-GH), the PNP confirmed on Wednesday. PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae Co, in a press briefing in Camp Crame, said that Bonoan was transferred on Tuesday night. He

- [Quezon cops call for surrender of cocaine washed ashore in town](#) (2026-06-03 12:40)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Police in the island municipality of Patnanungan in Quezon province are intensifying their public information campaign, urging residents to surrender any remaining cocaine that may have washed ashore there. “We urge island residents to voluntarily surrender any remaining cocaine they may still possess,” Col. Romulo Albacea, director of the Quezon Police

- [Lacson links Senate issues to Alan Cayetano’ s desire to stay in power](#) (2026-06-03 12:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson believes that recent developments in the upper chamber are linked to Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano’ s desire to remain in power. “You know, in our view, Senate President Alan has only one purpose—to preserve his position, to preserve his Senate presidency. Nothing more,” Lacson, who is part of the

- [Village chief arrested for illegal drugs in Camarines Sur](#) (2026-06-03 12:27)

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay — A village chief in Camarines Sur was arrested for illegal drugs following a search operation in Presentacion town on Tuesday. In a belated report on Wednesday, Camarines Sur police said authorities served the search warrant at the suspect's residence at around 5 a.m. on Tuesday. READ: Cop nabbed over links to

- [Deforestation worst where governance is weak, says data analyst](#) (2026-06-03 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — As public criticism grew over the cutting of trees along Quirino Avenue in Manila last week, an Inquirer analysis found that deforestation in the Philippines is “concentrated, persistent and often occurring where governance is weakest.” Based on data from Global Forest Watch, the highest losses are clustered in a relatively small group

- [Bishop voices concern over South Cotabato power co-op joint venture](#) (2026-06-03 12:14)

COTABATO CITY — A Catholic bishop has expressed concern over the alleged lack of transparency surrounding the proposed joint venture between the South Cotabato Electric Cooperative (SOCOTECO II) and a consortium led by tycoon Enrique Razon and boxing icon and former senator Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao. Bishop Cerilo Casicas, prelate of the Diocese of Marbel, criticized

- [Remulla: I stayed professional during tension with Cayetano](#) (2026-06-03 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla maintained that he stayed professional when tensions flared between him and Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano as the police arrested Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for plunder in the Senate earlier this week. “There was tension, but it was not overblown. If you review all the videos, I only raised

- [Woman busted for illegal sale of high-powered firearms in Makati](#) (2026-06-03 11:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested a woman in Makati City who was allegedly selling unregistered firearms to politicians. In a statement on Wednesday, the NBI said it received information that the woman, who is supposedly a gun dealer, was “selling unregistered, high-powered, fully automatic long firearms to politicians who

- [BFAR faces scrutiny amid record fishing intrusions](#) (2026-06-03 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines—Lawmakers and conservation groups are pressing the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to release vessel monitoring data from commercial fishing boats following fresh reports of continued fishing activity inside municipal waters reserved for small-scale fishers. The renewed calls come after satellite-based monitoring recorded 3,853 apparent commercial fishing vessel detections inside municipal waters

- [Lacson, Tulfo: Ethics complaint vs Cayetano over Senate boycott possible](#) (2026-06-03 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Minority Senators Panfilo Lacson and Erwin Tulfo floated the possibility of filing an ethics complaint against Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano over the continued absence of the majority bloc, led by Cayetano, from Senate sessions. According to Lacson, the Cayetano-led Senate boycott may be considered a dereliction of duty and could serve

- [Iloilo City returns to 5-day workweek on June 8](#) (2026-06-03 11:35)

ILOILO CITY – Following a recommendation by the crisis management council, Iloilo City Hall operations will return to a regular five-day workweek starting on June 8. The council’s recommendation came after reviewing current data and assessing the situation, which indicated that the austerity measures implemented earlier have yielded positive results. These measures successfully reduced the city’s

- [Cases to be filed vs ‘big fish’ in flood control mess Thursday – Dizon](#) (2026-06-03 11:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman will file cases on Thursday against a key personalities tagged in flood control anomalies in Bulacan, Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon said on Wednesday. “There are more cases coming. In fact, tomorrow, there will be cases filed in Bulacan. Just wait for it, it’s a

- [Rizal cop sacked over incident with senior citizen in Taguig road crash](#) (2026-06-03 10:59)

MANILA, Philippines — A Rizal province police officer was temporarily relieved from his post and placed under restrictive custody for arresting a senior citizen after a road crash in Taguig City. The senior citizen and police officer earlier figured in a vehicular accident. In a statement on Wednesday, the Rizal Provincial Police Office assured that

- [5 dead, 4 hurt as SUV hits tricycle in Batangas mishap](#) (2026-06-03 10:49)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Five passengers of a tricycle died after the vehicle was struck by a sports utility vehicle (SUV) driven by an elderly woman in San Juan, Batangas, on Tuesday afternoon, police said. In a belated report released on Wednesday, the Police Regional Office 4A said a Honda Mobilio driven by a 66-year-old

- [Cayetano-led Senate no-show disgusting, selfish, says Lacson](#) (2026-06-03 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Panfilo Lacson on Wednesday called Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano “kasuklam-suklam” (disgusting) and “selfish” for leading the majority bloc’s Senate regular sessions boycott. “Try finding a Senate President who is himself spearheading a boycott of the regular session that he is supposed to preside over. Isn’t that disgusting?” Lacson said in

- [23 dead as Angeles building rubble yields another body](#) (2026-06-03 10:40)

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga— Rescuers recovered another body from the site of the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago on Wednesday morning, raising the death toll from the tragedy to 23. The Unified Command said the 23rd confirmed casualty was recovered at 9:12

a.m. during ongoing search, rescue, and retrieval operations at the collapse site. Authorities

- [No VIP treatment for ex-DPWH chief while under close monitoring – PNP](#) (2026-06-03 10:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained that former Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan will not be given VIP treatment while undergoing treatment at the agency's hospital in Camp Crame, Quezon City. Bonoan, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, and three DPWH National Capital Region officials were ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan last Monday

- [Agusan del Sur shines in hosting Palarong Pambansa 2026](#) (2026-06-03 10:31)

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur — With the successful culmination of the 2026 Palarong Pambansa in Agusan del Sur, the provincial government has earned wide acclaim for hosting the annual sporting event, drawing praises from athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators for its focus on comfort, logistics, and community engagement. The province's preparations zeroed in on an

- [Complaint filed vs Cayetano, Padilla, Aplasca over Dela Rosa 'escape'](#) (2026-06-03 10:30)

MANILA, Philippines — A coalition of political parties and civil society organizations on Wednesday filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman against Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, Sen. Robin Padilla, and suspended Senate sergeant-at-arms (SAA) Ma O. Aplasca in connection with Sen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa's departure from the Senate premises last month.

- [Marcos to Senate: Get back to work](#) (2026-06-03 10:30)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday called on senators to return to work amid the ongoing impasse in the Senate, warning that the chamber's inability to hold sessions has disrupted essential legislative functions and undermined government efforts to address pressing national concerns. According to the president, the administration is exploring all legal

- [4 dead, 4 hurt in alleged drug-related shootout in BARMM](#) (2026-06-03 10:15)

COTABATO CITY – Four people, including a minor, were killed and four others were injured in an alleged shootout on Tuesday morning, believed to be linked to an illegal drug transaction in Kadayangan, Special Geographic Area (SGA) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), police confirmed Wednesday. Captain Steffi Salangit, spokesperson for the

- [College attainment in Philippines falls by 2022 after 2019 high](#) (2026-06-03 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — A new analysis of data from the World Bank shows that finishing college "remains an achievement reached only by a limited share of the population." Dr. Alicor

Panao, an Inquirer data scientist, said this as schools across the country were again filled with sables, togas and medals. RELATED STORY: DepEd mandates simple

- [Death toll in Angeles building collapse rises to 22](#) (2026-06-03 09:18)

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga — Rescuers recovered another victim from the rubble of the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago early Wednesday, raising the death toll to 22. The Bureau of Fire Protection said the victim was successfully extricated at 7:21 a.m. after responders carried out sustained search, rescue, and retrieval operations at the collapse site.

- [PNP fortifies Senate security as political tensions simmer](#) (2026-06-03 08:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) will be deploying more police officers to the Senate in anticipation of possible protest actions amid “political tensions.” “Our current posture around the Senate is one of heightened vigilance but calibrated restraint,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on Wednesday. “The Philippine

- [Romualdez, ‘ex-Marines’ invited to next Senate hearing on flood mess](#) (2026-06-03 08:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker Martin Romualdez and the 18 supposedly former Marines who claimed to have delivered cash-filled suitcases to Romualdez and former House appropriations chair Elizaldy Co were invited to the Senate blue ribbon committee’s next hearing on the flood control controversy on Thursday. Following the Senate leadership shakeup on May 11,

- [Dangerous heat index forecast in 10 areas on Wednesday; to peak at 44°C](#) (2026-06-03 07:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The heat index is forecast to peak at a dangerous 44°C on Wednesday in Infanta, Quezon, according to the the latest heat index forecast issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Pagasa also said that nine other areas will experience danger-level heat indices. Under this category, the heat

- [LPA to enter PAR by Thursday, Friday; wet Wednesday in Luzon](#) (2026-06-03 06:08)

Satellite image captured as of 5:50 a.m. on June 3, 2026. (Photo by Pagasa) MANILA, Philippines — A low pressure area (LPA) may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by Thursday or Friday this week, the state weather bureau said on Wednesday. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio

- [Senate minority bloc to Cayetano: Resign!](#) (2026-06-03 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Senators of the minority bloc called on Tuesday for the resignation of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, saying he could “no longer function” as the

chamber’ s leader following the majority bloc’ s absence from the Senate plenary session for the second consecutive day. Cayetano had announced earlier on Tuesday via Facebook Live that

- [Arraignment of Estrada, Bonoan postponed](#) (2026-06-03 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan’ s Second Division on Tuesday postponed the arraignment of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan to June 4. In the case of Bonoan, who arrived in a wheelchair, his arraignment was postponed after he again showed signs of hypertension. On Monday night, he was taken to the

- [Drilon urges SC to rule early on ‘unprogrammed’ funds](#) (2026-06-03 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate President Franklin Drilon on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to rule “as early as possible” on the legality of unprogrammed appropriations (UAs), saying a decision would provide crucial guidance before Congress begins deliberations on the proposed 2027 national budget. Drilon made the appeal during the third day of oral arguments

- [Pia Cayetano withdraws invite to ‘ex-Marines’ in flood works probe](#) (2026-06-03 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee has withdrawn its invitation to 18 supposed former Marine soldiers and their lawyer Levito Baligod as it is set to resume its inquiry into the flood control scandal on Thursday. On Tuesday, Baligod posted on social media an email sent on Monday by the

- [House passes Freedom of Information bill](#) (2026-06-03 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved on final reading a bill guaranteeing the public’ s right to access government information, moving the long-delayed measure closer to becoming law amid renewed scrutiny of government spending and corruption. House Bill No. 9397, or the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, secured 284 votes, with

- [Sara Duterte sidesteps allegations in reply to impeachment case](#) (2026-06-03 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House team of prosecutors on Tuesday expressed disappointment with Vice President Sara Duterte’ s answer to the articles of impeachment, assailing her for relying on technicalities instead of confronting the allegations head-on. “We had anticipated that we’ ll finally see her answers on the confidential fund, bribery, unexplained wealth and even threats [allegations],

- [265 House lawmakers vote to expel Barzaga](#) (2026-06-03 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers voted unanimously on Tuesday to expel a controversial legislator who had been suspended twice for his disorderly behavior and “malicious” social media posts, making him the first member in nearly three years to be banished from the House of Representatives. More than two-thirds or a total of 265 legislators voted in

- [3 fishers from Cebu rescued off Biliran after boat capsizes](#) (2026-06-03 05:06)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Three fishers from Cebu were rescued off the waters of Sambawan Island in Maripipi, Biliran, after their motorized banca capsized amid rough sea conditions, leaving them stranded at sea for several hours, authorities said on Tuesday, June 2. The fishers, all residents of Daanbantayan, Cebu, were retrieved through a rescue

- [P2.4M shabu seized in Pangasinan drug sting operations](#) (2026-06-03 04:57)

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN, Philippines — A total of P2.4 million worth of shabu was confiscated from two top wanted persons and a cohort during separate anti-illegal drugs operations in Pangasinan on Monday. The police report showed that the police operation was conducted in Urdaneta City where a high value individual identified as alias “JL” was arrested.

- [Davao garbage woes worsen amid landfill closure](#) (2026-06-03 04:45)

DAVAO CITY, Philippines — Garbage collection and disposal across the city have been significantly disrupted following the suspended operations of the city’s major landfill, as search and retrieval operations continue for an elderly woman buried in a trash collapse at the site nearly two weeks ago. The suspension has significantly disrupted garbage collection and disposal

- [Alaminos hikes boat rental rates for Hundred Islands tours](#) (2026-06-03 04:40)

ALAMINOS CITY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — The city government has approved higher rental rates for motorboats ferrying tourists to the Hundred Islands National Park and other attractions, citing rising fuel costs, increasing prices of basic commodities, and appeals from boat owners, operators, and boatmen. City Ordinance No. 09-2026, enacted on May 5, authorized the increase and

- [Papal Nuncio to visit Eastern Samar for blessing of retirement home](#) (2026-06-03 04:35)

BORONGAN CITY, EASTERN SAMAR, Philippines — Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Charles John Brown is set to visit Eastern Samar tomorrow for the blessing and inauguration of a new multipurpose building of the Diocese of Borongan that will serve as a retirement home for priests, evacuation center, museum, and venue for church activities and

- [Pa’s death in collapsed building leaves child orphaned](#) (2026-06-03 04:30)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — “Punta Papa (Let’s go to Papa).” A 2-year-old girl repeated the words, unaware that her father, Ferdinand Arogante, 30, was buried in a collapsed building in Barangay Balibago after the May 24 tragedy. She insisted on joining relatives searching for him. Her grandmother said she did not understand the situation.

- [500 Escalante City evacuees in Negros Occidental return home, says Army](#) (2026-06-03 03:24)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Residents of Barangay Tamlang in Escalante City, Negros Occidental, who evacuated following an encounter between soldiers and New People's Army guerrillas, returned home on Tuesday, June 2. A total of 150 families, comprising 554 individuals, who had evacuated to the Tamlang Elementary School, decamped and returned home, 1st Lt.

- [Naturalization bills for two athletes delayed due to Senate gridlock](#) (2026-06-03 01:46)

MANILA, Philippines — As the Senate failed to hold its plenary session for the second consecutive day, naturalization bills involving two athletes remain delayed, leaving their playing eligibility in limbo. The two bills, specifically House Bill Numbers 6639 and 6644, are currently awaiting approval on third and final reading. It seeks to grant Philippine citizenship

- [Mayor Zamora: Let Estrada answer the charges and prove his innocence](#) (2026-06-02 23:52)

MANILA, Philippines — San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora called on the public to respect due process and “allow legal process to take its course” as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, a fellow San Juaneño, faces charges in connection with the flood control projects scandal. Zamora said this as he referred to the Sandiganbayan as the proper

- [Erwin Tulfo tells Cayetano: Consult our Senate psychiatrist](#) (2026-06-02 23:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday told Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano to consult a psychiatrist after the latter criticized him and his brother, Sen. Raffy Tulfo, amid a standoff between the Senate majority and minority blocs. According to Tulfo, Cayetano may just simply be stressed, which is why he should consider consulting

- [Man dead after getting shot in knee during Pasig anti-drug op](#) (2026-06-02 23:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A man died after sustaining a gunshot wound in the knee during an anti-illegal drug operation in Pasig City, according to a police report obtained by the Inquirer. It only identified the suspect as a 31-year-old Pasig City-based porter with the alias “Jon.” Personnel from the Pasig City Police Station-San Joaquin Substation

- [Cops seize P3.3-M ‘shabu’ in Iloilo drug sting](#) (2026-06-02 22:52)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Police seized over P3.3 million worth of suspected “shabu” and arrested three suspects during a buy-bust operation in Balasan town on Monday, June 1. A 14-year-old girl, identified as the granddaughter of the primary target, was also rescued during the operation and turned over to local social welfare authorities. Police identified

- [Court junks bid of Zaldy Co's co-accused to dismiss malversation case](#) (2026-06-02 22:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division has junked the petition of resigned Ako Bicol Rep. Zaldy Co's co-accused to dismiss the malversation case against them. The non-bailable malversation of funds case, through falsification of public documents, stems from

a Sunwest project — or the company where Co is said to be a beneficial owner — worth P289.4

- [PNP open to NBI probe on possible cop behind fake tip on Dela Rosa](#) (2026-06-02 22:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said it was open to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) looking into the angle that a police officer was behind the tipster who provided the wrong information on the location of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. “On the part of the PNP, we welcome that kind

- [Rizal town ramps up creeks, rivers cleanup as rainy season begins](#) (2026-06-02 22:43)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon—As part of its flood mitigation efforts during the rainy season, the local government of Taytay, Rizal has intensified dredging and desilting operations in creeks and rivers across the municipality. The Municipal Public Information Office (PIO) reported on Monday, June 1, that the Municipal Engineering Office–Flood Control Section has stepped up the cleanup

- [PNP assures ‘dedicated, select team’ readied to arrest Dela Rosa](#) (2026-06-02 22:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday assured that a “dedicated team” with “select members” is prepared to arrest Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. Dela Rosa, a former PNP chief, is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over his alleged involvement in former President Rodrigo Duterte’s war on drugs, which killed

- [PDEA, cops bust drug den in Batangas City](#) (2026-06-02 22:38)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon—Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) operatives and police dismantled an alleged drug den and arrested four suspects in Batangas City, Batangas, on Monday, June 1. A report posted by PDEA Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) on its Facebook page said that at 4:10 p.m., its operatives and policemen raided a suspected drug

- [Biliran province returns to regular 5-day workweek](#) (2026-06-02 22:33)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Biliran Governor Rogelio Espina has ordered the reinstatement of the regular five-day workweek in the provincial government of Biliran and all of its municipalities starting Monday, June 1, ending the compressed four-day workweek schedule that had been implemented as part of energy conservation measures earlier this year. The directive is

- [Typhoon-hit sugar workers in Negros to receive gov’t aid](#) (2026-06-02 22:24)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment-Negros Island Region (DOLE-NIR) has begun distributing financial assistance under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) to sugarcane workers adversely affected by Typhoon Tino. A total of P9.97 million is slated for distribution to 9,970 sugar mill and field workers, who will receive P1,000 each,

- [Red tide alert raised in Zamboanga del Sur' s Dumanquillas Bay](#) (2026-06-02 22:02)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Authorities have sounded the alarm over toxic red tide contamination in Dumanquillas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur, after laboratory tests confirmed unsafe levels of Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP). The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), in its Shellfish Bulletin No. 13, Series of 2026, issued on June 1,

- [No jackpot winners in June 2 PCSO lotto draws](#) (2026-06-02 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpots of the Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, June 2. PCSO said the Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination was 39-36-12-41-04-20 for a jackpot prize of about ₱75 million. No ticket matched all six

- [Eastern Visayas police headquarters shifts to solar power](#) (2026-06-02 21:40)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Philippine National Police' s regional headquarters in Eastern Visayas has begun harnessing solar energy to power its operations, a move expected to significantly cut electricity costs while promoting the government' s push for renewable energy use. A ceremonial switch-on was held Tuesday at the Police Regional Office-8 (PRO-8) headquarters inside Camp Ruperto Kangleon

- [House OKs freedom of information bill on final reading](#) (2026-06-02 21:35)

MANILA, Philippines—The House of Representatives approved on final reading a bill guaranteeing the right to access information on Tuesday, putting the measure on track to becoming a law amid pressure to boost state transparency following a multibillion-peso graft scandal. Lawmakers overwhelmingly approved House Bill No. 9397 after securing 284 votes, advancing it to bicameral talks

- [Bukidnon' s biggest public school grapples with classroom shortage, flood](#) (2026-06-02 21:34)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Despite being the largest public elementary school in Bukidnon in terms of enrollment, Valencia City Central School continues to struggle with chronic classroom shortages and recurring flooding, problems school officials say require urgent intervention from the Department of Education (DepEd). As schools nationwide conducted Brigada Eskwela preparations ahead of the June

- [130 Bohol fisherfolks receive fiberglass boats](#) (2026-06-02 21:21)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol— A total of 130 fiberglass fishing boats were turned over to fisherfolk organizations by 33 local government units in Bohol as part of efforts to strengthen livelihoods, boost fish production, and enhance food security in the province. The turnover was conducted through a partnership between the provincial government of Bohol, the Bureau

- [3 years on, FDA still evaluating Qdenga dengue vaccine application](#) (2026-06-02 21:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The proposed new generation anti-dengue vaccine remains under review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) three years after it applied for registration, according to Malacañang. Citing a statement from the Department of Health (DOH), Palace press officer Claire Castro said the application of Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda for the certificate of product

- [Infant among latest victims retrieved from collapsed Angeles building](#) (2026-06-02 21:04)

ANGELES CITY — Rescuers recovered the body of an infant from the rubble of the collapsed nine-storey building in Barangay Balibago here on Tuesday evening (June 2), further raising the death toll from the tragedy. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said the infant was extricated from Quadrant 2 of the disaster site at 6:01

- [Estrada asks Sandiganbayan: No BJMP uniform, handcuffs during trial](#) (2026-06-02 20:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Tuesday asked the court to allow him not to wear the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) uniform and handcuffs during the hearing of his graft case in the Sandiganbayan. Lawyer Noel Ostrea made this request before the Sandiganbayan Second Division, which handles the graft

- [P35.4-M smuggled onions, garlic seized in Nueva Ecija](#) (2026-06-02 20:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities seized over P35.4-million worth of smuggled onion and garlic during a recent operation inside a cold storage facility in Talavera, Nueva Ecija. The operation on the seizure of illegally imported products was conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation's Special Action Unit (NBI-SAU), the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and the Philippine

- [3,004 out of 9,745 pass May 2026 CPA licensure exams](#) (2026-06-02 20:39)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 3,004 out of 9,745 passed the May 2026 certified public accountants licensure examinations, said the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on Tuesday. The results were released after the examinations took place across testing centers in Metro Manila, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Koronadal, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Pampanga,

- [New Army division chief: NPA 'dismantled' in Northern Mindanao, Caraga](#) (2026-06-02 20:12)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — The newly appointed commander of the 4th Infantry Division here declared Tuesday that the communist New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Northern Mindanao and Caraga regions have been "dismantled," with virtually a "handful" of combatants in the field. In an interview on Tuesday evening, Major Gen. Marion Angcao said the

- [PNP tells cops to obey traffic laws after 2 seen riding with no helmets](#) (2026-06-02 19:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday reminded its personnel to obey traffic laws after the Land Transportation Office (LTO) summoned two police officers for riding a motorcycle without wearing helmets. “As law enforcers, it is incumbent upon all policemen to be role models in respecting even the simple rules and regulations.

- [NCRPO: P1.02-M shabu seized, 1 nabbed in Manila buy-bust](#) (2026-06-02 19:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Suspected shabu worth P1.02 million was confiscated during a buy-bust operation in Manila on Tuesday, leading to the arrest of an individual, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said. Acting on a valid authority to operate from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Manila police arrested the suspect along Sta. Maria Street

- [Cayetano answers Raffy Tulfo’ s challenge to appear in Senate](#) (2026-06-02 19:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday shot back at Sen. Raffy Tulfo’ s dare to show up at Wednesday’ s session by turning his challenge around and urging the latter senator to prove his “independence” if he is not, as he put it, a coward. In another Facebook live, Cayetano directly addressed Tulfo’ s

- [Legarda to bolster DepEd, modernize Adopt-a-School, face literacy crisis](#) (2026-06-02 19:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, has led the push for education reforms. That is in hopes to finally allow the optimization and rationalization of Schools Division Offices, and modernization of the Adopt a School program to draw stronger private sector and community support. She also

- [UP law prof: Impeachment is truth-telling, not a judicial process](#) (2026-06-02 19:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Impeachment trial should remain focused on uncovering the truth rather than becoming a highly technical legal battle, according to a constitutional law expert. University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law Associate Dean and Assistant Professor Paolo Tamase on Tuesday warned against efforts to “over-judicialize” the proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte.

- [Marcos, Angara push school safety, literacy at Navotas Brigada Eskwela](#) (2026-06-02 19:35)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., and Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Tuesday led an inspection of Brigada Eskwela activities at Kapitbahayan Elementary School, highlighting the administration’ s efforts to improve campus safety and strengthen literacy programs ahead of the opening of classes. Joined by Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian, Marcos toured the school

- [Senate minority: Sorry to beneficiaries of bills in limbo due to lack of sessions](#) (2026-06-02 19:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Following two days of missed Senate sessions, the minority senators on Tuesday apologized to the stakeholders of bills that were put on hold. This comes after a second day of session failed to convene due to the absence of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano as a presiding officer, and the rest of

- [House expels Barzaga over ‘disruptive’ and ‘disorderly’ behavior](#) (2026-06-02 19:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers on Tuesday voted to expel Cavite 4th District Rep. Kiko Barzaga over “disruptive” and “disorderly” behavior, making him the first in nearly three years to be expelled from the House of Representatives. More than two-thirds of the House, or 265 lawmakers, voted in favor of the House ethics panel’s recommendation in

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- [Bojie Dy backs integrated 911-style emergency medical services system](#) (2026-06-02 19:19)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III on Tuesday welcomed the committee-level approval of a consolidated measure seeking to establish a nationwide Integrated Emergency Medical Services System (EMSS), saying the proposal aims to ensure that emergency calls are met with fast, efficient, and quality response. “Many Filipinos are already familiar with 911.

- [Dy: UP Climate Resilience Institute to aid PH vs climate change risks](#) (2026-06-02 19:05)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III on Tuesday said the proposed University of the Philippines–National Climate Resilience Institute (UP-NCRI) will play a crucial role in helping the country address the growing risks posed by climate change. The measure has already received committee-level approval in the House of Representatives. The House Committee

- [Sara Duterte: Political events must alarm us; opposition is being silenced](#) (2026-06-02 18:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte believes the recent political developments should alarm Filipinos across the political spectrum, as she accused the government of silencing the “opposition.” For these reasons, the vice president is calling for the protection of the independence of government institutions. “What we are witnessing today should concern every Filipino who

- [Tulfo challenges Cayetano: If you’re brave, come to the Senate](#) (2026-06-02 18:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Raffy Tulfo on Tuesday challenged Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano to attend the session on Wednesday if he is brave and not a coward. Tulfo issued the challenge after Cayetano's two-day absence, which led to the cancellation of two plenary sessions. "I challenge Alan Peter Cayetano: If you are brave, come

- [Questions raised on impeachment trial: Can absent senators vote?](#) (2026-06-02 18:45)

MANILA, Philippines — With the impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte set to begin on July 6, and some senators facing arrest, questions emerge over whether all 24 senator-judges will be able to participate in person and vote in the upcoming impeachment trial. More importantly: should the two-thirds threshold be based on all 24

- [Palace backs Remulla: Jinggoy Estrada didn't surrender; he was arrested](#) (2026-06-02 18:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday backed Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla's assertion that Senator Jinggoy Estrada was arrested and that he did not voluntarily surrender to the authorities. The arrest is on connection with the non-bailable plunder case filed against him. Palace press officer Claire Castro said officers of the Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation

- ['Solid Bloc-11' to majority senators: 'Attend session; it is our duty'](#) (2026-06-02 18:08)

MANILA, Philippines – The Solid Bloc-11 (SB-11), or the Senate minority bloc, called on the Senate majority to attend the last plenary of the first regular session on Wednesday. This comes after the majority bloc on Monday and Tuesday did not attend the plenary, after Sen. Jinggoy Estrada was arrested for plunder. "We ask our

- [Zubiri: Blocking of Senate hearings 'figment of their imagination'](#) (2026-06-02 17:59)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri on Tuesday dismissed Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano's claim that the minority was planning to block Senate committee hearings, describing it as a "figment of their imagination." Cayetano, who failed to preside over a plenary session for the second consecutive day, accused the minority of planning to

- [LIST: Wanted individuals in other high-profile cases](#) (2026-06-02 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Last Monday, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said he was surrendering to the Philippine National Police (PNP) after the Sandiganbayan ordered him arrested over his alleged involvement in the flood control corruption scandal. In a statement on Tuesday, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. lauded Estrada's move to submit himself to the police,

- [Pangilinan: Events under Cayetano's leadership show 'impunity'](#) (2026-06-02 17:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Kiko Pangilinan describes the past events in the Senate under the leadership of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, including the two-day absence of the

majority senators, as “impunity.” Pangilinan remarked on Tuesday – the second day that the plenary did not begin after Cayetano did not appear to preside, and all

- [Palace denies executive overreach over Jinggoy Estrada’s arrest](#) (2026-06-02 17:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday rejected Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano’s claim that the arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada for plunder inside the Senate premises constituted executive overreach and an affront to the chamber’s independence as a coequal branch of government. “Independence from what? What exactly is Senator Alan Cayetano objecting to? Where did the

- [Tripped circuit breaker cuts Senate AC during majority no-show](#) (2026-06-02 17:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A tripped circuit breaker caused the Senate’s air conditioning to shut down while minority senators waited for Monday’s session to start amid the absence of all majority senators, including Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, the chamber’s maintenance office said. READ: Tulfo hits ‘no aircon, no Wi-fi’ during Senate majority bloc no-show In

- [Mt. Apo starts annual 3-month break](#) (2026-06-02 17:15)

DAVAO CITY — The Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) is now off limits to visitors until August 31 as part of its annual off-season closure to allow it to rest and recuperate, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Davao Region (DENR-Davao) said. The Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) approved En Banc Resolution 8,

- [Duterte should clear her name with evidence, not technicalities – Palace](#) (2026-06-02 16:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday said Vice President Sara Duterte should take the opportunity to clear her name by addressing the allegations against her with evidence, rather than relying on what it described as “mere technicalities” in seeking the outright termination of her impeachment case. Palace press officer Claire Castro made the unsolicited advice to

- [Cayetano: Senate minority ‘plans’ to take control of Senate panels](#) (2026-06-02 16:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday said minority senators had planned to remove committees from the “legitimate” majority. In another Facebook Live, Cayetano explained why his leadership had not convened the Senate session for two days since Monday. “Their plan was to eventually remove the committees from the legitimate majority. I

- [Senate minority bloc urges Cayetano to resign](#) (2026-06-02 16:27)

MANILA, Philippines—The 11-man minority bloc on Tuesday asked Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano to resign. “Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano SHOULD RESIGN as he has shown

that he cannot function as the leader of the Senate anymore,” the minority group said in a statement read by Sen. Erwin Tulfo during a press conference. Their resignation call

- [11 minority senators ask Cayetano to resign as Senate president](#) (2026-06-02 16:25)

MANILA, Philippines—The 11-man minority bloc on Tuesday asked Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano to resign. “Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano SHOULD RESIGN as he has shown that he cannot function as the leader of the Senate anymore,” the minority group said in a statement read by Sen. Erwin Tulfo during a press conference. Their resignation call

- [3 transport companies summoned over Quezon, Nueva Ecija road crashes](#) (2026-06-02 16:21)

MANILA, Philippines—The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Tuesday said it has issued show cause orders to three transport companies after their vehicles were involved in three separate road crashes in the provinces of Quezon and Nueva Ecija. In a statement, the agency said it has summoned bus companies Victory Liner Inc. and

- [Barzaga confirms House set to expel him](#) (2026-06-02 16:18)

MANILA, Philippines – Cavite Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga confirmed on Tuesday that he would be expelled from the House of Representatives during the lower chamber’s plenary session. Barzaga said the House committee on ethics had recommended his expulsion after weeks of speculation that he would be removed from the roster of lawmakers over his heated

- [Angeles building collapse death toll reaches 20](#) (2026-06-02 16:15)

ANGELES CITY — Rescuers recovered three more bodies from the rubble of the collapsed nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago here on Tuesday afternoon as search, rescue, and retrieval operations continued. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said responders were initially working to gain access to a victim whose body had been located at

- [Groups cite alleged violations in push vs. Smokey Mountain WTE](#) (2026-06-02 16:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental groups, community leaders and anti-poverty advocates opposed to a proposed P26.648-billion waste-to-energy facility at Smokey Mountain renewed calls to halt the project, citing alleged environmental violations involving a company linked to the development and warning it could deepen poverty and heighten health and displacement risks in nearby communities. The concerns were

- [Ex-DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan back in PNP General Hospital](#) (2026-06-02 16:07)

[Updated June 2, 2026, 5:41 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan returned to the Philippine National Police General Hospital (PNP GH) in Camp Crame, Quezon City, on Tuesday afternoon. The convoy carrying Bonoan arrived at the PNP GH around 4 p.m. READ: Bonoan released from confinement at PNP General

- [Detained Gawad Kalinga founder hospitalized in Bulacan](#) (2026-06-02 16:02)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan — Detained Gawad Kalinga founder Antonio “Tony” Meloto, 76, has been confined at Dr. Yanga’s Hospital in Bocaue since Monday due to health concerns, police said. Maj. Joel Alba, chief of the Angat Police Station, said Meloto was rushed to the hospital after complaining of difficulty breathing. The attending physician recommended

- [Gov’t to tap Tupad workers to clean up Metro Manila waterways](#) (2026-06-02 16:00)

MANILA, Philippines — After employing them to help with Brigada Eskwela activities, the government is again tapping displaced workers to help authorities clean waterways and prevent flooding in Metro Manila. Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on Tuesday met with officials of the Department of Transportation (DoTr), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA),

- [Sandiganbayan postpones arraignment of Jinggoy Estrada, Manuel Bonoan](#) (2026-06-02 15:56)

[Updated June 2, 2026, 4:52 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Second Division on Tuesday postponed the arraignment of graft cases against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works chief Manuel Bonoan. READ: Remulla: No special treatment for Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan Geraldine Faith Econg, the Sandiganbayan’s presiding justice and chair of the Second Division, said the arraignment for

- [Palace warns: Nonstop Senate chaos to delay Marcos priority bills](#) (2026-06-02 15:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang raised concerns that the weeks-long political turmoil in the Senate may impede the passage of priority measures of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. before Congress takes an almost two-month break starting on June 6. “At this point, we know what the priority bills are — not just two, not just one, not just

- [Senate majority ‘no-show’ again in plenary](#) (2026-06-02 15:35)

[Updated June 2, 2026, 6:42 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The majority senators did not show up to the plenary session for a second time on Tuesday, Sen. Migz Zubiri said. Around 20 minutes into the supposed hearing at 3 p.m. Zubiri told the media that Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano called the Senate secretary. “Alan

- [Keep status quo in Senate; Cayetano can be ‘lame duck’ leader – analyst](#) (2026-06-02 15:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate should maintain the status quo and avoid another leadership shake-up for now, even if it leaves Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano as a “lame duck” leader, constitutional law expert Michael Henry Yusingco said. The political analyst and Ateneo School of Government research fellow said there are two possible outcomes to

- [Senate gridlock delays confirmation of 5 generals](#) (2026-06-02 14:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The confirmation of five generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines is being held up due to the Senate gridlock, the Armed Forces of the Philippines confirmed. Despite the leadership change on May 11, no senators have been elected as members of the Commission on Appointments (CA), who are assigned to

- [3-month fishing ban starts in Davao Gulf for spawning season](#) (2026-06-02 14:44)

DAVAO CITY – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Davao (BFAR-11) has officially commenced the 2026 Davao Gulf closed season, enforcing a strict three-month ban on specific commercial fishing gear to protect small pelagic fish species during their peak spawning period until August 31. The ban spans from Cape San Agustin in Governor Generoso,

- [Palace: BI' s P240 immigration fee 'still under study'](#) (2026-06-02 14:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The proposal to collect a P240 immigration fee from international travelers to fund the modernization of the Bureau of Immigration' s (BI) security systems at the country' s main ports is “still under study” and may not be implemented at all, according to Malacañang. Palace Press Officer Claire Castro on Tuesday made the assurance

- [Drilon asks SC to decide on legality of unprogrammed funds in budget](#) (2026-06-02 14:26)

MANILA, Philippines—Former Senate President Franklin Drilon on Tuesday urged the Supreme Court to decide on the case questioning the legality of unprogrammed funds in the old national budget. The former Senate leader seeks a resolution on the matter before the new round of proposed budget items for 2027 moves to Congress to be deliberated on.

- [Napolcom probes 20 Eastern Visayas cops for partisan socmed posts](#) (2026-06-02 14:23)

TACLOBAN CITY — The National Police Commission (Napolcom) has renewed its warning to police officers against engaging in partisan political activities on social media, revealing that about 20 police personnel in Eastern Visayas are currently under investigation for posts deemed to favor political figures. Lawyer Risty Sibay, Napolcom regional director for Eastern Visayas, said Tuesday that

- [Chinese artifact from Ming-Qing era found in Northern Samar](#) (2026-06-02 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A centuries-old Chinese ceramic plate fragment dating to the late Ming Dynasty to the early Qing Dynasty was discovered in Mapanas, Northern Samar, in May. The Northern Samar Provincial Planning and Development Office said the artifact was found by an eight-member team from the University of the Philippines Diliman School of Archeology

- [NBI files raps vs Barzaga over Senate shootout social media claims](#) (2026-06-02 13:47)

MANILA, Philippines – National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) director Melvin Matibag on Tuesday filed an ethics complaint against Cavite Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga over a series of social media posts linked to the enforcement agency' s attempted arrest of fugitive Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa that led to a Senate shootout. Matibag filed the 16-page complaint

- [Marcos to DepEd: Ensure smooth opening of classes on June 8](#) (2026-06-02 13:42)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday ordered the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure that all schools are prepared for the opening of the new school year and prevent the unnecessary disruption of classes. The president said the DepEd “knows perfectly well what to do,” and does not need to be told how

- [What’s next after majority boycott? Senate can adjourn sine die — Drilon](#) (2026-06-02 13:41)

MANILA, Philippines—What comes next for the Senate after the majority bloc’s refusal to open the session last Monday? Under the approved legislative calendar, Congress is set to adjourn sine die on Friday, June 5. Its last session day will be on Wednesday, June 3. The Senate was supposed to hold a regular session at 5:00 p.m.

- [Bonoan released from confinement at PNP General Hospital](#) (2026-06-02 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works and Highways Manuel Bonoan has been released from confinement at the Philippine National Police General Hospital (PNP GH) in Camp Crame, Quezon City on Tuesday. Bonoan was hospitalized at the facility on Monday due to high blood pressure after being processed by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG),

- [Cracked Kalinga classrooms prompt calls for DPWH project audits](#) (2026-06-02 13:04)

TABUK CITY, Kalinga — Members of a non-government organization have called on Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon to intensify audits of government infrastructure projects in Kalinga after observing cracks and other structural defects in a public school and several infrastructure facilities across the province. During an inspection on Monday, members

- [Napolcom backs EJK Truth Commission; open to recommendations](#) (2026-06-02 13:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Police Commission (Napolcom) supports the newly formed “EJK Truth Commission,” saying efforts to investigate extrajudicial killings are crucial for accountability, stronger institutions, and justice for victims’ families. The independent truth commission, supported by Church and civil society leaders, was officially launched on May 27 to investigate and document killings and

- [Flood control mess: Justice questions immunity of Bernardo, Alcantara](#) (2026-06-02 12:58)

MANILA, Philippines — A Sandiganbayan justice on Tuesday questioned the immunity of former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo, who was said to be the brains behind the “commitment” or kickback scheme involving proponents of flood control projects. Associate Justice Ronald Moreno, a senior member of the antigrift court’s third division,

- [Select Mindoro gov’t offices to suspend operations to save energy](#) (2026-06-02 12:45)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The provincial government of Oriental Mindoro will temporarily suspend operations at several government-run facilities as part of a broader effort to reduce electricity consumption amid the province's ongoing power supply shortage. During a special session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Board) on Monday, Gov. Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor presented a series

- [NBI probes angle cop behind fake tip on Bato dela Rosa's whereabouts](#) (2026-06-02 12:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking at the angle that a police officer is behind a scammer who provided wrong information on the whereabouts of Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, according to NBI Director Melvin Matibag. READ: Man nabbed for trying to scam Matibag about dela Rosa whereabouts "We are

- [Another suspected cocaine pack washes ashore in Quezon town](#) (2026-06-02 12:22)

LUCENA CITY — A fisherman in the island municipality of Patnanungan, Quezon, voluntarily surrendered to authorities a package of suspected cocaine worth an estimated P5.8 million after finding it along the shoreline, police reported Tuesday. According to a spot report from the Quezon Police Provincial Office (QPPO), the 39-year-old fisherman, identified only as "Den," turned

- [TIMELINE: Over two decades of Jinggoy Estrada's legal woes](#) (2026-06-02 12:19)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada has spent more than two decades entangled in legal battles over allegations of plunder, graft and bribery, placing him at the center of some of the country's highest-profile corruption controversies. The accusations have ranged from claims that he received kickbacks tied to illegal gambling during the presidency of his father, Joseph "Erap"

- [PNP: Bonoan now stable, can be sent to Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-02 12:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan is now in stable condition and can be sent to the Sandiganbayan to face the case against him, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). "Last night, the former secretary was complaining of head heaviness with a (blood pressure or) BP of 170/100. After

- [Iloilo City cops step up security measures for Balik Eskwela 2026](#) (2026-06-02 12:00)

ILOILO CITY — The Iloilo City Police Office (ICPO) declared its readiness for Oplan Balik Eskwela 2026, rolling out comprehensive security measures ahead of the June 8 class opening. The operation aims to ensure the safety and security of students, teachers, parents, and school personnel throughout the city. READ: Over 55,500 PNP personnel to secure

- [Baguio's outdated sewage plant hit with violation notice](#) (2026-06-02 11:47)

BAGUIO CITY — The summer capital has been slapped with a notice of violation over the poor performance of its only sewage treatment plant, which discharges what should be cleansed

domestic water into one of four rivers emanating from its Baguio headwaters. Since 2020, water quality tests at Balili River confirmed a quadrillion bacterial count

- [Tulfo urges peers to show up: We could've prayed together for Estrada](#) (2026-06-02 11:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo on Tuesday urged his colleagues in the Senate majority to show up for work despite their anger over recent developments, saying they were free to express their frustrations and engage in debate. The session was supposed to resume at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, but the 13-member majority led by

- [Tulfo hits 'no aircon, no Wi-fi' during Senate majority bloc no-show](#) (2026-06-02 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — While the minority senators waited for the Monday session to start due to the absence of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and all the majority senators, the air conditioning and Wi-Fi were turned off, Sen. Raffy Tulfo said. The incident is reminiscent of what occurred in 2020 at the House of Representatives

- [PNP: Custodial protocols still in place while Bonoan in hospital](#) (2026-06-02 11:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained that custodial protocols were still in place while former Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan remained at the hospital in Camp Crame, Quezon City. “Based on the latest assessment of the PNP Health Service, he is currently conscious, coherent, and oriented. He has no complaints

- [Drug suspect nabbed in Tawi-Tawi; P6.8-M shabu seized](#) (2026-06-02 11:21)

COTABATO CITY – Authorities arrested an alleged big time drug peddler in the island-province of Tawi-Tawi and seized one kilogram of suspected shabu worth an estimated P6.8 million on Monday, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said. Edgar Jubay, PDEA-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao regional director, said the suspect was arrested during a buy-bust

- [Lipa City declines Leviste's 1,000 rice pack donation](#) (2026-06-02 11:08)

LUCENA CITY — The local government of Lipa City in Batangas province has declined a donation of 1,000 packs of rice that was reportedly intended for City Hall employees. In an official statement written in Filipino, the city government said it remains grateful to individuals and organizations seeking to extend assistance to the community. “Along

- [BFAR: Bolinao, Anda coastal waters in Pangasinan now red tide-free](#) (2026-06-02 10:25)

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union — The coastal areas of Bolinao and Anda in western Pangasinan are now free of red tide toxin, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region I announced in Shellfish Bulletin No. 13, issued on Monday. BFAR stated that all shellfish gathered from the two towns are now safe

- [Pia Cayetano revokes invite to 18 ‘ex-Marines’ in flood control probe](#) (2026-06-02 10:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The invitation to the 18 alleged ex-Marines, along with their legal counsel, Atty. Levito Baligod, to appear before the Senate blue ribbon committee has supposedly been withdrawn. Baligod shared in a social media post on Tuesday a screenshot of an email from the Blue Ribbon Oversight Office that was sent to him

- [Bohol provincial government restores regular workweek](#) (2026-06-02 10:15)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Government offices at the Bohol Provincial Capitol have returned to the regular five-day workweek following the issuance of an executive order lifting the province’ s temporary four-day workweek arrangement. Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado signed Executive Order No. 34, Series of 2026, directing all provincial government offices, departments, divisions, and units to resume

- [OIL PRICE WATCH as of June 2, 2026](#) (2026-06-02 10:03)

MANILA, Philippines – A significant relief welcomed Filipino motorists on Tuesday, June 2, as oil prices post major rollbacks after weeks of continued price hikes. Diesel prices were slashed by at least P9.26 per liter, while gasoline went down by a minimum of P4.76 per liter. Kerosene will see the biggest reduction, dropping by at

- [Overnight search yields 4 more bodies in Angeles building rubble](#) (2026-06-02 09:46)

ANGELES CITY — Rescuers recovered four more bodies from the rubble of the collapsed nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago from late Monday night to early Tuesday morning, raising the confirmed death toll to 17. The recovery operations spanned several hours, according to authorities. At least three more people are reported to be still

- [Army soldier dies in NPA encounter in Negros Occidental town](#) (2026-06-02 09:24)

BACOLOD CITY—A soldier from the 79th Infantry Battalion (IB) was killed during an encounter with remnants of the New People’ s Army (NPA) in Barangay Tamlang, Escalante City, Negros Occidental, on Monday afternoon. According to Lt. Col. Eric Alfonso, commander of the 79th IB, government troops encountered communist rebels allegedly responsible for a series of civilian

- [Dangerous heat index expected in 16 areas on Tuesday](#) (2026-06-02 09:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Sixteen areas are expected to experience a dangerous heat index on Tuesday, according to the state weather bureau. Heat index or the “apparent heat” is the combination of air temperature and humidity, indicating how hot the body feels. In its latest weather briefing, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa)

- [Ex-DPWH chief Bonoan’ s condition slowly improving – PNP Health Service](#) (2026-06-02 08:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan's condition is slowly improving, according to the Philippine National Police – Health Service (PNP-HS). In a text message sent to reporters on Tuesday morning, PNP-HS Director Brig. Gen. Portia Manalad confirmed that Bonoan had been admitted to the PNP General Hospital in Camp Crame,

- [PNP: Smooth Estrada arrest in stark contrast to high-profile fugitives](#) (2026-06-02 08:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said that the “smooth” arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada over the flood control scandal was in “stark contrast” to other high-profile fugitives on the run. “By prioritizing professionalism and the rule of law, we achieved a smooth process that benefited both sides,

- [Rainy Tuesday forecast in Luzon, Western Visayas due to ‘habagat’](#) (2026-06-02 07:31)

Satellite image from Pagasa 7:00 a.m., June 2, 2026. MANILA, Philippines — The southwest monsoon or “habagat” will trigger rains over Luzon and Western Visayas on Tuesday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). “The southwest monsoon or habagat is currently affecting Luzon and the western section of the Visayas. The

- [Estrada yields as court warrant on plunder out](#) (2026-06-02 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for charges of plunder and graft. Estrada eventually surrendered to agents of the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) after holding a press conference at the Senate. Aside from Estrada, also ordered arrested were former Department

- [Sara Duterte to Senate: Junk impeachment raps](#) (2026-06-02 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte is seeking the dismissal of the articles of impeachment filed against her before the Senate impeachment court, even as she is prepared to appear, “if necessary,” during the trial, according to her lawyer. Duterte said the articles of impeachment against her are “constitutionally infirm, procedurally defective, and substantively

- [Cayetano, allies no-show as he urges ‘quiet’ protest](#) (2026-06-02 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate failed to resume its session on Monday as the 13-member majority stood up the minority senators, who walked out last week following disagreements over a proposal in the Senate rules to introduce online participation. The session was called off after some two hours of waiting among the minority senators, and

- [Claire Castro \(sort of\) greets Sara Duterte a happy birthday](#) (2026-06-02 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace press officer Claire Castro took another jab at Vice President Sara Duterte on the occasion of her birthday last Sunday by resurfacing Duterte's old video

greeting for her alleged bagman, Ramil Madriaga. At her press briefing on Monday, Castro was asked for her birthday message to the Vice President, who turned

- [Hypertensive Bonoan sent to hospital](#) (2026-06-02 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan was sent to the PNP (Philippine National Police) General Hospital in Camp Crame due to hypertension, following the Sandiganbayan's order for his arrest on plunder charges, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Monday. "Secretary Bonoan is on his way to the hospital because his hypertension was

- [Cutting of trees needed for road project – SMC](#) (2026-06-02 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — San Miguel Corp. (SMC) on Monday pushed back against widespread criticism over the mass cutting of trees along Quirino Avenue in Manila, insisting the clearing activities were necessary to make way for the Southern Access Link Expressway (Salex) project. "The clearing works are needed to build the elevated expressway along the approved

- [PNP: 1,400 human bones recovered from Taal Lake](#) (2026-06-02 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Around 1,400 of 2,000 bones recovered by divers from Taal Lake have been identified as human remains, according to the Philippine National Police, which is investigating the alleged kidnapping and murder of at least 34 "sabungeros" or cockfighting aficionados between 2021 and 2022. "The total number of human bones we have identified

- [LTFRB grounds 26 buses of firm in Benguet accident](#) (2026-06-02 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday said it has grounded 26 buses belonging to Victory Liner after an accident in Benguet killed one passenger and injured around 90 others. LTFRB Chair Vigor Mendoza II said a show-cause order has been issued against the company, adding that the transport

- [House bill seeks VAT exemption for all essential medicines](#) (2026-06-02 04:45)

MANILA, Philippines — A House bill seeking to exempt all essential medicines from the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) was filed on Monday to "lessen the burden" on Filipinos and help government comply with its responsibility to protect and promote people's right to health. House Bill No. 9564, filed by ACT Rep. Antonio Tinio, Gabriela Women's

- [Benguet veggie glut spurs rescue buy](#) (2026-06-02 04:40)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — A rescue-buy initiative in Atok town, Benguet, has helped 146 farmers sell nearly 80,000 kilos of vegetables amid a prolonged price crash, while advancing calls for fair farm-gate prices and long-term reforms in the highland vegetable industry. Project UBBO, or Unified Buying and Bayanihan Operations for Atok vegetables, facilitated the sale

- [Cotabato motorists spared from road closure](#) (2026-06-02 04:35)

KIDAPAWAN CITY, COTABATO, Philippines — Motorists and businesses would be spared from a major traffic disruption after the heirs of a landowning family in Makilala, Cotabato, suspended plans to close a section of the national highway traversing their property while awaiting the outcome of a court hearing. Last week, the Tejada family announced that it

- [Collapsed Angeles building also claims lives of vendor couple](#) (2026-06-02 04:30)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — Before the concrete and steel wreckage overtook Barangay Balibago here, Elsa Angcao, 50, and her husband, Joey Angcao, 48, spent most of their days—and many nights—at a small sari-sari (variety) store they operated in front of the construction site. The couple’s tiny stall, positioned near a post in front of

- [Estrada, 3 co-accused admitted to Quezon City jail general population](#) (2026-06-01 23:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and three of his co-accused in the plunder case in connection with the flood control scandal were admitted to the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas on Monday, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Citing information from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology

- [Monsod: ‘Even a 7-year-old will tell you what’ s more important’](#) (2026-06-01 23:05)

MANILA, Philippines — A former cabinet secretary slammed Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano for leaving the plenary unpresided on Monday evening, adding that “even a seven-year-old will tell [Cayetano] what’ s more important.” Economist and ex-secretary of the Socio-Economic Planning Winnie Monsod criticized the absence of Cayetano to accompany the arrested Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who faces

- [Comelec ‘fully prepared’ for BARMM elections](#) (2026-06-01 22:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Monday said it is already “fully prepared” for the first regular parliamentary elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). “The Comelec is fully prepared for the September 14 BARMM Parliamentary Elections,” said Comelec chair George Garcia in a chance interview with reporters. In

- [PNP on ‘heightened readiness’ for rainy season](#) (2026-06-01 22:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Monday said the law enforcement agency was on “heightened readiness” for this year’s rainy season. “The PNP is ready for whatever challenges the weather may bring. Each police officer is not only a peacekeeper but a partner in protecting the lives

- [Legarda secures bicam approval of bill strengthening free college law](#) (2026-06-01 21:54)

The bicameral conference committee adopted the reconciled version of Senate Bill No. 1894, principally sponsored and authored by Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, and House Bill No. 8476, enhancing the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (RA

10931). Legarda led the deliberations and final approval of the reconciled measure. The bill institutionalizes the

- [Ejercito saddened by Estrada’ s arrest, says justice shall prevail](#) (2026-06-01 21:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito expressed on Monday sadness over the arrest of his brother and co-senator, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, adding that “justice will prevail.” Estrada surrendered to the Philippine National Police earlier on the same day, following an arrest warrant for plunder issued by the Sandiganbayan “Of course, as a brother and colleague,

- [Grand Lotto, Mega Lotto jackpots elude bettors on Jun. 1](#) (2026-06-01 21:42)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpots in Monday’ s PCSO draws. According to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Grand Lotto 6/55 combination was 36-04-09-44-42-24 for a jackpot of ₱45 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The Mega Lotto 6/45 winning combination was 28-38-41-35-40-05 for a jackpot of

- [Senate minority: Majority’ s absence a ‘boycott,’ not independence call](#) (2026-06-01 21:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate minority bloc said the absence of the majority during Monday’ s session was a boycott following the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, not a call for Senate independence as Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano claimed. All 11 minority senators, or the Solid Bloc-11 (SB-11), waited two hours for the 5 p.m.

- [Manila Water assures sufficient water supply despite lower Angat levels](#) (2026-06-01 21:09)

Manila Water affirms its readiness to ensure a reliable and safe water supply across its East Zone concession despite declining water levels in Angat Dam, even as increased water demand is expected when classes resume on June 8. Although the level of Angat Dam has fallen below the minimum operating level of 180 meters, Manila

- [Angara leads oath-taking of nearly 1,000 promoted Caraga educators](#) (2026-06-01 20:54)

BUTUAN CITY — Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Monday administered the oath-taking of 956 newly promoted teachers and school heads in the Caraga region, in line with the Marcos administration’ s effort to address career stagnation among public school educators. The ceremony, held at Agusan National High School, covered educators from Agusan del Norte, Butuan City,

- [Luistro: Duterte impeach trial should be moved earlier if rescheduled](#) (2026-06-01 20:39)

Any revision to the Senate impeachment court’ s tentative timeline for Vice President Sara Duterte’ s trial should move the proceedings forward rather than delay them, House lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Monday. Luistro stressed that the 1987 Constitution requires not only the convening of the impeachment court but also the prompt

conduct of

- [Luistro welcomes poll showing 74% of Filipinos back Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-06-01 20:24)

House lead prosecutor and justice committee Chair Gerville Luistro on Monday welcomed the latest Octa Research survey showing strong public support for proceeding with the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Luistro said the findings validate what the House prosecution panel believes is the public demand for accountability. Octa’ s latest Tugon ng Masa

- [Quimbo urges joint congressional talks to fast-track priority bills](#) (2026-06-01 20:20)

MANILA, Philippines – Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo on Monday recommended a joint congressional caucus between the Senate and the House of Representatives to fast-track the approval of bills identified as priorities by the Marcos administration. In a media briefing, Quimbo said lawmakers could push priority bills more quickly through the legislative mill if congressional leaders

- [PNP activates disaster response teams amid Mayon Volcano unrest](#) (2026-06-01 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has activated its disaster response teams amid the continued unrest of the Mayon Volcano in Albay. In a statement on Monday, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said he had ordered the police force in the area “to remain vigilant and ready to provide immediate assistance

- [Rushing to arrest senators? ‘No right or wrong’ in enforcement – Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 20:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla maintained that there was “no right or wrong” in enforcing warrants to arrest lawmakers. On Monday, the Sandiganbayan ordered law enforcement to arrest Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and four others over plunder complaints in connection with the flood control scandal. In a press briefing in Camp Crame, Remulla was

- [House prosecution vows to oppose move to dismiss Duterte impeachment](#) (2026-06-01 19:58)

The House prosecution panel will oppose any attempt to dismiss the impeachment case against Vice President Sara Duterte, saying the Senate’ s impeachment rules provide only for a trial followed by either conviction or acquittal. “To be moved or request towards the dismissal of the impeachment complaint, we will oppose it,” lead prosecutor and House committee

- [Jinggoy Estrada now at Quezon City jail for plunder case](#) (2026-06-01 19:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has arrived at the New Quezon City Male Dormitory Jail in Payatas, Quezon City, where he will be detained after the Sandiganbayan ordered his arrest for his nonbailable plunder case. From the Sandiganbayan for the return of warrant,

Estrada’ s convoy reached the Quezon City Jail at 8:07 p.m. on

- [Cayetano challenges minority member: Let the Senate go quiet](#) (2026-06-01 19:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday evening challenged the minority senator to “let the Senate go quiet.” This comes after majority Sen. Jinggoy Estrada was arrested at the Senate premises on Monday afternoon amid a plunder case filed against him at the Sandiganbayan. READ: Senate majority no show? Minority bloc

- [Estrada, Bonoan, 3 others accounted for in plunder case](#) (2026-06-01 19:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan and three other individuals accused of plunder are now all accounted for on Monday, according to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla. In a press briefing in Camp Crame, Remulla said he personally went to the Senate in

- [Bantay Senado launched to monitor Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-01 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines — A coalition of students, academics, lawyers, civil society groups, and concerned citizens on Monday launched Bantay Senado, a network that aims to monitor the forthcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. The group was formally launched at De La Salle University Manila ahead of the impeachment trial, which has drawn

- [Estrada’ s daughter gave me dirty finger, cursed during arrest – Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 19:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said he had been given the dirty finger and was cursed at by a daughter of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada as authorities moved to arrest the latter on Monday. “There was a slight altercation between me and the daughter,” Remulla told reporters in Camp Crame after Estrada was processed

- [Heat index peaks at 46°C in Camarines Sur on Monday, June 1](#) (2026-06-01 19:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the enhanced southwest monsoon, heat indices in several areas nationwide continued to reach dangerous levels on Monday, June 1, with CBSUA-Pili, Camarines Sur hitting 46°C, the state weather bureau said. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) tags indices ranging from 42°C to 51°C as in the “danger” level

- [Dy: Kalinga Act boosts confidence in govt’ s handling of oil shocks](#) (2026-06-01 19:33)

Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III said the proposed Kalinga Act would establish a permanent government response framework for oil price shocks, ensuring timely assistance for consumers, businesses, and vulnerable sectors during periods of fuel price volatility. Dy said House Bill No. 9305, or the Comprehensive Assistance for Livelihood, Inflation, Business, and Goods (Kalinga) Act, aims

- [Senate majority no show? Minority bloc waits for session to resume](#) (2026-06-01 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines— After the minority bloc’ s walkout last week, senators belonging to the majority group were nowhere in sight at the scheduled resumption of their regular session on Monday. All 11 minority members – Senate Minority Leader Vicente “Tito” Sotto III, Sens. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Kiko Pangilinan, Panfilo Lacson, JV Ejercito, Sherwin Gatchalian,

- [PCO seeks charges over fake news SC stopped dela Rosa arrest](#) (2026-06-01 19:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Monday urged the Department of Justice to file the appropriate criminal charges against four Facebook accounts falsely claiming that the Supreme Court has stopped Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’ s arrest. “The Supreme Court, in fact, denied Senator Dela Rosa’ s petition for a temporary restraining order to

- [Only court can rule if Estrada wants to get knee surgery – DILG chief](#) (2026-06-01 19:18)

MANILA, Philippines — It will be up to the Sandiganbayan to grant a possible request from Sen. Jinggoy Estrada to have knee replacement surgery, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla. Estrada and four other co-accused were ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan on Monday over plunder charges in connection with the flood control scandal. “I told

- [Remulla: No special treatment for Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan](#) (2026-06-01 19:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla assured that there will be no special treatment for Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, ex-Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan and their three co-accused. All five accused had been taken into government custody on Monday afternoon after the Sandiganbayan fifth division ordered their arrest over plunder

- [Angara urges bayanihan during Brigada Eskwela launch in Agusan](#) (2026-06-01 19:04)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Education Secretary Sonny Angara underscored the spirit of bayanihan (unity) and community volunteerism during the simultaneous launching of Brigada Eskwela 2026 on Monday in preparation for the opening of public school classes next week. He led the national kickoff of Brigada Eskwela at the Cabadbaran National High School in Cabadbaran

- [P35.4-M smuggled onions, garlic seized in Nueva Ecija](#) (2026-06-01 18:44)

TALAVERA, Nueva Ecija — Authorities on Monday seized P35.4 million worth of allegedly smuggled onions and garlic in a cold storage facility in Barangay Calipahan here during an inspection led by Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno and National Bureau of Investigation Director Melvin Matibag. Nepomuceno said the seized items, including 6,088 bags of small yellow onions

- [Remulla: Bonoan to be hospitalized due to hypertension amid arrest order](#) (2026-06-01 17:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan is on the way to a hospital over hypertension amid the Sandiganbayan's order to arrest him over plunder, according to Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla. Bonoan, alongside Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and three other individuals, is accused of graft and plunder before the Sandiganbayan in connection with the

- [Remulla tells Cayetano: Executive branch can arrest lawmakers](#) (2026-06-01 17:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla maintained that the executive department may arrest members of the legislative branch despite the separation of powers between the two branches of government. Remulla issued the statement after he was seen in a heated exchange with Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano when he went to the Senate to

- [WATCH: Tension flares between Cayetano, Remulla during Jinggoy arrest](#) (2026-06-01 17:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday clashed with Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla as well as police officers over his insistence that Estrada not be arrested inside the Senate building. This is despite the fact that Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has already expressed his intent to voluntarily surrender amid an arrest warrant issued

- [Sara Duterte camp wants impeachment case dismissed over 'infirmities'](#) (2026-06-01 17:30)

[Updated June 1, 2026 6:16 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte prayed on Monday for the dismissal of the impeachment case. Duterte's defense team, led by lawyer Michael Poa, submitted the answer of the vice president to the articles of impeachment. "We want the articles of impeachment to be dismissed altogether,

- [Palace commends Jinggoy Estrada for surrendering to police](#) (2026-06-01 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday commended Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for surrendering to police following his plunder and graft charges in connection with the flood control projects scandal. "Sen. Jinggoy did the right thing by voluntarily surrendering. He did not make things difficult for law enforcers, unlike what is happening now with Senator [Ronald] Bato

- [Eastern Samar capital logs dangerous 45°C heat index](#) (2026-06-01 16:55)

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines – Dangerous high temperatures continued to prevail Monday over Borongan City, Eastern Samar, which recorded a heat index of 45°C, the highest in the Visayas province, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. The index reading placed the Eastern Samar capital under Pagasa's "danger" category, where prolonged exposure outdoors

- [Jinggoy Estrada to be committed to Payatas jail](#) (2026-06-01 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada will be committed to the New Quezon City Jail in Barangay Payatas, the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division’ s clerk of court confirmed on Monday afternoon. The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division issued an arrest warrant against Estrada and his co-accused for non-bailable plunder and graft cases. Aside from Estrada, those ordered arrested are

- [DepEd officials injured after screen falls during Brigada Eskwela](#) (2026-06-01 16:49)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY — Several Department of Education (DepEd) officials were injured after a large LED screen toppled onto the stage during the 2026 Brigada Eskwela Caravan and Kickoff Program at Tagburos Elementary School here on Monday. In a statement, the DepEd Mimaropa Regional Office said strong winds suddenly struck the venue while certificates were

- [Sara Duterte responds to articles of impeachment](#) (2026-06-01 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’ s camp filed on Monday an answer to the articles of impeachment soon to be taken up by the Senate as an impeachment court. A writ of summons was issued by the impeachment court to give Duterte 10 days, or until today, to answer to the complaint against her.

- [Jinggoy Estrada surrenders to CIDG](#) (2026-06-01 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Jinggoy Estrada surrendered to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Camp Crame on Monday following the arrest order issued by the Sandiganbayan in connection with the plunder and graft cases filed against him.

- [Castro calls Paolo Duterte ‘living in darkness, fake news’](#) (2026-06-01 16:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace press officer Claire Castro on Monday described Davao City Rep. Paolo “Pulong” Duterte as someone “living in darkness and fake news” after he criticized President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and questioned the administration’ s accomplishments. During a press briefing, Castro responded to Duterte’ s remarks, in which he challenged Marcos to enumerate the accomplishments of

- [1 dead, 95 injured in vehicle crash on Marcos Highway in Benguet](#) (2026-06-01 16:08)

BAGUIO CITY — A woman was confirmed killed, and at least 95 other people were injured after two buses and an SUV collided along Marcos Highway in Sitio Caucalan, Barangay Taloy Sur, Tuba, Benguet, on May 30. In a report late Sunday, May 31, the Tuba Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said the

- [Jinggoy Estrada says he won’ t seek Senate custody](#) (2026-06-01 15:55)

MANILA, Philippines— Instead of seeking sanctuary from the Senate, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Monday opted to surrender to the police, saying he would not yield to threats and pressure.

Appearing before the Senate media hours after the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division issued the warrant for his arrest, Estrada vowed to face the charges

- [WATCH: Jinggoy faces media after arrest order](#) (2026-06-01 15:28)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Jinggoy Estrada faces the media on Monday after the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division ordered his arrest over plunder and graft cases filed against him in connection with alleged irregularities in flood control projects. The arrest warrant was issued days after the Office of the Ombudsman filed charges against Estrada and several former

- [P1.3-M smuggled cigarettes seized, 2 nabbed in Maguindanao Norte](#) (2026-06-01 15:17)

COTABATO CITY — Police intercepted at least P1.3 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and arrested two individuals at a checkpoint in Barangay Dulangan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte, on June 1. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) director, said law enforcers discovered the contraband concealed in a white Nissan

- [Senate panel to continue flood control probe on June 4](#) (2026-06-01 15:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate blue ribbon committee will continue its inquiry into the alleged flood control anomalies on Thursday, June 4. “Please be informed that the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon) will conduct its ninth inquiry in aid of legislation on Thursday,” a notice addressed to senators read. The

- [Castro shares Duterte’ s greeting for Madriaga on VP’ s birthday](#) (2026-06-01 15:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace Press Officer Claire Castro on Monday shared a video greeting by Vice President Sara Duterte for Ramil Madriaga, Duterte’ s alleged bagman, on the occasion of the vice president’ s birthday. At a briefing, Castro was asked for her birthday message to Duterte, who turned 48 on May 31. READ: Who is Ramil

- [243,000 TUPAD workers to earn P5,000 each in Brigada Eskwela drive](#) (2026-06-01 15:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The government will provide jobs to 243,000 workers nationwide to help prepare public schools for the opening of classes while providing income support to Filipino families. They will be employed under the Department of Labor and Employment’ s Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program for Brigada Eskwela, starting on Monday (June 1),

- [Angeles building collapse death toll climbs to 13](#) (2026-06-01 15:05)

ANGELES CITY — Rescuers recovered another body from the rubble of the collapsed nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago on Monday afternoon, June 1, raising the death toll to 13. The Bureau of Fire Protection said the latest casualty was extricated at 12:59 p.m. as search, rescue, and retrieval operations continued at the collapse

- [Estrada to surrender at Camp Crame — Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 14:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada will surrender following the issuance of warrant of arrest against him by the Sandiganbayan, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla told the Inquirer on Monday. “Yes,” Remulla said when asked if Estrada would voluntarily surrender after the anti-graft court ordered his arrest. Remulla also confirmed that Estrada will surrender at

- [Brigada Eskwela 2026 starts; 240,000 workers tapped to prepare schools](#) (2026-06-01 14:25)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday kicked off Brigada Eskwela 2026 nationwide from Agusan del Norte, rolling out a P2-billion cash-for-work program aimed at employing 240,000 workers to help prepare public schools for the upcoming school year. The kickoff at Cabadbaran City National High School launched a coordinated nationwide effort, with regional host

- [Sandiganbayan issues arrest warrant for plunder vs Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-06-01 14:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for a non-bailable plunder and graft case. The warrant came despite the Omnibus motion — the third motion his camp has filed since Friday — in a last ditch effort to stop the plunder arrest warrant against the

- [Matibag: Protective custody for Jinggoy defies Senate stance](#) (2026-06-01 14:11)

MANILA, Philippines — National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag said on Monday he is confident that the Senate will not take Sen. Jinggoy Estrada under its protective custody, emphasizing that otherwise, it will defy its own position. Matibag said this in an ambush interview on Monday when asked what would happen should Estrada

- [PNP: 2 women nabbed for allegedly selling lewd materials](#) (2026-06-01 14:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Two women were arrested in Sorsogon for allegedly selling child sexual abuse or exploitation materials (CSAEM), leading to the rescue of four victims, the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Center (PNP WCPC) said on Monday. In a statement, the PNP WCPC said the two suspects were tracked by the police

- [Heirs cancel plan to close property traversed by major Cotabato highway](#) (2026-06-01 13:58)

KIDAPAWAN CITY — The heirs of a family in Makilala, Cotabato province whose lands are traversed by the national highway announced Monday they would no longer temporarily close the property tomorrow, June 2. Markjo Berg Tejada, one of the heirs of the Tejada family, said the family decided to heed the call of the Department

- [PNP: Crime rates in PH dropped by 25.77% in May 2026](#) (2026-06-01 13:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Crime rates across the country dropped by 25.77 percent in May 2026, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). In a press briefing in Camp Crame on Monday, June 1, PNP chief, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the police force recorded 2,149 focus crime cases from May 1 to 30, 2026;

- [Tacurong mayor rapped for alleged non-release of PhilHealth benefits](#) (2026-06-01 13:47)

COTABATO CITY — A group of healthcare workers has accused Mayor Lina Montilla of Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat of abusing her authority for allegedly not releasing at least P18 million in Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) benefits owed to local healthcare workers. The administrative complaint was filed last May 20 before the Provincial Board of

- [Luistro: House prosecutors will ‘oppose’ dismissal response from Duterte](#) (2026-06-01 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Monday said the House prosecution panel will oppose any effort from Vice President Sara Duterte and her camp to dismiss the impeachment charges against her, as the deadline for her formal response to the accusations loomed. In a media briefing, Luistro said the 11-member prosecution panel is

- [Cuenca, Batangas warns residents as heat index may hit dangerous 48°C](#) (2026-06-01 13:12)

LUCENA CITY — Despite the onset of the rainy season, the local government of Cuenca town in Batangas has advised residents to take precautionary measures as the heat index in the area may reach a dangerous 48 degrees Celsius on Monday, June 1. “The heat index in our town today may reach the ‘danger’ level.

- [Over 55,500 PNP personnel to secure school opening](#) (2026-06-01 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) will deploy 55,507 personnel nationwide to ensure security for the opening of School Year 2026–2027, officials said Monday. At a press briefing in Camp Crame, PNP Operations Director Brig. Gen. Ponce Rogelio Peñones said 28,751 police officers will be directly assigned for the opening of classes. READ:

- [LTFRB suspends buses of firm in Benguet crash](#) (2026-06-01 13:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday said it has suspended the operations of some of the Victory Liner’ s buses after the involvement of two of its vehicles in the Benguet crash. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said 26 of Victory Liner’ s buses are suspended pending the result of

- [Typhoon Domeng exits PAR, Pagasa says](#) (2026-06-01 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Domeng exited the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Monday morning, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest update, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Domeng,

which was located northeast of Itbayat, Batanes, exited the PAR around 11:30 a.m.

READ:Typhoon Domeng maintains strength, to

- [INQToday: Angeles building collapse death toll rises to 12](#) (2026-06-01 12:40)

Angeles building collapse death toll rises to 12 The death toll in the collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Angeles City, Pampanga is now at 12. CIDG to honor Sandiganbayan if it orders arrest of Jinggoy Estrada If the Sandiganbayan orders for the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and the Senate provides him

- [Estrada camp moves to block plunder arrest warrant, seeks dismissal](#) (2026-06-01 12:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Monday filed an Omnibus Motion before the Sandiganbayan seeking to stop the possible issuance of an arrest warrant in connection with the plunder case filed against him. In a statement, Estrada said his legal team submitted an Urgent Omnibus Motion Ad Cautelam, a formal request

- [‘Robin Hood’ figure linked to alleged Occidental Mindoro shabu lab](#) (2026-06-01 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines — A supposed “Robin Hood” figure is connected to the alleged clandestine shabu (crystal meth) laboratory busted by the authorities last week in Occidental Mindoro, the Philippine National Police Drug Enforcement Group (PNP DEG) said on Monday. In a briefing in Camp Crame, DEG director Brig. Gen. Elmer Ragay noted that two “caretakers”

- [Eastern Visayas implements final tranche of P35 minimum wage increase](#) (2026-06-01 11:50)

TACLOBAN CITY—The Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB)-VIII has fully implemented the second and final tranche of the minimum wage increase for all private sector minimum wage earners in Eastern Visayas, effective Monday, June 1. The increase completes Wage Order No. RBVIII-25, which was approved on November 10, 2025 and implemented in two stages

- [Sara Duterte urged to give ‘substantive answer’ in impeach case](#) (2026-06-01 11:35)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte should provide a “substantive answer” to the allegations of wrongdoing fueling the impeachment drive against her, House prosecution spokesperson and Kabataan party-list Rep. Renee Co said Monday. Duterte has until 7 p.m. today to file her answer to the Articles of Impeachment before the impeachment

- [CIDG field unit ordered to review alleged EJK cases in Davao Region](#) (2026-06-01 11:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The Davao Region field unit of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) has been ordered to account for the alleged extrajudicial killings (EJKs), its director said. “Of course, it’s an order. We are going to comply,” CIDG director Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II told reporters in a briefing in Camp

- [Kalinga group slams ‘instant window dressing’ for Vince Dizon visit](#) (2026-06-01 10:40)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — A non-government anti-corruption group in Kalinga has condemned what it calls the “instant” “window dressing” of public works projects, which saw sandbags and old tires suddenly appearing at construction sites just before the scheduled visit of Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon. Dizon is expected to tour the province Monday, June 1, including

- [PNP prepares security ahead of Sara Duterte response to impeach raps](#) (2026-06-01 10:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) will be deploying 2,000 officers for security measures within the vicinity of the Senate in Pasay City on Monday as Vice President Sara Duterte is expected to respond to the impeachment case against her. “The NCRPO is now on alert. We’ ve already begun our deployment within

- [P160,000 worth of illegally sourced lumber seized in Occidental Mindoro](#) (2026-06-01 10:34)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Two individuals were arrested and approximately P160,000 worth of illegally sourced lumber was confiscated during a joint anti-illegal logging operation in Occidental Mindoro on Monday, June 1. The operation, which was led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Santa Cruz Municipal Police Station (MPS), took

- [Sabungeros probe: 1,400 human bones recovered from Taal Lake](#) (2026-06-01 10:32)

[Updated June 1, 2026, 1:30 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Around 1,400 of the 2,000 bones recovered from Taal Lake have been identified as human remains amid the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of cockfighting aficionados (sabungeros), according to the Philippine National Police Forensic Group (PNP FG). “The total number of human bones we have identified,

- [PNP defends Senate shooting probe, says ready to face scrutiny](#) (2026-06-01 10:10)

[Updated June 1, 2026, 1:52 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday defended its investigation into the May 13 shooting incident at the Senate. “Our investigation report was a product of meticulous work and dedication of our personnel to establish what really happened based on the pieces of evidence obtained,” PNP

- [Green sea turtle rescued, released in Cagayan](#) (2026-06-01 10:10)

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was successfully released back into its natural habitat in Barangay Minanga Weste, Buguey town, Cagayan on Saturday, May 30, coast guard officials reported Sunday. The Coast Guard Sub-station Buguey stated that fisher Edison Ragudo, 49, accidentally caught the marine mammal in his fish net on May 29. READ:

- [CIDG to honor Sandiganbayan if it orders arrest of Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-06-01 09:56)

[Updated June 1, 2026, 11:43 a.m.] MANILA, Philippines — If the Sandiganbayan orders for the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and the Senate provides him “protective custody,” will the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) allow it? Asked this question at a press briefing in Camp Crame on Monday, CIDG director Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander

- [PNP: Other raps over Senate shooting, Bato Dela Rosa escape up to DOJ](#) (2026-06-01 09:35)

[Updated June 1, 2026, 11:34 a.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Will the Philippine National Police (PNP) pursue charges against other individuals in connection with the shooting incident at the Senate as well as the fleeing of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa? READ: PNP denies manipulating Senate shooting footage Asked this question at a press briefing in

- [4 PNP senior officers given new posts](#) (2026-06-01 08:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Four senior police officials were given new assignments in the Philippine National Police’s (PNP) latest reshuffle. The designation was done through General Order No. NHQ-GO-DES-2026-2872 dated May 29 and effective June 1. The order appointed current Eastern Police District (EPD) director Brig. Gen. Aden Lagradante as the officer-in-charge of the Civil Security

- [PNP intensifies patrols at shopping areas ahead of school opening](#) (2026-06-01 08:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered the law enforcement agency to bolster its patrol operations in shopping areas ahead of the opening of School Year 2026–2027. “Shopping districts such as Divisoria, Quiapo–Recto–Sta. Cruz, Baclaran in Parañaque, Greenhills in San Juan, and major supermalls in Metro Manila and

- [Vendor couple among fatalities in Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-06-01 08:16)

ANGELES CITY — Authorities have identified a husband-and-wife vendor couple among the fatalities in the collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago, adding to the growing death toll from the May 24 disaster. Authorities on Monday (June 1) confirmed that Elsa Angcao, 50, and her husband, Joey Angcao, 48, were among those

- [Dangerous heat index forecast in 32 areas on June 1](#) (2026-06-01 07:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices are forecast in 32 areas across the country, including Metro Manila’s weather station at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) in Pasay City, on Monday, June 1, the state weather bureau reported. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Naia’s heat index is expected to

- [Typhoon Domeng maintains strength, to exit PAR this Monday](#) (2026-06-01 06:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Domeng has maintained its strength while continuously moving farther from the country’s landmass, the state weather bureau said on Monday. In its

5 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Domeng is currently packing a maximum sustained wind speed of 130 kilometers per hour (kph) near

- [Pimentel to Cayetano: ‘Step back, give it up’](#) (2026-06-01 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate President Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III on Sunday suggested that Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano consider stepping down if he could no longer unite the chamber, warning that the deepening rift among senators was already affecting the institution’s ability to perform its constitutional duties, including the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice

- [Smaller classrooms, more learning, says Edcom 2](#) (2026-06-01 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Overcrowded classrooms and bullying drive absenteeism and lower engagement, while smaller class sizes are linked to better participation and safer learning environments, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) said on Sunday, citing its findings from a discussion with students. Edcom 2 members talked to junior high school students from President

- [House upholds ‘right to info’ measure ahead of bicam](#) (2026-06-01 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives vowed to press its version of a freedom of information (FOI) bill in bicameral talks with the Senate, setting up a potential showdown over how to enshrine the constitutional right to information (RTI) that has eluded the past six administrations after decades of failed attempts. Cagayan de Oro

- [Meloto to seek hospital arrest pending bail appeal](#) (2026-06-01 05:45)

ANGAT, BULACAN, Philippines — Citing his medical concerns, Antonio “Tony” Meloto will seek hospital arrest pending the resolution of his bail application, his camp said on Sunday. Yssa Obana, a representative of Meloto, told the Inquirer that his medical condition is also a major concern of his legal team. The once hailed social entrepreneur and

- [Chef revising controversial ‘Kayumanggi’ cookbook](#) (2026-06-01 05:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Chef Jam Melchor has announced that he is working “with a new editorial team on an improved and revised edition” of his controversial cookbook, “Kayumanggi: A Kaleidoscope of Filipino Flavors and Food Traditions.” “Furthermore, I intend to personally shoulder the reprinting of one thousand (1,000) copies, equivalent to the quantity originally printed

- [Baguio water crisis fears grow ahead of ‘Super El Niño’](#) (2026-06-01 04:45)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Residents are being urged to store as much water as possible ahead of an expected Super El Niño, as experts warn that the last months of 2026 could bring severe dry spells despite rains still expected from June to September. The advisory was issued

during a May 29 summit on the

- [Agusan del Sur' s Mt. Magdiwata in rare, crucial bloom](#) (2026-06-01 04:40)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — A rare and breathtaking natural spectacle has been unfolding at the Mt. Magdiwata Forest Reserve here, where vast stretches of forest canopy resembling giant cauliflowers can be seen from afar. Local experts described the sight as a landmark sign of the mountain' s ecological recovery. From a distance, the

- [4 more bodies retrieved from Angeles building rubble](#) (2026-06-01 04:35)

ANGELES CITY—The death toll from the collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago rose to 10 on Sunday after rescuers recovered four more bodies from the wreckage, exactly one week after the tragedy. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said three bodies were recovered between 2:51 p.m. and 4:47 p.m., with no

- [In Bohol, Eskaya ancestral domain claim approved](#) (2026-06-01 04:30)

TAGBILARAN CITY— The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has approved the application of the Eskaya Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) of Bohol for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT), formally recognizing their rights over more than 3,100 hectares of ancestral land. The approval was granted by the NCIP' s 10th Commission during its en

- [No winners for May 31 Ultra, Super Lotto jackpots](#) (2026-05-31 21:43)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Super Lotto 6/49 draws on Sunday, May 31, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The Ultra Lotto 6/58 winning combination was 09-53-43-39-03-47 for a jackpot of ₱75 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The Super Lotto 6/49 winning combination was 18-21-07-43-11-03

- [Gatchalian urges stricter fire prevention measures from LGUs](#) (2026-05-31 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday urged local government units (LGUs) to strengthen fire prevention measures amid extreme heat conditions. He also called on power distributors to intensify inspections of illegal power connections following a series of fire incidents across the country. READ: Truck catches fire in Malaybalay City amid extreme heat The

- [Angeles building collapse death toll rises to 10](#) (2026-05-31 19:35)

ANGELES CITY — The death toll from the collapse of a nine-story building under construction in Barangay Balibago rose to 10 on Sunday, May 31. The Bureau of Fire Protection said the latest victim was extricated at 4:27 p.m. Authorities have yet to identify the remains. READ: Fact-finding task force created for Angeles building collapse

- [10 nabbed in Leyte e-sabong bust](#) (2026-05-31 19:27)

TACLOBAN CITY — Ten individuals were arrested during an anti-illegal online cockfighting (e-sabong) operation at the Hindang Amusement Center in Barangay Poblacion 2, Hindang, Leyte, on Friday evening, May 29. Authorities also seized several pieces of information and communications technology (ICT) equipment allegedly used in the operation. The operation stemmed from intelligence reports received by

- [Oriental Mindoro maintains 9.93-MW power reserve](#) (2026-05-31 19:19)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Oriental Mindoro power grid maintained a 9.93-megawatt (MW) reserve as of 8 a.m. Sunday, May 31, according to the latest Dispatch Report from the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), released by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco). Data showed total power demand at 53.08 MW, while dependable capacity stood at

- [Suspected Dawlah Islamiyah member slain, 2 arrested in Maguindanao](#) (2026-05-31 19:09)

COTABATO CITY — A suspected member of the terrorist Dawlah Islamiyah (DI)-Hassan Group was killed while two others were arrested as troops overran their temporary camp in Barangay Tuayan Mother, Datu Hoffer Ampatuan in Maguindanao del Sur on Saturday morning, May 30, the military said Sunday. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, spokesperson of the 6th Infantry

- [4 nabbed in illegal gun sale in Cotabato province — CIDG](#) (2026-05-31 18:41)

COTABATO CITY — Four alleged gunrunners were arrested during a buy-bust operation conducted by police in Barangay Villarica, Midsayap, Cotabato province, on May 30, an official said Sunday. Lt. Col. Niño Lope Briones, acting regional chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group–Regional Field Unit–Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (CIDG-RFUBAR), said the buy-bust operation under “Oplan Paglalansag

- [Birthday gift for Sara Duterte is due process in impeachment–prosecution](#) (2026-05-31 18:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution team said on Sunday that it is giving Vice President Sara Duterte a birthday gift unlike any other: due process in her impeachment case. Duterte turned 48 on Sunday. “Our gift to Vice President Sara is due process — the step-by-step unfolding of procedures so that whatever allegations are

- [Pagadian City road crash kills passenger, hurts teen driver](#) (2026-05-31 18:33)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A woman died while a 17-year-old male driver was injured after their motorcycle collided with a pickup truck along Maharlika Highway in Barangay Balintawak here at around 6:50 p.m. on Saturday, May 30. Police investigators said the victims were traveling from New Road Dao toward Barangay Buenavista, while the

- [Angeles building collapse: 8th, 9th fatalities found](#) (2026-05-31 18:12)

ANGELES CITY — The death toll from the collapse of a nine-story building in Barangay Balibago rose to nine on Sunday afternoon, May 31, after rescuers recovered two more bodies from beneath the rubble. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said the eighth victim was extricated at 2:51 p.m. While operations were ongoing, responders discovered

- [Typhoon Domeng slightly intensifies; to exit PAR on June 1](#) (2026-05-31 17:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Domeng (international name: Jangmi) slightly intensified on Sunday afternoon as it moved north-northwest over the Philippine Sea east of Batanes, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) 5 p.m. typhoon bulletin, Domeng was last located 650 kilometers east-northeast of Basco, Batanes. READ:

- [NBI defends possible subpoena vs Bato dela Rosa's wife](#) (2026-05-31 16:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Sunday said the possible subpoena against Nancy dela Rosa, wife of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, is unrelated to efforts to locate the senator. NBI Director Melvin Matibag issued the statement after Sen. Panfilo Lacson urged the agency not to proceed with issuing the summons,

- [Bacolod cops nab teen suspect in P2.17-M shabu sting op](#) (2026-05-31 15:06)

BACOLOD CITY – A 19-year-old male suspect was arrested in a buy-bust that led to the recovery of P2.176 million in shabu at Purok Tahong, Barangay 2 here Sunday, the Bacolod City Police Office (BCPO) said in a report. At around 2:30 a.m., alias “Nash” sold a sachet of shabu worth P1,000 to an undercover policeman

- [Erwin Tulfo files bill exempting indigents from board, bar exam fees](#) (2026-05-31 14:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo has filed a bill seeking to exempt qualified indigent Filipinos from paying board and bar examination fees. In filing Senate Bill No. 2035, or the “Free Professional Examinations Act,” Tulfo said the measure aims to expand opportunities for underprivileged Filipinos by making professional licensure more accessible. “It is a

- [PNP disaster units on alert for Typhoon Domeng](#) (2026-05-31 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) has placed its disaster response units on alert in anticipation of Typhoon Domeng's impact on Northern Luzon, prompting preparations for possible evacuations and emergency operations. “Police offices in areas that may be affected by Domeng have been directed to remain on alert for its possible effects and to immediately

- [Calapan City records dangerous 44°C heat index](#) (2026-05-31 13:49)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Residents of this city were urged to take extra precautions against extreme heat after the city recorded a heat index of 44°C at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, placing it under the “danger” category. According to the City Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Council (CDRRMC), the heat index reading

- [Quezon town partners with BFAR for assessment of coral reefs, resources](#) (2026-05-31 13:44)

MANILA, Philippines — In line with National Fisherfolk Day, the local government unit (LGU) of Gumaca in Quezon province has partnered with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to assess the health of coral reefs and water resources. In a Facebook post on Sunday, the LGU honored fisherfolk for their role in protecting

- [Laser beam projection on aircraft prohibited, punishable by law – Caap](#) (2026-05-31 13:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) on Sunday reminded the public that projecting laser beams and other high-intensity lights toward aircraft is strictly prohibited and punishable by law. According to Caap, laser illumination either impairs aircraft pilots' vision or causes distraction in critical phases of flight. READ: Caap reminder: Flying

- [School overcrowding, bullying fuel absenteeism – Edcom 2 findings](#) (2026-05-31 13:26)

MANILA, Philippines – Overcrowded classrooms and bullying are driving absenteeism and lower engagement, while smaller class sizes are linked to better participation and safer learning environments, according to Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) findings. Edcom 2 said it held a focus group discussion on May 28 with Junior High School students of President

- [Senate security tightened for Sara Duterte' s response to impeach raps](#) (2026-05-31 13:11)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate is implementing tightened security measures as the camp of Vice President Sara Duterte is expected to file on Monday her answer to the writ of summons issued against her in relation to her impeachment trial. “Vice President Sara Duterte has until Monday, 1 June 2026, from 8 a.m. to 7

- [Angeles City building collapse death toll rises to 7](#) (2026-05-31 12:44)

ANGELES CITY — Exactly one week after an under construction nine-story building collapsed in Barangay Balibago here, rescuers recovered a seventh body from the wreckage on Sunday morning. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) reported that the latest remains were retrieved at 7:42 a.m. Authorities have yet to identify of the latest casualty, pending verification

- [Wet, rainy June forecast in Visayas due to ‘habagat’](#) (2026-05-31 12:36)

ILOILO CITY — Cloudy skies, scattered rain showers and thunderstorms are expected in most parts of the Visayas by June as the southwest monsoon (habagat) continues to affect the region, according to the latest five-day weather outlook issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Visayas Regional Services Division. The forecast, issued

- [MRT-7 to operate with 14 stations, including SJDM – DOTr](#) (2026-05-31 12:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) on Sunday clarified that the Metro Rail Transit 7 (MRT-7) project will operate with 14 stations, including the San Jose del Monte (SJDM) station in Bulacan. The DOTr made this clarification “contrary to circulating reports that only 13 stations will push through.” READ: Hopes on track: How

- [Typhoon Domeng maintains strength off Batanes; to exit PAR Monday](#) (2026-05-31 11:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Domeng (international name: Jangmi) maintained its strength while moving east of Batanes on Sunday morning, the state weather bureau said. In its 11 a.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that Domeng was last located some 645 kilometers east of Basco, Batanes and was moving

- [Jealousy eyed in fatal hacking of woman in Leyte](#) (2026-05-31 11:45)

TACLOBAN CITY — A woman was hacked to death by her alleged former lover in Sitio Capion, Barangay San Sebastian, Matag-ob, Leyte, on Saturday afternoon, May 30, with authorities citing jealousy as the possible motive behind the killing. Police identified the victim only as “Seling,” a widow and household helper while the suspect was identified

- [Safer P20/kilo rice retailing sought after Bukidnon woman’ s death](#) (2026-05-31 11:32)

DON CARLOS, Bukidnon — The grandmother of a 28-year-old mother of four who died while waiting in line to purchase government-subsidized P20-per-kilo rice has called for a safer and more accessible selling process to avoid the same tragedy. Lusminda Vatoria said her granddaughter, Desiree Binagatan, joined a queue for discounted rice on May 25 to

- [Fact-finding task force created for Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-05-31 10:54)

ANGELES CITY — A fact-finding and investigation task force has been created following the collapse of an under-construction nine-story building in Barangay Balibago that has claimed six lives and injured many others. Mayor Carmelo Lazatin II on Saturday announced that he had issued an executive order creating a fact-finding committee to ensure a proper and

- [LTO summons 2 helmet-less riders; driver’ s licenses suspended](#) (2026-05-31 10:40)

The Land Transportation Office issues separate show cause orders to two motorcycle riders for not wearing helmets. (Photo by LTO/Facebook) MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has summoned two motorcycle riders for not wearing their helmets and suspended their driver’ s licenses for 90 days. In a Facebook post, the LTO showed two separate

- [Another green sea turtle returns to nest on Panglao beach in Bohol](#) (2026-05-31 09:47)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A green sea turtle laid eggs on Alona Beach in Panglao town, marking the fourth documented nesting event on the island this year and reinforcing the

area's importance as a nesting ground for endangered marine species. The nest was discovered on May 29 by staff of Alona by JPark Island Resort

- [67 injured as 2 buses collide in Benguet](#) (2026-05-31 09:42)

TUBA, Benguet — Sixty seven passengers were injured after a bus reportedly lost its brakes and collided with another passenger bus along Marcos Highway in Sitio Caucalan, Barangay Taloy Sur here on Saturday night. Police and disaster response officials said the accident occurred at around 8:35 p.m. when a bus traveling downhill from Baguio City

- [Rainy Sunday expected in Palawan, Occ. Mindoro, Antique – Pagasa](#) (2026-05-31 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, and Antique are forecast to experience moderate to heavy rainfall on Sunday due to the southwest monsoon or “habagat”, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 a.m., heavy rainfall outlook, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that these areas will see 50 to 100

- [Typhoon Domeng to intensify, not expected to make landfall in PH](#) (2026-05-31 07:38)

Track and intensity forecast of Typhoon Domeng as of 5 a.m., May 31, 2026. (Photo by Pagasa)
MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Domeng (international name: Jangmi) will continue to intensify as it nears peak intensity on Monday but it is less likely to make a landfall in the country, the state weather bureau said on Sunday.

- [Row on Senate voting rule won't simmer down](#) (2026-05-31 05:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson says debates on a proposed amendment to Senate rules isn't wrong but it isn't right either to ignore parliamentary procedures to ram down a motion. Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano insists that there is no railroading and that changing the rules is not intended for

- [Sara Duterte leads surveys on presidential race, approval rating](#) (2026-05-31 05:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte topped the 2028 presidential preference rankings and net satisfaction ratings among high-level government officials in two separate surveys released on Saturday by the country's leading pollsters. The surveys by Pulse Asia and Social Weather Stations (SWS) were conducted before the House of Representatives impeached Duterte on May 11

- [Nat'l artist, publisher ask SC: Scrap VAT on digital publications](#) (2026-05-31 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A national artist and a publisher are asking the Supreme Court to declare as unconstitutional the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) imposed on digital books, journals, newspapers and other published literature, which has been in effect since February last year. They say the tax on such materials creates a “tollgate” to sources of

- [Gawad Kalinga founder Tony Meloto arrested in trafficking case](#) (2026-05-31 05:33)

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Gawad Kalinga (GK) founder Antonio “Tony” Meloto was arrested on Friday night on charges of trafficking in persons, the alleged victims being two scholars of the nongovernmental organization who had also accused him of sexual abuse. The police arrested Meloto, 76, at the GK Enchanted Farm in Barangay Encanto, where he

- [Pagasa: ‘Habagat’ season upon us, but heat to stay for a while](#) (2026-05-31 05:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The southwest monsoon season has begun, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced on Saturday, as it continued to warn of dangerous heat levels in 44 areas around the country. The southwest monsoon, locally called “habagat,” refers to warm, moist winds originating from the southwest, which bring rains to

- [6 Filipino scientists cited for outstanding research](#) (2026-05-31 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Six Filipino scientists were included in this year’s list of the top 100 most outstanding researchers in Asia compiled by the Singapore-based Asian Scientist Magazine. They are Marcela Navasero and Romulo Davide from the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños, Mary Donnabelle Balela and Aurelio de los Reyes V from UP

- [PhilHealth says P143.22-B benefits paid to members](#) (2026-05-31 05:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) has paid out P143.22 billion in benefit claims nationwide from Jan. 1 to April 30, marking a 56.15-percent increase compared to the P91.72 billion released during the same period last year. PhilHealth said the increase in benefit payments reflects the state insurer’s continued effort to expand

- [SC: ‘Wife control’ can be seen as ‘grossly abusive conduct’](#) (2026-05-31 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Fostering a “hostile and intimidating environment” in a marriage may be deemed as “grossly abusive conduct” and serve as grounds for legal separation, the Supreme Court has ruled. The high tribunal emphasized this in giving merit to a petition for review on certiorari filed by a husband against his wife, who were

- [PH eagle ‘Lakpue’ soars again in Leyte forests](#) (2026-05-31 05:17)

MAHAGNAO, Leyte — On the morning of May 17, “Lakpue,” a 23-year-old male Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*), was observed inside the forest near the Pangalaw-an River here at about 288.9 meters above sea level, perched on a “hagimit” tree for roughly three hours as it prepared to hunt. Lakpue, adopted by Lakpue Drug Inc., is

- [This week’s milestones: May 30 to June 6](#) (2026-05-31 05:15)

May 30, 2023 The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Bicol (BFAR-5) officially turned over the refurbished Abuyog Dam to the local government unit of Sorsogon City. As one of BFAR’s Balik Sigla sa Ilog at Lawa program sites, which focuses on sustaining inland fisheries,

the P314,000 rehabilitation of the dam was designed to

- [Driver run over by his own truck in Baguio City](#) (2026-05-30 22:44)

BAGUIO CITY — A 46-year-old truck driver from Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya died after he was run over by his own vehicle while transporting heavy equipment in Barangay Happy Hallow here on Friday, May 29. Police said the victim and his co-workers had just loaded a backhoe onto an Isuzu self-loading truck at Purok 1 when

- [Village chief arrested in anti-drug ops; P782,000 worth of shabu seized](#) (2026-05-30 22:38)

ILOILO CITY — A village chief listed as a high-value individual (HVI) was arrested, and an estimated P782,000 worth of suspected shabu was confiscated during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Maragubdub in San Remegio, Antique on Friday afternoon, May 29. Authorities identified the suspect only by his alias, “Alvin,” 38, the Punong Barangay of the

- [Illicit drugs declared as consumer goods intercepted](#) (2026-05-30 22:34)

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Authorities intercepted parcels containing suspected illegal drugs worth more than P6.4 million that were addressed to recipients in Zambales and other parts of the country, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said on Saturday (May 30) The Bureau of Customs–Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA), in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

- [Eastern Samar’ s coastal towns unite to protect shared seas](#) (2026-05-30 22:30)

TACLOBAN CITY — Seven coastal municipalities in Eastern Samar have renewed their decades-long alliance to safeguard marine resources, strengthen fisheries management, and secure the future of thousands of fisherfolk who depend on the sea for their livelihood. The revival and formalization of the Alliance of Seven Municipalities for Integrated Coastal Zone Management(A7ICZM) on May 27

- [Search, rescue operations continue at Angeles collapse site despite rain](#) (2026-05-30 22:24)

ANGELES CITY — Search, rescue, retrieval and clearing operations continued Saturday (May 30) at the site of the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago despite intermittent rains affecting the area. The Unified Command Management Option said responders remained on the ground carrying out operations as efforts continued to locate possible victims beneath the rubble and

- [Oriental Mindoro power deficit eases but over 5MW of load still unserved](#) (2026-05-30 22:20)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The power supply situation in Oriental Mindoro province slightly improved on Saturday afternoon, May 30, as the electricity deficit in the island’ s grid dropped to 2.54 megawatts (MW), according to the latest monitoring report. Data from the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), relayed through local power utility Oriental

Mindoro Electric Cooperative

- [Iloilo City mayor faces ‘anti-epal’ complaint over livelihood program](#) (2026-05-30 22:16)

ILOILO CITY — Iloilo City Mayor Raisa Treñas-Chu has become the subject of a recent complaint lodged with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), alleging that she may have violated the department’s ‘anti-epal’ policy with her signature livelihood program for mothers. In a letter dated and sent to the DILG on Thursday,

- [Borongan City records highest heat index at 52°C on Saturday](#) (2026-05-30 22:11)

TACLOBAN CITY- Borongan City in Eastern Samar recorded a heat index of 52 degrees Celsius on Saturday, May 30, the highest recorded heat index in the city so far this year and the highest among all monitoring stations in Eastern Visayas, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). The heat index

- [May 30 PCSO lotto: No winners for ₱45M Grand Lotto](#) (2026-05-30 21:50)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Lotto 6/42 draws held Saturday, May 30, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 19-37-21-39-09-22, with the jackpot at ₱45 million. There was no jackpot winner. The Lotto 6/42 winning combination was 03-21-02-14-33-01, with the jackpot

- [Raptor rescued in Leyte is a white-bellied sea eagle – PH eagle foundation](#) (2026-05-30 21:26)

DAVAO CITY — The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) clarified that the White-bellied Sea Eagle rescued by residents on May 27 in Barangay Tinocdugan, northwestern Leyte is not one of the Philippine eagles previously released for a reintroduction program in Eastern Visayas. Dr. Jayson Ibanez, PEF director for operations, told the Inquirer that based on the

- [Cayetano: Marcos ‘is being given wrong info’ on Senate shooting](#) (2026-05-30 20:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano believes that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. may have been given a false information on the May 13 shooting in the Senate. Speaking on a livestream on Saturday, Cayetano said he had been advocating an independent probe for weeks because he believed the president was not receiving the

- [De Lima precedent gives reason to deny online Senate voting – Macalintal](#) (2026-05-30 20:15)

MANILA, Philippines — A previous Senate decision denying former Senator Leila de Lima the privilege of voting and participating virtually in Senate proceedings established a precedent against allowing the same arrangement for Sen. Ronald ‘Bato’ dela Rosa, election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said on Friday. In a statement, Macalintal described the Senate majority’s argument to allow

- [Cayetano: Online voting not meant to benefit Duterte, senators facing arrest](#) (2026-05-30 19:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Saturday denied claims that the proposal allowing senators to participate and vote remotely was intended to benefit Vice President Sara Duterte in the impeachment trial or the senators facing possible arrest. According to Cayetano, critics were wrongly linking the proposed amendment to the impeachment proceeding in

- [Cayetano: Minority' s coup noise meant to sow distrust within the majority](#) (2026-05-30 18:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Saturday accused the Senate minority bloc of fueling speculation about a possible leadership change in an effort to sow distrust among the chamber' s majority senators. Cayetano said one key element of a coup is that it is carried out through stealth or secrecy, making it unusual

- [Dole to deploy 240,000 Tupad workers for Brigada Eskwela](#) (2026-05-30 18:30)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) will be deploying 240,000 workers from its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers or Tupad program to help public schools prepare for the opening of classes on June 8. In a statement on Saturday, the Department of Education (DepEd) said it is partnering with the labor agency

- [Bukidnon launches first coffee festival, hosts national competition](#) (2026-05-30 18:21)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — The province of Bukidnon on Friday launched its first coffee festival and hosted the national round for the Southeast Asia (SEA) competition. At its launch here, Gov. Rogelio Neil Roque said the festivity marks the realization of his administration' s Coffee Roadmap, which centers on the province as a hub for coffee farming

- [Aguilar, Pangasinan gives monthly P350 longevity incentive to elderlies](#) (2026-05-30 17:15)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — Residents of Aguilar town aged 80 to 99 are set to receive a monthly longevity incentive of P350 under a newly enacted municipal ordinance. Municipal Ordinance No. 69-2026, approved by the Aguilar Sangguniang Bayan on May 18, grants the cash incentive to senior citizens who have been actual residents of the town

- [Duterte, Sotto top satisfaction ratings in SWS survey that excludes president](#) (2026-05-30 17:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte and former Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III posted the highest satisfaction ratings among the country' s next top officials, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey released on Saturday. The survey does not include the ratings for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The results of the non-commissioned

- [Taytay, Rizal sizzles anew as heat index hits 45.4°C](#) (2026-05-30 17:00)

LUCENA CITY — The municipality of Taytay, Rizal is experiencing dangerously high temperatures after recording another extreme heat index on Saturday, May 30. In a public advisory posted on its Facebook page at around 11:15 a.m., the Taytay Public Information Office (PIO) said the town's heat index, or "real-feel" temperature, reached 45.4 degrees Celsius as

- [In a growing city, tarsiers still cling to Tacloban's forest patches](#) (2026-05-30 16:57)

MANILA, Philippines — On most nights, the work began in the dark. A team of at least three observers walked quietly in single file, moving slowly along roads, trails and footpaths with flashlights trained on vegetation at both sides of the path. They were looking for a small, nocturnal primate that has long drawn curiosity—and,

- [Oriental Mindoro power supply returns to 'green status'](#) (2026-05-30 16:46)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The power situation in Oriental Mindoro improved on Saturday (May 30) after additional generation sources restored a positive reserve margin in the island's power grid, according to the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco). In its latest Demand and Supply Monitoring Report based on data from the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo),

- [Fogging ops done at site of 9-storey building that collapsed in Angeles City](#) (2026-05-30 16:33)

ANGELES CITY — Sanitation teams conducted misting and fogging operations at the site of the nine-storey building that collapsed in Barangay Balibago in Angeles City on Saturday, May 30. These activities are meant to maintain sanitation and prevent potential health risks while response operations are ongoing. Mayor Carmelo Lazatin II gave the order amid concerns

- [Gawad Kalinga founder arrested for qualified trafficking – PNP](#) (2026-05-30 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Gawad Kalinga Founder Antonio "Tony" Meloto was arrested for qualified trafficking in Angat Bulacan late Friday, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP). He was served a warrant for two counts of qualified trafficking under Republic Act 9208, as amended by Republic Act 10364 and Republic Act 11862. The suspect, identified only

- [Maintenance shutdown set for San Roque Dam power plant in Pangasinan](#) (2026-05-30 15:37)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The power plant of the San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan will undergo a complete shutdown beginning Sunday (May 31) to allow scheduled maintenance activities that will run until June 15. Tommy Valdez, vice president for external affairs of the San Roque Power Corporation, said the annual shutdown is routinely conducted

- [Northern Samar eyes solar-powered irrigation to boost rice output](#) (2026-05-30 15:10)

TACLOBAN CITY— Seeking to improve rice production and reduce farmers’ dependence on expensive fuel-powered irrigation, the provincial government of Northern Samar is pushing for the installation of 19 solar-powered irrigation systems (SPIS) across farming communities in the province. The Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO), in coordination with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), has

- [Survey shows Sara Duterte ahead of Robredo; Tulfo leads VP contenders](#) (2026-05-30 13:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte remains the frontrunner in a hypothetical 2028 presidential race, while Sen. Erwin Tulfo has emerged as a strong vice-presidential bet, according to a poll. The Pulse Asia survey commissioned by Stratbase Group revealed that Duterte is leading former Vice President Leni Robredo by 10 percentage points, with six

- [Iloilo City housing projects to benefit over 300 new homeowners](#) (2026-05-30 13:42)

ILOILO CITY — Qualified Iloilo City residents will be the beneficiaries of two new high-rise housing projects initiated by the city government, in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and private partners. Iloilo City Mayor Raisa Treñas-Chu and Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling on Thursday, May 28, broke ground on

- [Lacson: Not wrong to debate rule change, but to railroad it is](#) (2026-05-30 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson clarified on Sunday that there was nothing wrong with debating proposed amendments to the Senate rules, but it was wrong to bypass due process. This was in response to Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, who, in a Facebook live stream, asked if there was anything wrong with “talking

- [‘Lost’ Leyte bleeding-heart re-emerges after more than a century](#) (2026-05-30 11:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The long-elusive Leyte bleeding-heart has been photographed in the forests of Leyte, offering the first contemporary, publicly known evidence of the subspecies in more than a century. The Leyte bleeding-heart (*Gallicolumba crinigera leytensis*) was photographed in the Leyte Sab-a Basin Peatland (LSBP) hydrological unit. The photo may be the first documented sighting

- [Fire razes 6 houses in Bacoar City; 26 residents displaced](#) (2026-05-30 10:42)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — A fire of still undetermined origin razed six houses in Bacoar City, Cavite, early Saturday, May 30. The city government in a report said the fire broke out at around 3:04 a.m. in a residential area at the corner of Barangay Niog and Maliksi I. The blaze destroyed six houses and

- [Taal Volcano’ s toxic gas emission eases](#) (2026-05-30 10:24)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — After emitting high levels of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) over the past two days, Taal Volcano's release of toxic gas slightly eased, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported Saturday, May 30. Phivolcs said Taal Volcano emitted 3,234 metric tons of sulfur dioxide from its main crater in the past

- [Wounded Philippine eagle rescued along Leyte shore](#) (2026-05-30 10:04)

TACLOBAN CITY — A critically endangered Philippine eagle was rescued by residents along the shores of Leyte town on Wednesday, May 27, raising concerns among wildlife authorities over the condition of one of the country's rarest birds of prey. The wounded raptor was found around 10 a.m. in Sitio Core, Barangay Tinocdugan, about 10 kilometers

- [Habagat season begins, Pagasa announces](#) (2026-05-30 09:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The southwest monsoon or habagat season has begun, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced Saturday. Habagat refers to warm, moist winds originating from the southwest, which bring rains to the western portion of the Philippines. "Recent analyses over the past days have shown the presence of southwesterly winds

- [3 most wanted in Ilocos region arrested](#) (2026-05-30 09:42)

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union — Three most wanted persons in the Ilocos Region, including a schoolteacher, were apprehended by the police in separate law enforcement operations last Thursday. The police said the schoolteacher from Aringay, La Union town and the second top most wanted in the area, was served five warrants of arrest —

- [Pagasa raises heat index alert in 6 Calabarzon areas](#) (2026-05-30 09:30)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned residents in six areas of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Quezon provinces of dangerous heat index levels on Saturday, May 30, despite looming rains. Based on Pagasa's 5 p.m. bulletin on Friday, Sangley Point in Cavite City and Infanta, Quezon are expected

- [Metro Manila's heat index may reach 44°C on Saturday](#) (2026-05-30 08:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous levels of heat may be felt in Metro Manila on Saturday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecast on Saturday. Based on the weather bureau's forecast, Metro Manila may log apparent temperatures of 43°C to 44°C, only two to three away from the highest expected heat index for

- [Domeng trough, southwest windflow to bring rains across PH Saturday](#) (2026-05-30 07:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The extension of Severe Tropical Storm Domeng (international name: Jangmi) along with the southwesterly windflow will continue to bring rains in many parts of the country on Saturday, the state weather bureau warned. This is despite Domeng, unlikely to

make a landfall, and is 980 kilometers east of Northern Luzon, moving west-northwestward

- [Marcos ‘watched with horror’ what Senate has become](#) (2026-05-30 05:40)

TOKYO, Japan—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said he “watched with horror” the events that had rocked the Senate over the past three weeks, including the May 13 shooting incident, which he described as “fake.” He also noted how “the discourse had gone shallow” in the chamber, with the differences in views becoming “personal,” if

- [Estrada posts bail in graft case; still no arrest order in plunder rap](#) (2026-05-30 05:38)

A P90,000 bail posted by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Friday kept him out of jail for a graft case in the Sandiganbayan’s Second Division, which ordered his arrest following charges filed by the Office of the Ombudsman. While this court’s Division processed the bailable graft case, no immediate arrest order was issued by the Fifth

- [NBI to summon Bato dela Rosa’s wife over his ‘escape’](#) (2026-05-30 05:36)

The National Bureau of Investigation on Friday said it will subpoena the wife of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa and other individuals who had “recent contact” with him over their possible knowledge of his whereabouts. Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with his role in former President Rodrigo Duterte’s

- [BOC files raps vs cargo firm over 40,000 ‘abandoned’ packages](#) (2026-05-30 05:34)

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday filed a complaint against a Cavite-based cargo company for abandoning in various ports nearly 40,000 “balikbayan” boxes that cost the government more than P30 million in unpaid taxes and duties. Led by Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno, the BOC submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) a complaint against the

- [House prosecutors divide work on Sara Duterte impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-30 05:32)

The House of Representatives has divided its designated prosecutors into separate groups to present their evidence in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, chair of the House committee on justice, said in an online interview on Friday said that Manila Rep. Joel Chua will now handle the preparations for

- [DBM okays 22,268 new DepEd jobs](#) (2026-05-30 05:30)

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has approved 22,268 new nonteaching positions in the Department of Education (DepEd) for fiscal year 2026, according to the education agency. In a statement, DepEd said the new positions consist of 6,000 slots for school principal I; 11,268 for administrative officer II; and 5,000 for project development officer

- [Death toll in building collapse rises to 6](#) (2026-05-30 05:19)

ANGELES CITY—Nearly a week after a nine-story building collapsed into a mass of concrete and twisted steel in Barangay Balibago here, the death toll climbed to six on Friday, but a faint signal

beneath the rubble gave exhausted responders and grieving families something they have been desperately holding on to—hope. Authorities said rescue radar equipment

- [Oriental Mindoro brownouts ‘worsen’](#) (2026-05-30 05:17)

CALAPAN CITY—Rotational brownouts worsened across Oriental Mindoro on Friday after the province’s power supply deficit widened to 18.65 megawatts (MW), prompting additional manual load dropping. According to the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative Inc. (Ormeco), the latest dispatch report from the National Transmission Corp. reflected worsening supply shortages affecting multiple feeders across the province. READ: Oriental Mindoro

- [NDF-Negros rejects localized peace talks, calls it ‘division disguised as diplomacy’](#) (2026-05-30 05:15)

BACOLOD CITY—The National Democratic Front of the Philippines-Negros (NDFP-Negros) on Thursday rejected proposals for localized peace talks in Negros Occidental, insisting that any genuine peace negotiations must be conducted on a national scale. In a statement, the NDFP-Negros said a nationwide conflict requires a nationwide solution. READ: Negros execs push localized peace talks with Reds

- [Ombudsman suspends Catanduanes vice gov, 11 others over Uwan aid mess](#) (2026-05-30 01:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Friday said it suspended Catanduanes Vice Governor Robert Fernandez and 11 Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) members for allegedly causing delays in the utilization and allocation of P30.5 million aid for Super Typhoon Uwan in November last year. Fernandez on Friday noted that the SP is ready to

- [Zubiri breaks silence about ‘betrayal’ resulting in ouster 2 years ago](#) (2026-05-30 00:06)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri publicly broke his silence Wednesday regarding his removal from the Senate leadership two years ago, expressing disappointment over what he described as betrayal by colleagues whom he considered to be close political allies. In an emotional message addressed to his constituents and supporters in Bukidnon, alongside Gov.

- [Missing sabungero kin file obstruction of justice vs Atong Ang’s lawyer](#) (2026-05-29 23:51)

MANILA, Philippines – Five families of the missing sabungeros (cockfighting aficionados) on Friday filed a complaint for obstruction of justice against a lawyer of fugitive businessman Charlie “Atong” Ang and three others over alleged attempts to pay off witnesses that led to them crossing over to the other side of the case. Charlene Lasco, sister

- [Ortega: House remote voting only for emergencies, official assignment](#) (2026-05-29 23:14)

MANILA, Philippines – Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V of La Union on Friday said the House of Representatives’ emergency-based remote voting mechanism, which is limited to emergencies

and official functions, cannot be fairly equated with proposals seeking expanded virtual participation in Senate sessions ahead of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Ortega noted

- [‘Ridiculous:’ UP law prof slams Padilla’s force majeure interpretation](#) (2026-05-29 22:57)

MANILA, Philippines – Redefining “force majeure” to let a fugitive senator vote remotely in plenary sessions and in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial is a legal stretch that should not stand, a University of the Philippines (UP) law professor said Friday. In an interview on DZMM Teleradyo, UP Assistant Professor Michael Tiu Jr. rejected

- [Solar-powered learning tools bridge digital gap for remote learners in ADB, DepEd project](#) (2026-05-29 22:35)

CLARIN, BOHOL — The Department of Education (DepEd) has successfully brought modern, interactive education to Last Mile Schools (LMS) through an international development project, with educators and learners from isolated communities reporting noticeable academic improvements and increased classroom engagement. The initiative, implemented in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), highlights how cross-border collaborations open

- [Adiong to Bato dela Rosa: Show same resolve in VP Sara Duterte trial](#) (2026-05-29 22:27)

MANILA, Philippines – A fellow Mindanaoan lawmaker has challenged fugitive Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to be courageous enough to attend the expected Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. House trial spox Zia Alonto Adiong said Dela Rosa should show the same determination and readiness to face all risks to attend the VP

- [Metro Cebu Water District, Manila Water PH Ventures expand water access in Compostela](#) (2026-05-29 22:19)

MANILA, Philippines – Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD), in partnership with Manila Water Philippine Ventures (MWPV) – Cebu, has recently expanded water access to residents of Barangay Canamucan in the Municipality of Compostela. The initiative marks a significant expansion of service coverage, with water supplied through MWPV-Cebu’s bulk water network sourced from the Luyang River

- [BFP warns against AI-generated photos of rescuers](#) (2026-05-29 22:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) on Friday warned the public against artificial intelligence (AI)-generated photos of rescuers, noting that such photos can easily spread during times of emergency and disasters. In a Facebook advisory, the BFP flagged as “fake news alert” the circulating photos of BFP rescuers posing and dancing in

- [Ultra Lotto ₱75M jackpot not won on May 29](#) (2026-05-29 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Friday, May 29, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 had the winning combination 47-21-43-20-05-37 for a jackpot of ₱75 million. PCSO said there was no jackpot winner. Mega Lotto 6/45 had the winning combination

- [CPD warns of ‘demographic burden’ amid rise in unemployment](#) (2026-05-29 21:40)

MANILA, Philippines – Millions of working-age Filipinos may become a “demographic burden” instead of contributing to economic growth if left with no opportunities for a good quality job, the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) said on Friday. In a statement, the agency called for continuing investments into the country’s human capital as it noted

- [QCPD clarifies viral video shows robbery not rape case](#) (2026-05-29 21:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Friday clarified that a viral video circulating on the internet is a case of robbery, saying that it may have been misinterpreted as a rape case. The QCPD said that the incident in the viral video uploaded by a certain “Manong Balong” occurred in Barangay

- [‘High-value’ drug trafficker busted in Laguna; P522,000 ‘shabu’ seized](#) (2026-05-29 20:59)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Police seized on Thursday, May 28, more than P522,000 worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) from an alleged “high value” trafficker in Santa Rosa City, Laguna province. The Police Regional Office 4A reported on Friday that members of the city drug enforcement unit arrested at 7:25 p.m. an alias “Joel” after selling

- [PMA cadet graduates from US Air Force Academy](#) (2026-05-29 20:51)

BAGUIO CITY — A member of last year’s graduating class of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) has completed a degree at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), the premier military school announced on Friday. Incoming Ensign Dans Uriel Bacalso Ferrer, 23, of Lapu Lapu City, was abroad when his mistahs (classmates) of “Siklab Laya”

- [QCPD urges driver in viral road rage to contact police](#) (2026-05-29 20:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Friday urged the driver involved in a viral road rage in Quezon City to contact the police as probers are investigating the incident. According to the QCPD, the incident transpired along 20th Avenue corner P. Tuazon Boulevard in Barangay Dioquino Zobel in Project 4 around

- [New beginnings: 36 recovering drug users finish rehab in Iloilo City](#) (2026-05-29 20:37)

ILOILO CITY — Some 36 former drug dependents took a significant step toward rebuilding their lives after successfully graduating from the city’s community-based rehabilitation program on Thursday, May 28, 2026. The graduates, who comprise Batch 12 of the Iloilo City Change Center, completed the comprehensive Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Program (CBDRP). A

commencement ceremony was held

- [Negros Occidental may be spared from El Niño dry spell](#) (2026-05-29 20:33)

BACOLOD CITY, Philippines — El Niño is expected to hit other parts of the country, but it appears that Negros Occidental will be spared, according to the state weather bureau. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecast is that the western side of Luzon and Visayas will be spared from the dry

- [Bukidnon town marks 2nd year anniversary as ‘insurgency-free’](#) (2026-05-29 20:27)

SAN FERNANDO, Bukidnon, Philippines — The municipality of San Fernando in Bukidnon marked its second year as an insurgency-free town on Thursday, May 28, sustaining its status as the first municipality among 84 towns in Northern Mindanao to achieve the declaration since 2024. The anniversary celebration gathered local officials, security forces, Indigenous Peoples (IP) leaders,

- [44 areas forecast to hit dangerous heat indices on Saturday \(May 30\)](#) (2026-05-29 20:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Forty-four areas across the country are forecast to reach dangerous heat indices on Saturday, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 p.m. heat index forecast on Friday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that Baler, Aurora is expected to experience the highest heat index at 46°C. This

- [Marcos blames ‘obstructionists’ for turning up ‘political heat’](#) (2026-05-29 19:31)

TOKYO, Japan — It’s only the “obstructionists” themselves who could turn down the political heat currently roiling the government, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asserted on Friday, noting all he had ever done was focus on his job as the nation’s leader. Marcos, who is nearing his fourth year as president, made the statement after being asked

- [TS Domeng may turn into typhoon Saturday or Sunday as it intensifies](#) (2026-05-29 19:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Storm Domeng (international name: Jangmi) will continue to intensify and may develop into a typhoon on Saturday evening or early Sunday, the state weather bureau said on Friday. In its 5 p.m. weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that Domeng maintained its strength while moving

- [Cayetano: Cases being used to intimidate Majority senators](#) (2026-05-29 19:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Investigations and cases related to the infrastructure corruption scandal are supposedly being used to threaten and intimidate members of the Senate Majority bloc, Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano claimed on Friday. Cayetano went live on his Facebook page, claiming that the plan all along was to threaten or intimidate the Majority, and give

- [Legarda leads diagnosis of Antique-Aklan power, connectivity gaps](#) (2026-05-29 18:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda led a substantive diagnosis of the power and connectivity challenges affecting Antique and Aklan and secured commitments for coordinated public-private solutions, emphasizing that reliable electricity and accessible internet are essential to inclusive local development, tourism, education, livelihood, public services, and investment. During a multi-sector briefing at

- [Marcos hints at possible new Cabinet appointees](#) (2026-05-29 18:53)

TOKYO, Japan — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday hinted at possible movements in his Cabinet anew as the one-year ban on appointing previous election candidates had already lapsed. According to Marcos, the country needs all the best people that it can and many candidates in the previous election could potentially do a good job in

- [No arrest warrant yet for Estrada’ s plunder rap due to court motions](#) (2026-05-29 18:49)

MANILA, Philippines — As of Friday evening, the Sandiganbayan’ s Fifth Division has yet to issue an arrest warrant for the non-bailable plunder, as well as graft case, against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former Department of Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan and three other officials. The office of the Fifth Division clerk of court told reporters

- [25 witnesses, including hostile ones, may be presented at impeach trial](#) (2026-05-29 18:43)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 25 witnesses — including hostile ones — will be presented by the prosecution team in proving the four grounds mentioned in the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said. Luistro made the revelation during an online interview with reporters on Friday, saying that bulk of

- [Suspect in deadly 2025 election shooting in Negros arrested](#) (2026-05-29 18:38)

BACOLOD CITY—A 43-year-old man wanted for a violent May 2025 election day shooting in Silay City, Negros Occidental has been arrested. The shooting last year killed two people and left eight others injured. The Police Regional Office Negros Island Region (PRO NIR) said police officers captured the suspect, identified only by his alias “Clar,” during

- [Is it wrong to talk about changing Senate rules? – Cayetano](#) (2026-05-29 18:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano is now asking the public whether it’ s wrong to talk about changing the rules, amid a public uproar over proposals from Sen. Rodante Marcoleta about allowing remote participation and voting on matters up for plenary consideration. In a Facebook livestream on Friday, Cayetano raised this question while also

- [From bin to ocean: How plastic waste escapes Philippine systems](#) (2026-05-29 18:05)

(Part 2) Part 1: Low consumption, high leakage: The Philippines’ plastic paradox MANILA, Philippines — The problem with plastic waste in the Philippines is not just where it ends, but how it moves. A sachet thrown into a bin does not simply stay in one place. It passes through a chain of production, consumption, collection,

- [Mark Villar hails outstanding college grads, student leaders of 2026](#) (2026-05-29 18:04)

PASAY CITY — Sen. Mark Villar once again paid tribute to outstanding graduating college students from various higher education institutions across the country through the Mark Villar Leadership Awards, recognizing young Filipinos who demonstrated excellence in leadership, academics, and service to their school communities. This year's awardees came from Zamboanga Peninsula Polytechnic State University, Cebu

- [Senate hearings into flood control scandal to resume on June 4 – Cayetano](#) (2026-05-29 17:33)

Updated @ 7:09 p.m., May 29, 2026 MANILA, Philippines — The Senate blue ribbon committee will resume its hearings into the flood control scandal on Thursday, June 4, Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano said on Friday. “Senator [Rodante] Marcoleta will issue the notices on Monday to continue on Thursday the flood control scam hearings,” Cayetano

- [House prosecutors split work so Luistro can focus on leading team](#) (2026-05-29 17:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' prosecution team for Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial assigned new small-group leaders to present evidence on each ground, allowing Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro to focus more on her role as lead prosecutor. Luistro, in an online interview on Friday, said that Manila Rep. Joel Chua will now handle the

- [Man nabbed for trying to scam Matibag about dela Rosa whereabouts](#) (2026-05-29 17:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested a man who tried to scam Director Melvin Matibag of the National Bureau of Investigation by saying that he allegedly has information on the whereabouts of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. In a press conference on Friday, Matibag narrated that the suspect first communicated

- [Hopes rise after radar detects movements under Angeles collapse site](#) (2026-05-29 17:10)

ANGELES CITY — Rescue operations intensified Friday afternoon after authorities detected four moving entities beneath the rubble of the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here, raising hopes that possible survivors may still be trapped inside the debris. According to the Unified Command Management Option overseeing operations at ground zero, rescue radar equipment detected movement

- [1 dead, 21 hurt in collision between armored van and bus in Quezon City](#) (2026-05-29 17:07)

MANILA, Philippines — A man was killed, and 21 others were injured after an armored van truck collided with a bus in Quezon City on Friday, the police said. The two vehicles crashed into each other at the intersection of Quezon Avenue and Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago Avenue in Barangay Bagong Pag-asa shortly after 5:08

- [WATCH: Jinggoy Estrada posts P90,000 bail for graft case](#) (2026-05-29 16:59)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada arrives at the Sandiganbayan to post P90,000 bail in his graft case after the anti-graft court's Second Division issued a warrant for his arrest. /atm /dm READ: Sen. Jinggoy Estrada posts P90,000 bail for graft case at Sandiganbayan

- [Calapan City under 'danger' heat index at 44°C — CDRRMO](#) (2026-05-29 16:57)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) on Friday urged residents to take precautions against extreme heat after the heat index in Calapan City reached 44 degrees Celsius, placing it under the “danger” category. In a heat index advisory issued at 2 p.m., the monitoring station at the

- [PNP proposes national police clearance fee hike to P200](#) (2026-05-29 16:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has proposed increasing the national police clearance fee to P200. The current national police clearance fee is P150, according to the PNP's application portal. READ: New PNP mobile app to direct public to official channels, services In an advisory posted on social media, the PNP explained, “The

- [LTO suspends license of driver in viral road rage incident](#) (2026-05-29 16:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has suspended for 90 days the driver's license of a motorist involved in a viral road rage incident amid the issuance of a show cause order against him. According to the LTO on Friday, this came after a viral video where the driver was involved in an

- [Online participation may favor those who are tracking dela Rosa – Lacson](#) (2026-05-29 16:45)

MANILA, Philippines—Amending the rules of the Senate to allow virtual participation by its members would favor law enforcers tracking Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, according to Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) over his role as then police chief in the Duterte administration's war on illegal drugs. He

- [No violations in search operations for dela Rosa – DILG](#) (2026-05-29 16:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla maintained on Friday that the police operations to search for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa did not violate any law enforcement procedures. Speaking to reporters in Camp Karingal in Quezon City, Remulla answered social media posts by dela Rosa's wife, Nancy, questioning the legality of

- [Ex-barangay captain gunned down in Pagadian City](#) (2026-05-29 16:29)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A former barangay captain of Upper Sang-an, Labangan town in Zamboanga del Sur, was shot dead in broad daylight along the national highway in Barangay Tawagan Sur here on Thursday afternoon. Initial police investigation showed that the victim was riding his yellow motorcycle and was reportedly on his way

- [Man in custody for faking survival in Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-05-29 16:11)

ANGELES CITY — A man who falsely claimed to have survived the collapse of the nine-story building in Barangay Balibago is now in police custody as authorities prepare to file appropriate charges against him. The Angeles City Police Office (ACPO) said on Friday that the individual fabricated a story alleging he survived the tragedy after

- [Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan post P90K bail each for graft cases at Sandigan](#) (2026-05-29 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) chief Manuel Bonoan posted a P90,000 bail each for their graft case in the Sandiganbayan Second Division. These moves came after the anti-graft court's Second Division issued an arrest warrant against the two of them over the

- [NBI to subpoena dela Rosa's wife, ask her about his whereabouts](#) (2026-05-29 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will issue a subpoena against Nancy dela Rosa, wife of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, and other individuals who have had recent contact with him. This occurred amid the bureau's manhunt operation against the senator in connection with the arrest warrant recently issued by the International

- [Lacson: Senator-judges facing arrest may join trial through court leave](#) (2026-05-29 15:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Friday said senator-judges facing arrest or detention may still participate in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte without resorting to online attendance or voting. Contrary to the motion to allow remote participation, Lacson said the Senate's rules only allow it in cases of force majeure,

- [From plankton to tuna: How Super El Niño upends marine ecosystems](#) (2026-05-29 15:07)

Super El Niño events are among the most disruptive climate anomalies of the modern era, with profound effects on marine ecosystems and fisheries worldwide. While the impacts of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycles are well documented, Super El Niño magnifies ecological disruptions, undermining food security, livelihoods and economic stability in coastal and island nations. This

- [LTO summons drivers, owners of jeep, armored van involved in QC crash](#) (2026-05-29 14:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The registered owners and drivers of a modern jeepney and armored van involved in a crash in Quezon City have been summoned by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), the agency said on Friday. Citing reports from the Quezon City Police District, the LTO said that the incident occurred on Friday morning along

- [House lawmakers take Sara Duterte impeachment case to constituents](#) (2026-05-29 14:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V has admitted that several lawmakers from the House of Representatives had started bringing discussions on Vice President Sara Duterte’ s impeachment trial to their respective constituents, in what appears to be a new battleground for the prosecution side. In a statement on Friday, Ortega said that a team composed

- [NBI ready to arrest Estrada following Sandigan’ s arrest warrant – Matibag](#) (2026-05-29 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will locate Sen. Jinggoy Estrada following the Sandiganbayan’ s issuance of an arrest warrant against him, according to NBI Director Melvin Matibag. Earlier this Friday, the Sandiganbayan issued an arrest warrant against Estrada in connection with his graft case, which is bailable. In a press conference on

- [Jinggoy Estrada en route to Sandiganbayan to post bail — Remulla](#) (2026-05-29 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada is on the way to the Sandiganbayan to post bail over his graft case, according to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla. “It is a bailable case. So, I coordinated with Senator Jinggoy’ s camp and they informed me that he is on his way to the Sandiganbayan,” Remulla

- [Missing sabungeros’ kin claim payoff, seek charges vs Atong Ang’ s lawyer](#) (2026-05-29 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines—The families of missing sabungeros (cockfighting aficionados) are planning to file a case of obstruction of justice against a lawyer of fugitive businessman Charlie “Atong” Ang. The case stems from alleged attempts of the counsel to bribe other relatives into skipping the case hearings. Charlene Lasco, the sister of an e-sabong master agent, went

- [Guiuan, Eastern Samar logs highest heat index so far at 48°C](#) (2026-05-29 14:27)

TACLOBAN CITY- The town of Guiuan in Eastern Samar recorded a heat index of 48 degrees Celsius at around noon on Friday, marking its highest heat index so far this year, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). While the 48°C heat index is the highest recorded in Guiuan for 2026,

- [Rotating outages hit Oriental Mindoro amid power shortage](#) (2026-05-29 14:15)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The power supply deficit in the Oriental Mindoro grid widened to 15.41 megawatts (MW) as of 11 a.m. on Friday, prompting continued manual load dropping in several areas, according to the latest dispatch report of the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo). Data from the grid operator showed that at least 17.600

- [Dole returns to 5-day workweek schedule starting June 1](#) (2026-05-29 14:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) will revert to the five-day workweek arrangement starting June 1, 2026 after complying with a compressed work

schedule for energy-saving measures due to the Middle East conflict, the agency said on Friday. According to Dole, this came after Labor secretary Francis Tolentino on Thursday signed

- [Marcos on Marcoleta saying he selects Senate prexy: Out of this world](#) (2026-05-29 14:01)

TOKYO, Japan — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. described as “out of this world” the remarks made by Sen. Rodante Marcoleta that the Senate presidency of Alan Peter Cayetano is the only one without Malacañang’s blessing. “Malacañang doesn’t give a rubber stamp to the Senate president,” the president asserted during an interview with Philippine media here before

- [Marcos: No truth to rumors Remulla will be replaced as DILG chief](#) (2026-05-29 13:47)

TOKYO, Japan — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has finally put an end to speculations about Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla’s fate at the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), saying there is no truth in circulating rumors about the latter’s replacement. Marcos made the clarification at an interview with Philippine media here on Friday, as

- [Sandiganbayan orders arrest of Jinggoy Estrada](#) (2026-05-29 13:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan on Thursday issued a warrant of arrest against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in connection with his graft case. The warrant came after the Office of the Ombudsman formally charged Estrada with graft, as well as plunder, a non-bailable offense punishable by life imprisonment. The antigraft body filed the case weeks after

- [DILG mulls reward for Bato Dela Rosa arrest](#) (2026-05-29 13:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said his department was considering a reward for the arrest of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with his alleged participation in former President Rodrigo Duterte’s bloody war on drugs. As the

- [Ortega to Marcoleta: Remote House voting allowed only during emergencies](#) (2026-05-29 13:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Sagip party-list Rep. Paolo Henry Marcoleta has been asked not to cherry-pick portions of the House of Representatives’ rules that are convenient to his and his father’s argument on remote voting during session, as an official noted that virtual participation is only allowed during emergencies. In a statement on Friday, Deputy Speaker Paolo

- [PNP backs EJK Truth Commission; to join hands with independent body](#) (2026-05-29 13:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) will cooperate within the bounds of the law with the independent and civilian-led body launched to document killings and abuses linked to the bloody drug war campaign of former President Rodrigo Duterte, PNP chief, PGen. Jose Melencio Nartatez said on Friday. The PNP said it welcomes the

- [Marcos denies Senate majority being ‘targeted’ by gov’t](#) (2026-05-29 12:45)

TOKYO, Japan — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday dismissed claims that the Senate majority members are being “targeted” by the administration following a series of cases filed against some of the senators who are part of the bloc. “I don’t know how it ended up being said that the majority now is being targeted. Because

- [BARMM parliament speaker rejects calls for his resignation](#) (2026-05-29 12:22)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament Speaker Mohammad Yacob has rejected calls for his resignation from a civil society coalition, defending the parliament’s legislative integrity while urging stakeholders to pursue constructive dialogue rather than what he called “divisive allegations.” READ: Peace adviser to BARMM: Stay calm, united ahead of September polls The Recover

- [Marcos: Only Bato Dela Rosa would benefit from Senate remote voting](#) (2026-05-29 12:21)

TOKYO, Japan — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday expressed disagreement with the proposal to allow remote voting of Senators even during nonemergencies, adding only Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa would benefit from it, as he is a fugitive from justice. He made the remarks at a sit-down interview with reporters here as he concluded his

- [Marcos says he watched in ‘horror’ as Senate drama unfolded](#) (2026-05-29 12:06)

TOKYO, Japan — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said he had watched “with horror” the recent Senate fiasco and never did he imagine that the legislative chamber would “descend” to that level. In a sit-down interview with Philippine media here, Marcos was asked how concerning the recent happenings in the Senate were. READ: Shots fired

- [PNP: Senators ‘know the consequences’ if they helped Bato Dela Rosa flee](#) (2026-05-29 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said senators “know the consequences” if they are proven to have helped Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa escape law enforcers. The PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) earlier filed an obstruction of justice case against Sen. Robin Padilla and at least five other individuals

- [BOC pursues legal action vs Makati Express Cargo over abandoned boxes](#) (2026-05-29 11:54)

MANILA, Philippines — A Cavite-based cargo company is facing criminal charges for abandoning at various ports more than 100 containers containing thousands of balikbayan boxes meant for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families. The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday filed criminal complaint affidavits before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against the officers and

- [DOJ weighs CIDG complaint against Robin Padilla](#) (2026-05-29 11:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Justice (DOJ) will evaluate the newly filed complaint by the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) against Sen. Robin Padilla and his co-respondents. “As with any complaint filed before the department, the same will be evaluated in accordance with established procedures and applicable rules,” DOJ Spokesperson Atty.

- [Jonvic Remulla to Bato Dela Rosa: ‘Please surrender’](#) (2026-05-29 11:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla appealed to Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa to surrender amid the International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant against the latter. In an interview with reporters in Camp Karingal in Quezon City on Friday, Remulla said law enforcers’ search for the senator so far has failed

- [Oriental Mindoro braces for brownouts amid supply deficit](#) (2026-05-29 11:28)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Residents across Oriental Mindoro may experience additional rounds of rotational brownouts on Friday after the province’s power supply deficit widened to 21.87 megawatts (MW), according to a power advisory issued by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco). Ormeco said electricity demand in the province reached 77.32 MW while the available

- [CIDG to subpoena owner over Angeles City building collapse — Remulla](#) (2026-05-29 11:27)

[Updated May 29, 2026, 1:50 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP- CIDG) will subpoena the owner of a building that collapsed in Angeles City, Pampanga, according to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla. Earlier on Friday, the death toll from the incident rose to six, five

- [Remulla on probing Cayetano in Aplasca role in Senate shooting: ‘Maybe’](#) (2026-05-29 11:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Will the Philippine National Police (PNP) look into Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano over now-suspended Senate sergeant-at-arms Mao Aplasca’s role in the shooting incident there earlier this month? “Maybe,” Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla answered when asked this question in an interview with reporters in Camp Karingal in Quezon City on Friday. “For

- [Father, son among latest fatalities in Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-05-29 11:05)

ANGELES CITY — Authorities on Friday identified the latest fatalities recovered from the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here as a father and son who were among the construction workers trapped beneath the rubble. The fifth fatality was identified as 26-year-old Christian Sabile, whose body was retrieved from the hot zone at around 7:57

- [DILG chief to Jinggoy Estrada: Surrender or get arrested](#) (2026-05-29 10:56)

[Updated May 29, 2026, 1:24 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — “Surrender or arrest.” Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said these are Sen. Jinggoy Estrada’s options amid the latter’s looming arrest over plunder and graft. “We spoke yesterday. I called him. I told him [his choices are] either surrender or arrest. He told me he’ll think about it.

- [9 Calabarzon areas face dangerous heat index](#) (2026-05-29 10:41)

LUCENA CITY — At least nine areas in Cavite, Batangas, Quezon, and Laguna, that make up the Calabarzon region, are expected to experience dangerous heat index levels on Friday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). In its 5 p.m. bulletin issued Thursday, Pagasa said Sangley Point in Cavite City, Cavite,

- [Romualdez says no such thing as ‘functional control’ over budget](#) (2026-05-29 10:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of former House of Representatives Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez has maintained that there is no such thing as a “functional control” over the entire budget process, noting that no single person has discretion over every step of appropriations. In a statement on Friday, Romualdez’s spokesperson lawyer Elaine Atienza said that they

- [2 drug suspects nabbed in Quezon; P2.1-million shabu seized](#) (2026-05-29 10:24)

LUCENA CITY — Police arrested two alleged high-value drug suspects and seized suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) worth up to P2.1 million during a buy-bust operation in Tiaong, Quezon, on Thursday. Colonel Romulo Albacea, director of the Quezon Police Provincial Office (QPPO), said anti-illegal drug operatives arrested the suspects, identified only by their aliases “Randy,” 49,

- [Hontiveros: Focus on anti-online child abuse instead of remote voting](#) (2026-05-29 10:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Friday urged her colleagues to stop spending time on discussing senators’ participation through videoconferencing and instead prioritize a measure seeking to strengthen the country’s law against online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). With the Senate convened as an impeachment court and several senators facing cases and

- [Imee Marcos hits ‘political persecution’ vs allies in Senate majority](#) (2026-05-29 10:12)

MANILA, Philippines— Sen. Imee Marcos on Friday branded the filing of plunder and graft charges against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and other allies in the new majority bloc in the Senate as “political persecution”. Marcos and Estrada belong to the 13-member majority bloc led by newly installed Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano. “Political persecution,” the presidential sister said in a message to reporters after the Office

- [LGU: Owner, contractor of collapsed Angeles site finally surface](#) (2026-05-29 09:45)

ANGELES CITY — After several days of silence, the owner and contractor of the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here have finally reached out to the Angeles City local government unit (LGU) and expressed willingness to cooperate in the ongoing investigation into the deadly incident. In a statement sent to the Inquirer on Thursday

- [Stranded false killer whale in Calapan rescued, returned to sea](#) (2026-05-29 09:27)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A false killer whale that had been stranded along the shoreline of Barangay Navotas in this city for nearly three days successfully returned to the sea, local authorities said on Friday. According to local responders, the marine mammal was transported to a deeper portion of the sea at around 1:40

- [PNP boosts patrols to curb crime vs youth as school year starts](#) (2026-05-29 09:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is intensifying its street patrols ahead of the opening of School Year 2026–2027 in a bid to combat petty crime and gang activities targeting the youth. “Our primary focus remains the total safety of millions of returning students,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez said in a

- [Death toll in Angeles building collapse rises to 6](#) (2026-05-29 09:09)

ANGELES CITY — Another body was retrieved from the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here at 12:40 a.m. on Friday, raising the death toll to six. Responders confirmed the sighting of another body at around 9 p.m. on Thursday as retrieval efforts continued at the unstable disaster site. The discovery came less than a

- [2 Army recruits die during training in Tarlac; probe underway](#) (2026-05-29 09:08)

[Updated May 29, 2026, 12:49 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army is investigating the deaths of two military recruits who collapsed during training in Tarlac province this week, the military said on Friday. The recruits, both members of Candidate Soldier Class 806-2026, died on May 26 while undergoing training at the School for Candidate

- [HEAT INDEX WATCH: Danger level in 51 areas Friday](#) (2026-05-29 09:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Hot and humid conditions persist as danger-level heat indices are expected in 51 areas across the country on Friday, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the peak heat index will reach 47°C in Sangley Point, Cavite City, and Casiguran, Aurora. Meanwhile, Pasay

- [Brownouts loom in Visayas amid thin power supply](#) (2026-05-29 08:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Households and businesses in the Visayas may experience power interruptions on Friday, as four large coal plants remain unavailable despite rising electricity demand. The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) placed the Visayas under red alert anew on Friday, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. READ: Power outage hits 4 Zambales

- [TS Domeng’ s indirect effect, southwesterly winds to drench PH](#) (2026-05-29 07:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Tropical Storm Domeng is not expected to make landfall in the country but may enhance the southwesterly windflow, triggering rains over several parts of the country on Friday, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Domeng was last spotted 1,345 kilometers east of

- [La Salle to senators: Serve people, not power](#) (2026-05-29 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Leaders of the De La Salle community across the country urged senators to put public service above political interests, warning them against the “normalization” of state institutions being used to protect “a powerful few from accountability.” In a statement on Wednesday, the heads of LaSallian schools and universities in the Philippines decried

- [Motherhood’ s joy dimmed by kidney disease](#) (2026-05-29 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — In the past six months, Manelyn “Mane” Baay and her husband, Joel, have experienced both joy and despair. Late last year, the couple from Tagbilaran City, Bohol, welcomed their baby, Emmanuel. But in April, Mane, who is only 35 years old, was diagnosed with Stage 5 chronic kidney disease after undergoing tests

- [Dela Rosa seems to be heeding Lacson’ s ‘advice’](#) (2026-05-29 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — What began in late 2025 as a political joke that Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa would eventually break Sen. Panfilo Lacson’ s record for hiding from authorities now appears closer to reality, as the former Philippine National Police chief remained out of sight two weeks after slipping out of the Senate’ s “protective custody.”

- [Plunder raps filed vs Estrada, Bonoan, 3 others over ‘insertions’](#) (2026-05-29 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada was charged with plunder in the Sandiganbayan on Thursday over alleged irregular insertions in the 2025 national budget—the third time he has been accused of the same crime for which he was twice acquitted. The Office of the Ombudsman said Estrada, who is also accused of graft, allegedly received

- [Risk of another collapse hampers Angeles ops](#) (2026-05-29 05:06)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — Inside the unstable debris field of the collapsed nine-story building at Barangay Balibago here, the recovery of the fifth fatality on Thursday highlighted the difficult and high-risk conditions responders continue to face at ground zero of the tragedy. The body was retrieved at 7:57 a.m. after more than 11 hours

- [Erratic weather harmful to Pangasinan ‘bangus’](#) (2026-05-29 05:04)

BINMALEY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — At 2 a.m. of May 16, Joebert Correa, 57, waded into his fishpond here after noticing the “bangus” (milkfish) he was raising were gasping for air

following a light rain. “I already turned on the aerator at 12 a.m., but I observed that the fishwere not swimming toward the area

- [Rains fail to increase Angat dam level](#) (2026-05-29 05:02)

CITY OF MALOLOS, BULACAN, Philippines — The water level at Angat Dam, which supplies the biggest bulk of Metro Manila’ s water needs, continues to dip way below its normal operating level even amid intermittent rains. This came as local governments in Bulacan province are complaining about their farmers not being served with irrigation water, leading

- [Another body sighted at Angeles collapse site; retrieval efforts ongoing](#) (2026-05-29 03:55)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — Responders at the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here confirmed sighting of another body at around 9 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, as retrieval efforts continued inside the unstable disaster site. Authorities said rescue and retrieval teams are currently working to carefully access and retrieve the body from beneath

- [False killer whale still alive after 20 hours stranded off Calapan](#) (2026-05-29 03:44)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — A marine mammal found stranded along the shoreline of Barangay Navotas in this city remained alive more than 20 hours after it was first discovered, as authorities and marine experts continued efforts to monitor and care for the animal. In an update released on Thursday, May 28, local officials

- [Lucena misses annual ‘Pasayahan’ after austerity-driven cancellation](#) (2026-05-29 03:34)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — Local residents missed the annual Maytime parade in this bustling capital of Quezon province on May 28, a long-running festival spectacle known for showcasing the city’ s cultural heritage, creativity, and community spirit. “Although the cancellation was announced last month, my grandkids were still very disappointed. They anticipated seeing popular movie

- [Red tide warning up in Pangasinan’ s Anda, Bolinao towns](#) (2026-05-29 03:08)

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION, Philippines — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region I (BFAR-1) called on the public and all concerned stakeholders to remain vigilant and strictly comply with shellfish advisories amid the continuing threat of red tide contamination. “This is to prevent health risks associated with red tide toxins,” BFAR said

- [Viral tree in Tagbilaran brings ‘Cherry blossom’ vibes to locals](#) (2026-05-29 02:56)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — A blooming pink trumpet tree near a mall in this city has become an instant attraction, with many residents flocking to the area to take photos and admire what some describe as a “little piece of Japan” in Bohol. The tree, located on a vacant lot, recently burst into

- [Drug den dismantled in Dipolog City; 4 nabbed](#) (2026-05-29 02:48)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Anti-narcotics agents on Wednesday afternoon raided a suspected drug den in Barangay Olingan, Dipolog City, arresting four alleged high-value individuals and seizing P68,000 worth of shabu. Personnel of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Zamboanga del Norte, backed by local police units, carried out the operation in

- [Five NPA rebels surrender in Masbate](#) (2026-05-29 02:42)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Five alleged members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to the Army's 903rd Infantry Brigade on Tuesday, May 26, amid intensified military operations in Masbate province. The former rebels also turned over six firearms, including high- and low-powered weapons, Col. Angel Lutera of the 903rd Infantry Brigade, said in

- [2 Kalinga village execs trade jabs for project funds](#) (2026-05-29 02:35)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Two village chiefs in Pinukpok town of Kalinga province traded punches in the boxing ring on Wednesday, May 27, after Mayor Jimmy Dasayon promised P500,000 worth of projects to the winner's barangay during the town's first Gimpong Festival. The special exhibition match was staged during a boxing tournament held as part

- [Soldier found dead in creek along Samar highway](#) (2026-05-29 02:01)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — A man believed to be an active soldier assigned to the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City was found dead Thursday morning, May 28, in a creek beside an unfinished portion of the national highway in Gandara, Samar. Police identified the victim only by his alias "Sonny," 39, married,

- [Man arrested for stealing copper wires beneath San Juanico Bridge](#) (2026-05-29 01:43)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — A 27-year-old man was arrested after he was allegedly caught cutting copper wires installed beneath the San Juanico Bridge during a patrol operation conducted by police in Tacloban City on Wednesday, May 27. The suspect, identified only by his alias "Garong," is a resident of Barangay San Pedro in Sta.

- [Eastern Visayas athletes recover after stomach upset at Palaro](#) (2026-05-29 01:12)

PROSPERIDAD, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Several student-athletes from the Eastern Visayas delegation suffered stomach upset during the ongoing Palarong Pambansa 2026 in Agusan del Sur, regional officials confirmed on Thursday. Affected were members of the Arnis, Volleyball, and Rhythmic Gymnastics teams who experienced abdominal pain, vomiting, and loose bowel movement on May 26, according

- [Pangilinan explains: 'Force majeure refers to natural calamities'](#) (2026-05-28 23:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan on Thursday clarified that force majeure does not apply to the recent Senate shooting incident or Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s escape, as the term refers to natural calamities beyond human control. “Force majeure refers to natural disasters or calamities, or in legal terms, “acts of God” that

- [Vargas bats for e-libraries amid low reading comprehension reports](#) (2026-05-28 22:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The creation of digital libraries may provide a solution to reports of low reading comprehension among Filipino students even at the Grade 11 level, Quezon City Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas said on Thursday. Vargas, in a statement said that he has been pushing for e-libraries, saying that his House Bills (HB) No.

- [Plunder raps vs Jinggoy Estrada good, but justice must not be selective](#) (2026-05-28 22:32)

MANILA, Philippines — While the filing of plunder charges against Senator Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan over alleged kickbacks from infrastructure projects is good, there must be no selective justice in the pursuit of accountability, ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said. Tinio, in a statement on Thursday, said that the

- [May 28 lotto jackpots reach ₱35M with no winners](#) (2026-05-28 21:45)

MANILA, Philippines—No ticket holder won the jackpots in the major lotto draws on Thursday, May 28, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). SuperLotto 6/49 had the winning combination 39-40-01-47-29-17 for a jackpot of ₱25 million. The PCSO said there was no jackpot winner. Lotto 6/42 had the winning combination 39-38-34-21-10-03 for a jackpot

- [Manila Water sets June desludging: Healthy communities, clean waterways](#) (2026-05-28 21:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water has released its barangay desludging service schedule for June 2026, continuing its regular sanitation program that helps maintain clean, safe, and environmentally responsible communities across its East Zone service area. The scheduled desludging activities support proper septic tank maintenance, reducing health risks associated with untreated wastewater while preventing the pollution

- [Coalition airs concerns on Stradcom-led LTO system, possible data breach](#) (2026-05-28 21:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A coalition on Thursday urged the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DepDev) to address its concerns on possible data breach and alleged bypass of clearance over the continued use of Stradcom-led LTO IT system. Coalition 169 noted that the LTO continued

- [El Niño may cut PH rice output by 700,000 metric tons, says DA](#) (2026-05-28 20:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Thursday warned that a severe El Niño could slash national rice output by as much as 700,000 metric tons, signaling serious risks to the country's food security and rural incomes. The DA made the pronouncement as it ordered the reconvening of its El Niño task force

- [Loren Legarda joins Manila school visit, promotes Aral Program](#) (2026-05-28 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda joined the site visit to Sen. Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Elementary School and President Corazon C. Aquino High School in Baseco, Manila recently. The chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education and Co-Chairperson of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom II), was there to

- [CIDG files obstruction raps vs Padilla, 5 others over dela Rosa's escape](#) (2026-05-28 19:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP CIDG) has filed a complaint before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against Sen. Robin Padilla and five others for obstruction of justice. CIDG public information chief Maj. Helen dela Cruz confirmed this in a text message to the Inquirer on Thursday evening.

- [Sabungeros case: Over 2,000 bones from Taal Lake examined — PNP](#) (2026-05-28 19:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police Forensic Group (PNP FG) has examined over 2,000 bones so far as part of the search for the remains of cockfighting aficionados (sabungeros) who were reportedly killed and thrown into Taal Lake in Batangas, the agency said on Thursday. Asked whether efforts to recover the sabungeros' remains—which began

- [BOC: P841-M illicit goods seized in Valenzuela warehouse](#) (2026-05-28 19:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized suspected counterfeit goods worth P841 million in a warehouse in Valenzuela City, the agency said on Thursday. According to the agency, the operation was conducted after receiving information on the alleged storage of fake goods in the warehouse. Authorities proceeded to the said warehouse last April

- [Bojie Dy rallies barangays to end illiteracy, break cycle of poverty](#) (2026-05-28 19:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III on Thursday urged barangays across the country to take a leading role in the fight against illiteracy, emphasizing that education and literacy are key to lifting Filipinos out of poverty and securing a stronger future for the nation. Speaking at the National Convention of the Liga

- [PNP probes possible sabotage in Batangas power line](#) (2026-05-28 19:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is investigating possible sabotage as the reason why the Ilijan-Tayabas power line in Batangas tripped. “Criminal investigators and forensic teams have already been deployed to the site to gather physical evidence,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on Thursday. “My instruction is

- [Sandiganbayan 5th Division gets Estrada’ s new plunder, graft raps](#) (2026-05-28 18:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Fifth Division will handle Sen. Jinggoy Estrada’ s new graft case over alleged kickbacks amounting to P573 million from Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) projects. READ: P573M ‘systematically delivered’ to Jinggoy Estrada in 3rd plunder case During the case raffle, the Fifth Division was chosen to handle the plunder

- [PNP: Suspected drug lab found in Occidental Mindoro town](#) (2026-05-28 18:49)

MANILA, Philippines — A suspected clandestine illegal drug laboratory was discovered in Occidental Mindoro, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Thursday. Operatives found the site on Golo Island in Sitio Kaybunga, Barangay Bulacan, Looc town, last Tuesday afternoon, following a tip from a suspect earlier arrested in Batangas, according to PNP chief Gen. Jose

- [‘Options given’ to Estrada amid possible arrest, says DILG](#) (2026-05-28 18:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday said he had “given options” to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada amid the latter’ s looming arrest. “[I] talked to him already,” Remulla said in a text message sent to reporters. “I gave him options and he said he will think about it,” the DILG chief

- [Suan opposes remote voting in Senate plenary or impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-28 18:35)

MANILA, Philippines — While he respects whatever the Senate’ s decision regarding remote participation — whether it is for the plenary session or in the looming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte — Cagayan de Oro Rep. Lordan Suan believes it should not be allowed. Suan, during an online interview on Thursday with reporters covering the

- [Tinio: K-12 a failure as 87% of Grade 11 students struggle with reading](#) (2026-05-28 18:14)

MANILA, Philippines — A report from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) showing that 87 percent of Grade 11 students cannot understand what they read only underscores the failure of the K-12 education, ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said. In an ambush interview Thursday after the House committee on basic education hearing,

- [Heat index reaches 47°C in four areas on Thursday, May 28](#) (2026-05-28 18:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Recorded heat indices on Thursday, May 28 peaked at 47°C in four areas, namely Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; Casiguran, Aurora; San Ildefonso, Bulacan; and Sangley Point, Cavite City, said the state weather bureau. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) tags this level of heat index—particularly those ranging between 42°C and

- [PNP: P6.4-M drugs found in parcels at Pasay mail hub](#) (2026-05-28 17:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Suspected illegal drugs worth P6.4 million were intercepted from five abandoned inbound parcels at the Central Mail Exchange Center in Pasay City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Thursday. “The parcels were flagged during routine x-ray screening and further subjected to manual examination and K-9 inspection,” the PNP explained, noting the

- [Jinggoy Estrada to ‘show irregularities’ in plunder, graft raps](#) (2026-05-28 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said on Thursday that he and his camp are preparing to show that there are “irregularities” in the plunder, graft, and bribery cases filed against him. The Office of the Ombudsman filed the cases against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan over alleged government flood-control project anomalies, following the Department of

- [P573M ‘systematically delivered’ to Jinggoy Estrada in 3rd plunder case](#) (2026-05-28 17:23)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of P573 million worth of alleged kickbacks was “systematically delivered” to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the Office of the Ombudsman learned, prompting its filing of the third plunder case against the majority bloc senator. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano made this known as he provided more details of the plunder and graft

- [5 killed as truck overturns in Benguet](#) (2026-05-28 17:18)

BAGUIO CITY — Five people, including two children, were killed after a six-wheeler truck carrying 39 passengers overturned Thursday morning along the Cong. Andres Acop Cosalan National Road in Barangay Poblacion, Kabayan, Benguet, authorities said. The truck figured in the accident at Sitio Guay in Poblacion after suffering an alleged mechanical failure, according to the

- [Robin Padilla: Let Bato dela Rosa do his work online](#) (2026-05-28 17:17)

MANILA, Philippines — As an elected senator, Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa should be allowed to perform his duties through online participation, Sen. Robin Padilla said on Thursday. Padilla defended Dela Rosa’s continued absence from the Senate amid an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with the previous administration’s war on

- [DepEd urged to focus on students’ reading comprehension](#) (2026-05-28 17:11)

MANILA, Philippines — A lawmaker has urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to focus on addressing reading comprehension problems encountered by students as old as those in Grade 11, instead of adopting new policies and listening to the different suggestions of stakeholders. On Thursday, after the hearing of the House of Representatives’ committee on basic education,

- [Labor groups protest ‘fake anti-dynasty bill’ as it nears House approval](#) (2026-05-28 17:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Labor groups on Thursday trooped to the House of Representatives to denounce what they called a sham bid to outlaw political dynasties. Their move comes as the lower chamber comes closer to passing legislation that will bar second-degree relatives from holding office at the same time. “House Bill No. 8389... is a

- [Trouble in paradise: Siargao grapples with unruly tourists](#) (2026-05-28 16:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government has renewed calls for responsible travel following a series of violent incidents involving foreign tourists on this popular surfing island, sparking concerns over visitor behavior and local safety. The Department of Tourism (DOT) and local officials in General Luna—the island’s primary tourism hub—reiterated a stricter code of conduct for

- [Senate should focus on Duterte impeach trial, not flood mess – solon](#) (2026-05-28 16:54)

MANILA, Philippines – The Senate should focus on the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte rather than the multibillion-peso flood control scandal, Tingog Rep. Jude Acidre said on Thursday. Acidre urged senators to let the state graft buster investigate the flood control projects issue that has stirred tensions in the chamber after some senators

- [‘Prince of Ibalong’ : Bicol myth turned into video game prototype](#) (2026-05-28 16:52)

Long before heroes were rendered in pixels and landscapes built from digital code, the Bicol Region had already been telling stories of courage, monsters and destiny through the ancient verses of the Ibalong Epic. Passed down through generations, the epic remains one of the Philippines’ most treasured literary and cultural inheritances, though for many, its

- [Tulfo slams Padilla’s take on force majeure: Absent due to hot weather?](#) (2026-05-28 16:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Minority Senator Erwin Tulfo on Thursday questioned majority Senator Robin Padilla’s description of “force majeure” after the latter said it could be invoked due to the forecasted severe La Niña and El Niño. On Wednesday evening, Padilla said a force majeure clearly exists to allow online participation in Senate sessions because of

- [Rare Luzon bleeding-heart dove released in Apayao forest](#) (2026-05-28 16:42)

CALANASAN, Apayao — A rare Luzon bleeding-heart (*Gallicolumba luzonica*) dove has been released back into the wild on Thursday after it was rescued in Barangay Ferdinand here. The Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) said that during an exploration activity in Mount Malingudo, the ground-dwelling bird was found caught in an illegal trap, prompting environmentalists

- [Revocation of Sen. Dela Rosa’s gun licenses immediately executory – PNP](#) (2026-05-28 16:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday explained that the revocation order for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s firearms licenses and registrations are “immediately executory.” “We advise, and we seek their cooperation to surrender the said firearms since it’s now considered illegal and unlicensed firearms,” PNP public information chief Col. Allen Rae

- [Victims, kin of Pampanga building collapse to get cash aid – Dole](#) (2026-05-28 16:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Qualified victims of the collapse of a nine-story building in Angeles City, Pampanga, will receive cash assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole), the agency said on Thursday. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino ordered the Employees’ Compensation Commission to disburse the financial aid under the Employees’ Compensation (EC) program. “Under the EC

- [Baguio now requires pest control measures for business permits](#) (2026-05-28 16:06)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The City Health Services Office (CHSO) here will require establishments to implement pest control measures as a condition for obtaining or renewing business permits. Engr. Albert Pay-an, head of CHSO’s Environmental Health and Sanitation Division (EHSD), said in an interview on Wednesday that the program is mandated under the Sanitation Code of

- [Kidapawan bishop urges gov’t to pursue raps vs corrupt public officials](#) (2026-05-28 15:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo on Thursday again urged the government to pursue cases with sufficient basis against public officials facing corruption allegations, emphasizing that accountability should apply to everyone. Bagaforo, chair of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines Episcopal Commission on Inter-Religious Dialogue, said corruption “continues to erode

- [2 minors nabbed for trafficking 11 fellow minors in QC – NBI](#) (2026-05-28 14:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested two minors for allegedly trafficking 11 fellow minors and a 19-year-old student in a resort in Novaliches, Quezon City. In an interview with reporters at the NBI headquarters on Thursday, the agent-on-case said the two subjects, both 14-year-olds and supposedly friends, were allegedly engaging

- [Blooming rafflesia enriches Apayao’s biosphere reserve](#) (2026-05-28 14:53)

LUNA, APAYAO — Sightings of blooming rafflesia, a rare endemic parasitic plant in the wilderness of Apayao province, have continued to inspire officials and residents here to protect and preserve the last nature frontier of Cordillera Region. “Nature really glows differently when protected,” Dorothy Joy Cayaba, officer-in-charge of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Calanasan (CENRO-Calanasan),

- [Right to information, anti-fake news bills will be safeguards — solon](#) (2026-05-28 14:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite concerns over the proposed right-to-information and anti-fake-news bills nearing approval at the House of Representatives, Parañaque Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan assured the public that both measures would protect the people and ensure transparency. In a statement on Thursday, Yamsuan said the two measures would work hand in hand, with House Bill

- [Ombudsman files plunder, graft cases vs Estrada; arrest looms](#) (2026-05-28 14:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Thursday afternoon filed plunder and graft cases against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada before the Sandiganbayan. After this move, an arrest warrant is expected to be issued against Estrada anytime soon. Plunder is a non-bailable case and carries a penalty of life imprisonment. Under the law, bail may

- [Future of two coco institutions serving farmers in limbo](#) (2026-05-28 13:56)

Two institutions once credited with helping thousands of coconut farmers escape poverty are now “shadows of their previous robust selves,” said Leonardo Montemayor, a former Department of Agriculture (DA) secretary. Montemayor, now chairman of the Federation of Free Farmers, said the United Coconut Planters Bank-Coconut Industry Investment Fund’ s (UCPB-CIIF) Finance and Development Corp. (CocoFinance) and

- [Cops seize P1.45-M in meth, arrest 8 in Western Visayas drug bust](#) (2026-05-28 13:26)

ILOILO CITY — Police authorities in Western Visayas confiscated approximately 214 grams of suspected meth and arrested eight drug suspects during a series of coordinated operations over 24 hours. The anti-illegal drug sweep, conducted by the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO-6) starting at 6 a.m. on Friday, May 27, yielded a total of P1,455,200 in

- [PH Navy christens BRP Rajah Lakandula, boosting modernization](#) (2026-05-28 13:17)

OLONGAPO CITY — The Philippine Navy announced on Thursday that it formally christened BRP Rajah Lakandula (PS21), its newest Rajah Sulayman-class offshore patrol vessel, at the Naval Operating Base in nearby Subic town in Zambales. During the ceremony held at Quay 7 on Wednesday, the Navy formally unveiled the vessel’ s name and bow number, signifying

- [Kanlaon Volcano emits ash on Thursday – Phivolcs](#) (2026-05-28 13:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island was seen emitting ash on Thursday, state seismologists said. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the ash emission began at around 6 a.m. as captured by the camera of Kanlaon Volcano Observatory in Canlaon City. According to Phivolcs’ advisory, “This event generated grayish plumes

- [Calapan City in Mindoro under ‘danger’ heat index of 42°C](#) (2026-05-28 13:02)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Residents in Calapan City were urged to take extra precautions Thursday after the heat index reached 42 degrees Celsius, placing the city under the “danger” classification, according to local authorities. Based on the latest Heat Index Advisory issued at 11 a.m. on May 28, 2026, the monitoring station at the

- [Taytay, Rizal residents warned as heat index hits 51.07°C on Thursday](#) (2026-05-28 12:53)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — The local government of Taytay, Rizal, has urged residents to take necessary precautions after the town recorded a heat index of 51.07 degrees Celsius on Thursday. In an advisory posted on its Facebook page at around 11:15 a.m., the Taytay Public Information Office (PIO) said the municipality’s heat index, or “real

- [NLEX Corp to close lane at Tulaoc Overpass in Pampanga for repairs](#) (2026-05-28 12:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Corporation will be implementing lane closure for a certain period of time from May 28 to June 4 at Tulaoc Overpass in San Simon, Pampanga. In an advisory on Thursday, the NLEX Corporation said that the lane closure will be done “to give way to the demolition

- [Oriental Mindoro power crisis worsens after fire hits Roxas plant](#) (2026-05-28 12:46)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The power crisis in Oriental Mindoro worsened on Thursday after an 8-megawatt (MW) power plant in Roxas town caught fire, further reducing electricity supply and triggering prolonged rotational brownouts across the province. In a power advisory, the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (Ormeco) said electricity demand on Thursday climbed to 78.20

- [Beyond crop losses: Super El Niño and the ‘hidden hunger’ risk](#) (2026-05-28 12:33)

The immediate impacts of Super El Niño events on agriculture and water resources are well documented. But the “hidden hunger” scenario—driven by less-visible consequences on food quality, dietary imbalances, microbial risks, public health crises and environmental pollution—remains underexplored. This paper examines these overlooked dimensions, including the cascading effects of Super El Niño on food production,

- [Mindanao rights defenders welcome truth commission on EJKs](#) (2026-05-28 12:25)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Human rights advocates and civil society leaders in Mindanao welcomed the creation of an independent truth commission tasked with establishing a credible public record of extrajudicial killings under the “war on drugs” of the administration of then-President Rodrigo Duterte. Civil society groups on Wednesday launched the truth commission in the

- [Dangerous heat index forecast in 53 areas on Thursday; to peak at 47°C](#) (2026-05-28 12:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Danger-level heat indices will persist in 53 areas across the country, with up to 47°C expected on Thursday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and

Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). In Metro Manila, a heat index of 42°C is forecast in Quezon City and up to 44°C is expected in Pasay City. “Nasa

- [Taal Volcano releases ‘voluminous’ sulfur dioxide emissions](#) (2026-05-28 12:08)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Taal Volcano in Batangas province has shown a sharp increase in sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported on Thursday. In its daily morning bulletin, Phivolcs said the volcano released a “voluminous emission” of 4,159 metric tons (MT) of SO₂ from its main crater over

- [Senate shooting, dela Rosa escape ‘related’ — CIDG](#) (2026-05-28 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — “They are related.” Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) Director Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II said this about the shooting in the Senate on the night of May 13 and the departure of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa from its premises in the early hours of May 14. “We based our

- [Clavano: Romualdez may have ‘functional control’ over flood budget panel](#) (2026-05-28 11:53)

MANILA, Philippines — In the spirit of command responsibility, former House Speaker Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez may have “functional control” over the Committee on Appropriations, which is now linked to alleged anomalies in flood control projects, Assistant Ombudsman Jose Dominic “Mico” Clavano IV said Thursday. Clavano made this remark to address Romualdez’ s denial of involvement in the controversy, noting

- [Cops nab Oriental Mindoro’ s 4th most wanted in Calapan City](#) (2026-05-28 11:52)

CALAPAN CITY – Authorities arrested the province’ s fourth most wanted person following a coordinated manhunt operation here on Thursday, marking another major victory for peace and order efforts in the region. Operatives from the Calapan City Police Station (CPS), led by Lt. Col. Michael Caraggayan, city police chief, carried out the arrest in Barangay Bulusan,

- [Sen. Padilla: Mideast war, China conflict not force majeure?](#) (2026-05-28 11:45)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Robinhood Padilla has questioned the definition of force majeure shortly after minority Sen. Erwin Tulfo pointed out that the Senate rules allow online participation during catastrophic events. Tulfo recalled the rule after Sen. Rodante Marcoleta proposed allowing online voting in Senate sessions. “War/gera/digmaan sa Gitnang Silangan na nagreresulta na ng terorismo

- [De La Salle leaders tell senators: Serve people, not power](#) (2026-05-28 11:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Leaders of De La Salle institutions across the country urged senators to put public service above political interests, warning against the “normalization” of institutions being used to protect “a powerful few from accountability.” In a statement released Wednesday, heads of Lasallian schools and universities across the country decried what they

described as

- [CIDG eyes more vehicles involved in Bato dela Rosa ‘escape’](#) (2026-05-28 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — More vehicles may be involved in the “escape” of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, according to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG). In a press briefing at Camp Crame on Thursday, CIDG director Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II said the other vehicles were within “the vicinity of the Senate” when

- [5th body retrieved from Angeles site after 11-hour extraction](#) (2026-05-28 11:35)

ANGELES CITY, Pampanga — Rescue teams on Thursday morning pulled the body of the fifth fatality from the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here after over 11 hours of careful overnight extrication operations amid unstable rubble and dangerous working conditions. Authorities said the victim’s body was first located at around 6:18 p.m. Wednesday in

- [CIDG cites Padilla’s ‘indispensable cooperation’ in dela Rosa escape](#) (2026-05-28 10:51)

MANILA, Philippines – “There was indispensable cooperation. It will not happen without him.” Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) director Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II said this about Sen. Robin Padilla’s participation in the “escape” of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with

- [PNP: Order revoking dela Rosa’s gun licenses received by lawyer](#) (2026-05-28 09:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The order revoking Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s firearms license and registrations has been received by his lawyer, the Police Regional Office Davao Region (PRO 11) said on Thursday. In a statement, PRO 11 said its Regional Civil Security Unit (RSCU) received the revocation order through email last Tuesday then served the

- [House willing to cooperate in Ombudsman budget probe – Clavano](#) (2026-05-28 08:43)

MANILA, Philippines – The House of Representatives has expressed willingness to cooperate with the Office of the Ombudsman’s investigation into alleged budget irregularities involving former House Speaker Martin Romualdez and a supposed “grand conspiracy,” Assistant Ombudsman Jose Dominic “Mico” Clavano IV said Thursday. According to Clavano, the House’s reported refusal to receive the subpoena stemmed

- [BI secures copy of Sandiganbayan PHDO vs Marcoleta, Defensor, others](#) (2026-05-28 08:04)

MANILA, Philippines – The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is ready to inform the Sandiganbayan in case it encounters Sen. Rodante Marcoleta, former congressman Michael Defensor, and two others attempting departure in connection with the Precautionary Hold Departure Order (PHDO) issued by the court against these individuals. “We were able to secure a copy of the

release

- [Pagasa: PH now transitioning toward rainy season](#) (2026-05-28 07:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is now transitioning towards the rainy season, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Thursday. In its latest weather forecast, Pagasa said the country may experience more frequent rains and thunderstorms in the coming days as it transitions toward the nearing rainy season.

“We expect thunderstorms

- [Cavite coastal cleanup collects 7,512 kilos of waste](#) (2026-05-28 05:54)

LUCENA CITY, QUEZON, Philippines — A total of 7,512 kilograms of waste were collected along the shorelines of nine coastal localities in Cavite province during activities marking this year’s Month of the Ocean observance. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Region IV-A said in a report Wednesday, May 27, that the Provincial Environment and

- [2 minors tagged in death of child in Mt. Province village](#) (2026-05-28 05:48)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The Mountain Province Police Provincial Office has condemned the killing of a child in Barangay Banawel in Natonin town as authorities continue to process two minor suspects in the case. Police said the child, who was reported missing on May 23, was found unconscious behind a church in Barangay Banawel at

- [CIDG: Padilla helped Dela Rosa escape, liable for ‘obstruction’](#) (2026-05-28 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police is throwing the book at Sen. Robin Padilla for offering a ride to Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa in the latter’s predawn escape from the Senate building on May 14. According to the CIDG, Padilla facilitated Dela Rosa’s “coordinated, preplanned

- [Low rating to motivate President to work harder](#) (2026-05-28 05:44)

TOKYO, Japan — Malacañang on Wednesday said the record-low net satisfaction of President Marcos only pushes him to work harder. The latest Social Weather Stations survey conducted from March 24 to March 31 showed his net satisfaction rating sliding down to a “poor” -15 in the first quarter of the year, his lowest since the

- [Tree cutting in Manila ‘paused,’ to be studied](#) (2026-05-28 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said on Wednesday that the mass cutting of trees along Quirino Avenue in Manila for the Southern Access Link Expressway (SALEX) project has been suspended temporarily. Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna made the announcement at the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum, saying the project

- [Lawmakers fear antifake news bill may be used to silence gov’t critics](#) (2026-05-28 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers on Wednesday expressed concern that a bill penalizing the deliberate spread of disinformation could be used to silence government critics after the House of Representatives passed it on second reading. House Bill 9465, which was approved through a voice vote on Tuesday, pushes prison terms of six to 12 years and

- [Nordeco asks SC to stop Davao Light takeover in Tagum, nearby areas](#) (2026-05-28 05:39)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — The Northern Davao Electric Cooperative Inc. (Nordeco) has elevated to the Supreme Court its challenge against court orders allowing Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. to take possession and operate power distribution assets in Tagum City and nearby towns in Davao del Norte. In a press statement dated

- [San Miguel has dropped Boracay bridge project – Aklan governor](#) (2026-05-28 05:38)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — San Miguel Holdings Corp. (SMHC) has backed out of the controversial Boracay Bridge project amid mounting public criticism and strong opposition from local communities, as well as business and environmental groups. This was disclosed on Wednesday by Aklan Gov. Jose Enrique Miraflores, who said he spoke with Ramon Ang, chair and

- [Palace spox: Dela Rosa was Cayetano's 'reason' for pushing online vote](#) (2026-05-28 05:36)

TOKYO, Japan — Malacañang said Tuesday night's heated exchange at the Senate and the ensuing walkout of the minority bloc over a proposal to allow remote voting of members even during nonemergencies only revealed the real motives of those pushing for the rule change.

"It turns out that the rules are just fine and they

- [Truth Commission on drug war launched: 'For catharsis'](#) (2026-05-28 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — An independent "EJK Truth Commission" backed by Church and civil society leaders was formally launched on Wednesday to document the killings and other atrocities linked to the bloody war on drugs waged by former President Rodrigo Duterte. The body was formed about a decade since the first "extrajudicial killings (EJK)" attributed to

- [Will Senate apply remote voting to VP's trial? House team worried](#) (2026-05-28 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution team in the impending impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte is deeply concerned that the proposed changes in the Senate rules on voting might end up being applied not only to regular proceedings but to her trial as well. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the 11-member team

- [Senate minority: 'We have the rules on our side'](#) (2026-05-28 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Minority senators on Wednesday intensified their opposition to a controversial proposal allowing remote participation and online voting in Senate plenary sessions, accusing the chamber's majority bloc of attempting to rewrite long-standing rules amid looming legal and political crises involving several lawmakers. The dispute erupted after a

tense late-night session on Tuesday in

- [Pagcor opens 24/7 hotline for gambling addicts, kin](#) (2026-05-28 05:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) has launched its round-the-clock support hotline to address the growing online gambling addiction problem among Filipinos, while the Marcos administration treads carefully on deciding the fate of the cash cow industry. Callers may reach the National Problem Gambling Helpline (NPGH) at (02) 8248-9568 to directly

- [BOC: 13 seized Discaya vehicles fetch over P114.7M](#) (2026-05-28 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — All 13 luxury vehicles seized from contractors Pacifico “Curlee” Discaya and his wife Cezarah Rowena “Sarah,” have been sold after the last four remaining units were disposed of through a negotiated sale. In a statement on Wednesday, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said the last four vehicles generated P12.276 million in proceeds

- [Building collapse bad for nearby businesses](#) (2026-05-28 05:06)

ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — Beyond the deaths and missing construction workers, businesses near the collapsed nine-story building in Barangay Balibago here are now grappling with damaged properties, suspended operations and mounting financial losses. Several businesses along Teodoro Street—among the city’s busiest entertainment and tourism strips lined with hotels, bars, KTVs and small establishments—have shut

- [Oversupply drives down prices of native tobacco](#) (2026-05-28 05:04)

CALASIAO, PANGASINAN, Philippines — The market is now flooded with native tobacco variety, known as “batek,” but farmers in tobacco-producing areas in northern Luzon lament that overproduction has been driving prices down. Dionisio Cariño, municipal agriculture officer of Villasis town, said traders stopped buying tobacco in February and March, but they started buying again last

- [Negros execs push localized peace talks with Reds](#) (2026-05-28 05:02)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Officials in Negros Occidental had endorsed the proposal by Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. for localized peace talks with communist rebels following a series of clashes in the province. “We are willing to sit down and be part of the peace process on the local level,” Cadiz City Mayor

- [Telemedicine brings doctors closer to indigenous learners in Tarlac](#) (2026-05-28 04:34)

TARLAC, Philippines — A remote indigenous school community in Mayantoc, Tarlac, has gained direct access to medical care after years of enduring a 24-kilometer journey across steep mountain terrain just to consult a doctor, following the launch of a school-based telehealth facility that brings healthcare services closer to upland learners and their families. The Department

- [Local groups lead protection of Aklan watershed](#) (2026-05-28 04:32)

AKLAN, Philippines — As the world marked the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, local conservation groups spoke about how communities are helping protect ecosystems that sustain both people and wildlife. The Aklan River Watershed Forest Reserve (ARWFR) on Panay Island is a massive 20,544-hectare forest watershed. Protecting it will rely on a

- [Finally, potable water reaches Butbut community in Kalinga](#) (2026-05-28 04:30)

KALINGA, Philippines — In Barangay Butbut proper, the physical landscape is as challenging as it is beautiful. Access to water has long meant distance, effort, and daily sacrifice. Families have endured long walks to far-off sources to secure a basic need that should be within reach. This scarcity has shaped routines, strained households, and limited

Source: The Manila Times

- [Political noise, Senate discord played part in PH' s failed UN Security Council bid — Palace](#) (2026-06-04 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday said it believed that the political noise, particularly at the Senate, played a part in the Philippines' failed bid to secure a non-permanent seat in the United Nations (UN) Security Council. The Philippines was not able to secure 2/3 of the majority of the 191 votes and yielded to Kyrgyzstan, 49-142, in the voting that took place last June 3. "All the political noise, all the political tensions affect us. And this is what the entire nation and the entire world sees. This is their impression of the Philippines," Castro said in Filipino in a Palace briefing. "We' ve become negative because of these noises, most of which are from obstructionists," she added. The Senate' s "new majority" last Wednesday convened to pave the way for Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian to be elected as the new Senate President pro tempore. The "old majority" led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, however, questioned its constitutionality and Cayetano insisted he remained as the rightful leader of the chamber.

- [PhilHealth effective in communicating services to beneficiaries with 75% satisfaction rating — study](#) (2026-06-04 03:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has a 75 percent satisfaction rating with its communication strategies, according to a the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) boasts a 75 percent satisfaction rating with its communication strategies, according to a study that was discussed during a media briefing by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development's (DOST-PCHRD) on Thursday. In her study, "Enhancing Member PhilHealth's Awareness: Reviewing Communication and Marketing Strategies," Dr. Jovanie Tuguinay of the De La Salle University claims that PhilHealth's efforts to engage and inform its members about

their benefits and services were effective. Despite the high satisfaction rating, however, the study noted that there was still low utilization. “Out of over 37 million registered members, only approximately 12 million had their first patient encounter,” the study noted, stressing that awareness alone is not sufficient in ensuring that members utilize the services.

- [Sandiganbayan reschedules arraignment of Estrada, Bonoan for plunder, graft](#) (2026-06-04 03:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan rescheduled the arraignment of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan, for plunder and graft charges for their alleged links to the flood control scandal. During the hearing on Thursday, the fifth division, led by Associate Justice Zaldy Trespases with Associate Justices Maryanne Corpus Mañalac and Gener Gito, reset the arraignment to June 30 to allow for more time to resolve the pending motions of Estrada and Bonoan. The court also ordered Bonoan's lawyers to submit a medical certificate after failing to show up during the arraignment. Meanwhile, co-accused, Department of Public Works and Highways district engineers Denryl Cortuna, Manny Bulusan and Arturo Gonzales, have pleaded not guilty to the same charges.

- [Cayetano-led Senate holds hearing on flood control scam; Gatchalian to ask Marcos to convene special session of Congress](#) (2026-06-04 02:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The faction of "ousted" Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday pushed through with the public hearing on the flood control fund scandal. This, despite the announcement of "new" Blue Ribbon Committee Chairman Erwin Tulfo that he would hold a similar investigation on Monday. Aside from Cayetano, also present at the inquiry were Senators Pia Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Rodante Marcoleta, Imee Marcos, and Robinhood Padilla. Sen. Pia Cayetano insisted that she remained chairman of the blue ribbon committee but allowed Marcoleta to lead the inquiry. The public hearing was not livestreamed by the Senate information bureau. Meanwhile, the new Senate leadership under Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian will ask President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to convene a special session of Congress to address pending legislative matters and the confirmation of key military appointments delayed by recent developments in the Senate. Speaking at a press conference on Thursday, Gatchalian said the newly formed Senate majority agreed to request the President to call the special session for both the Senate and the House of Representatives. According to Gatchalian, the proposed special session would enable lawmakers to proceed with several urgent legislative functions, including the confirmation of promotions of officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and deliberations on pending measures awaiting congressional action. "The Senate must continue performing its constitutional duties despite recent challenges," Gatchalian said, emphasizing the need to prevent delays in matters affecting national security and governance. The announcement comes amid ongoing political realignments within the Senate that have led to leadership changes and disputes over committee assignments and scheduled hearings. Gatchalian also clarified that no Senate committee hearings would be conducted on Thursday, including the much-publicized inquiry

into the alleged anomalies involving government flood control projects.

- [New satellite image corroborates object, possible barrier at Bajo de Masinloc entrance](#) (2026-06-04 02:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A second commercial satellite image has corroborated the presence of a previously reported object near the entrance of Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), while also showing a feature consistent with a floating barrier across the lagoon entrance, according to US-based maritime transparency initiative SeaLight. In an update released on Thursday, SeaLight said newly available satellite imagery captured by VantorTech through SkyFi on May 27, 2026, showed a small bright object at the same location where another commercial satellite image taken on May 28 had detected an unidentified structure near the shoal's entrance. The group said the latest image strengthened evidence that the object remained in place for at least two consecutive days but emphasized that available imagery did not yet establish whether the object remained at the site today. SeaLight first disclosed the existence of the object on June 1 after Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. raised concerns over a structure near the entrance of the disputed shoal. According to SeaLight, the May 27 image also revealed a curved linear feature spanning the lagoon entrance that was consistent with a floating barrier, similar to access-control measures previously documented in the area. The update comes as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) continues to assess the nature of the object. AFP Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr. was quoted as saying that military analysts estimated the structure measured approximately six by six meters and were still determining whether it was floating or fixed. SeaLight said it likewise could not confirm whether the object was fixed or floating, identify its function, or conclusively determine who placed it there. Nevertheless, the group noted that China has exercised effective control over Bajo de Masinloc since 2012 and has increasingly restricted access to the lagoon entrance since 2024, making attribution to another actor unlikely. SeaLight Director Ray Powell called on China to provide clarification regarding the object's origin and purpose. "The 2002 Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was meant to stop parties from increasing tensions by changing the status quo on contested, uninhabited features," Powell said. He criticized the dismissal of Philippine concerns by Chinese-affiliated South China Sea researchers and urged Beijing to explain who placed the object, when it was installed, its intended purpose, and whether it would eventually be removed. Scarborough Shoal, known locally as Bajo de Masinloc, remains one of the most contested features in the South China Sea and has been a recurring source of tension between the Philippines and China.

- [Suspect who took 10 people hostage in California standoff has been shot and killed, police say](#) (2026-06-03 21:16)

BAKERSFIELD, California A man was shot and killed by the FBI early Wednesday after taking 10 school employees hostage inside a Southern California office building and warning that he had strapped explosives to himself and some of the hostages, police said. Authorities stormed the building in downtown Bakersfield overnight, ending a nearly 16-hour standoff during which the

suspect tied up half the hostages, police said. The hostages — employees of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools — were found unharmed inside the building that also houses a bank, said Bakersfield Assistant Police Chief Jeremy Blakemore. “Throughout the night, their families questioned whether or not they would be seen again but we are very grateful for the outcome,” Blakemore said during a news conference Wednesday. Anthony Scott Searles-Harris, 41, was shot and killed around 4:20 a.m., according to Sid Patel, special agent in charge in the FBI’s Sacramento office. Authorities said he was an Army veteran who was dishonorably discharged, had a history of trouble with law enforcement and was a registered sex offender. Searles-Harris told police he had a bomb after barricading himself within the second floor of the building, Blakemore said. Authorities were testing the devices Wednesday that Searles-Harris said were explosives, but Patel said they do not appear to be a concern. One of the hostages was able to communicate with law enforcement using her phone until her battery died, Patel said. She was diabetic and didn’t have her medicine so officials knew she was at risk, he said. “I’m sure there’ll be mental scars that they’re living with, and we’ll have our victim specialist to help them,” Patel said. While authorities declined to discuss details about how they ended the standoff or the motive behind it, Blakemore said some of the demands Searles-Harris made involved asking for materials from an earlier case. “He had concerns related to how his previous case had been handled and what the aftermath of that was, the sentencing and those kinds of things,” Blakemore said, without specifying details. California Department of Justice and court records show Searles-Harris was on the state’s sex offender registry due to convictions in 2014 for sexual crimes related to a child under 14 years of age. Those records show he was released from prison in 2018. FBI officials said Searles-Harris served about a year in the Army before being dishonorably discharged in 2007 for going AWOL. Court records in Kern County, California, show Searles-Harris filed a petition to prevent domestic violence, and was involved in divorce proceedings that began in 2009 and note a young child, as well as a fight for guardianship years later in which he was listed as an objector. During the news conference, Blakemore said he was aware of videos Searles-Harris had apparently posted criticizing the sheriff’s office and claiming he was innocent of his previous sex crimes convictions. He said the videos were being reviewed but the department had no plans to investigate the claims of innocence. It wasn’t clear why Searles-Harris targeted the school district office. “What unfolded was undoubtedly a terribly frightening and unsettling experience, and the composure our employees demonstrated throughout the 16-hour ordeal was extraordinary, John Mendiburu, the county schools superintendent, said in a statement. The standoff began early Tuesday afternoon, when officers responded to a call of a bomb threat at the Chase Bank building, a four-story office building with dark-tinted glass windows in Bakersfield, a city of about 380,000 residents about 100 miles (160 kms) northeast of Los Angeles. The police department’s crisis negotiation team talked with Searles-Harris by phone and he released two hostages Tuesday. Authorities evacuated buildings nearby, including City Hall and the police headquarters that are just a block away. More than 100 FBI personnel assisted, including two SWAT teams, bomb technicians and crisis negotiation teams, Patel said. A hostage rescue team was deployed from its headquarters on the East Coast, he said.

- [SpaceX's IPO is set to be the biggest ever and could make Elon Musk a trillionaire](#)

(2026-06-03 21:13)

NEW YORK — SpaceX says it plans to raise up to \$75 billion when it goes public this month, setting the stage for the largest-ever stock market debut and putting Elon Musk on course to becoming the world's first trillionaire. The company, formally known as Space Exploration Technologies Corp., said Wednesday it will sell 555.6 million shares at \$135 a piece. The offering would give SpaceX a market value of \$1.77 trillion. Only six companies in the S&P 500 are currently worth more, with Nvidia tops at \$5.2 trillion. Musk isn't selling any of his shares in the offering, and he would have 82.4% of the voting power in SpaceX. Forbes currently values Musk's net worth at \$825 billion and his stake in SpaceX at \$542 billion. The estimated proceeds from the SpaceX IPO would easily top the \$26 billion raised by oil giant Saudi Aramco in 2019.

- [Feeling a little bleak about the world? There's a film festival for that](#) (2026-06-03 21:11)

SANTA MONICA, California — Bleak Week, a film festival celebrating “cinema of despair,” started as a contrarian response to cries for feel-good movies after the pandemic. Programmers at the American Cinematheque, a nonprofit arts group that curates for several historic theaters in Los Angeles, heard the cries for comedies and thought, well, what if they did the opposite? Bleak Week, which would conveniently coincide with the city's June Gloom, could be the art house version of Shark Week. “We didn't know how it was going to go,” said Grant Moninger, the group's artistic director. “People may like this ... or people may look at it and somehow be offended.” In 2022, he and Chris LeMaire programmed wall-to-wall selections of world cinema's most austere offerings, from Elem Klimov's anti-war epic “Come and See” to Béla Tarr's 439-minute “Sátántangó.” LA-based film critic Katie Walsh was one of the early champions of the concept. When it was announced she remembered tweeting the “sickos” meme. “I was just like, yes, this is for me, this for the sickos,” Walsh said. “We were really enthusiastic about it online. I think that they were like, OK, great, this is like a concept that is going to translate.” From niche experiment to global footprint Five years later, Bleak Week has gone global. Across June, there will be Bleak Weeks taking place in 100 theaters in 73 cities spanning eight countries, from the United Kingdom and Canada to Puerto Rico and Latin America. In the United States, it's not just the biggest cities either: There are versions in Columbia, Missouri (Ragtag Cinema), Pittsburgh (Row House Cinema), Rehoboth Beach, Delaware (Cinema Art Theatre), Brookline, Massachusetts (Coolidge Corner Theatre) and Albuquerque, New Mexico (Guild Cinema), to name a few. “Although Bleak Week sounds depressing, it's really a celebration of the human experience,” Moninger said. “It's really what cinema is about: empathy and understanding the world.” Ennui at the movie theater wasn't niche after all. Those nearly 7 ½-hour showings of “Sátántangó” regularly sell out. It's not uncommon to see famous people both on the stage and in the audience (Sean Baker and Mikey Madison were spotted at a screening one year of “In a Glass Cave,” about an ex-Nazi pedophile). Even Tarr, the great Hungarian filmmaker who died earlier this year and once said he'd never come back to the United States, made an exception and attended Bleak Week in year two. Expansion soon followed to The Paris Theatre in New York and The Prince

Charles Cinema in London. “The thing about cinema is that you get to experience all the colors of human experience,” said Walsh, who has both attended and served as a moderator over the years. “Bleak Week offers a chance to kind of like revel in this specific feeling in a lot of ways. I just really love it. I see stuff that I would never ever see elsewhere.” At the end of the movies, Walsh said, “I usually have to go stare at a wall for like 30 minutes.” Over 300 movies at Bleak Week 2026The fifth edition is already underway in Los Angeles at the Egyptian Theatre, the Aero Theatre and the Los Feliz 3. On the schedule are appearances by the likes of Isabelle Huppert, who will do Q&As for several films, including “The Piano Teacher” and “Heaven’s Gate,” filmmaker Ari Aster, showing his director’s cut of “Midsommar” and Denis Villeneuve on behalf of his breakout film “Incendies.” One of the most liberating aspects about the concept is that there’s no genre stranglehold on the idea of bleak cinema. It can be wartime. It can be interpersonal drama. It can be fantasy. It can even be family friendly. They’ve empowered local programmers to make their own selections; This year there are over 300 movies being shown globally. “They know their audience. They know what films will resonate,” said LeMaire. “It’s fun for us to see all the different approaches.” The Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago is focusing on animation, playing movies like Hayao Miyazaki’s “Princess Mononoke,” Martin Rosen’s “Watership Down” and Michael Schaack’s “Felidae.” The Argentina program will include both local films and a retrospective of Aster’s works. At Vancouver’s historic Park Theatre, selections were made by local filmmakers and “friends of the venue.” Actor Finn Wolfhard elected “The Celebration,” “Sinners” cinematographer Autumn Durald Arkapaw chose “The Deer Hunter” and “Anora” producer Samantha Quan picked “The Virgin Suicides.” The most programmed film this year is Isao Takahata’s animated “Grave of the Fireflies,” about a boy and his sister fighting for survival in post-World War II Japan after losing their parents. One movie they make a point to show every year is “Come and See,” which Moninger said is “the bleakest of the bleak experience.” The concept is open to interpretation, as long as it’s a narrative film. The one thing it can’t be is a documentary. “There’s something still yet triumphant about taking horrible experiences or someone’s personal tragedy and being able to turn it into art,” Moninger said. “That’s really one of our only rules is that we just don’t do docs.” When it’s all said and done, at least in Los Angeles, they make sure to close with something sweet: The three “Paddington” movies. It’s what they like to call a “marmalade chaser.”

- ['20 minutes of terror' AI boosts US voice impersonation scams](#) (2026-06-03 19:32)

WASHINGTON — Liz Benz still believes the distressed caller's voice was her son's -- the tone, enunciation and cadence all matched her 16-year-old. But it was an AI clone, making the American mother yet another victim of a growing wave of impersonation scams. Rapidly evolving artificial intelligence technology has demolished the boundaries between reality and fiction, handing cybercriminals strikingly convincing voice cloning tools to steal from people by mimicking loved ones. Buffalo-based Benz was jolted from her couch by a call from an unknown number. On the line was someone sounding like her son Fred, crying for help. She was told Fred's friend had been shot and killed, and her son -- who was out at a local football game --

was being held hostage. The 46-year-old insurance broker and mother of six was instructed to deliver cash to a nearby Walmart to pay off the man holding him. Eventually, a selfie from Fred smiling at the game returned her to reality: the call, she realized, was an elaborate scam. "Nothing could have prepared me to hear my son's voice, and nothing could have convinced me that this was a scam until I saw my son with my own eyes," Benz told AFP, her voice trembling. "It was a good 20 minutes of terror." - 'Anyone can do it' - US authorities and consumer advocates are increasingly warning of scams built around impersonating family members. The FBI said in April that Americans lost over \$893 million last year to AI-enabled hoaxes, including voice cloning scams. Simple internet searches can surface a wide array of voice cloning apps, many available for free, that create realistic AI replicas using small samples -- sometimes only seconds -- of a person's real voice. "It used to be somewhat hard to make these things. Now anyone can do it in seconds," said Brian Long, chief executive of Adaptive Security, a company offering trainings on AI fraud protection. "One guy in a room with a keyboard can make an infinite number of attackers," Long told AFP, adding that AI tools can build entire scripts off of snippets of audio captured from social media or voicemail recordings. Benz's story highlights a familiar script: an emotionally charged call purportedly from a loved one in trouble -- arrested, in a car accident or caught up in a crime -- who needs money. Then scammers typically pile on pressure, adding voices claiming to be attorneys, courtroom clerks or bank tellers -- a cast of fictitious characters in a chaotic, urgent-sounding call. - 'Distressed voice' - Many family-emergency scams do not even require a perfect voice clone. "A distressed voice saying 'mom, help me' or 'dad, I've been in an accident' may only need to sound believable for a few seconds," Amit Gupta, the vice president of product management at cybersecurity firm Pindrop, told AFP. "The objective is not perfect voice replication. The objective is creating enough emotional uncertainty and urgency that the victim acts before verifying." Since taking her story public, Benz said she has received a flood of messages from other victims, many of whom opt to stay anonymous because of the shame attached. Elderly people are particularly vulnerable, with experts warning of rising cases of "grandparent scams." The FBI said Americans over 60 reported more than \$7.7 billion in losses last year, a significant jump over 2024. "These are professionals, and when they get people on the phone, they are dealing with amateurs," said Philadelphia attorney Gary Schildhorn, who faced a similar attack in 2020. Like Benz, he has since partnered with Adaptive Security to raise public awareness about the threat. In 2023, Schildhorn testified before the US Senate about his experience with a scam call in which a voice impersonating his son Brett claimed he needed to post bail after a drunk-driving arrest. The call sent Schildhorn, now 73, rushing to his bank. "When I get to the bank, my phone rings. It's my son," he told AFP. "He's going, 'You've been scammed,'" Schildhorn said. "I go, 'Brett, I will go to my grave swearing that it was your voice, it was your cadence, it was words you would use. There was no accent. It was you on the phone.'"

- [Japan's samurai spirit still burns in cooler conditions](#) (2026-06-03 18:57)

MINAMISOMA — Japan's thousand-year-old samurai horse festival has survived wars, earthquakes and a nuclear disaster. Now it's battling a new challenge -- climate change. The Soma Nomaoui began as a way to train mounted warriors and it still looks the same a millennium later, with riders dressed in samurai armour competing in horseback events. Until 2024, the festival took place at the height of Japan's gruelling summers, which had become so hot that riders and spectators were collapsing and horses dying of heatstroke. That prompted organisers to switch the festival to the cooler temperatures of late May. Mitsukiyo Monma, who has been taking part in the event for 54 years, told AFP that the change had given the festival a new lease of life. "You have to wear a kimono under the armour, which is not like going out in just a T-shirt in the summer," said the 69-year-old, adding that he needed medical attention on a day when the mercury was close to 40C. "Your clothes would be so soaked that you could wring out the sweat," he said. "When the festival moved to May, it was the first time I could drink hot coffee before going out." Scientists say climate change is making extreme weather events more frequent and severe, and temperatures around the world have soared in recent years. Japan is no exception. Last year, the country had its hottest summer since records began in 1898. Temperatures rising to 40C and above have become so common that Japan's weather agency recently created an official designation for them, labelling them "cruelly hot" days. - ' Truly a samurai' - Such conditions are hardly ideal for the Soma Nomaoui, where participants compete on horseback in samurai armour weighing around 25 kg. The main event starts with races around a flat, oval track, with riders carrying giant flags on their backs. Hundreds of riders then gather in a large grass field and compete to grab coloured flags that drift to the ground after being fired high into the air. On the last of the festival's three days, participants try to grab wild horses with their bare hands and offer them to the gods. The action is fast and furious, and Monma says it is serious business for the riders taking part. "I feel like I've truly become a samurai," he said. "I feel more courageous, and on the day itself, my whole body and mind tighten." The Soma Nomaoui takes place around Minamisoma, almost 300 kilometres (190 miles) north of Tokyo. It started around 1,000 years ago and records suggest it has been held uninterrupted for at least the last 400 years. The festivities kept going even in the aftermath of a 2011 earthquake and tsunami that left over 18,000 people dead or missing and caused a devastating meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant. Fumihiko Futakami, director of the Minamisoma City Museum, says the Soma Nomaoui was a source of comfort when he was evacuated to Tokyo after the disaster. "Even for people who have left here and now live elsewhere, when they think of their hometown, they think of mounted warriors," he said. "It's the identity of our town." - Uncertain future - The festival's warrior roots meant only samurai could take part until the feudal system was abolished in the late 19th century. Women were admitted after World War II, and festival veteran Monma fulfilled a lifelong dream when his two granddaughters joined him for this year's event. It took place under cloudy skies, with the temperature hovering around a pleasant 18C. There was little chance of a repeat of the 2023 Soma Nomaoui, when more than 100 horses and dozens of people needed treatment for heatstroke, and two animals died. "There isn't much shade anywhere, so I think this is the most comfortable temperature for everyone," said 25-year-old Haruto Inoue, who was visiting from nearby Tochigi to watch the festival for the first time. "They look so cool in their samurai gear,

racing through the mud and giving it everything they've got."Anyone can participate in the Soma Nomaai, but owning or hiring a horse is not cheap.The number of participants is steadily declining, and Japan's ageing population is a major factor.Monma worries that the festival might not survive another 100 years unless organisers can come up with solutions.Museum director Futakami believes moving it away from the punishing summer heat has been a good start."The horses are livelier and the participants aren't so exhausted that they can barely move the next day," he said."I think most people would say it's been a good thing."

• [Women say they were raped and ransomed by fighters in Sudan's ongoing war](#)
(2026-06-03 18:54)

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Naked, hungry, raped and lying in her own urine, the woman said her captors after two days of misery handed her a phone. Call your friends and family, they said. Tell them to buy your freedom or you'll be killed.The 38-year-old said she screamed on the calls as horrified loved ones listened to her being tortured in a remote village in western Sudan.Now safely in the capital, Khartoum, she looked through photos she took of her battered face and body after being freed in September. She wants them to serve as evidence to hold the attackers accountable. "I thought about seeking justice one day," she told The Associated Press. The AP does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted.The United Nations calls sexual violence one of the "most defining features" of Sudan's war, now in its fourth year. It says sexual assaults have soared since the war began but it did not have data on assaults by combatants.The U.N. says many women have been subject to sexual slavery and forced to pay ransoms for their release, sometimes up to \$10,000.The AP met three women who said they were abducted, held as sex slaves and forced to buy their freedom. They were introduced by aid workers who said they were aware of what had happened. The AP could not verify the accounts by the women who spoke out in a country where discussing sexual assault remains deeply taboo.All three blamed the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces that are battling Sudan's military.The U.N. and rights groups have accused all parties of sexual assault, including allied armed groups, but they say the majority of the violence has been committed by the RSF, particularly in the Khartoum area, Darfur and Gezira state. The U.N. says South Kordofan has also become a hot spot as the war expands there.The RSF did not respond to questions about abductions or assaults.Captors demanded \$1,500 for her freedomThe 38-year-old woman said she fled her home in el-Fasher in September, weeks before the besieged city in Darfur was captured by the RSF, an assault the UN said bore "hallmarks of genocide." Her husband, a soldier, had been killed. Her brother had been shot and badly wounded and needed care.RSF fighters ambushed them on the road, she said. They separated out the women and children and searched the men for shoulder marks indicating they had carried a gun, a sign they likely were soldiers. Everyone was forced to strip, she said.When the RSF tried to kill her brother, she told them to take her instead.She said she was bound, beaten and thrown into a truck with four other women and teenage girls and driven to an abandoned village in the desert. Naked and hungry, they lay bound in a shelter, urinating on themselves.For the next two days, she said she and the others were raped multiple times by different men. The captors would enter and

choose who they wanted, untie them, assault them and bind them again. “I was thinking about ending my life,” the woman said, wiping away tears. On the second day, the men demanded about \$1,500 for her freedom. She said they gave her a phone and told her to empty her bank account. She transferred everything, about \$200. They made her open Facebook and reach out to contacts. She called her cousin. But once he paid, she said, the fighters called him back and pressed a metal object on her fingernails while she screamed in pain, so he'd send more. She said the torture, including sexual assault, went on for hours during calls. Her captors finally accepted about \$700 for her release. She still wonders about the women unable to pay. They remain captive and eventually disappear, said Hala Alkarib, regional director of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa, a grassroots feminist network. Ransom cases have risen for sexual assault and other cases. The RSF has long held men and women for ransom but it has become more prevalent during the war, Sudan experts say. Incidents of ransom, including for a small number involving sexual assault, have jumped by nearly 195% from the beginning of the war until May, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, a U.S.-based nonprofit. It said the majority of perpetrators are RSF fighters. Ransoms will increase as the paramilitary force fragments following high-level defections, said Mohamed Younis, a Sudanese conflict analyst. Another of the three women said that even when ransom money was collected, she wasn't freed. After a relative in the United States transferred about \$1,250, the 30-year-old said, the captors still didn't want to release her. In what she described as compassion, one smuggled her out of the compound at night and left her to find her way home. She said she had been abducted from a market in Khartoum in 2024 when the RSF controlled the city. She was kept in a hut with other women for two weeks and forced to cook and clean, tend to cattle and sometimes bathe the fighters. Each night she and the others were raped, she said: “They never missed a day ... I have nightmares.” The third woman said she had been abducted outside Dilling in South Kordofan, held for nine days in a compound, raped once and beaten. Her family paid for her release in September. One survivor now mentors others. Psychologists say the ransoms have financial and emotional impacts on families, plunging them into debt as they sell their gold, cars and houses. “The situation of these families is fragile,” said Thuria Komi, director of Bait Al Mohaba, a local group supporting women, including those who were sexually assaulted. She said her organization lacks the money to provide help the women need, including assistance with medical treatment. The Trump administration last year stopped funding for the United Nations Population Fund, which provides support for sexual and gender-based violence, cutting more than \$370 million in grants for more than 25 countries including Sudan, the U.N. agency said. The administration cited claims about past coercive abortions in China that UNFPA called unfounded. Sudan is still receiving over \$220 million this year from the U.S. for other humanitarian needs, according to U.N. data. Reunited with her brother and living in a camp for displaced people, the 38-year-old said she struggles to move on. Doctors told her she had internal bleeding and fluid buildup from her ordeal, but she can't afford surgery. She has found solace in mentoring women and girls in the camp, but the debts she owes to those who saved her weigh heavily. Some were later killed in the war. “Even those who died, I want to return it to their children or give it as charity on their behalf,” she said. “So I can feel at peace.”

- [Gatchalian and Cayetano contradict work set up for Senate employees](#) (2026-06-03 17:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Some Senate officials and employees are confused or "in limbo" as to who to obey amid conflicting directives from what appeared to be two factions of Senate leaders amid power struggle in the chamber. Sens. Win Gatchalian and Alan Peter Cayetano insist of being the Senate president. They both assigned their respective Senate secretaries and sergeant-at-arms. Gatchalian, newly-installed Senate president pro tempore, enforced a work-from-home arrangement on Thursday as "no official business has been scheduled tomorrow." Cayetano, who still has 10 bloc mates as of Tuesday, lost the Senate leadership after Sen. Chiz Escudero abandoned him and became the 12th member of the minority bloc -- forming the new majority group. Gatchalian, also designated by the majority as acting Senate president, issued the instruction "to give way to the organization of committees under the new chairmen." "In light of this developments and to preserve the neutrality of the Senate bureaucracy, all Senate Secretariat and Senate proper offices are hereby authorized to work-from-home on the said date," Gatchalian said. But ousted Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano, who insisted that he remains Senate chief, countered Gatchalian's directive. "I'm issuing a memo to the Secretariat and to the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms to keep the Senate open tomorrow. We will have the Blue Ribbon Committee [public] hearing," Cayetano said. "As Senate president, nasa authority ko po ang premises ng Senado (the Senate premises are under my authority)," Cayetano said. Gatchalian's bloc appointed Renato Bantug and retired police Maj. Gen. Alfred Corpuz as Senate secretary and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms respectively. But Cayetano insisted that Jose Luis Montales remains as Senate secretary and Manuel Parlade stays as acting Senate Sergeant-at-Arms. "Do not padlock the Senate. I will go to the Senate before 10 o'clock. I will do what I can to open the session hall and our hearings will be there," Cayetano said in a statement. Gatchalian said, "No officer or employee shall be deemed insubordinate, absent without leave, or otherwise administratively responsible for opting to avail of the arrangement."

- [PH loses bid for UN Security Council non-permanent seat](#) (2026-06-03 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines did not secure the non-permanent seat on the United Nations (UN) Security Council for the 2027-2028 term. The Philippines was up against Kyrgyzstan for the lone seat in the Asia-Pacific region. The voting of the UN General Assembly, which took place on Wednesday, June 3 (Philippine time), saw Kyrgyzstan initially listing a 105-85 win in the first round, 110-81 in the second round, and 123-68 in the third round. A candidate country needed to secure two-thirds of the 190 voting members for the Asia-Pacific group, or at least 128 votes. Kyrgyzstan nailed it in the fourth round of voting with 142 votes against the Philippines' 49. Kyrgyzstan will begin its term on January 1, 2027. The UNSC consists of 15 members. Five of these are permanent, with veto power, while 10 are non-permanent members. Its primary role is to maintain international peace and security. The Philippines last served on the council in 2004-2005. Last March, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. addressed the UNGA to make a pitch for the country's candidature to the council.

- [Mathematicians say 'don't believe hype' on AI capabilities](#) (2026-06-03 16:40)

PARIS, France — Dozens of mathematicians signed a declaration Tuesday calling for the discipline to resist beating the drum for artificial intelligence developers. The "Leiden Declaration", backed by over 150 professors from across the world including Europe, Japan and the US, warned governments especially not to "believe the hype" about systems' maths abilities. Their intervention follows claims of increasing capability from AI firms, including performance in elite international competitions and alleged solutions to thorny open questions in the field. AI "opens new and exciting opportunities, but it also raises questions that cannot be left unexamined," International Mathematical Union (IMU) vice-president Ulrike Tillmann wrote in an endorsement. "The future of mathematical research must be guided by human judgment, fair and transparent practices, and the shared values of the global mathematical community," she added. AI developers face "a strong commercial incentive... to overstate the capabilities of their products," the declaration read. Released "on market timelines" rather than at the pace of human-reviewed science, AI publicity can "misleadingly use specific mathematical tasks as metrics for the general reasoning capacities of commercial models", it added. With hundreds of billions of dollars in investor cash up for grabs, companies are scrambling to paint AI models in a glowing light. "There is a competition to the death on the part of the main labs... they are trying, using mathematics... to attract investment so that each of them will be left standing," Columbia University professor Michael Harris, one of the declaration's co-authors, told AFP. In recent days, both SpaceX -- the Elon Musk-owned rocket firm which includes subsidiary xAI -- and Anthropic have advanced towards stock market listings, while industry standard-bearer OpenAI is believed to be close behind. Just last week, OpenAI published to social media a video in which UCLA professor Terence Tao, a past winner of the IMU's prestigious Fields Medal, vaunted its products' potential to support research. Tao is "a very generous person, he gives an enormous amount to mathematics, but it's not healthy... to keep turning to the same person as if that person is the voice through which mathematics speaks," Harris said. Beyond the risk of maths being enlisted for commercial gain, the declaration authors said AI systems could produce plausible-seeming but incorrect proofs that are hard for humans to verify, or undermine attribution and credit to researchers on whose work it builds. They fear increased use of AI in maths could incentivise bandwagon-chasing research that takes advantage of the new tools at the expense of other problems, short-circuit peer review systems and put researchers at the service of AI developers, rather than self-directed free inquiry as in universities. AI also has potential harms in the shape of "warfare, mass surveillance, political disruption and environmental damage," the authors wrote. They urged individual mathematicians to "evaluate the ethical consequences of your research, and if necessary withdraw from harmful work".

- [Dy lauds Gatchalian's election as acting Senate leader](#) (2026-06-03 16:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino Dy 3rd has congratulated Acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian after he was voted in by the members of the so-called "new" majority on Wednesday. Gatchalian was elected as acting Senate leader after Sen. Francis Escudero moved

from the majority led by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano to the minority following days of impasse. In a statement, Dy said that a "fully functioning Senate is essential to advancing legislation, exercising oversight, and upholding democratic governance," "We are confident that under your stewardship, the Senate will continue to discharge its constitutional duties with integrity, independence, and dedication to the public interest," Dy said. He said that he is wishing Gatchalian success as he leads the upper chamber in addressing the challenges and opportunities before the country.

- [Fake livestream alibi N.Ireland killer gets 31-year jail term](#) (2026-06-03 16:16)

BELFAST — A Northern Ireland man was jailed for 31 years on Wednesday after investigators uncovered that a gaming livestream he relied on as an alibi had been pre-recorded before the killing of his pregnant partner. Stephen McCullagh, 36, told detectives he could not have carried out the murder of 32-year-old Natalie McNally because he was broadcasting live on his YouTube gaming channel at the time. But police forensic specialists established that the six-hour video had been recorded four days earlier and then streamed as if it were live on December 18 last year. Sentencing him at Belfast Crown Court, the judge said the broadcast had been "carefully curated to appear as if it was streaming live and to provide the defendant a carefully-planned complete alibi to the murder". McNally was 15 weeks pregnant when she was fatally attacked in her home in Lurgan, west of Belfast, in December 2022. Following the killing, McCullagh appeared before the victim's family as "devastated, distraught and shocked", the judge said. He had also made a "concerted effort" to shift suspicion for the murder onto McNally's former boyfriend, the court heard. Handing down what is among the longest prison terms imposed in Northern Ireland, the judge described the crime as a "brutal senseless murder", planned "in remorseless detail".

- [Trump confirms using foul language with Israel's Netanyahu](#) (2026-06-03 16:12)

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has confirmed a tense exchange with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in which he reportedly berated his close ally with expletives. In an interview published Wednesday in the New York Post, Trump was asked about the conversation he had with Netanyahu over the phone on Monday. "You said, 'Are you f-ing crazy? What are you f-ing doing? I helped you stay out of jail.' Is that true? Did you speak to him in those terms?" the interviewer asked. "I did," Trump responded. "I was a little bit perturbed at his constantly fighting with Lebanon." "I said, 'Bibi, we gotta stop this.'" Trump went on to say he had a "very good relationship" with Netanyahu. "We've done well together... I like Bibi a lot." Trump unleashed the profane tirade over Israel's threats to bomb the Lebanese capital Beirut, fearing it would undermine talks with Tehran to end the war in the Middle East, the Axios news outlet and ABC News reported. The exchange underscored the shaky ties between two right-wing allies who started the war by launching an attack on Iran in late February that spread to Israel striking Lebanon. Israeli media have rejected the account of the conversation. A White House official referred AFP to Trump's Truth Social posts from Monday in which he thanked Netanyahu for what he said was an agreement to pull troops back from Beirut. Iran had

reportedly halted peace talks because of Israel's attacks on Lebanon.

- [Global media join forces to confront AI challenges](#) (2026-06-03 16:10)

MARSEILLE, France — Around 30 European and North American media outlets on Wednesday joined a coalition launched by Britain's BBC, Sky News and The Guardian, aiming to secure fair payment for news content from artificial intelligence giants. New members of the SPUR Coalition include France's CMA Media, Switzerland's Ringier and Canadian groups including The Globe and Mail and CBC/Radio Canada. "The world's leading publishers are determined to open a new chapter in their relationship with technology platforms and public authorities," CMA deputy chief Jean-Christophe Tortora told a gathering of global news publishers' association WAN-IFRA in southern French city Marseille. He called for "a 'new deal' based on fair value sharing, content protection and the defence of reliable and independent journalism". SPUR was co-founded by the BBC, Financial Times, Guardian Media Group, Sky News, Telegraph Media and Belgium's Mediahuis, which operates in several European countries. Tortora urged French President Emmanuel Macron to raise the publishers' concerns at this month's meeting of G7 leaders in Evian, eastern France. The three-day WAN-IFRA meeting was dominated by the media sector's fears about whether its business model can survive the emergence of artificial intelligence. "Tech giants strip-mine news websites without permission or compensation" to provide training data for large language models, New York Times publisher Arthur Gregg Sulzberger told the congress on Monday. SPUR -- short for Standards for Publisher Usage Rights -- argues that news content offered by media outlets comes at a high cost, and that tech and AI firms should pay a fair price for its use. The coalition's initial aims include an ambitious push to develop infrastructure that would allow publishers to measure how their content is used by AI systems. SPUR also plans talks on how news producers can license their content. "Welcoming 30 new members... gives SPUR the scale required to turn its mission into a global mandate," Guardian Media chief and SPUR founding member Anna Bateson said. "This collective strength will help legitimise the standards we create, safeguarding the intellectual property of publishers and providing AI developers with a route to scalable, sustainable licensing."

- [DOE sues Leviste for unfinished solar project](#) (2026-06-03 16:07)

THE Department of Energy (DOE) has filed a civil complaint against Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Leviste before the Regional Trial Court of Taguig City, seeking to hold him accountable for the failure to deliver a solar project awarded under the government's Green Energy Auction Program. In a 55-page complaint filed on June 2, the DOE said Solar Philippines Commercial Rooftop Projects Inc., along with Solar Philippines Southern Mindanao Corp., Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings Inc. and Leviste himself, did not honor obligations associated with the General Santos Solar Power Project, a 120-megawatt solar facility awarded under the first round of the Green Energy Auction Program to supply power to the Mindanao grid. The DOE said it is seeking damages and other relief from Leviste and his companies as the focus of its case is a performance bond valued at about P1.185 billion which was intended to guarantee the project's completion. The DOE alleged that the bond was allowed to expire

without replacement and that repeated government demands for compliance and payment went unanswered. It said despite formal commitments made under the energy program, the project failed to deliver the promised power generation capacity within the agreed timeline. The department argued that this failure undermined its efforts to expand renewable energy capacity and support the country's energy security objectives. In addition to this, the agency described Leviste as the overall head behind the corporate defendants, stating that he owns 100 percent of Solar Philippines Commercial Rooftop Projects Inc. and exercised direct control over the companies involved in the project. The Energy department also argued that the corporate entities and Leviste operated as a single decision-making group in relation to the project. It said the complaint highlights the government's view that compliance with awarded projects is essential to ensuring reliable and adequate energy supply for Filipino consumers, as the Green Energy Auction Program was established to accelerate the development of renewable energy projects and support the Philippines' long-term energy transition goals.

- [Bonoan transferred to private hospital](#) (2026-06-03 16:06)

FORMER Public Works secretary Manual Bonoan was transferred to a private hospital on Tuesday evening to undergo more intensive monitoring of his heart condition, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Wednesday. Bonoan was taken to the PNP General Hospital (PNPGH) after his blood pressure spiked dangerously high on the day of his arrest on Monday. The PNP said the PNPGH was not equipped to conduct specialized tests needed by the former Cabinet member. PNP Health Service director Brig. Gen. Portia Manalad earlier said Bonoan, 80, continues to undergo monitoring and assessment by medical specialists. "He's under observation with elevated lab results and for further evaluation of medical specialists, taking into consideration his age and risks," Manalad said. He was discharged on Tuesday when his condition stabilized and was sent to the Sandiganbayan for the issuance of a court order upon doctor's clearance that he was fit to stand trial. His arraignment, however, did not push through and Bonoan was later brought back to the PNPGH on Tuesday afternoon after his blood pressure spiked to 170/100 again. His arraignment, along with those of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and three others, was postponed to June 4. The PNP assured the public that legal procedures were being strictly followed as Bonoan remains under police custody and medical care. PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the police organization is committed to ensuring that Bonoan's hospitalization will not hinder the implementation of lawful court processes. "The PNP enforces court orders fairly and without favor. Former secretary Bonoan surrendered voluntarily but required immediate medical intervention after a severe blood pressure spike during booking," Nartatez said in a statement. "I have directed the PNP Health Service and the CIDG to maintain full transparency, enforce tight security and ensure that no special or VIP treatment is extended," Nartatez said.

- [Marcos reaffirms support to LGBTQIA+ community](#) (2026-06-03 16:05)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday reaffirmed his support to the country's LGBTQIA+ community, reiterating that every one, regardless of background,

“deserves dignity” .In his message for Pride Month, Marcos said the observance honors “the courage of those who refused to be excluded or denied their rightful place in society.” “It reminds us that the freedoms and recognition enjoyed today were not freely given, they were won through struggle, sacrifice, and the belief that every person deserves dignity,” he said. “As we celebrate Pride Month, the government reaffirms a principle that must never waver: every Filipino is entitled to equal protection, equal opportunity, and equal respect under the law,” he added. The president further noted that inclusivity must not just be about mere words. Inclusion, he stressed, must also be “reflected in our policies, strengthened by our institutions, and practiced in our everyday actions as a people.” “The LGBTQIA+ Community has long helped shape our country's progress through its talent, service, and leadership. To overlook these contributions is to deny an essential part of the Filipino story,” Marcos said. “Let this observance send a clear message: no Filipino should ever be made to feel invisible in the country they help build. No one should ever be forced to conceal who they are in order to earn acceptance and understanding,” he added.

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- [Groups sue senators for obstructing justice](#) (2026-06-03 16:05)

A CIVIL society group, human rights advocates, religious and youth group leaders, and the families of victims of the Duterte administration's bloody war on drugs on Wednesday filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman against Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, Sen. Robinhood Padilla and suspended Senate Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) Mao Aplasca for helping the fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa evade arrest on May 13. The civil society group Tindig Pilipinas said the filing of the case came amid growing public concern over reports that public officials and security personnel may have facilitated or enabled dela Rosa — wanted by the

International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity for his role in leading the drug war — to evade arrest. “We are filing this complaint based on publicly available reports, official statements, video recordings and the surrounding circumstances showing that respondents, acting individually and/or in concert, knowingly and willfully obstructed, impeded, frustrated or delayed the apprehension of Sen. Ronald ‘Bato’ dela Rosa, who was the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court,” the complaint read. Kiko Aquino Dee, co-convenor of Tindig Pilipinas, told The Manila Times more civil society voices called for accountability for the “chaos” under Cayetano’s Senate leadership. “We believe that the acts of obstruction of justice committed by Sen. Alan [Peter] Cayetano, Senator Padilla and SAA Aplasca could only have been committed because they occupy public office, so this falls within the Ombudsman’s jurisdiction. More broadly, we echo the many voices from civil society that have called for accountability for the chaos in the Senate under Sen. Alan Cayetano’s leadership. Part of that is legal accountability for aiding in Sen[ator] dela Rosa’s escape,” he said. The group’s representatives included Dee and Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Sylvia Estrada Claudio, along with former Finance undersecretary Cielo Magno; Fr. Flavie Villanueva; Randy delos Santos, uncle of slain teenager Kian delos Santos; Judy Ann Chan Miranda of Partido Manggagawa; Susan Balindo of Baigani Feminist Collective; Eugene Gonzalez and Yvonne Jereza of Magdalo Party; Matthew Silverio of the Student Council Alliance of the Philippines; Venus Crisostomo of Youth Resist; and Pinky Tam of Karanasan. The complainants said the case is not simply about one individual but about “defending the integrity of public institutions and ensuring that accountability mechanisms function without political interference.” The group also rejected attempts to portray the ICC process as an “attack on Philippine sovereignty,” adding that the pursuit of justice for grave crimes is consistent with the country’s commitment to the rule of law and human rights. “The rule of law requires accountability. Public office must never be used as a shield against justice. When officials use their positions to frustrate lawful processes and protect their allies from accountability, they betray the public trust and undermine our democratic institutions,” Dee said in a statement. In addition, the complainants also called on the Office of the Ombudsman to conduct an impartial investigation and ensure that public officials who obstruct justice are held accountable under the country’s laws.

- [Sandiganbayan junks Romualdez’s appeal](#) (2026-06-03 16:04)

THE Sandiganbayan said that the motion filed by former speaker Martin Romualdez to lift the precautionary hold departure order against him was unverified and has no legal merit. The hold order against Romualdez was issued on April 22 following the filing of an application by the Office of the Ombudsman, implicating him in the flood control scam. In its 12-page resolution promulgated on June 1 and written by division chairman and Associate Justice Lorifel Pahimna, and concurred in by Associate Justices Georgina Hidalgo and Hans Nocom, the court noted that Romualdez’s motion was unverified; therefore, his pleading was unsigned and therefore has no legal merit. Even if Romualdez’s pleading is verified, the anti-graft court said that once the Office of the Ombudsman finds sufficient evidence to support a belief that a crime has been committed, that the respondent is probably guilty, and that there is a high probability of flight,

an application for a precautionary hold departure order may be filed with the court even prior to the commencement of a preliminary investigation.” The investigating prosecutor is not required to direct the respondent to submit a counter-affidavit or await his or her submission before filing such [an] application with the court,” the court said. It said that it is speculative for Romualdez to claim that what occurred on April 20 was merely the receipt or docketing of the complaint.” Neither he nor this court can assume the exact manner or timing by which the [Ombudsman] made its preliminary finding of probable cause after receiving the complaint. It also said that the court’s determination of probable cause for purposes of issuing the hold order is confined to ascertaining whether sufficient grounds exist to believe that a crime has been committed and that Romualdez is probably guilty of committing it.” The court did not rule on the ultimate issue of guilt, nor did it require proof beyond reasonable doubt, as these are matters properly addressed during trial. It only determined the existence of probable cause as prescribed by the rules. At this stage, it is sufficient that the elements of the offenses charged reasonably appear from the evidence on record,” it added. The court said it believes that the totality of evidence, including recommendations from the Independent Commission for Infrastructure, fact-finding by the Ombudsman, and transcripts from the Senate and House hearings, were sufficient to “engender a reasonable belief” that Romualdez was probably liable for the alleged flood control scam. It added that Romualdez remains a high flight risk and there is a possibility that he could evade prosecution.” Given the gravity of the allegations and the severe penalties that may result, including imprisonment, fines and forfeiture of assets, Rep[resentative] Romualdez clearly possesses sufficient motive and opportunity to evade the jurisdiction of the authorities should he be allowed to leave the country,” Sandiganbayan said.

- [Filipinos back patrols, diplomacy](#) (2026-06-03 16:03)

NEARLY three in four adult Filipinos are familiar with developments in the West Philippine Sea, and a large majority supports a mix of stronger maritime presence, diplomacy, and defense modernization as the country’s main approach to the territorial dispute, a new nationwide survey showed. The Tugon ng Masa survey for the first quarter of 2026, released Wednesday by OCTA Research, found that 72 percent of adult Filipinos are aware of ongoing issues in the West Philippine Sea. The poll was conducted from March 19 to 25, 2026, using a nationally representative sample of 1,200 respondents. It has a margin of error of ± 3 percent at a 95 percent confidence level and was commissioned by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). OCTA Research said the level of awareness indicates that the issue has moved beyond foreign policy circles and into mainstream public consciousness, with strong familiarity recorded across major demographic groups. Awareness was highest in the National Capital Region at 79 percent and in the Visayas at 77 percent. Both Luzon and Mindanao registered 69 percent. By socioeconomic classification, awareness reached 86 percent among Class ABC respondents and 64 percent among Class E. Across age groups, familiarity remained relatively consistent, ranging from 67 percent to 76 percent, with the highest levels observed among Filipinos aged 18 to 24 and those aged 65 to 74. On policy preferences, respondents expressed broad support for a combined approach to the West Philippine Sea issue that includes

expanded naval patrols and troop presence, diplomatic engagement and military modernization. Expanded maritime patrols and troop deployment received 69 percent support, while diplomacy and peaceful assertion of rights drew 66 percent. Strengthening AFP modernization and defense capability was close behind at 64 percent. Given the survey's margin of error, OCTA said these figures form a closely clustered set of priorities rather than sharply separated choices. It noted that respondents generally favor a strategy that balances a stronger physical presence in contested waters with continued diplomatic efforts and long-term investment in defense capabilities. Regional differences were also observed in how Filipinos ranked these approaches. Support for expanded naval patrols was strongest in Visayas at 73 percent, followed by Balance Luzon at 72 percent and the National Capital Region at 70 percent, while Mindanao recorded lower support at 58 percent. Among higher socioeconomic groups classified as ABC, AFP modernization stood out as the leading preference at 85 percent, followed by diplomacy at 75 percent. The survey also showed that shelving territorial disputes in favor of joint economic development remained the least preferred option, though support for it rose to 23 percent in March 2026 from earlier readings of 17 percent in October 2023 and 14 percent in December 2023. OCTA said this indicates that while the idea has gained some traction over time, it continues to lag far behind sovereignty-focused approaches. Trend data comparing surveys from 2023 to 2026 showed stable public sentiment on West Philippine Sea policy. Support for expanded naval patrols increased from 65 percent in October 2023 to 72 percent in December of the same year before settling at 69 percent in the latest round. Support for diplomacy remained relatively steady from 70 percent in October 2023 to 66 percent in March 2026. Joint maritime patrols with allied countries recorded a decline from roughly 42 percent in both 2023 survey rounds to 29 percent in 2026. OCTA Research said the overall results point to a durable public consensus favoring a balanced approach anchored in territorial assertion, diplomatic engagement and sustained defense modernization.

- [Over 4K students get scholarship grant from Marcos](#) (2026-06-03 16:02)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday led the distribution of P88.52 million in educational assistance to 4,426 students from Manila as part of the administration's "Bawat Bayan Makikinabang" program. Marcos, together with Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, led the turnover of the Socio-Civic Projects Fund Financial Assistance during a meet-and-greet with Presidential Scholars at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Malate. Marcos stressed the importance of educating the Filipino youth and promised to further strengthen the implementation of the Bawat Barangay Makikinabang Program. "This is our continuing program in Bawat Bayan Makikinabang. We will continue to do this until we cover the entire Philippines," the president told reporters. Marcos said that nearly 20,000 villages have benefited from the program and expressed optimism that it would reach more communities within the school year. He also signaled the possibility of increasing funding for local governments if the program continued to deliver positive results. "So, I'm very happy that it is going well," the president said. Under the program, each barangay receives P200,000 in assistance, with 100,000 allocated for scholarships. Every barangay selects five Presidential Scholars who each receive P20,000 in

educational assistance. The beneficiaries were selected from Manila's 896 villages, with five graduating college students identified from each village. The president said the program is being implemented nationwide. Citing Education Commission 2025 data, Marcos said there was an almost 29 percent dropout rate among college students last year. "Work hard on your studies and we will meet again once you have your diplomas," the president told the scholars. The Bawat Barangay Makikinabang Program has two components: educational assistance through the Bagong Pilipinas Barangay Scholars Program and assistance for Barangay-Identified Development Priorities. The education component provides financial support to deserving and outstanding incoming fourth-year college students, while the barangay support component enables barangay (villages) to select and implement priority development interventions aligned with their immediate operational and community needs. The presidential scholarship program targets vulnerable students, particularly incoming fourth-year college students for school year 2026–2027, who are members of vulnerable households or are at risk of dropping out. Priority is given to families where no member has yet completed tertiary education.

- [DPWH ramps up flood mitigation efforts](#) (2026-06-03 16:01)

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is accelerating flood mitigation efforts nationwide as the rainy season sets in, emphasizing the need for faster drainage of floodwater in low-lying and flood-prone communities. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon said on Wednesday that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. directed the DPWH to ensure that floodwaters recede quickly to minimize disruptions to residents, motorists and commuters affected by heavy rains and severe flooding. "Central to the government's strategy is the intensified implementation of Oplan Kontra Baha (OKB), a nationwide flood-control initiative aimed at reducing the impact of flooding in vulnerable areas," added Dizon. Under the OKB program, the DPWH is undertaking clearing and dredging operations to remove silt, debris, and other obstructions that impede the water flow. The agency is also expanding and rehabilitating waterways, including drainage systems, canals, esteros and rivers, to improve water movement and prevent overflow during heavy rainfall. According to Dizon, these measures are designed to ensure that major waterways remain free of blockages that can worsen flooding and threaten nearby communities. "The government is prioritizing interventions in areas that regularly experience severe flooding, particularly during the rainy season and tropical weather disturbances," he said. Among the key focus areas are Metro Manila, where recurring floods have long affected transportation networks, businesses and residential communities. The initiative also covers several provinces in Northern and Central Luzon, including Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, and Tarlac, which are often vulnerable to flooding from monsoon rains and typhoons. In the Bicol Region, flood control activities are being intensified in Naga, another area frequently affected by heavy rainfall and overflowing waterways. The program likewise extends to key urban centers in the Visayas and Mindanao, including Cebu City, Iloilo City, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, and Maguindanao, where flood risks remain a major concern.

- [Senators grab power from Cayetano's bloc](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

THE minority bloc in the Senate wrested power from Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday, installing Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian as acting Senate president and declaring all seats vacant after Sen. Francis Escudero abandoned Cayetano's group. Escudero's decision to cross over to the erstwhile minority bloc has made it the new majority with 12 members as opposed to the 10 in the Cayetano camp. The dramatic power grab took place on the last session day of the Senate. The new majority bloc is composed of Senators Bam Aquino, JV Ejercito, Escudero, Gatchalian, Risa Hontiveros, Panfilo Lacson, Lito Lapid, Francis Pangilinan, Vicente Sotto III, Erwin Tulfo, Raffy Tulfo and Juan Miguel Zubiri. The new minority group has the following 10 members: Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, Pia Cayetano, Bong Go, Loren Legarda, Imee Marcos, Rodante Marcoleta, Robinhood Padilla, Joel Villanueva, Camille Villar and Mark Villar. "For clarity, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano is no longer Senate president after the Senate, with 12 senators present and a quorum declared based on the recognized base number of 22 under Avelino vs. Cuenco, voted to declare all positions vacant, including the presidency of the institution," the majority bloc said in a joint statement. "Hence, we voted to declare all positions vacant, although we could not yet elect a new SP because we lacked the 13 votes required by the Constitution," Lacson wrote on X. Escudero suddenly appeared at about 3:30 p.m. while the then-minority was waiting for Cayetano and the rest of his group mates to arrive to hold session. They had been absent from the Senate for two session days. Sotto declared all seats vacant and nominated Gatchalian as Senate president pro tempore. Zubiri was nominated as Senate majority leader. There were no objections. The "new" majority was ready with a list of new committee chairmanships. The new panel chairmanship lineup is as follows: Ejercito — Finance; Sotto — National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Lacson — Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, and Accounts; Erwin Tulfo — Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon), Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Raffy Tulfo — Public Services; Aquino — Basic Education; Pangilinan — Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Hontiveros — Health and Demography; Lapid — Games and Amusement; Escudero — Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Zubiri — Foreign Relations, and Rules. The new majority bloc also replaced the Senate secretary and the sergeant-at-arms. The impasse at the Senate stalled the approval on third and final reading of Senate Bill 2092 declaring Waling-Waling (vanda sanderiana) as the national orchid of the Philippines. The deadlock also delayed the passage of House Bill (HB) 6639 and HB 6644 granting Philippine citizenship to basketball player Bennie Francois Boatwright III and wrestler Matthew James Ramos, respectively. FB leadership Lacson earlier called out Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano for attempting to lead the Senate through Facebook livestreams while boycotting its regular sessions. The Senate is "indeed under attack but by its own leadership," the senator said on Wednesday. Lacson said Cayetano has been issuing notices suspending sessions and relaying other instructions to staff and subordinates only verbally, ensuring such questionable decisions would "leave no paper trail." "What a mess! Where else can we find a Senate president who boycotts the regular sessions of a chamber which he is supposed to preside, then delivers speeches on Facebook instead of the Senate floor before his peers so we can interpellate him?" Lacson wrote on X. He said Cayetano "is ruining" the Senate. "It's become a shame to the Filipino people," Lacson said. "You're the Senate president, you

should set the right and good example. But you're setting a bad example," Lacson added. He said Cayetano had claimed last May 13 that the Senate was under attack. "The Senate is indeed under attack but the one doing the attacking is the present leadership and that is sad," Lacson said in English and Filipino in a radio interview later. On Tuesday, Lacson and fellow members of the then-Senate minority bloc demanded Cayetano's resignation as Senate chief following the latter's absence from the Senate's session for two straight days. He said Cayetano's boycotting of the sessions may be considered dereliction of duty and could be a basis for a complaint lodged by any taxpayer before the Senate Ethics Committee. "Plain and simple, his actions amount to dereliction of duty because we have a duty to perform but he is not doing it. The disciplinary mechanism for this is the ethics committee. Any citizen of this country may file a complaint so long as the complaint has sufficient basis," he said. Ahead of the session, Aquino, too, called on members of the Cayetano bloc to return to session to pass important measures as the Senate prepares to adjourn sine die on Wednesday. He issued the call after the majority failed to attend the plenary session on Tuesday or for the second straight day, disrupting the Senate's work on several vital measures and other legislative matters. Congress adjourns sine die on June 6. The Senate and House of Representatives will hold a joint session on July 27 for the State of the Nation Address of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It is just "one more day" before the Senate session ends, the senator said in making his appeal to the majority group. "We need to go back to the Senate session hall and work for the nation," Aquino said in Filipino. "We, senators, were all elected, and we were expected by our fellowmen to fight for their welfare and future." "Get back to work" Amid the deadlock in the Senate, President Marcos urged senators to get back to work. "Get back to work. Because it's important. We have a lot of work to do," Marcos said after a meet and greet with Manila presidential scholars at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Malate. The president said that several urgent measures were needed to address the effects of the global oil crisis, including a possible supplemental budget and amendments to existing laws. "We had a meeting at the Uplift (Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food and Transport) Committee, and we need to work on a handful of laws. We were thinking of requesting a supplemental budget to amend certain laws," Marcos said. "We need these to bring relief to the people because of the ongoing global oil crisis," he added. The president also questioned the cancellation of Senate sessions for two consecutive days following the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on plunder and graft charges in connection with flood control anomalies. "There has to be a very good reason for canceling a session. I don't think assisting a senator is enough reason to suspend a session," he said. Marcos, a former senator and congressman, said that under the rules, the Senate needed to inform the House of Representatives three days before canceling a session. "I'm afraid all these events that we have been witnessing have thrown the Senate and its leadership, the whole Senate, into disarray. It has discredited the leadership, and it has stopped the essential business of legislation and government," he said. Marcos said that while the executive and judiciary continued to function, the Senate had effectively halted its work at a time when stability and government intervention were needed. "I talked to my fellow senators at the time I was senator, and we cannot figure out why did this happen? How did we get here?" Marcos said. "That is anathema to everything that governance is about. I never

imagined in my entire life — my entire political life — that such a thing could happen, especially to the august — it's no longer august now — but to the august body of the Upper House, the Senate and the Philippines.” “It's a very, very sad situation to have to watch. The country is in need of assistance. People are in need of assistance. How can we provide that assistance without the proper legislation to back it up? That is my problem here looking at it from the side of the executive,” he added. Marcos said the executive department was “examining all of their options” on what it can do with the Senate impasse. “We cannot tell them what to do... They have to regulate themselves. And they haven't been doing much of a good job right now,” he added. The president's estranged sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, who is part of the Cayetano bloc, shrugged off her brother's appeal. “If the President has a minus/negative 15 satisfaction rating [based on the Social Weather Station survey], I think, the public will not agree with whatever he will say or do,” Senator Marcos said in a text message. “We are continuously working, the committee hearings have persisted and the documents for the pretrial conference of the impeachment are being processed,” she said. Senator Marcos added, “In fact, we will have a Blue Ribbon Committee hearing tomorrow (Thursday) on the flood control [fund] scandal.” However, Sen. Erwin Tulfo, the new chairman of the Blue Ribbon Committee, said the planned hearing of the subcommittee led by Marcoleta would be illegal since all positions have been declared vacant, and that the Senate sergeant-at-arms and the Senate secretary have already been advised.

- [Israel-sponsored computer school launched](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

ISRAELI Ambassador to the Philippines Dana Kursh led the inauguration of a digital learning center at Jacinto Zamora Elementary School in Manila, an Israel-sponsored project. Kursh said the project, launched in time with Israel's 78th Independence Day, is an investment in the future of Filipino children and a symbol of the partnership between Israel and the Philippines. She said that instead of doing the usual commemoration of the occasion, the embassy opted to direct resources toward a project with a lasting impact on students.” National Day receptions are going in a hotel, holding one glass of wine, doing something or the other, maybe hearing some music or some dance. We said, this year, it's not appropriate,” Kursh said at the project's launch on Wednesday.” We said, let's invest, instead of one day, a present day, in the future. And that's what we chose to do here,” she said. The ambassador said the school was selected after consultations with Philippine education officials, who recommended several schools for consideration. Embassy representatives later visited the sites and chose Jacinto Zamora Elementary School. Kursh noted that the 105-year-old school serves about 2,000 students and was named after Father Jacinto Zamora, one of the three Filipino martyred priests collectively known as Gomburza. The learning center was completed in less than two months and is designed to be more than just a classroom.” What you see here is a digital learning center that is not just a place to learn. It's a place to inspire, it's a place to dream,” she said. The facility includes a coding component featuring CodeMonkey, an Israeli-developed educational platform that introduces children to programming and problem-solving through interactive lessons.” It teaches children how to

basically solve problems and how to introduce code not in something that you may be afraid of, but in something very, very simple,” Kursh said. The center also contains books and reading materials intended to encourage literacy and cultivate a love for reading among students.” The aim is, how do you fall in love with books?” she said. A third component is a community space where students can gather after class to read, learn and collaborate. The Israeli Embassy said it will fund a staff member who will be present every afternoon to guide and mentor students using the facility. Kursh said the embassy’s commitment would extend beyond the inauguration.” Our commitment to this place is not just today,” she said. “We will have now a journey where, from time to time, one of our team will come and educate, interact with the children and identify what other things they would like to accomplish.” The ambassador linked the initiative to the shared future of Israel and the Philippines, noting that Israel marked its 78th Independence Day this year while the Philippines is set to celebrate its 128th Independence Day on June 12.” This is our future, and the children are our future,” she said. “We need to invest in you because you are investing in our future.” Kursh described education as “the best investment for the future” and expressed hope that the center would inspire students to learn, explore and pursue their dreams.” Come to this place, come to learn here, come to read here, come to explore here, but mainly, come to dream here,” she told the students. “To dream of what you want to do when you grow up.”

- [Duterte tells Barzaga: Be different](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

VICE President Sara Duterte advised expelled Cavite Rep. Francisco Barzaga to “be different” and remain true to who he is. Barzaga was expelled by the House of Representatives on Tuesday for repeated disorderly behavior and conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker. A total of 265 lawmakers voted for his expulsion, while 14 voted against, with eight abstentions. In an open letter posted on Facebook, Duterte said that “being different is OK.” “It takes grit to be yourself in a world that rewards conformity. Not everyone will understand your choices or the path you take, and that’s OK. What matters is staying true to who you are and what you believe in,” Duterte said, noting she was labeled “different,” “crazy” and “dumb,” among other things, for declining to follow the norm.” You are different because you have never been convicted of child abuse, never brought home ‘maletas’ (suitcases) of public funds, never allowed cocaine and alcohol to flow from your office, and never said yes to corruption and oppression,” Duterte said. She told Barzaga that it takes courage to charge forward even if no one follows him, and that his path is a daily reminder that character matters more than conformity. “The strength you show inspires more Filipinos than you may ever know,” Duterte said. She added that God, the residents of Cavite and Davao, as well as the eagles and cats love him. Meanwhile, Bagong Henerasyon Partylist Rep. Robert Nazal opined that the offense committed by Barzaga does not merit expulsion, which he called the “most extreme” of all punishments that can be imposed on a member of Congress. In his explanation of his vote against Barzaga’s expulsion, Nazal said that while he does not condone the controversial lawmaker’s actions and statements, he believes his sanctions should not be as extreme as expulsion. He added that expulsion should not be treated as an ordinary penalty

imposed on any member of Congress regardless of the severity of the offense committed.” Expulsion is the gravest penalty this House can impose upon one of its members. It is not a mere reprimand, not censure and not suspension. It is the complete removal of an elected representative from the seat entrusted to him by the people,” Nazal said. He noted that expulsion should be reserved only for the most extreme cases — acts so grave and so incompatible with public office that no lesser penalty would suffice. Nazal said that Barzaga’s expulsion is not only a penalty against him as a member of Congress, but it also results in the disenfranchisement of his constituents from the fourth district of Cavite who elected him and entrusted him with the responsibility of representing their interests in the legislature.” When we expel a Member, we also deprive his constituents of the representative they chose through the ballot,” the lawmaker said. Meanwhile, House Assistant Majority Leader and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said that Barzaga’s expulsion was rooted in accountability and decorum rather than politics.” I would expect my colleague to also set a standard wherein his behavior and the way he performs his job is commensurate to the public office that he was elected to,” Adiong said at the Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum on Wednesday. He said that instead of making allegations without any evidence against his fellow lawmakers, Barzaga should have pursued actions through legitimate legal channels. He dismissed claims that Barzaga’s expulsion violated freedom of expression.” There’s a big difference between rumor mongering and free speech,” Adiong said. Meanwhile, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairman George Erwin Garcia said on Wednesday that Barzaga is ineligible to run for office in future elections because his removal from his post was administrative in nature and did not involve a criminal conviction, which carries the perpetual disqualification from public office.” Yes, he can file a certificate of candidacy because his removal from office as congressman is not a perpetual disqualification to hold public office,” Garcia said. He added that the Comelec thoroughly discussed the issue en banc before reaching its position on Barzaga’s eligibility. Garcia said existing laws and Supreme Court rulings support the view that expulsion from the House does not automatically strip a person of the right to seek elective office in future elections. Republic Act (RA) 7166 authorizes Comelec to act without waiting for Congress. If a seat becomes vacant at least one year before the end of the term, the Comelec must conduct a special election within 60 to 90 days from the vacancy. Garcia said that Comelec is mandated to hold the special election in compliance with Section 4 of RA 7166, which states: “In case a permanent vacancy shall occur in the Senate or House of Representatives at least one year before the expiration of the term, the Commission on Elections shall call and hold a special election to fill the vacancy not earlier than 60 days nor longer than 90 days after the occurrence of the vacancy.” The ruling, the poll chief said, is anchored on the April 2025 Supreme Court decision in Hagedorn v. House of Representatives. Article 6, Section 9 of the Constitution provides that an elected successor may serve the unexpired portion of the term of the official who was expelled.

- [Marcos names Cayetano new PTV-4 head](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed former Taguig City mayor Lino Cayetano as the new general manager of state-owned network People's Television Network (PTV-4), Malacañang confirmed on Wednesday." I am happy to announce that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed former Taguig City Mayor Lino Edgardo Cayetano as the new General Manager of PTV-4," Presidential Communications Office Acting Secretary Dave Gomez said in a statement." Former Mayor Cayetano brings with him a rare wealth of experience from the media, private and the public sectors that would certainly take PTV-4 to greater heights in our ever-evolving multimedia landscape," he added.Cayetano takes over the reins from outgoing PTV Chief Maria Lourdes Fagar.A film and television director, Cayetano brings with him extensive experience in media, public service and creative leadership. He has directed prime-time shows for all three major Philippine television networks and has worked for more than a decade at ABS-CBN as a director and creative consultant.Cayetano earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mass communication from the University of the Philippines and obtained a diploma in film from the New York Film Academy in 1999.Besides being a respected figure in the entertainment industry, Cayetano likewise built a distinguished career in public service.He served as a member of the House of Representatives during the 13th Congress of the Philippines and later as mayor of Taguig City from 2019 to 2022.

- [Manila braces for El Niño](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

THE city government of Manila will roll out early-warning devices and weather equipment to prepare for the projected "biggest El Niño" in November.Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno announced the rollout on Wednesday at City Hall, where he revealed that three all-hazard sirens and six automated weather stations will be deployed to enhance disaster preparedness and mitigate the potential impacts of extreme weather conditions on the city's residents.Moreno added that the equipment will be deployed first along the city's coastal areas, particularly in Districts 1, 3 and 5.The mayor noted that the deployment comes after he read a study predicting the biggest El Niño will likely occur in November."There is already a study of the biggest deluge that is going to happen in November. Based on historical facts, that is true," Moreno said."Then after installing this, we will conduct training and public information dissemination on what kind of sounds and what the purpose of the sounds are and what they need to do," Moreno added, noting that the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (DRRMD) will spearhead the training.Christian John Evangelista, from the Manila DRRM Department, told The Manila Times that the all-hazard sirens are designed to provide early warnings for a wide range of emergencies, including floods, fires, typhoons and even wartime scenarios."These can be activated remotely, even from the mayor's office, and can also be used for public announcements during drills or actual emergencies. In worst-case scenarios, since this is wireless and relies on radio frequency, there's also a manual option to ensure functionality," he said in Filipino.He said two of the sirens will be placed at Manila City Hall and one at the Baseco Evacuation Center.Meanwhile, the automated weather stations are equipped with advanced sensors to monitor various weather parameters. "They help us monitor conditions like rainfall and wind speed, which are essential for forecasting and

preparing for potential disasters,” he explained. “If we can inform the general population ahead of time, maybe we may save more lives,” said Moreno, stressing the importance of informing the public before disaster strikes.

- [42-km marathon to be held on EDSA on June 12](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

IN nine days, EDSA, Metro Manila’ s busiest thoroughfare, will be transformed into a 42-kilometer race route as thousands of runners take part in the Galaxy Manila Marathon on Independence Day. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday, June 3, released final traffic and operational arrangements for the event, which will start at 11:30 p.m. on June 12. Participants in the marathon’ s premier 42-kilometer category will run from SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City to SM City North EDSA in Quezon City using portions of EDSA’ s bus lane and adjacent lanes. The MMDA said runners will use the EDSA bus lane from SM Mall of Asia to Buendia MRT Station. From Buendia to the Quezon City Academy U-turn slot near SM North EDSA Annex, participants will occupy the two lanes beside the bus lane. To accommodate the race, the outermost lane between SM Mall of Asia and Buendia MRT Station will temporarily serve as the EDSA Bus Carousel lane. The agency said the bus lane configuration from Buendia MRT Station to Caloocan City will remain unchanged. The Magallanes flyovers in both directions will be temporarily closed as runners pass through the area, and reopened once the last participant has cleared each section. A stop-and-go scheme will also be implemented for EDSA buses operating between PITX and SM Mall of Asia. Motorists were advised to use perpendicular roads and designated Mabuhay Lanes as alternate routes during the marathon. MMDA Chairman Don Artes said mobile pumping units will be on standby should rain affect the event, and that assistance from the Department of Public Works and Highways has been requested due to the possibility of wet weather.

- [Manila rolls out second tranche of rice program for workers](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

MANILA Mayor Isko Moreno on Wednesday said the second tranche of the government’ s “Biyayang Bigas para sa Maynila” program has been rolled out. “Since yesterday, the 2nd tranche of your ‘Biyayang Bigas para sa Maynila’ program in the City of Manila is now being delivered to everyone,” Moreno said in Filipino during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’ s rollout of the cash assistance to graduating students at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. The program, launched in April, provides 10-kilogram sacks of rice to workers in Manila, including employees in malls, hotels, restaurants, and other establishments. During the event, Moreno lauded the president for the scholarship program called “Bawat Bayan ay Makikinabang,” which was designed to reach students who are close to finishing their degrees but are at risk of dropping out due to financial constraints. The program provided P20,000 aid to each of the 4,426 graduating college students from the city’ s six districts, bringing the total scholarship payout for the city to P88,520,000.

- [Go extends aid to fire-hit families in Taguig](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

SEN. Bong Go, accompanied by his outreach team, organized a relief operation for families affected by a fire in Barangay Southside, Taguig City, on May 28. They provided assistance to those in need, reinforcing his dedication to disaster response and recovery efforts. Go's team coordinated with local government officials to assess the situation on the ground and identify the urgent needs of affected residents. "The life and health of every Filipino are important to me. As I said, we can buy things and earn money if we work hard. But life cannot be bought. Our lives are important, and Filipinos are known for helping each other," Go said. The relief activity was held at the Barangay Southside Hall, where four families affected by the fire received essential items, including grocery packs, vitamins, snacks, shirts, pens, and balls. The assistance was intended to ease the burden on families as they began to recover from the incident. In addition to the relief goods, the beneficiaries received housing assistance for rebuilding their homes. The initiative forms part of efforts championed by Go to help disaster-stricken communities recover more quickly. "Under this program that we are promoting, beneficiaries will be given assistance to purchase materials such as nails and iron sheets to rebuild their homes," the senator explained. Go emphasized the importance of strengthening disaster preparedness and response mechanisms nationwide. He highlighted his role as principal author and co-sponsor of Republic Act (RA) 12076, or the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act, which mandates the establishment of permanent, disaster-resilient evacuation centers in every city and municipality in the country. The senator likewise cited RA 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2021, which he principally authored and co-sponsored. The law seeks to enhance the country's firefighting capabilities through modern equipment, improved personnel training, and strengthened institutional support for the Bureau of Fire Protection. Local officials expressed gratitude for the assistance extended to the affected families, noting that such support plays a crucial role in helping residents recover and rebuild their lives after calamities.

- [‘Habitat’ turns over housing units to Valenzuela families](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

THE partnership between the Valenzuela City government and Habitat for Humanity Philippines has resulted in the provision of at least 26 housing units to beneficiary families in Barangay Mapulang Lupa. Mayor Wes Gatchalian thanked Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organization dedicated to building safe, decent homes for families and communities in need, for the collaboration that directly benefited his poor constituents. This marks another milestone in the city government's continuing commitment to inclusive housing and sustainable community development, Gatchalian said. He reminded the beneficiaries from the Samahang Nagkakaisang Kapatiran ng Mapulang Lupa (SNKMKL) to maintain the orderliness of the Ameya Homes. Under the partnership, the local government provided public property for the housing development, and Habitat, through its donors and partners, funded and constructed the housing units. Aside from the housing units, the private organization also donated a two-story multi-purpose building intended to serve as a venue for homeowners' association activities, meetings and community programs. Meanwhile, Gatchalian said the local government funded and implemented P7.6 million worth of land development works, including the construction of

roads, drainage systems and perimeter fences to ensure a safer, more functional and livable environment for residents. For decades, SNKMKL members lived in challenging conditions without secure tenure, making them vulnerable to various social and environmental risks, this newspaper was told. “Through the housing project, beneficiary families are now provided with safer and more stable homes within a developed community,” Gatchalian reiterated. Apart from housing initiatives, the city government has also established several public facilities in the area, including a three-story center, a school complex, and a public library, further strengthening access to essential government and educational services for residents, he added. The mayor tasked the city’s Housing and Resettlement Office to oversee and monitor the community and residents to ensure proper maintenance, organization and sustainability of the housing project.

- [QC hosts solidarity event for smoke-free environment](#) (2026-06-03 16:00)

QUEZON CITY Mayor Joy Belmonte on Wednesday said that the local government hosted a film showing and solidarity event, highlighting the significance of collaboration among stakeholders in building a smoke-free and vape-free community. She told The Manila Times that the events, held in observance of World No Tobacco Day and National No Smoking Month, were in partnership with tobacco control and public health advocates. TobaccOFF NOW! Film Showing and Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Environment Bill Solidarity Day featured six short films produced by young advocates and filmmakers, harnessing the power of creative storytelling to amplify public health messages and demand immediate policy action, according to the city government. Youth leaders, advocates, local government officials, and national government agencies gathered at the city hall, amplifying the call for a national smoke-free law, Belmonte said. Data would show that 1 million adolescent Filipinos started smoking or vaping in a single year. Tobacco-related diseases kill 112,000 Filipinos annually, and the total economic burden of tobacco reaches P365.79 billion every year. Albay 1st District Rep. Krisel Lagman and other members of the House of Representatives filed the Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Environment bill, which seeks to protect public health from cigarette smoke and vape aerosol in all public spaces and workplaces, especially in places frequented by children. In QC, Belmonte said the city government has enacted multiple smoke-free and vape-free policies, and is now working on a comprehensive ordinance to harmonize these measures. “Everybody knows that smoking kills and is harmful to our health, and yet many continue to smoke. This is why we need strong policies and stricter regulations to protect public health, especially our children, from the dangers of smoking and vaping,” the city chief executive said. Rizza Duro, Philippine Smoke-Free Movement national coordinator, pointed to the tobacco industry’s unchecked reach. “Civil society has spent years proving that smoke-free and vape-free policies work. Communities are ready, local governments have shown leadership, and young people are demanding action. We will continue organizing, advocating, and building public support until this becomes law,” Duro said. Aurora Quilala, Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) executive director, urged Congress to act without delay. “Every year that we delay costs this country P210 billion and 112,000 lives. Our

legislators have the evidence, the public mandate, and the model provided by local governments. PLCPD calls on every member of the House to support this bill,” Quilala said. Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance Executive Director Ulysses Dorotheo cited the urgency of the bill's passage, drawing on the region's growing momentum for smoke-free and vape-free public spaces. “There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke or vape aerosols. The science is unambiguous. Together, let us join our neighbors in building a genuinely smoke-free, vape-free Asean,” Dorotheo said.

- [India approves \\$1 bn fund for airlines as fuel costs surge](#) (2026-06-03 15:50)

NEW DELHI — India approved a \$1 billion support package for airlines on Wednesday to cushion the impact of soaring aviation fuel costs triggered by the Iran war. The conflict has engulfed the oil-rich Middle East and choked the Strait of Hormuz, through which one fifth of the world's oil usually passes, sending aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices soaring. The crisis has sparked concerns over carrier profitability and led to a hike in fares. The one-off payment would be provided as interest-free advances to state-run oil marketing companies to help steady ATF prices for carriers operating domestically and internationally, the government said. “The measure will help protect and sustain domestic and international air connectivity, ensuring continuity of air services,” it said in a statement. Government data shows ATF prices have more than doubled since March, rising from 60.50 rupees (\$0.63) per litre to 142 rupees (\$1.49) in May. Fuel accounts for around 40 percent of an airline's operating costs and spiralling costs pile pressure on margins. Oil minister Hardeep Puri said the fund would protect 7.7 million jobs dependent on the aviation ecosystem. It would also “safeguard substantial public investment in airport infrastructure by keeping airline operations viable,” he said in a post on X.

- [Comelec: Barzaga can still run in Cavite special elections](#) (2026-06-03 15:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said the expulsion of former Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga from the House of Representatives will not prevent him from seeking the same post in the special election expected in August. Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia clarified on Wednesday that Barzaga remains eligible to run because his removal from office was administrative in nature and did not involve a criminal conviction carrying the penalty of perpetual disqualification from public office. Garcia explained that only certain criminal cases, particularly those involving moral turpitude and accompanied by a final conviction, can result in a permanent ban from holding public office. “Yes, he can file a certificate of candidacy because his removal from office as congressman is not a perpetual disqualification to hold public office,” Garcia said. The poll chief added that the Comelec en banc thoroughly discussed the issue before the commission reached its position on Barzaga's eligibility. According to Garcia, existing laws and Supreme Court rulings support the view that expulsion from the House does not automatically strip a person of the right to seek elective office in future elections. He stressed that unlike criminal convictions that carry additional penalties, expulsion from office does not include a perpetual disqualification clause that would bar a candidate from running again. Garcia noted, however, that those who disagree with

Comelec's interpretation are free to elevate the matter to the Supreme Court for final resolution.

- [Cayetano calls Senate leadership change an 'illegal coup'](#) (2026-06-03 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines —Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday alleged that the reorganization of the Senate leadership and committees was an "illegal coup d'etat" designed to halt the chamber's ongoing investigation into the alleged flood control scandal. Speaking in a Facebook Live broadcast, Cayetano questioned the legality of the leadership change and warned that it could plunge both the Senate and the country into a political crisis. Cayetano maintained that he remained the "legitimate, legal and moral Senate President of the Philippines." He argued that the Constitution allowed the Senate to conduct business only with a majority of all its members, or 13 senators, and claimed the group behind the leadership change had only 12 votes. Cayetano said he would recognize a new Senate president if 13 senators voted for one, adding that he was not clinging to power. "If they have 13, I will even administer the oath to them," he said. Cayetano said the Senate had adjourned last week and was scheduled to resume session on Monday, making arguments about a continuing quorum inapplicable. He also questioned whether constitutional processes and democratic institutions were being disregarded. "The question we have to ask ourselves is, is the Constitution but a piece of paper to this administration?" Cayetano said. Cayetano maintained there was no legal basis for appointing an acting Senate president because he had neither resigned, been removed, died nor become incapacitated under Senate rules. "This is an illegal coup d'etat with the discarding of our Constitution," he said. He warned that political infighting came at a time when many Filipinos were already struggling with economic challenges and global uncertainty. Cayetano said he was defending the Constitution and the rule of law rather than his position. "They can try to remove me. They can kill me. But they will not kill the idea of a democratic Philippines led not by men, but by laws," he said. The Senate resumed session after two days of inaction. The "new majority" declared all leadership positions vacant, paving the way for a reorganization of the chamber and its committees. Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was elected Senate Pro Tempore and acting Senate president and took his oath before Sen Tito Sotto.

- [Imee Marcos shrugs off president's appeal to get back to work](#) (2026-06-03 15:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Imee Marcos shrugged off the appeal of her brother, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the senators to go back to work, saying the public is not supportive of his pronouncement. The senator, who belonged to the majority bloc, boycotted the Senate session since Monday upon the alleged instructions from Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano. "Sa ngayon, kung ang pangulo ay may minus/negative 15 satisfaction rating (SWS), palagay ko, kung anuman ang sabihin o gawin niya, hindi sang-ayon ang publiko (If the President has a minus/negative 15 satisfaction rating [based on the Social Weather Station survey], I think, the public will not agree with whatever he will say or do," Sen. Marcos said in a text message. "We are continuously working, the committee hearings have persisted and the documents for the pre-trial conference of the impeachment are being processed," she said. Sen.

Marcos added, "In fact, we will have a Blue Ribbon Committee hearing tomorrow (Thursday) on the flood control [fund] scandal."

- [CAAP demands AirAsia Philippines settle outstanding fees by June 6](#) (2026-06-03 14:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on Wednesday gave AirAsia Philippines until June 6, 2026, to settle its outstanding financial obligations. The authority said the agency and the airline have been in discussions on this matter since last year. AirAsia Philippines has an outstanding debt spanning from 2021 to May 2026. This amount covers air navigation charges, aircraft landing and parking fees, and passenger service charges, excluding pending penalties and interest. Despite this, the airline continues to operate normally and uninterrupted across all CAAP-managed airports. The aviation regulator explained that any interruption in airline operations carries significant consequences, including economic impacts, potential employment displacement, and disruption to passenger and cargo services. "Accordingly, the settlement of the obligations remains the most practical and preferred course of action." It added that it continues to coordinate closely with airlines regarding their financial obligations to the authority to ensure full regulatory compliance and the orderly conduct of airport and aviation operations. "CAAP remains firmly committed to upholding aviation safety, ensuring operational continuity, and maintaining regulatory compliance, while continuing to engage constructively with all stakeholders," CAAP said in a statement.

- [UK PM slams violence over police handcuffing of dying student](#) (2026-06-03 14:01)

LONDON — British leader Keir Starmer said Wednesday there was "no justification" for violence after protesters clashed with police in a demonstration against officers' handling of the murder of a white student by a Sikh man. The prime minister branded as "unforgivable" calls by hard-right firebrand Nigel Farage for people to respond with "pure cold rage" to the death of 18-year-old Henry Nowak -- a murder that has become highly politicised in the UK. Far-right figures have seized on the case of Nowak, who was put in handcuffs and heard on police bodycam footage repeatedly telling officers he could not breathe as he lay mortally wounded in December. His attacker, Vickrum Digwa, however, lied and told police he was the victim as Nowak had racially insulted him. Digwa, 23, was jailed for at least 21 years on Monday for stabbing Nowak to death using a ceremonial knife with a 21-centimetre (eight-inch) blade in the southern city of Southampton following an altercation about a mobile phone. Two people were arrested late on Tuesday during a protest led by far right figures that turned violent, despite pleas from Nowak's father that his son's murder should not be used "to create further division, hatred or tension". Eleven police officers were injured during the demonstration in Southampton, which saw around 100 protesters pull apart garden fences, throw bricks, flares and chairs, and roll a flaming bin at police, AFP reporters saw. Officers responded with a spray on demonstrators and hit them with riot shields. "No matter the pain we feel, there is no justification for more violence and disorder," Starmer told lawmakers. "This is a time for serious work, not rage. We will ensure anyone found engaging in disorder meets the full force of the law." Farage and far-right activist Tommy Robinson, who has a string of criminal convictions,

claim Nowak's death is an example of so-called "two-tier policing", in which officers are seen as dealing with ethnic minorities more leniently. Starmer and his Labour government vehemently deny that two-tier policing exists. But the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) said it would look at its Race Action Plan, which advises officers to treat suspected criminals differently depending on their ethnicity. "We are listening to legitimate concerns about how some of these commitments are worded or phrased, and where needed we can and will make changes, but this should not detract from the intent, which is to improve the quality of policing," chairman Gavin Stephens said in a statement. The guidance published last year said the organisation's commitment to racial equality "does not mean treating everyone 'the same' or being 'colour blind'". It was introduced as part of efforts to improve policing for black people, who statistics show are more than two times more likely to be arrested than white people in Britain. Policing minister Sarah Jones said it was "right" that the guidance was being reviewed. - 'Exploiting this tragedy' - Footage played during Digwa's trial showed police accepting Digwa's claim of racist abuse, and rather than helping Nowak, initially handcuffing him despite his pleas that he had been stabbed and could not breathe. Moments later, the student became unconscious. Starmer, a former chief state prosecutor in England and Wales, called the video "harrowing" and said there were "serious questions" to answer about the case. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) watchdog is investigating and is expected to report back within the next three months. Three of the officers involved in the incident are still serving, Hampshire Police have confirmed. One resigned for an unrelated reason. More than 1,000 people -- many waving Union Jack and England flags -- attended Tuesday's protest. Robinson, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, told the rally that white British people were treated as "second-rate citizens" by police. In parliament, Starmer accused Farage, whose Reform UK party leads opinion polls, of "exploiting this tragedy to create grievance and division". American tech tycoon Elon Musk has offered to fund a private prosecution against the police over its handling of the murder.

- [Teodoro brushed off China entry ban](#) (2026-06-03 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Wednesday brushed off reports that he and his family had supposedly been barred from entering China which he said he does not have plans on going into. "Wala akong assets sa China. Alam mo merong akong ninuno nung araw, six or seven generations ago, nagpunta dito. Isang ninuno. Tama ang desisyon niya na hindi na bumalik doon eh kung hindi nagkaganito ang aking status sa buhay. Wala akong asset sa China, wala akong balak pumunta doon," Teodoro said in an interview on Wednesday during his visit at the 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4ID) in Cagayan de Oro.

"May balak sana ako kasi gusto ko talagang dumalaw, masarap ang pagkain, mabait ang tao pero natatabunan ito sa klase ng gobyerno na mapanikil," Teodoro said. Teodoro has been the subject of Chinese government counter attacks for his strong stance on the legal rights of the Philippines in its territory being illegally claimed by China. In many instances he had engaged Chinese officials head on in debates in international forums creating steaming remarks from their government. In the recently concluded 2026 Shangri-La Dialogue, Teodoro slammed China's continued illegal, coercive and aggressive presence in the West Philippine Sea as well as

its deceptive messaging. “It’s a lost opportunity. Hindi naman sa ayaw mong pumunta. Gusto mo rin eh, ang laking bansa na yun, ang daming kultura. Pero kung yung asal ng gobyerno mo na wala namang karapatan ang mamamayan mo eh ‘wag na lang,” Teodoro said.

- [Legarda: Senate takeover unconstitutional](#) (2026-06-03 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda raised the constitutionality of the election of Sen. WIn Gatchalian as Senate president pro tempore and "acting" Senate president. Gatchalian replaced Legarda as Senate president pro tempore after the Senate "numbers game" tilted toward the 11-member minority bloc. Sen. Chiz Escudero, who was once with the majority group together with Legarda, switched to the minority bloc, now reduced to 10 members. In a statement, Legarda said that no senator can validly act as Senate president "on the strength of only 12 votes." "Since the Senate is composed of 24 senators, that majority is 13. "By the fact that the senators present did not have 13 votes, they could not validly elect a Senate president or authorize any senator to act as Senate president," she said. "The temporary absence of some members should not become a reason to lower their representation or weaken the mandate of the people who elected them," Legarda said. "Until there is a vacancy, resignation, expulsion, final disqualification, or other legal basis recognized by law, their seats remain part of the Senate’s full membership," the senator said. "We remain firm in our respect for the Constitution. Any proceeding conducted without the constitutionally required quorum raises serious questions of validity and cannot be recognized as consistent with the clear mandate of the Constitution," she added.

- [Closing of Senate session not done on mere document — Zubiri](#) (2026-06-03 13:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Newly-installed Senate Majority Leader Miz Zubiri described as "unbelievable" and "illegal" the attempt of ousted Senate president Alan Peter Cayetano to close the session only on paper. The Senate held its last session day on Wednesday as Congress adjourns sine die on June 6. The Senate and House of Representatives will reopen and hold joint session on July 27 for the State of the Nation Address on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Cayetano for the third straight day failed to show up to open and close the session. Through Senate Secretary Jose Luis Montales, he issued a one-page document to the minority declaring the sine die. The document read, "Pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and approved legislative calendar, and in accordance with tradition, the Senate is in sine die adjournment and is scheduled to resume regular session at 10:00 a.m. on 27 July 2026." "During the adjournment period, Senate committees may continue to conduct hearings, meetings, consultations, and investigations in aid of legislation," Cayetano said. Zubiri said Cayetano's move was illegal. "Because to be able to declare sine die adjournment, you have to pass a Senate and House Concurrent Resolution which is done in the plenary floor and approved by the body," Zubiri said in a statement. "We need to formally announce that we will inform the President of the Republic of the Philippines that both the Senate and the House of Representatives are both adjourning sine die. Which we did earlier," he said. "We even have to create a committee that will inform the President, which we did to elect Senators JV Ejercito, Raffy Tulfo, and Kiko

Pangilinan. That is the tradition of the Senate, the rules of the Senate, and that is the process that should be done. Not a mere letter from the Senate President," Zubiri added.

- [PH eyes spot in UN Security Council as voting nears](#) (2026-06-03 13:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is among seven United Nations member states running for five available seats at its security council, as it holds elections on Wednesday. According to a UN report, the countries in the running are Austria, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. “The Philippines has campaigned under the slogan ‘Partner, Pathfinder, Peacemaker’ and positioned itself as a bridge-builder committed to strengthening peace through dialogue, the primacy of the rule of law and the rules-based international order, democratic values, and constructive engagement with all member states,” the report said. “During its campaign, the Philippines has highlighted its longstanding commitment to multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law. It has underscored the importance of inclusive peace processes, drawing on its domestic experience, particularly in the Bangsamoro region, and committed to promoting preventive diplomacy, mediation, and the women, peace and security agenda,” it added. The distribution of seats is among global regions, one seat for Africa, one for the Asia-Pacific, one seat for Latin America and the Caribbean, and two seats for Western Europe and Others. The country previously served in the UN Security Council in 1957, 1963, 1980-1981, and 2004-2005. According to the UN, the new members elected this year will start serving on Jan. 1, 2027 to Dec. 31, 2028. The current seats at the Security Council belong to Somalia, Pakistan, Panama, Denmark, and Greece.

- [VP Sara retains strong public support as Marcos ratings improve](#) (2026-06-03 10:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte maintained strong public support despite the transmission of impeachment articles against her to the Senate, while President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. posted improved satisfaction and trust ratings in the latest Pulso ng Pilipino Tracking Poll. The nationwide survey, conducted from May 18 to 23, 2026 by the Issues and Advocacy Center, found that 59 percent of respondents were satisfied with Duterte’s performance, compared to 26 percent who expressed dissatisfaction. This translated to a net satisfaction rating of +33 percent for the Vice President. The findings indicate that the impeachment proceedings have so far had little impact on Duterte’s popularity, with her approval numbers remaining at a very high level. President Marcos, meanwhile, recorded a satisfaction rating of 47 percent, while 38 percent of respondents said they were dissatisfied with his performance. The result gave the President a positive net satisfaction rating of +9 percent. The survey also showed that 15 percent of respondents remained undecided regarding the President’s performance, while 16 percent had yet to form a definite opinion about the Vice President. In contrast, both chambers of Congress received negative satisfaction ratings, reflecting growing public frustration over recent controversies and political disputes. For the first time, the survey measured public perception of the Senate and the House of Representatives as institutions rather than focusing solely on their leaders, following recent leadership changes in the upper

chamber. The Senate posted a net satisfaction rating of -11 percent, with 49 percent expressing dissatisfaction and only 38 percent saying they were satisfied with its performance during the survey period. Survey organizers noted that the Senate's rating may have been affected by the dramatic leadership transition on May 11 and the highly publicized standoff involving armed individuals in an access area between the Senate and the Government Service Insurance System complex. The House fared slightly worse, registering a net satisfaction rating of -13 percent. Fifty-two percent of respondents said they were dissatisfied with the chamber's performance, while 39 percent expressed satisfaction.

- [House okays 'watered down version' of anti-dynasty bill on third reading](#) (2026-06-03 10:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives passed on third reading its own version of the Anti-Dynasty Bill, which critics said is a "watered down" version. In Wednesday's session, 271 lawmakers voted to approve House Bill 8389, while 16 lawmakers voted against and seven lawmakers abstained. The bill bars relatives within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity from running for, or holding office in the same locality. In a statement, the bill's principal author, Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong, said that after years of advocacy and intense deliberation, the lower chamber has taken a "decisive step toward fulfilling the clear mandate of the Constitution by approving the Anti-Political Dynasty Bill on third and final reading, ""We must define political dynasties as the Constitution commands. However, in doing so, we must strike a careful balance—ensuring that we do not unduly impair the sovereign right of the people to choose their leaders, nor the right of qualified citizens to offer themselves for public service," Adiong said. He added that the measure was not about "restricting democracy; it is about strengthening and purifying it by opening wider opportunities for genuine public service and breaking the cycle of entrenched power," However, those who voted against the measure slammed the bill's passage, calling it as a "watered down" version. "38 years of waiting, only to be given a piece of legislation that is more concerned with perpetuating political dynasties than ending them." Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno said. He said that he voted no to the measure as it left major loopholes allowing political families to dominate various levels of government, including president, congressman, governor, and mayor.

- [Incheon airport veteran named new NAIA chief operating officer](#) (2026-06-03 10:22)

MANILA, Philippines — A nearly three-decade veteran of Incheon International Airport was appointed as chief operating officer of the country's main gateway. The New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) said that Jong Hoon "John" Kim will oversee day-to-day operations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, replacing Ok Chul "Paul" Shin, who is moving to a new assignment. The NNIC said that Kim's appointment was part of a broader effort to bring Incheon's operating expertise to Manila as NNIC worked to improve NAIA's passenger flow, security, cargo operations, facilities management and overall airport systems. Incheon operates South Korea's busiest airport and has consistently ranked among the world's leading airports for service. Its partnership with NNIC is intended to bring global airport operating standards to NAIA, which

has long been constrained by congestion, aging facilities and limited capacity. The airport's private operator added that Kim spent most of his career at Incheon, most recently as director of airport security management, where he led the rollout of biometric access control, AI-assisted CCTV and a comprehensive security inspection program. Kim, a senior electrical engineer and certified Project Management Professional, handled operational readiness planning for Incheon's fourth-phase expansion, overseeing preparations to bring new airport facilities into full operation. He also led work on cargo, logistics and free trade zone development. Beyond Incheon, Kim served for two years as director of operations and facilities management at Kuwait Airport Terminal 4 and worked as an operational readiness consultant for Erbil International Airport in Iraq. "John brings the operating discipline and technical depth NNIC needs at this stage of NAIA's transformation," said Angelito A. Alvarez, general manager of NNIC. "His experience at Incheon is directly relevant to the work ahead as we continue improving the airport's systems, facilities and passenger experience."

- [Palace recognizes leadership change in Senate](#) (2026-06-03 09:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Wednesday said it recognized the Senate's "new majority" that paved the way for Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian being named as the new Senate President pro tempore. "What happened in the Senate this afternoon was in accordance with the law and the rule of law," Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino. "The Palace recognizes and respects the decision of the new majority and the leadership of acting Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian," she added. The development came after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier in the day called on the senators to "get back to work" as the impasse in the chamber "is now in disarray".

- [Minority now majority bloc as Escudero switches sides](#) (2026-06-03 07:35)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Escudero became the 12th senator to join the minority. In a surprise turn of events, the Senate 11-member minority bloc has now become the majority although the fate of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano remained uncertain as 13 senators were needed to replace him under Senate rules. Escudero, who belonged to the majority bloc, suddenly appeared during session creating a quorum. In a statement on Wednesday, Escudero described the situation as "untenable and unacceptable," saying the Senate could not afford to remain immobilized by political divisions. "When political divisions become too extreme and obstruct our mandate, we must have the courage to pause, reflect, and realize that we should put the Senate, as the institution we serve, above ourselves," he said. Escudero emphasized that his decision was guided by his duty to the institution rather than loyalty to any political faction. "This is not a political contest. I am not taking sides. I am taking a stand for the Senate," he said. "My allegiance is not to any faction, personality, group or alliance. This is about duty." Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian was elected as Senate president pro tempore and acting Senate presiding officer or Senate chief. Meanwhile, the "new" majority bloc lauded the "courageous decision" of Escudero to break the impasse in the Senate and confront the issues facing the institution. In a joint statement, the 12-member majority bloc said the

Filipino people "deserve a Senate that shows up, does its job, and places public service above politics." "It is time for the Senate to move forward and get back to work for the Filipino people," the majority said, echoing the appeal of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. They said Escudero's "action sent a clear message: that his commitment to the country, to the Senate, and to the Constitution would prevail above all else." "His presence enabled the Senate to proceed with the discussion of matters that are too important to be left unresolved and too consequential to be set aside," they added. The deadlock followed the surrender of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in connection with a plunder case and the continued absence of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, developments that narrowed the majority bloc's margin and fueled uncertainty over its control of the chamber.

- [2nd tranche of Manila's rice program rolled out](#) (2026-06-03 06:22)

MANILA, Philippines—Manila Mayor Isko Moreno on Wednesday said the second tranche of the city government's "Biyayang Bigas para sa Maynila" program has been rolled out. "Since yesterday, the 2nd tranche of your 'Biyayang Bigas para sa Maynila' program in the City of Manila is now being delivered to everyone," Moreno said in Filipino during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s rollout of the cash assistance to graduating students at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. The program—launched in April—provides 10-kilogram sacks of rice to workers across Manila, including employees in malls, hotels, restaurants, and other establishments.

- [Bus firm announces reduced trips on key routes following LTFRB suspension](#) (2026-06-03 06:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Victory Liner, Inc. has announced reduced trips on several major routes after the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) imposed a 30-day suspension on a number of the company's buses. In an advisory, the bus operator said trips on the Dagupan–Baguio and PITX–Tuguegarao routes would be reduced due to the temporary suspension of part of its fleet. The LTFRB order also covered buses operating on the Sta. Cruz, Zambales–Baguio route. The suspension will remain in effect while the company completes the submission of required documents and while authorities continue investigating recent incidents involving its buses. "We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and delays this temporary suspension will cause," Victory Liner said in a statement. "We understand that many workers, students, families, tourists and businesspeople rely on these routes daily, and we deeply regret any hardship they may experience during this time." The company also extended its condolences to the family of a passenger who died in one of the incidents and offered prayers for the recovery of those who were injured. Victory Liner said it is fully cooperating with the LTFRB and other government agencies by immediately submitting the required documents and complying with all directives issued by regulators. The company, which has operated for more than 80 years, reaffirmed its commitment to passenger safety and accountability as it works to restore normal operations. Earlier this week, the LTFRB ordered the 30-day suspension of 15 Victory Liner buses after one of the company's units collided with a truck in San Jose City, Nueva

Ecija, resulting in the death of a passenger. The agency said the latest suspension was in addition to an order grounding 26 Victory Liner buses following a separate crash involving two of its units in Tuba, Benguet, where nearly 100 passengers were injured.

- [Marcos appoints former Taguig City mayor Cayetano as new govt TV station manager](#)
(2026-06-03 06:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has named former Taguig City mayor Lino Cayetano as the new general manager of state-owned network PTV-4, Malacañang confirmed on Wednesday. Cayetano, also a television and film director, will take over the reins from Maria Lourdes Fagar. “I would also like to extend my profound gratitude to GM Fragar for her service to the station and the nation,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) acting Secretary Dave Gomez said in a statement. “Former Mayor Cayetano brings with him a rare wealth of experience from the media, the private and the public sector that would certainly take PTV-4 to greater heights in our ever-evolving multi-media landscape,” he added.

- [Bulacan, Las Piñas courts junk water firm's petition to stop LGU intervention in operations](#)
(2026-06-03 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A water company's petition to stop local government units (LGUs) from taking over its operations has been dismissed after it failed to prove the element of urgency and its right to be protected against the LGUs efforts to address the severe water shortage in the area. The Bulacan and Las Piñas City Regional Trial Courts (RTCs) dismissed the petitions for a temporary restraining order (TRO) and preliminary injunctions filed by the PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp. against City of San Jose Del Monte (CSJDM) led by its Mayor Florida "Ate Rida" Robes, et al. PrimeWater questioned the decision of the city government when it took over local operations through an interim management in partnership with the San Jose del Monte Water District (SJDMD). In the first TRO petition filed by PrimeWater before RTC Bulacan, the court ruled that the water company failed to prove the element of urgency and its right to be protected against the city government's efforts to address the severe water supply problem. During the petition hearing, the company's branch manager admitted that it had been receiving thousands of consumer complaints due to water shortages, giving the local government the right to intervene in the worsening crisis. “To the mind of the court, the public injury to the people of the city (of San Jose del Monte) caused by the continuous problem of water availability being protected by the city is more supreme than the contractual obligations provided by the JVA (joint venture agreement),” the court said. It emphasized that the welfare of the people outweighs the JVA or contract between PrimeWater and the local water district. PrimeWater told the courts that it had around 130,000 clients but only 10,000 to 12,000 were affected by water shortages. But the city government's assessment showed that more than 47,611 households or around 250,000 residents representing 25 percent of the city's total population across 62 villages have been experiencing poor water distribution. The city government's intervention has basis as it was supported by an ordinance which empowers the city chief executive during a state of emergency in water services to assume interim

management of local water operations, the court said. After the Bulacan court dismissed the TRO, PrimeWater filed a similar relief before the RTC Las Piñas where its main office was located. However, the court again dismissed the petition on June 2, 2026. “The plaintiff (PrimeWater) in this case was not able to prove all requisites for the issuance of a TRO. It failed to show any grave irreparable injury unto its company, specifically its duty to provide reliable water service in the City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan,” the RTC Las Piñas said in its decision. Robes, a former lawmaker and wife of incumbent Rep. Arthur Robes, welcomed the twin rulings saying this would now give them time to focus on improving water service, correcting long-standing problems in the system, and responding to the needs of San Joseños. “This affirms the authority of the local government to act to protect the general welfare. Our people have waited long enough, and we will not allow legal maneuvers to delay urgent action,” the SJDM mayor said.

- [Sandiganbayan denies Romualdez motion to lift hold order](#) (2026-06-03 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan has denied the motion by former speaker Martin Romualdez to lift the Precautionary Hold Departure Order (PHDO) against him for lack of merit. Romualdez was issued a PHDO last April 22 by the Sandiganbayan after the Office of the Ombudsman filed an application against him for being among those being investigated in the flood control scandal. In its 12-page resolution promulgated on June 1 the 7th Division, through its Chairman and Associate Justice Lorifel Pahimna, said that Romualdez's motion was unverified, his pleading unsigned and therefore has no legal merit. This was concurred by Associate Justices Georgina Hildalgo and Hans Nocom. The anti-graft court said that an application for a PHDO may be filed with the court even prior to the start of preliminary investigation once the Office of the Ombudsman found sufficient evidence to support a belief that a crime has been committed, that the respondent was probably guilty, and that there was a high probability of flight. “The investigating prosecutor is not required to direct the respondent to submit a counter-affidavit or await his or her submission before filing such application with the court,” the court said. It also said that it was speculative for Romualdez to claim that what occurred on April 20 was merely the receipt or docketing of the Complaint. “Neither he nor this court can assume the exact manner or timing by which the (Ombudsman) made its preliminary finding of probable cause after receiving the Complaint. It also said that the court's determination of probable cause for purposes of issuing the PHDO was “confined to ascertaining whether sufficient grounds exist to believe that a crime has been committed and that Rep. Romualdez is probably guilty of committing it.” “The court did not rule on the ultimate issue of guilt, nor did it require proof beyond reasonable doubt, as these are matters properly addressed during trial. It only determined the existence of probable cause as prescribed by the rules. At this stage, it is sufficient that the elements of the offenses charged reasonably appear from the evidence on record,” it said.

- [Roads around Rizal Park to close for Independence Day' rites](#) (2026-06-03 04:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Several major roads leading to Rizal Park in Manila will be closed for six hours on June 12 as the government holds the country's 128th Independence Day celebration, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). The MMDA said both northbound and southbound lanes of Roxas Boulevard from Buendia Avenue to P. Burgos Drive will be closed from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Friday, June 12, to accommodate activities at Rizal Park. Road closures will also be implemented on Roxas Boulevard from Buendia Avenue to Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive from P. Burgos Drive to Anda Circle, and T.M. Kalaw from Taft Avenue to Roxas Boulevard. Also affected are P. Burgos Avenue from Taft Avenue to Roxas Boulevard, Finance Road from Taft Avenue to P. Burgos Drive, Katigbak Drive, Independence Road, South Road, and Maria Orosa Street from T.M. Kalaw to P. Burgos Drive. Motorists have been advised to avoid the area and take alternate routes. Light vehicles heading north may turn right at Buendia Avenue and proceed to Taft Avenue, or use EDSA and Osmeña Highway as alternate routes. Those heading south from R-10 may pass through Soriano Avenue, Solana Street, Muralla Street, Magallanes Drive, and P. Burgos Avenue. Meanwhile, trucks bound for North Harbor from the South Luzon Expressway may take Osmeña Highway, Quirino Avenue, Nagtahan Street, Lacson Avenue, Yuseco Street, Capulong Street, and R-10. The MMDA urged motorists to plan their trips ahead and expect heavier traffic in areas surrounding Rizal Park during the Independence Day celebration. The annual event commemorates the declaration of Philippine independence from Spain on June 12, 1898, and traditionally includes flag-raising ceremonies, wreath-laying activities, and other government-led programs.

• [Cayetano's messy 'FB leadership' placed Senate under attack — Lacson](#) (2026-06-03 03:52)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson called out Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano for attempting to lead the Senate through Facebook livestreams while boycotting its regular sessions. The Senate is "indeed under attack but by its own leadership," the senator said on Wednesday. Lacson said Cayetano has been issuing notices suspending sessions and relaying other instructions to staff and subordinates only verbally, ensuring such questionable decisions would "leave no paper trail." "What a mess! Where else can we find a Senate President who boycotts the regular sessions of a chamber which he is supposed to preside, then delivers speeches on Facebook instead of the Senate floor before his peers so we can interpellate him?" Lacson wrote on X. He said Cayetano was "ruining" the Senate. "It's become a shame to the Filipino people," Lacson said. "You're the Senate President, you should set the right and good example. But you're setting a bad example," Lacson added. Earlier in the day, Sen. Bam Aquino called on members of the majority bloc to return to session to pass important measures as the Senate prepares to adjourn sine die on Wednesday. He issued the call after the majority failed to attend the plenary session on Tuesday or for the second straight day, disrupting the Senate's work on several vital measures and other legislative matters. Congress adjourns sine die on June 6. The Senate and House of Representatives will hold joint session on July 27 for the State of the Nation Address of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It is just "one more day" before the Senate session ends, the senator said in making his appeal to the majority group. Aquino is with the minority bloc. "Kailangan na nating bumalik sa session hall ng Senado at magtrabaho para sa

bayan (We need to go back to the Senate session hall and work for the nation)," Aquino said. The minority bloc on Tuesday sought the resignation of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano for "dereliction of duty" after he has not opened the session since Monday. Aquino said that while senators from majority and minority blocs have varying political views, they all "share a responsibility to serve the public and safeguard the nation's future."

- [23rd body found in Angeles building collapse](#) (2026-06-03 03:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) confirmed that a 23rd body was found at the collapsed building at Barangay Balibago in Angeles City, Pampanga. According to the BFP in Central Luzon, the victim was found at 9:12 a.m. Two hours earlier, the body of the 22nd fatality was recovered at the site. Authorities have since shifted to search and retrieval as the operations entered its 11th day on Wednesday.

- [Sara Duterte to expelled lawmaker: It's okay to be different](#) (2026-06-03 03:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte comforted expelled Cavite Rep. Francisco Barzaga, telling him that "it's okay to be different" and to remain true to becoming who he is. Duterte issued the statement a day after Barzaga was dropped from the rolls by the House of Representatives for his repeated disorderly behavior and conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker. In an open letter posted on Facebook on Wednesday, Duterte said that "being different is okay." "It takes grit to be yourself in a world that rewards conformity. Not everyone will understand your choices or the path you take, and that's okay. What matters is staying true to who you are and what you believe in," Duterte said. She also told Barzaga that she was also tagged as being "different" after being called as "crazy, dumb" and other things after she declined to follow what was normal. "You are different because you have never been convicted of child abuse, never brought home 'maletas' (suitcases) of public funds, never allowed cocaine and alcohol to flow from your office, and never said yes to corruption and oppression," Duterte said. She told Barzaga that it took courage to charge forward even if no one would follow and that his was a daily reminder that character mattered more than conformity. "The strength you show inspires more Filipinos than you may ever know," Duterte said. She told Barzaga that God, Caviteños, Davaoños, the eagles, and cats love him. Barzaga said that he has no regrets in becoming a lawmaker and that he has done his job.

- [Marcos tells senators: Get back to work](#) (2026-06-03 02:19)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday urged senators to "get back to work" after the Senate failed to convene for two days due to an impasse between the majority and minority blocs. "The Senate and its leadership, the whole Senate is in disarray, it has discredited the leadership and it has stopped the essential business of legislation and government," Marcos said during a media interview in Malate. "The Executive and Judiciary are working, why did the legislature decide to stop working?" he added. Marcos said the Executive was "examining all of their options" on what it can do with the Senate impasse.

- [New LPA spotted off Palawan, likely to enter PAR Thursday or Friday](#) (2026-06-02 22:51)

MANILA, Philippines – A new low-pressure area (LPA) has been spotted outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), roughly 495 kilometers northwest of Pagasa Island, Kalayaan in Palawan, the national weather bureau said on Wednesday. Weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a 5 a.m. briefing that the LPA could enter PAR either Thursday or Friday. He said Pagasa will closely monitor the LPA's movement to determine its direction in the coming days. Meanwhile, he said the southwest monsoon or 'habagat' would be dumping heavy rains over at least 12 Luzon areas, including Metro Manila, within the next 24 hours. Other affected areas include Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, and Palawan, where moderate to heavy rain could occur, causing flash floods or inducing landslides. "Based on the weather agency's forecast, habagat would be dumping between 50 to 100 millimeters of water within the day," according to the Pagasa forecaster. The rest of the country, he said, would experience partly cloudy or overcast skies with isolated rain showers due to localized thunderstorms.

- [Canada calls for US and Mexico free trade agreement to be renewed for another 16 years](#)
(2026-06-02 20:22)

TORONTO — Canada is calling on the United States and Mexico to renew the free trade agreement between the countries for another 16 years just as U.S. President Donald Trump revives talk of making Canada the 51st state. Dominic LeBlanc, Canada's minister for U.S. trade, sent a letter Tuesday to United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Mexico's Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard conveying Canada's recommendation. "The Agreement is highly beneficial to each of our countries and to the integrated North American economy," LeBlanc wrote. The letter comes ahead of the scheduled July review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, the latest iteration of a North American free-trade pact that has intertwined the economies of the United States, Mexico and Canada since the early 1990s. LeBlanc and Canada's Chief Trade Negotiator, Janice Charette, are in Washington on Tuesday for a meeting with Greer. LeBlanc has previously warned the free trade agreement could be subject to annual reviews and that uncertainty could be the objective of the Trump administration. On Monday, Trump posted "51st State!" on social media linking to a news article reporting that Canada is falling into a technical recession. The post was later reposted by U.S. Ambassador to Canada, Pete Hoekstra. "I can't believe I have to say this again, but Canada will never be the 51st state. Canada is not for sale," Ontario Premier Doug Ford posted in response on Tuesday. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney acknowledged some weakness in the country's economy as he walked into Cabinet on Tuesday. Carney said the U.S. has about 30 different trade irritants with Canada compared to nearly 60 with Mexico. The U.S. could withdraw from the agreement with six months notice. There could be annual reviews going forward or it can be renewed for another 16 years. "There is a possibility of a new partnership there," Carney said. The USMCA has allowed Canada and Mexico to avoid much of Trump's protectionist measures because many Mexican and Canadian goods are covered by the free trade agreement. But there are some key specific tariffs on things like aluminum that are

damaging the integrated North American economy. Trump's talk of making Canada the 51st state has infuriated Canadians, who have been canceling trips to the U.S. in big numbers. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, one of the Democratic Party's leading presidential prospects, said Trump has tried to destroy the relationship with America's northern neighbor with "chaotic tariffs and mindless cruelty." Pritzker made the comments in a zoom call with Democrats Abroad on Tuesday.

- [Rubio is optimistic on eventual Iran nuclear talks despite congressional skepticism](#)
(2026-06-02 18:48)

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday he is optimistic about the potential for a resumption in nuclear talks with Iran despite a shaky ceasefire in the war that is looking increasingly in doubt. In his first public testimony since the Iran war began at the end of February, Rubio told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the Iranians have agreed to negotiate on nuclear points that they had not been willing to address in the past but would not offer an assessment on what those talks might produce. "They have agreed to negotiate aspects of their nuclear program that just a month ago, just a year ago, they were refusing to even mention," Rubio said. He did not elaborate but added that there was no guarantee "it will lead to a deal that's acceptable" and that negotiations have been made difficult by the instability of Iran's leadership. Rubio's optimism ran counter to pessimistic reports from two semiofficial Iranian news agencies that Iran has stopped communicating with mediators after Israel threatened to bomb Beirut as it fights the Hezbollah militant group. Democrats criticize Trump administration's approach to Iran, and Rubio defends it. Rubio's wide-ranging testimony, which covered the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, Asia and beyond, was met with fierce objections from Democrats. Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., blasted Rubio and President Donald Trump for actions taken regarding foreign aid cuts and foreign intervention. Van Hollen specifically took aim at the U.S. and Israeli decision to strike Iran, accusing the Republican president of entering the war on behalf of Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "said he's been waiting 40 years to do this," Van Hollen said. "It turns out he finally found a president who was both stupid and reckless enough to join him. Let's face it, Mr. Secretary, the Trump foreign policy has become a dumpster fire." Rubio's testimony, which was taking place as Israel and Lebanon began a new round of political talks at the State Department with the situation between Israel and Hezbollah still uncertain, did not provide definitive answers on any of the main questions of the day. He said Iran is not guaranteed a massive payout for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, the crucial waterway for global oil shipments, and would have to commit to further concessions on its nuclear program to get significant sanctions relief. "The more they give, the more they would get," he said, later adding, "They're not going to get it as a signing bonus." Rubio also said there are indications that Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, is taking a bigger part in the discussions despite not being seen publicly since the war began. "I think there are indications out there that he is increasingly engaging at some level, although all of his communications have been in writing and through intermediaries," he said. Democratic senator says drugs being on boats isn't a targeting

criterion for US strikes. On other issues, Rubio dismissed questions about the legality of Pentagon strikes against dozens of alleged drug-smuggling vessels in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean, which have killed more than 200 people since early September. Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia said the military's targeting criteria for those strikes does not include drugs being present on the boat. He called it "odd" but said he could not share much more because the criteria are classified. Rubio pushed back, saying every strike has a legal officer who makes a determination on whether a strike is legal. He also said the U.S. military has "walked away from strikes" multiple times because they did not meet the targeting criteria. The Trump administration says the U.S. is at war with drug cartels, while many Democrats have questioned the legality and effectiveness of the strikes. The Republican former senator faces a second congressional hearing Tuesday and a pair of others Wednesday about the State Department's annual budget request, though questions have mostly focused on top foreign policy issues. Rubio wades into Taiwan arms sales opposed by China. Rubio acknowledged that the Trump administration is holding up a new potential \$14 billion arms sale to Taiwan but said it remained under consideration and would not be canceled. He noted that the U.S. recently sold arms to Taiwan in December worth \$11 billion. He said the deal is not under review because of pressure from China, although he said the Chinese bring up the issue in discussions with the United States. Trump also has described it as a great negotiating chip. "They are constantly talking about Taiwan arms sales, but that in no way is what is holding up our decision-making or the White House' s decision-making," Rubio said. "It is something the president will have to decide on the timing of when and how that is executed on." Protesters chant at Rubio about Cuba. Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, also was questioned about the Trump administration' s escalatory behavior toward Cuba, as Trump has hinted that the small island country could be the next U.S. target after operations in Iran are wrapped up. He faced chants from protesters who urged him to "stop killing Cubans" when he entered the Senate briefing room. The protesters were quickly pulled from the room. Their chants also included "Let Cuba live!" Rubio defended the administration's approach to Cuba and said it would remain focused on changing the Cuban government's policies. "I really don' t believe this system is capable of reform unless new people take over or a new mindset takes hold," he said. Despite a series of meetings between U.S. and Cuban officials, Trump and Rubio have renewed threats against the island's government, which take on greater weight after the administration announced criminal charges against former President Raúl Castro. Over his congressional career and now as America's top diplomat, Rubio has maintained that Cuba is a national security threat because of its ties to U.S. adversaries and that Trump is intent on addressing it.

- [Lacson: Majority's no-show aimed to hold legislation hostage](#) (2026-06-02 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the majority bloc's boycott of the Senate session on Monday sought to hold legislation hostage over the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. The majority bloc members did not attend Monday's regular session to protest what it described as an attack on the Senate independence following Estrada's arrest over plunder.

charges in relation to his alleged involvement in the flood control fund scandal. The minority bloc, in a joint statement Monday evening, said that the issue was not about the Senate's independence but about the majority's boycott of duty. Lacson said what happened Monday was not a case of standing up for the Senate's independence but "plain and simple dereliction of duty by the majority bloc led by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano." "Standing up for the Senate's independence does not place SP Cayetano and any senator above the law. It has nothing to do with non-adherence to the rule of law," Lacson wrote on X on Tuesday. "Dereliction of duty will not solve this partisan gridlock. Its sole purpose is to hold legislation hostage," he added.

- [EXPLAINER: What is Pasig's proposed P34.46-billion investment plan and why does it matter?](#) (2026-06-02 17:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Pasig City Development Council (CDC) has approved a proposed P34.46-billion Annual Investment Program (AIP) for 2027, along with two other key planning documents that will help determine which city projects may move forward in the coming years. The resolutions still need approval from the Sangguniang Panlungsod, but they already provide a glimpse of how the city plans and prioritizes future programs and projects, according to the Pasig city government's statement on Tuesday, June 2.

What is the Annual Investment Program (AIP)? The Annual Investment Program is the city's master list of proposed programs, projects and activities for a specific year. The Pasig city government described the AIP as the yearly plan of programs of local government units. Officials said the AIP serves as a "menu" of programs, projects and activities that may be funded in the following year, depending on the city's available income and resources. In Pasig's case, the proposed 2027 AIP amounts to P34.46 billion and contains projects submitted by different city government offices. The city government said the AIP serves as one of the most important planning documents because projects generally cannot be funded through the city budget unless they are included in the plan. The city government also clarified that the AIP does not require approval from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), but undergoes the budgeting and planning processes required by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Why should residents care about the AIP? The AIP determines which projects may receive funding in the future. These may include infrastructure works, social services, health programs, education initiatives, environmental projects, disaster-preparedness efforts and other services delivered by the city government. While the CDC announcement did not provide a detailed breakdown of the proposed P34.46 billion, the approved plan serves as the basis for future budgeting decisions.

What is the P917.9-million Community Development Fund? The CDC also approved the proposed 20-percent Community Development Fund (CDF) worth P917.9 million for 2027. The city government said the fund comes from Pasig's National Tax Allocation and is required to be used for development projects. The CDF is separate from the regular city budget and is intended for projects that contribute to the city's growth and development.

Why was another investment plan approved for 2026? Aside from the 2027 plans, the CDC also approved Supplemental Annual Investment Plan No. 3 for 2026 worth P617

million. According to the city government, the supplemental plan contains projects that are already included in the 2026 AIP but require higher funding ceilings to ensure their implementation this year. It also includes projects related to the city's response to the energy situation linked to war in the Middle East. Officials said projects under supplemental plans may only proceed if sufficient funds are available and if a supplemental budget is approved. *What role do residents and civil society groups play? *The city government said the proposed AIP underwent consultations involving civil society organizations (CSO) and various government offices. During the meeting, officials and civil society representatives emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration not only at the city level but also within villages. The city government said civil society organizations already participate in the planning and monitoring of government programs and projects at the city level. *How does flood planning fit into Pasig's future projects? *During the meeting of CDC on Monday, June 1, Mayor Vico Sotto told CDC members that Pasig's Drainage System Masterplan is nearing completion. According to the city government, the masterplan will serve as a guide for future programs, projects and activities of both the local and national governments. Sotto added that the timing is significant because the southwest monsoon or "Habagat" season has begun. The city government believes the masterplan will help ensure that future projects respond to the needs of the city. *What happens next? *The approved resolutions will be endorsed to the 12th Sangguniang Panlungsod. The city council must formally adopt and approve the resolutions before they can take effect. Only after the legislative process is completed can the plans move closer to implementation.

- [Cambodia initiates action with UN agency to force conciliation of maritime dispute with Thailand](#) (2026-06-02 16:56)

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Cambodia's government has filed notice under a U.N. agreement on maritime law for compulsory conciliation of a sea border dispute with neighboring Thailand, Prime Minister Hun Manet said Tuesday. At issue is territory claimed by both that is believed to contain large, exploitable amounts of natural gas and other hydrocarbons. The decision to take the matter to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS, comes after Thailand last month terminated a 25-year-old memorandum of understanding with Cambodia meant to resolve overlapping maritime claims. Thailand unilaterally revoked the agreement in May after relations between the countries worsened last year after major armed clashes over their land border. Last year's fighting with Cambodia spurred nationalistic fervor, putting political pressure on Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul to abrogate the pact. In a live broadcast on TVK state television, Hun Manet said that his government had delivered formal notice to Thailand and to the U.N. secretary-general to begin compulsory conciliation proceedings under UNCLOS rules. "Cambodia has never violated the sovereignty of other states," he said. "At the same time, we are unwaveringly determined to defend Cambodia's sovereignty. Today, we continue to honor that responsibility, not through force, but through international law; not through unilateral action, but through peaceful engagement." It wasn't immediately clear when the claim might be adjudicated. Anutin responded to the announcement by telling reporters that

Cambodia's action wasn't a problem. He had previously said that Thailand would continue to pursue a resolution of the maritime border issue according to UNCLOS guidelines, but didn't agree with Cambodia's intention to force conciliation. Any UNCLOS ruling isn't binding on the parties involved, even though both countries are signatories to the international pact. Thailand has been averse to having territorial issues decided by third parties rather than handled bilaterally. It has long felt that a 1962 ruling by the International Court of Justice awarding Cambodia the hilltop Preah Vihear temple along their border to be unfair, which has contributed to ongoing tensions between the neighbors.

- [Pope names Mexican-American broadcasting executive to lead Vatican communications](#) (2026-06-02 16:52)

ROME — Pope Leo XIV took a step Tuesday toward overhauling the Vatican's communications operations by naming the Mexican-American president of the Catholic U.S. media conglomerate EWTN News as its new head. Maria Montserrat Alvarado replaces Paolo Ruffini as prefect of the Dicastery of Communications, the office that controls the Vatican's television, radio, online, publishing and newspaper operations. It enjoys one of the biggest budgets of any Vatican department. By naming a layperson and a woman to head a major Vatican department, Leo is following in the footsteps of Pope Francis who promoted several women to leadership positions in the Holy See governing hierarchy, which remains dominated by male clergy. The Chicago-born Leo has indicated he wants to reform the way the Catholic Church at large, and the Vatican in particular, communicates its message to the world. Toward that end, he has summoned cardinals to the Vatican later this month for a meeting to "reassess the effectiveness of ecclesial communication, including at the level of the Holy See, from a more explicitly missionary perspective," among other topics. Alvarado is currently president and chief operating officer of EWTN News, which says it is the largest Catholic media organization in the world. Its Washington, D.C.,-based operations include television, radio, online and publishing operations in seven languages. The EWTN family, which generally skews conservative, includes the Catholic News Agency, National Catholic Register and ACI Group news agencies, among other branches. Born in Mexico City, Alvarado joined EWTN as a news anchor after holding leadership positions in the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which has waged church-state legal battles in the U.S. to protect religious freedom. During Pope Francis' pontificate, EWTN's programming often featured English-speaking critics of the Argentine pope. In 2021, Francis blasted such media criticism as "the work of the devil" in comments widely interpreted as being directed at EWTN.

- [Minority bloc urges Cayetano to resign](#) (2026-06-02 16:18)

(UPDATE) THE 11-member Senate minority bloc sought the resignation of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano for dereliction of duty, after he led a boycott of Tuesday's session, despite having two session days left before Congress adjourns sine die on June 6. In a statement issued by the so-called "solid bloc," 11 senators slammed Cayetano for telling his group mates — now down to 10 — to boycott Tuesday's session. "What happened today was a clear

abandonment of responsibility, a dereliction of duty, and a blatant disregard of the rules that govern this institution, because the Senate cannot be made to stop working simply because its presiding officer refuses to lead," the minority said. The minority bloc is composed of Sens. Bam Aquino, JV Ejercito, Sherwin Gatchalian, Risa Hontiveros, Panfilo Lacson, Lito Lapid, Francis Pangilinan, Vicente Sotto III, Erwin Tulfo, Raffy Tulfo and Juan Miguel Zubiri. "Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano should resign as he has shown that he cannot function as the leader of the Senate," the SB 11 said in a joint statement. Sen. Raffy Tulfo challenged Cayetano to show up on Wednesday. Addressing Cayetano, Sen. Raffy said, "Kung matapang ka, pumasok ka bukas. Otherwise, duwag ka (If you're brave, report for work tomorrow. Otherwise, you're a coward)." Zubiri and Ejercito said there were members of Cayetano's bloc who were unhappy with the boycott. "Many members from the majority bloc were texting me, saying they really wanted to work. They can't understand why it led to this," Zubiri said. Sen. Raffy Tulfo said all in Cayetano's group were welcome to join the minority bloc except Cayetano. "We invite all of you to join us. But Alan Peter, you just stay where you are," he said in Filipino. Pangilinan said, "I apologize to the Filipino people on behalf of the Senate that this is the way it is." Sotto, the minority leader, said under the Senate rules, the senators should "meet at 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays." The minority group arrived on time for the 3 p.m. session and waited for the majority bloc to arrive. But by 3:30 p.m., the majority group was still nowhere in sight. This prompted the minority to leave their seats and hold a brief meeting. They came out minutes later to issue a joint statement. They noted that under Rule XIV, Sec. 41 of the Rules of the Senate, the Senate president may postpone the holding of the session "after consultation with the majority leader and the minority leader." "That rule was violated. This is not merely a procedural lapse — it is a direct violation of the rules of the Senate and a serious disrespect for the institution and the Filipino people," Sen. Erwin Tulfo said as he read the statement. Lacson appealed to the majority bloc's "sense of duty and responsibility" to attend the session on Wednesday. Hontiveros rejected Cayetano's call "to let the Senate go quiet" to preserve its independence. "The Senate is the voice of the people. Why does he want to gag it?" she said in Filipino. "We appeal to all our colleagues: They should attend the session, it is our duty," Zubiri said. Tuesday's boycott was the second in a row in as many days. On Monday, members of the majority bloc did not show up for session after their colleague Sen. Jinggoy Estrada was arrested on a plunder charge. Sen. Erwin Tulfo expressed disappointment over the "no-show" of the majority for the second time. "It's a waste of their salary. More than P300,000 (a month)," he said. They were supposed to approve on third and final reading Senate Bill (SB) 2092 declaring Waling-Waling the national orchid of the Philippines; House Bill (HB) 6639 granting Philippine citizenship to basketball player Bennie Francois Boatwright III, and HB 6644 granting Philippine citizenship to wrestler Matthew James Ramos. Minority Sens. Erwin Tulfo and Gatchalian were also scheduled to deliver privilege speeches. Sen. Mark Villar was scheduled to question Sen. Robinhood Padilla on SB 1584 amending Republic Act 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997. Both belong to the majority group. Cayetano calls for boycott. Cayetano urged the minority bloc to unite in what he called a collective effort to safeguard the Senate's independence and integrity in light of increasing political pressure surrounding the chamber and its leadership. Cayetano made this statement after the

Sandiganbayan Fifth Division's ordered Estrada's arrest. He said recent incidents involving majority bloc members raised alarms about the increasing political pressure on the institution. In addition to Estrada, Cayetano pointed out that there have been threats of potential arrests against Sens. Francis Escudero, Rodante Marcoleta and Joel Villanueva. "So I pose a question to you, not as the majority but on behalf of the chamber: will you support the Senate's independence?" Cayetano said. He also suggested that a "deliberate act" — the boycott — would permit the Senate to "go quiet" would be a symbolic protest against external interference. But Lacson said the majority bloc's boycott of the Senate session on Monday sought to hold legislation hostage over the arrest of Estrada. Lacson said what happened Monday was not a case of standing up for the Senate's independence but "plain and simple dereliction of duty" by the majority bloc led by Cayetano. "Standing up for the Senate's independence does not place SP Cayetano and any senator above the law. It has nothing to do with non-adherence to the rule of law," Lacson wrote on X on Tuesday. "Dereliction of duty will not solve this partisan gridlock. Its sole purpose is to hold legislation hostage," he added. Opposition party-list Akbayan denounced Cayetano and the majority bloc over their boycott of the chamber's plenary session for the second straight day. In a statement, Akbayan president Rafaela David said this move has "delayed crucial legislation and exposed the lengths to which Cayetano is willing to go to preserve their hold on power." "Cayetano's actions have earned him a new place in the Senate's history. He is now remembered both as the Senate's attacker and hijacker. He is hijacking and taking hostage an entire institution in a desperate bid to keep himself in power. Just as he clung to power during his controversial tenure as House speaker, he is now willing to immobilize the Senate itself rather than respect its democratic processes," David said. She added that the boycott "is an insult to the Senate and to the Filipino people." "By deliberately refusing to attend the session, Cayetano has once again chosen selfish political interests over public service. Important measures are being delayed, urgent concerns remain unaddressed, and the Senate has been prevented from performing its constitutional duties, all because Cayetano is determined to keep himself in power," the Akbayan president said. Also on Tuesday, Vice President Sara Duterte accused the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of "protecting power" than serving the people by removing "any form of opposition" against the government. Her statement comes after Estrada's arrest and the Senate majority bloc's boycott on Monday and Tuesday. Cayetano engineered the ouster of Sotto by bringing in the fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC), to cast the crucial vote. As Senate president, he then protected dela Rosa from arrest by giving him "protective custody" in the Senate. Two days later, dela Rosa slipped out of the Senate building after a shooting incident started by the Senate sergeant-at-arms. The leadership change came as the Senate prepares to convene as an impeachment court to try Duterte. WITH ARIC JOHN SY CUA AND RED MENDOZA

- [Arraignment of Estrada, Bonoan set for June 4 \(2026-06-02 16:17\)](#)

THE Sandiganbayan Second Division on Tuesday reset the arraignment of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan on the graft charge they are facing to June 4. The court said this would enable it to “fully thresh out” Estrada’s motion seeking to void the charge sheet, dismiss the case, and, in the alternative, remand the case to the Office of the Ombudsman. Bonoan’s lawyer manifested to the court that the former secretary, whose blood pressure was checked at the court, was not ready to be arraigned because of his health. Bonoan, who was brought to the hospital on Monday for hypertension, was in court during the scheduled arraignment. He was brought out of the courtroom on a wheelchair. The Ombudsman filed the case before the Sandiganbayan on Thursday. It also filed a graft case against former DPWH-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. All five were named accused in the plunder case filed by the Ombudsman that Thursday. There is a scheduled arraignment on the plunder case before the court’s Fifth Division on June 4, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Meanwhile, the arraignment on the graft case wherein only Bonoan and Estrada were the accused was set for 1:30 p.m. of the same day. Bonoan, who was brought to the court on Tuesday by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to which he surrendered on Monday, was brought back to the Philippine National Police General Hospital after the scheduled arraignment was reset. He filed a motion for hospital arrest before the court’s Fifth Division. Estrada, Cortuna, Bulusan, and Gonzales were all detained at the Quezon City Jail. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said the cases stemmed from “an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025.” Clavano said case records pointed to “an accumulated sum of illicit payouts” totaling P573 million “which were systematically delivered to” Estrada. Both Estrada and Bonoan have denied the charges.

- [1,400 human bones recovered from Taal](#) (2026-06-02 16:16)

DIVERS have recovered 1,400 human bones from Taal Lake, the Philippine National Police (PNP) Forensics Group said Tuesday. PNP Forensics Group (FG) director Col. Pierre Carpio told reporters at a briefing in Camp Crame that all the bones went through medico-legal, anthropological, radiographic imaging, dental and DNA testing. Suspect-turned-whistle blower Julie “Dondon” Patidongan earlier said he had dumped dozens of bodies of missing sabungero (cockfight enthusiasts) into the Taal Lake on the orders of fugitive gambling tycoon Charlie “Atong” Ang, who he identified as the mastermind. Carpio said the corrosion due to the presence of sulfuric acid, magnesium, aluminum and sodium, as well as the high temperature of Taal Lake, made it more difficult for the PNP FG to recover DNA profiles. “With so many bones and all that has happened in Taal Lake in terms of the degradation of our evidence, we have developed a strategy in which we test our evidence multiple times,” Carpio said. “So, for example, for long bones, we don’t take samples only once to submit for DNA testing,” he added. Should any of the samples be found viable, the PNP FG may partner up with DNA testing firms from Japan or the University of the Philippines, Carpio said. Since last year, Philippine Coast Guard technical divers have conducted extensive search operations in Taal Lake, Batangas. Ang and 21 other respondents, mostly police officers, were charged in three

separate courts in Batangas and Laguna with 26 counts of kidnapping with homicide and serious illegal detention.

- [Honorary Consul Joseph Assad strengthens Lebanon-Philippines ties amidst challenges](#)
(2026-06-02 16:15)

HONORARY Consul of Lebanon to the Philippines Joseph Assad recalled the beginning of his deployment in the country as a baptism of fire. With no roadmap but enormous resolve, Assad said he took a plunge into the whirlwind of consular responsibilities. He was appointed by the Lebanese ambassador as acting consul and was immediately tasked with assisting the ambassador in meeting local governors across various provinces. "It was a baptism of fire," Assad told The Manila Times, describing the beginning of his 26-year career. "I found myself accompanying him everywhere, learning the ropes one meeting at a time," he added. What followed were four intensive months of immersion that taught him firsthand the nuances of representing a nation abroad. The role offered Assad a unique opportunity to deepen his understanding of the centuries-old relationship between Lebanon and the Philippines. As he grew into his role, Assad embraced the challenge as both a duty and a privilege, using his position to foster closer ties between the two nations. Assad's journey as consul is deeply intertwined with his family's history in the Philippines. Over a century ago, his ancestors were among 20 Lebanese families whose migration to Australia was interrupted by a typhoon, leading them to settle in the Philippines instead. This twist of fate marked the beginning of a vibrant Lebanese community in the country. These families became integral to Philippine society, excelling in politics, business, and entertainment. Assad's work as the honorary consul has highlighted similarities between Lebanon and the Philippines. Both nations have significant diasporas — Lebanon's global population of nearly 20 million far outnumbers its domestic population of 5 to 6 million. Similarly, the Philippines relies heavily on the contributions of its overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), who send billions of pesos in remittances annually. This shared reliance on their respective diasporas underscores the resilience and interconnectedness of their people. Tourism is another shared feature. Lebanon, often referred to as the "Paris of the Middle East," boasts stunning Mediterranean landscapes, historic sites, and the unique ability to ski and swim in the same day. Meanwhile, the Philippines captivates visitors with its tropical beauty and renowned hospitality. Despite their differences, he said both countries thrive on the natural charm and resourcefulness of their citizens. While Assad's consular work has been rewarding, it has not been without its challenges. From assisting Lebanese nationals in the Philippines to organizing cultural events, every task requires careful navigation of cultural and bureaucratic complexities. Yet, these complexities have only deepened Assad's appreciation for both nations. One of his most fulfilling endeavors, he said, is focusing on the contributions of Lebanese Filipinos, such as his upcoming dinner featuring Bella Ysmael — who was recently crowned Miss Cosmo Philippines — and celebrating the community's achievements. Assad takes pride in the cultural traditions of Lebanon, emphasizing the importance of food, language, and family ties in preserving heritage. Assad's own life reflects the duality of his role. Born to a Lebanese father and a mother who primarily

spoke Arabic, he grew up fluent in Arabic while embracing Filipino culture. His daughters have carried on this legacy, moving to Beirut and becoming trilingual in Arabic, French, and English. Despite having family in both Lebanon and the Philippines, Assad considers the Philippines his home. "Home is where the heart is," he said, echoing the sentiment of generations of Lebanese Filipinos who found a home in the Philippines.

- [Senate discord hurts economy, Palace says](#) (2026-06-02 16:14)

MALACAÑANG on Tuesday said the ongoing discord in the Senate not only hinders the timely passage of priority legislation but also hurts the economy. Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro issued this statement after senators in the majority bloc stayed away from the Senate Monday after one of their members, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, was arrested on plunder charges. While the Palace and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recognizes and respects the Senate as a co-equal branch, senators must adhere to their legislative duty above all else, Castro said. "On the part of the president and the executive, there is no issue no matter who are the leaders in Congress. The executive will communicate and cooperate to pass the priority bills for the people," she said in Filipino. "There was no need to stop working. It was okay to assist their colleague, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, but there was no need to pause carrying out their mandate because of the issue," she added. The dramatic expression of sympathy of Estrada's allies, led by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano, a boycott of plenary sessions by the majority bloc ensued. They argued the move to arrest Estrada in the Senate undermined its independence. Castro rejected this view. "Independence from what? What is Senator Alan Cayetano really fighting for? When did the president intervene? It is only right to serve a valid warrant of arrest. Does he mean that when a valid warrant of arrest is served in the Senate for these types of crimes, it should not be served?" she said. "So, that's the question. How can each branch of government have cooperation if there are people who are arrogant, there are people who will not obey the law, and there are people who act high and mighty? It can't be like that, everything must be fair," she added. Castro added that with Congress about to adjourn, a handful of priority legislative measures awaiting review and approval are in limbo. "With what's happening in the Senate, the president is not the only one affected but the people. The public is affected. Even the economy will be affected because of the noise and chaos in the Senate," Castro said. Arrested, not surrendered Malacañang also backed the stance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) that Estrada did not surrender but was "arrested." Castro pointed out that the arrest warrant issued by the Sandiganbayan was served first and that the senator did not voluntarily go to the law enforcement offices or the court. "According to Secretary Jonvic Remulla, they were already there at the Senate to serve the warrant of arrest. So, they were about to make the arrest and Senator Jinggoy asked for a chance to give a statement," Castro said in Filipino. "In other words, the arrest warrant was served before Senator Estrada's presscon. So, it can be called an arrest because Senator Jinggoy Estrada did not go voluntarily to the law enforcers, the CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group), the PNP (Philippine National Police) or the Sandiganbayan. Secretary Jonvic was correct that this is not a voluntary surrender but an arrest," she added. The Sandiganbayan

Fifth Division earlier issued warrants for the arrest of Estrada and several others over plunder and graft charges in connection with the flood control projects scandal. Estrada has denied the allegations and vowed to face his cases “head on.” Big fish Also on Tuesday, Tindig Pilipinas co-convenor Kiko Aquino Dee, known for his involvement in the Trillion Peso Marches against corruption in government, welcomed Estrada’s arrest. “I think Estrada is the biggest fish related to the flood control scam arrested so far,” Dee told The Manila Times in a Messenger chat on Tuesday. He said he hoped to see other personalities held accountable for the flood control scandal. “This is a welcome development and I hope this continues with [former party-list representative] Zaldy Co and [former House Speaker] Martin Romualdez also facing the music,” he said.

- [House expels Barzaga](#) (2026-06-02 16:13)

(UPDATE) The House of Representatives expelled Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco Barzaga on June 2, 2026. With a vote of 265, 14 against and eight abstentions, the plenary adopted Committee Report 298 of the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges that expelled Barzaga for his conduct unbecoming of a House member and disorderly behavior. Committee chairman and 4Ps party-list Rep. Jonathan Clement Abalos said Barzaga was already meted two consecutive 60-day suspensions that the panel had to recommend the highest form of punishment, which is expulsion. “The committee considers [that] another penalty of suspension will not likely deter the improper behavior which continuously reflects negatively on the image of the House of Representatives,” Abalos said. Early on Tuesday, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed an ethics complaint before the House of Representatives against Barzaga over a series of social media posts that allegedly accused the bureau of involvement in an assassination attempt during the recent shooting incident at the Senate. NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the complaint was lodged before the House Ethics Committee. “We filed a complaint against Congressman Barzaga sa Ethics Committee and are requesting for an investigation and eventually disciplinary actions to be taken against him,” Matibag said in an interview. Matibag added that the complaint stemmed from several social media posts by Barzaga about the Senate shooting incident, which he described as offensive to the NBI and its personnel. “I am filing it not in my personal capacity but on behalf of the men and women of the National Bureau of Investigation,” he said. Matibag said the NBI traced and validated at least nine posts from Barzaga’s account that allegedly suggested NBI agents were involved in an assassination attempt and a shooting incident connected to the Senate. “There are nine posts that we traced from his account. It was validated as his account,” Matibag said. He said the posts effectively accused members of the NBI of participating in a supposed assassination plot, an allegation the bureau strongly denies.

- [Go pushes expanded aid for fire victims](#) (2026-06-02 16:12)

SEN. Bong Go renewed his call for stronger fire prevention and disaster resilience measures as he extended assistance to families displaced by a recent fire in Barangay 145, Caloocan City. Go said government efforts should not stop at relief distribution but must also focus on

preparedness, rapid response and long-term recovery for affected families. During a relief operation conducted on May 26 in coordination with Caloocan City Mayor Along Malapitan, Go's team provided aid to 50 families. They received financial assistance, grocery packs, snacks, vitamins, water containers, electric fans, shirts and recreational items for children. Selected recipients received shoes and mobile phones. "I will help you wherever you are in the Philippines, as long as my body and time allow, I will go to you," Go said in Filipino in a video call with residents. The senator emphasized the need to strengthen the country's fire response capabilities, particularly in densely populated urban communities where fires can quickly destroy homes and livelihoods. Go highlighted Republic Act 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act, which he principally authored and co-sponsored. The law seeks to improve the Bureau of Fire Protection's operational capacity over 10 years by acquiring modern equipment, recruiting additional personnel and enhancing training programs. He also reiterated his support for Senate Bill 415, which proposes a Rental Housing Subsidy Program to provide temporary shelter assistance to families displaced by disasters as they work toward permanent housing solutions.

- [Possible new structure at Bajo de Masinloc raises concerns about South China Sea activities](#) (2026-06-02 16:11)

COMMERCIAL satellite imagery showed a small "possible structure" at Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), according to analysis released by US-based maritime transparency initiative SeaLight, raising fresh questions over possible new activity in the contested area. SeaLight said it obtained commercial satellite imagery captured on May 28, 2026, via partners at the Satellogic platform, accessed through the SkyfiApp. The imagery showed the southern entrance to the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc, where a small reflective object is visible on the reef flat near the entrance channel. SeaLight said it also reviewed additional commercial imagery dated May 26 showing an object in the same location, though that image was not publicly released due to licensing restrictions. Because the object appeared in imagery from at least May 26 to 28, SeaLight assessed it is likely a persistent feature rather than a temporary optical artifact. Based on resolution and scale, the group estimated the object is "conservatively" less than 10 meters in diameter. Its location at or near the lagoon entrance is significant, as the area serves as a narrow chokepoint that has previously seen the presence of vessels and floating barriers. SeaLight said it could not yet determine whether the object is a fixed structure, reef-mounted marker, buoy-type device, monitoring instrument, or another installation. SeaLight Director Ray Powell said that if the object is confirmed to be a fixed installation, it could raise questions about compliance with the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which calls for self-restraint and avoidance of actions that may escalate disputes or alter the status quo in contested areas. He added that while the object is small, similar installations on previously uninhabited features have often preceded further developments, calling it a potentially significant development at a sensitive maritime location for the Philippines.

- [80% chance of El Niño developing June-August – UN](#) (2026-06-02 16:10)

GENEVA, Switzerland — There is an 80-percent chance of the warming El Niño phenomenon developing between June and August, increasing the risk of extreme weather events, the World Meteorological Organization said Tuesday. “Fueled by unusually warm ocean waters in the tropical Pacific, El Niño conditions are developing and are set to influence global temperature and rainfall patterns,” the United Nations’ weather and climate agency (WMO) said. Forecasts from the WMO global network “indicate a pronounced shift toward El Niño conditions, with probabilities reaching 80 percent for June–August,” the Geneva-based organization said. El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon that warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns. It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months. Conditions oscillate between El Niño and its opposite La Niña, with neutral conditions in between. The likelihood of El Niño developing by November is “near or above 90 percent,” and most forecast models suggest it will be “at least moderate — and possibly strong,” the WMO said in its quarterly El Niño/La Niña update. WMO chief Celeste Saulo said the world therefore needed to get ready for an El Niño, which could “exacerbate drought and heavy rainfall and increase the risk of heat waves both on land and in the ocean.” The WMO says that even a moderate El Niño makes some weather and climate extremes more likely. The last El Niño contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55 C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average. Urgent climate warning — Guterres In late April to mid-May, the sea-surface temperature in the central-eastern Equatorial Pacific — the area used as a monitoring reference — was approaching El Niño thresholds, the WMO said, with sub-surface temperatures more than 6 C above average. Meanwhile, the Southern Oscillation Index — the atmospheric component of El Niño — is also consistent with El Niño conditions developing. The WMO said there was no evidence that climate change increases the frequency or intensity of El Niño events. However, it can amplify the associated impacts, it says, because a warmer ocean and atmosphere increase the availability of energy and moisture for extreme weather events, such as heat waves and heavy rainfall. “El Niño is arriving on our doorstep,” UN chief Antonio Guterres said in a video message. “The world must treat it as the urgent climate warning it is. El Niño conditions will pour fuel on the fire of a warming world. Impacts will hit even harder, travel even farther, and cross borders with devastating speed. “The only effective response is climate action equal to the crisis — ending the addiction to fossil fuels, accelerating the shift to renewables, protecting the most vulnerable, and delivering early warning systems for all.” Temperatures above normal The WMO said that for June to August, forecasts project “a nearly universal dominance of above normal temperatures in nearly all parts of the globe.” This increases the risk of compounding hazards in some regions and accelerates the onset of drought conditions where rainfall is reduced, it said. Regional climate centers are predicting “below-normal” rainfall during the critical June-September rainy season in the northern Greater Horn of Africa; below-average monsoon rainfall in south Asia; and drier and warmer summer conditions in central America. During the northern hemisphere summer, warm waters associated with El Niño can fuel hurricanes in the central and eastern Pacific, while hindering their development in the Atlantic Ocean.

- [New group launched to monitor VP trial](#) (2026-06-02 16:09)

WITH the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte expected to commence soon, a non-partisan citizens' monitoring network was launched to monitor the proceedings. On Monday, civil society leaders, students, lawyers and concerned citizens gathered at De La Salle University in Manila to launch "Bantay Senado," which aims to "help ensure that the proceedings are conducted in a constitutional, fair, impartial, and transparent manner." Bantay Senado convenor and spokesman Prof. Cleve Arguelles said senator-judges owe it to the Filipino people to be "fair and impartial" throughout the process. The network currently has over 350 volunteers nationwide and plans to conduct public education campaigns, community town halls, and trial monitoring activities.

- [LTFRB suspends 20 buses, trucks in separate road crashes](#) (2026-06-02 16:08)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended the operations of at least 20 buses and trucks owned by three transport operators involved in separate road crashes in Nueva Ecija and Quezon in an effort to improve road safety. LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said the agency has issued separate show-cause orders against Victory Liner Inc., Philtranco Service Enterprises Inc., and trucking operator Melencio Magtalas following crashes that resulted in deaths and injuries. According to Mendoza, the investigations aim not only to determine liability but also to identify factors that contribute to road crashes, including possible negligence, driver behavior, and infrastructure-related issues. "We want to identify a pattern of possible negligence, behavior and infrastructure problems that contribute to road crashes. And we want to establish measures out of these investigations to ensure the safety of all road users," Mendoza said. The LTFRB ordered the temporary suspension of 15 Victory Liner buses for 30 days after one of the company's buses was involved in a collision with a truck in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, which resulted in the death of a passenger. The agency noted that the latest suspension came on top of an earlier order grounding 26 Victory Liner buses following a separate crash involving two of its units in Tuba, Benguet, in which nearly 100 passengers were injured. In another case, the LTFRB suspended the operations of a Philtranco bus involved in a crash in Plaridel, Quezon, which led to the death of a passenger. The agency also ordered the suspension of four trucks owned by Melencio Magtalas after one of the firm's units figured in a multiple-vehicle collision in Lucena City. Mendoza said the LTFRB's actions demonstrate its commitment to enforcing safety standards among public transport operators. He said that a government franchise includes the responsibility of ensuring the safety and welfare of passengers and other road users. "We will not hesitate to cancel it once we find out that the operator is not complying with the rules and regulations and demands that come with the authority to operate," he said. Hearings on the three cases have already been scheduled, and Mendoza warned that operators who fail to comply with the show-cause orders could face heavier penalties, including the revocation of their franchises.

- [Muntinlupa, CFO ink deal to attract overseas Filipino investments](#) (2026-06-02 16:07)

THE Muntinlupa City government has signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday, June 2, with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) to connect overseas Filipinos with investment, retirement and business opportunities in the city. Mayor Ruffy Biazon said the partnership aligns with the local government's push to become a smart city while expanding its efforts to attract investors, including Filipinos who have settled abroad and are looking to reconnect with the country. The agreement seeks to establish digital platforms and information channels that will allow overseas Filipinos to explore opportunities in Muntinlupa, ranging from investments and retirement options to local cultural and heritage initiatives. CFO Chairman Dante Ang II said the agency, which is attached to the Office of the President, focuses on the welfare and interests of permanent and long-term Filipino migrants, distinct from overseas Filipino workers who are under the Department of Migrant Workers. "Our commitment to Mayor Ruffy is that we will be their partner in linking Muntinlupa residents all over the world who want to invest, retire and visit your city," Ang said. He added that the CFO aims to help non-resident Filipinos identify places where they can invest, retire and maintain ties with their Filipino heritage while introducing Philippine culture to their children and grandchildren abroad. The partnership is part of the CFO's "Global Pinoy" initiative, which includes an online microsite where overseas Filipinos can access information on participating local governments and their investment opportunities. Biazon said Muntinlupa has several advantages that could attract returning Filipinos and investors, including its location as Metro Manila's southern gateway, access to major transport infrastructure, proximity to Laguna de Bay, and planned developments such as the New Bilibid Prison redevelopment project. "We are not limited to foreign investors. Our fellow Filipinos who want to re-establish their linkage with the motherland are also part of our target. We see that Muntinlupa has an edge in that regard. If we encourage them to retire and invest here, I think we can offer that," Biazon said. He said the city offers a balance rarely found in Metro Manila, combining accessibility and economic opportunities with a less congested environment. The mayor expressed confidence that the partnership would generate long-term benefits for the city by strengthening connections with overseas Filipinos and encouraging them to invest and relocate to Muntinlupa.

- [LGBTQIA+ still enduring discrimination – CHR](#) (2026-06-02 16:06)

(UPDATE) AS the nation celebrates Pride Month 2026, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and more (LGBTQIA+) community continues to experience harassment and discrimination in various aspects of life. As the country's Gender Ombud, CHR recognizes the progress made by local government units (LGUs), schools and workplaces, and other institutions that have adopted gender-inclusive policies and practices, Chairman Richard Palpal-latoc said on Tuesday. While these developments are encouraging, significant challenges remain, Palpal-latoc said. "Cases involving the profiling and harassment of transgender persons in public spaces, denial of benefits for same-sex partners, discriminatory hiring practices, and other forms of prejudice underscore the urgent need for stronger and more consistent legal protection," the CHR chief said. The commission emphasized that Pride Month is not only a celebration of diversity but also

an affirmation of the right of every person to be recognized, respected and treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics. “It is a reminder that human rights begin with the recognition of our shared humanity and the equal worth of every individual,” the top CHR official said. Palpal-latoc reiterated the commission's appreciation of LGUs that have enacted anti-discrimination ordinances as well as initiatives that promote inclusive workplaces, accessible services, and safer spaces for persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (Sogiesc). He said that the agency has been urging policymakers to prioritize the passage of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sex Characteristics Equality Bill and the Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill. These measures are critical to institutionalizing protection against discrimination and ensuring that all persons can participate fully in society and access their rights without fear, invisibility, or exclusion,” said Palpal-latoc, a lawyer. The CHR stressed that equal employment opportunities must be upheld in both the public and private sectors. “Employment, education, health care, and public services should be accessible to all based on fairness, merit and respect for human dignity, free from prejudice and discrimination,” Palpal-latoc said.

- [No new travel fees – BI](#) (2026-06-02 16:05)

THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) has clarified that no new travel fees will be implemented pending final approval of the proposed border modernization project. Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado issued the clarification on Tuesday following reports suggesting that travelers would soon be charged a new P480 fee under the proposed Civil Aviation and Immigration Security Services (Caiss) Project. Viado emphasized that the reports were based on a proposal that has yet to secure the necessary approvals and should not be interpreted as a binding policy. To ensure an informed decision, the BI chief has ordered a comprehensive review and stakeholder consultation covering all aspects of the proposed modernization initiative. Central to the review is a proposed user fee of \$4, or roughly P247, which would help fund the project's implementation. Viado said that the proposal remains subject to evaluation and public discussion. While supporting efforts to modernize the country's border management systems, Viado said any additional cost to travelers must be carefully examined before any decision is made. He noted that strengthening immigration infrastructure is essential in addressing transnational crimes, human trafficking, terrorism, and other emerging security threats that continue to challenge border authorities. At the same time, Viado acknowledged the concerns of Filipino travelers, particularly as many families continue to navigate economic pressures and rising living costs. “We should not surprise the public with proposals that could add to their expenses. Border security is important, but it is equally important that our people feel their concerns are heard and considered,” Viado said. The Caiss project, he said, is a proposed public-private partnership to enhance immigration operations through advanced biometric systems, real-time risk assessment, integrated databases, and automated border control technologies. According to Viado, the ongoing review will examine whether the proposed fee is necessary, reasonable and justified by measurable benefits to

travelers, including faster processing and improved passenger convenience. The assessment will also cover consultations with stakeholders from the aviation, tourism and transportation sectors, as well as safeguards for data privacy, cybersecurity, transparency and accountability throughout the project's implementation. "Our goal is to achieve a safer and more modern border control system, but it must be implemented in a manner that is transparent, fair and trusted by the public. We must first ensure that the proposal is thoroughly studied and clearly explained to our fellow Filipinos," Viado said.

- [Suspect in Parañaque stabbing incident nabbed](#) (2026-06-02 16:04)

POLICE have arrested a suspect in the fatal stabbing of a Parañaque City resident who was livestreaming on social media while doing laundry, with investigators looking into a years-old grudge as a possible motive. The suspect, identified only by the alias "Omay," was arrested at around 9 p.m. on Monday, June 1, in Singkamas village, Makati City, according to the Southern Police District. The arrest stemmed from the killing of alias "Tata," 45, in Silverio Compound, San Isidro village, Parañaque City, on May 28. Police said the victim was using a cellphone for a social media livestream while washing clothes at around 2:30 p.m. when the suspect allegedly approached from behind and launched the attack. Authorities said the suspect allegedly slit the victim's throat and repeatedly stabbed the victim before fleeing. Relatives immediately brought the victim to Uni-Health Parañaque Hospital and Medical Center for treatment. The victim was declared dead at 3:41 p.m. Investigators said a long-standing personal grudge may have triggered the killing. According to the police investigation, the suspect allegedly harbored resentment over teasing and mocking attributed to the victim dating back to Dec. 31, 2023. Authorities said the unresolved dispute may have escalated over time and become the motive for the attack. Police personnel from the San Dionisio Police Sub-Station, Investigation Section, and Intelligence Section launched follow-up operations after the incident. Through intelligence validation and tracking efforts, authorities traced the suspect to Makati City, where the arrest occurred. The suspect was brought to the San Dionisio Police Substation for documentation and proper disposition. A murder complaint is being prepared for filing before the Parañaque City Prosecutor's Office through inquest proceedings.

- [Ombudsman tops governance poll](#) (2026-06-02 16:03)

OMBUDSMAN Jesus Crispin Remulla emerged as the country's highest-rated national government official in the latest "Boses ng Bayan" Index of Governance (IOG) survey conducted by RPMD Foundation Inc. The nationwide survey, conducted from April 1 to 8, 2026, covered 5,000 randomly selected respondents interviewed face-to-face across the country. The poll had a plus or minus 1 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level. RPMD Executive Director Paul Martinez said the IOG combines public trust and performance ratings to gauge confidence in government leadership, accountability, and service delivery. Remulla topped the rankings with an impressive 89.7-percent IOG score, backed by an 89.3-percent trust rating and a 90.2-percent performance rating. Respondents credited his anti-corruption initiatives and efforts to strengthen accountability in government. Many survey participants

described the Ombudsman as a decisive and strong-willed public servant, reflecting growing public support for officials perceived as firm on integrity and governance reforms. Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano earned an 86.9-percent IOG rating, making him one of the country's highest-rated government communicators. Ranking second overall was Melvin Matibag, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, with an 88.1-percent IOG score. He was followed by Kiko Benitez of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, who posted an 86.5-percent rating. Also joining the survey's elite tier were Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado with 85 percent, Land Transportation Office chief Markus Lacanilao with 84 percent, Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Charlie Mendoza with 82.2 percent, Armed Forces chief Romeo Brawner Jr. with 82 percent, and Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Acosta with 81 percent. They were followed by Philippine National Police chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency director Isagani Nerez, Pagasa Administrator Nathaniel Servando, and Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno. Other officials included in the rankings were PhilHealth President Edwin Mercado, Bureau of Fire Protection chief Rico Tiu, Social Security System President R.J. De Claro, and Office for Transportation Security Administrator Gilberto Cruz, reflecting public recognition of a broad range of government agencies. Martinez noted that accountability, investigative, and enforcement institutions dominated the rankings, highlighting Filipinos' growing demand for transparency, integrity, public order, and decisive leadership. He said the strong performance of these agencies reflects public appreciation for institutions that deliver tangible results. RPMD said that an IOG score of 55 percent is considered the minimum passing benchmark, while ratings above 60 percent indicate credible performance. Officials scoring in the 70-percent range are considered strong performers, while those earning ratings in the 80s and above are regarded as among the nation's top-performing public servants. Martinez emphasized that the survey serves as a snapshot of current public sentiment rather than a permanent endorsement.

- [Marcos orders DepEd to implement smooth school opening](#) (2026-06-02 16:02)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the Department of Education (DepEd) Tuesday to ensure that public schools are ready for the opening of classes on June 8. The president issued the directive during the National Capital Region Brigada Eskwela Kick-Off 2026 at Kapitbahayan Elementary School in Navotas City. "We don't have to teach them.... We're just improving the facilities," the president said when asked for his marching orders to the DepEd, considering that the southwest monsoon, a precursor to the rainy season, has started. "If ever I have instructions, that would be to ensure readiness for the resumption of classes so learning will go unhampered," he added. The president said government efforts were focused on improving school facilities and ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment. "It's good to see that we are on a full blast mode in the education sector and every need, as long as the government can provide, we deliver," Marcos said. "We will do this nationwide. And hopefully when classes resume, we are done with everything," he added. The president led the launch of Brigada Eskwela 2026 together with Education Secretary Juan Edgardo Angara under the theme "Bayanihan sa Paaralan: Nagkakaisa para sa Kaayusan at Kaalaman." The nationwide school

maintenance drive, which runs from June 1 to 5, mobilizes teachers, parents, local governments, private organizations and volunteers to prepare schools for the start of School Year 2026-2027. During the event, Marcos inspected ongoing school preparations and safety facilities, including newly installed closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras aimed at improving campus security. "The first thing we checked is their CCTVs. We installed CCTVs. In this school they have 16 cameras to check on the learners and ensure their safety," he said. Besides inspecting facilities, the president checked ongoing repair and maintenance works done by volunteers. Marcos said that many of the volunteers have been enrolled under the Department of Labor and Employment's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) program. Marcos said 147 schools have already benefited from the initiative, involving 3,658 Tupad beneficiaries and P26.12 million in assistance. Another 181 schools are set to receive support, benefiting 4,597 workers through an additional P37.14 million allocation. Marcos also led a storytelling session with selected Grade 1 pupils, where he read "Ang Matsing at ang Pagong (The Monkey and the Turtle)," a classic Filipino tale written by national hero Jose Rizal. The story teaches its readers not to become selfish, to be honest, and not to use one's intelligence to deceive or take advantage of others. "That's why you need to learn to share," Marcos told the young students. The president observed the implementation of the "Tara, Basa!" program, a summer literacy intervention that taps college students to help younger learners improve their reading skills while receiving financial assistance for their education. "We hire college students who want to help and earn by teaching kids how to read," Marcos said. Also present during the activities were Acting Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian and Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco. In Quezon City, the Brigada Eskwela campaign was led by Vice President Sara Duterte at the Diosdado Macapagal Elementary School in Tatalon. Duterte was joined by her chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, Quezon City 4th District Rep. Jesus Suntay, and volunteers. Suntay thanked Duterte for participating in Brigada Eskwela activities. "Your support gives inspiration for our entire community to help us for a better education of our children," Suntay said. The Diosdado P. Macapagal Elementary School serves 3,904 learners from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and has 66 classrooms. The Office of the Vice President has also distributed cleaning and maintenance materials to San Vicente Elementary School and Pinyahan Elementary School, both in Diliman, Quezon City. In a related development, the DepEd said field offices and school teachers are not required to spend their personal money on classroom preparations but should rely strictly on school funds, government assistance, institutional partnerships, and community volunteerism. "We know that many teachers voluntarily help out because they love their students and schools, and we deeply appreciate this. But it should be clear that they are not required to spend out of their own pockets. It is our responsibility to make it easier for teachers to teach, not to add to their burdens," Angara said. Under the no-collection policy, schools are prohibited from collecting fees or contributions for Brigada Eskwela or any school opening activities.

- ['I gave birth in the street' Conflict makes childbirth risky in parts of Africa](#) (2026-06-02 15:47)

BIRAO, Central African Republic — The agony began for Maude Ahmad Fadala shortly after sunset. Her baby was coming. She was in a refugee camp, weakened by typhoid. There were no camp facilities for what was about to happen, and she had no money to travel. She struggled to her feet and started walking. She stopped every few minutes, gripped by pain from contractions, then could go no farther. “I gave birth in the street,” she said. “There was no doctor, no midwife, and no one holding my hand.” This is part of a series on maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the world’s fastest-growing population and accounts for 70% of global maternal deaths. Around 180,000 pregnancy deaths are recorded every year across the continent, along with the deaths of about 1 million newborns. Nearly two-thirds of maternal deaths worldwide occur in countries affected by conflict or “fragility,” the World Health Organization said this year. For women like Fadala, fleeing Sudan’s war to countries like Central African Republic, the danger doesn’t stop at the border. Displacement can mean missed prenatal appointments, dangerous journeys and weakened health systems, often in remote settings. Women in Central African Republic are 40 times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than in the United States, the United Nations has said. For every 100,000 births in the country, one of the world’s poorest, 829 women die. ‘Risk of maternal death is going to increase’ Years of internal conflict have made Central African Republic and its health system fragile. Despite its vast reserves of gold, health services are scarce outside major cities. One in three people live on less than \$2 a day. The government, aware of its maternal mortality problem, announced a plan in 2024 to increase spending for resources such as skilled birth attendants. Officials did not respond to questions about how it’s working. Now, sweeping cuts in humanitarian aid funding by top donor the United States and other countries have made it even harder for women to find care. In the remote town of Birao near the Sudan border, where Fadala shelters, four local midwives who had been supported by the U.N. Population Fund lost their jobs last year as the Trump administration cut every U.S. funding agreement with the U.N. sexual and reproductive health agency. Opposite Fadala’s tent is a former UNFPA-funded “safe space” providing transport for pregnant women to the district hospital. It was one of four such spaces in Birao serving nearly 50,000 women. Those have closed without U.S. funding, along with two U.S.-backed health facilities. Now, “some women run the risk of dying in pregnancy situations that are not medically managed,” said UNFPA program officer Marie Justine Mamba Ibingui. UNFPA’s budget in Central African Republic has been halved in the past two years to \$6.5 million, country director Victor Rakoto said. UNFPA was the only provider of reproductive health products in Birao. “The risk of maternal death is going to increase if there is no solution,” Rakoto said. Conflict-affected settings like Birao account for six in 10 maternal deaths globally, according to the U.N. ‘Giving birth here is exhausting’ The district hospital, which Fadala had tried to reach, is a few kilometers (over a mile) away over dirt roads. On a recent day, birthing assistant Delphine Zanabe moved between patients as dozens of women waited, sitting thigh-to-thigh on hard benches in the sweltering heat. Some had walked for hours to reach the hospital. Others had risked their pregnancy with motorbike journeys over rough ground. From the border, adjoining a part of Sudan held by paramilitary forces fighting the Sudanese military, it’s a 65-kilometer (40-mile) journey to the refugee camp. “They only come when they are about to give birth,” Zanabe said. “It’s a struggle and it’s either the baby or the mother

who suffers.” According to WHO guidelines, pregnant women should attend at least eight prenatal consultations. For refugees, living in survival mode in unfamiliar surroundings compounds the challenges of poverty and lack of education. Zanabe said those factors often put women at risk for pregnancy and childbirth complications. In the maternity ward, eight beds were in a room so small they almost touched. They serve a population of about 70,000 people, along with 22,000 Sudanese refugees. Doctors said 12 staffers have lost their jobs as a result of aid cuts. The majority were from the maternity department. Amna Adam Hessen had arrived the day before, burning with fever from malaria. Her unborn child was found to be in a breech position, a discovery made late because she had missed prenatal appointments. Brought by motorbike from the refugee camp, she bled heavily during labor and lost her baby. The next day, her mother, Salet, fanned her in the suffocating heat. “Giving birth here is exhausting,” she said, describing the long and difficult night. Amna writhed with fever on the bare foam mattress and cried out, “Mama, mama.” Zanabe is worried about future cuts in humanitarian assistance affecting mothers. Over 40% of births in Central African Republic already occur away from medical facilities, the United Nations has estimated — a traditional approach that risks otherwise preventable complications. “I abandoned them like that” Clara Abessendé was one of the four midwives who lost their jobs. She had watched as the number of women arriving daily at the hospital tripled after Sudan’s war began in early 2023, and as staffers ran out of supplies like antibiotics and malaria treatments. “As a result, there were more cases of infant and maternal deaths,” she said. Abessendé said she feels heavy with the guilt of having to leave her job. “The children born in my hands .. I abandoned them like that,” she said. Katidje Idrisse Tahire is one of the women she’s no longer there to help. Tahire walked slowly through the refugee camp to fetch water, one child on her back and two others at her side. She was late in her ninth month, preparing to have another. She said she fled Sudan four months ago on foot. At the border, armed men robbed her of everything. Her husband hasn’t been seen since they fled Darfur. “My whole body aches,” she said. “I am very tired and unwell.” She has no money and doesn’t know if care will be available when her baby comes.

• [Palace tells public to “be discerning” following VP’ s latest remarks](#) (2026-06-02 15:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday urged the public to be more discerning and not be too easily convinced by the latest remarks of Vice President Sara Duterte on the current state of local politics. Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro issued the statement in reaction to Duterte’ s allegations that the administration is silencing the opposition, particularly those implicated in the flood control projects scandal. The vice president asserted that “government institutions and public funds are being used against any form of opposition” instead of addressing head on “the real problems facing our people” . “Those who are being charged are those who are allegedly involved in anomalies or corruption. This goes through investigation, respect for due process and those accused are heard and given the opportunity to respond,” Castro retorted in Filipino in a statement. “Our countrymen are looking for those who should be held accountable, whom they call BIG FISH,” she added. Castro stressed that Duterte’ s message is alarming because it appears she is

whitewashing those involved in corruption. “Is it because they are her allies? Whether allies or not, if they are implicated, they should be investigated—that’s what’s happening now,” she said. “She is making it appear that they are all just victims of political persecution. They have no other defense but to criticize the administration, but remain silent on the merits of the accusations. Be critical. Don't be fooled,” she added.

- [Pasig residential fire reaches 2nd alarm](#) (2026-06-02 14:44)

MANILA, Philippines — A residential fire in Pasig City escalated to second alarm on Tuesday night, prompting firefighters to respond to the affected area along Westbank Road in Barangay Maybunga. The Pasig City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) said the fire reached second alarm status at 10:04 p.m., citing a report from SFO4 Fatallo. The blaze involved a residential structure near the Maybunga Annex area along the Floodway. Authorities have yet to release information on possible casualties, injuries, or the extent of the damage. Firefighters remained at the scene as response operations continued.

- [Kostyuk and Andreeva to clash in French Open semis](#) (2026-06-02 14:24)

PARIS, France — Marta Kostyuk will play Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva for a place in the women's French Open final, as Alexander Zverev seeks to stay on course for an elusive Grand Slam title. Kostyuk held her nerve to withstand a comeback from compatriot Elina Svitolina in the first all-Ukrainian women's quarter-final at a Grand Slam in the Open era, winning 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 on Tuesday. The 23-year-old Kostyuk extended her unbeaten run on clay this season to 17 matches to reach her first Grand Slam semi-final. “I'm very happy I found a way. It was very difficult in the first two sets,” said Kostyuk, who again dedicated her victory to the people of Ukraine. The country was hit by hundreds of Russian drones and dozens of missiles early Tuesday, killing at least 18 people. “We had another difficult night in Ukraine, especially in Kyiv where so many people died, so I want to give this match to Ukraine,” said Kostyuk. Svitolina, 31, fell at the quarter-final stage at Roland Garros for the sixth time. It is the only major where she has not reached the last four. Andreeva breezed into her second French Open semi-final earlier in the day with 6-0, 6-3 rout of Romania's Sorana Cirstea, who plans to retire at the end of the season. The eighth seed needed less than an hour to dispatch the 36-year-old Cirstea, appearing in the last eight in Paris for the first time since 2009. Andreeva beat Cirstea en route to the title in Linz earlier this year, but made short work of her opponent under the roof on Philippe Chatrier. “I'm super happy that I'm going to be playing in semis again,” said Andreeva. “I felt like it was one of my best matches so far this tournament.” Andreeva atoned for the disappointment of her quarter-final loss to French outsider Lois Boisson 12 months ago. “I was just trying to have flashbacks only about the weather and only about the court with closed roof, not about how I played. I'm happy that I could turn it around,” she said. - Zverev in prime position - With the men's draw certain to produce a first-time Grand Slam champion, Zverev is considered the favourite to be that player as he bids to cast away the unwanted title of tennis' nearly-man. He has finished runner-up at three majors, including the 2024 French Open. The 29-year-old German is the highest remaining men's seed and will meet Spanish teenager Rafael Jodar for a

place in the semi-finals later on Tuesday."He's a very young player, incredibly talented, he's come on the scene this clay-court season," Zverev said of the 19-year-old Jodar."He's playing incredible tennis and it's going to be a very difficult challenge but I have to trust myself and I'll be ready for it."Brazilian sensation Joao Fonseca takes on Czech youngster Jakub Mensik in the night session.Fonseca, 19, is the fourth Brazilian man to reach the Roland Garros last eight in the Open era, and the first since three-time champion Gustavo Kuerten."I just try to be me on court, try to be happy, try to hit winners, try to hit good shots, try to be entertaining," said Fonseca, who backed up his third-round win over Novak Djokovic by beating two-time Roland Garros finalist Casper Ruud.Both Fonseca and Mensik will be playing in their first Grand Slam quarter-final.

- [Akayan condemns Cayetano Senate boycott](#) (2026-06-02 14:04)

Opposition party-list Akayan on Tuesday hit out at Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and the majority bloc over their boycott of the chamber's plenary session for the second straight day.In a statement, Akayan president Rafaela David said this move has "delayed crucial legislation and exposed the lengths to which Cayetano is willing to go to preserve their hold on power." On Monday and Tuesday, only the minority bloc showed up at the Senate's session hall. "Cayetano's actions have earned him a new place in the Senate's history. He is now remembered both as the Senate's attacker and hijacker. He is hijacking and taking hostage an entire institution in a desperate bid to keep himself in power. Just as he clung to power during his controversial tenure as House Speaker, he is now willing to immobilize the Senate itself rather than respect its democratic processes," David said.She added that the boycott "is an insult to the Senate and to the Filipino people." "By deliberately refusing to attend the session, Cayetano has once again chosen selfish political interests over public service. Important measures are being delayed, urgent concerns remain unaddressed, and the Senate has been prevented from performing its constitutional duties, all because Cayetano is determined to keep himself in power," the Akayan president stated. "This boycott serves no public purpose. It is not about defending the Senate. It is not about protecting democratic processes. It is simply about preserving Cayetano's grip on the Senate presidency. The Senate does not belong to Cayetano. It belongs to the Filipino people. Every day the chamber is held hostage is another day that workers, students, farmers, commuters, and ordinary citizens are denied the action and representation they deserve," she added.David would later call on members of the current majority to abandon Cayetano and to position themselves as independents. "The Filipino people deserve a functioning Senate, not a hostage Senate... Those who deliberately sabotage the institution to preserve their positions and shield their allies from accountability betray the public trust. The Senate must immediately resume its work, and senators who still value its integrity must refuse to allow it to be reduced to a mere instrument of one man's political ambitions," she said.

- [Samsung minority union challenges bonus deal in court](#) (2026-06-02 13:57)

SEOUL, South Korea — A labour union representing several thousand Samsung Electronics employees asked a court on Tuesday to nullify a bonus agreement between the South Korean tech giant and its largest union. Samsung has emerged as a key player in the fast-evolving artificial intelligence industry thanks to its highly advanced memory chips. The company has recently concluded high-stakes negotiations with its largest union over a bonus wage deal, averting a major strike that had raised concerns about the potential impact on the national economy. Under the agreement, around 78,000 employees of the chip division -- out of the company's 125,000 domestic workforce -- are eligible to receive a bonus of roughly \$330,000 this year, based on estimates of annual operating profit. But the deal has left many in non-chip divisions disgruntled, as they are expected to receive significantly lower benefits, worth around \$4,000. The minority union with around 13,000 members had initially filed an injunction seeking to halt a vote among employees to approve the deal, which concluded last week. Following its approval, "we have amended an injunction application, requesting the suspension of the effectiveness of the tentative agreement," a lawyer representing the minority union said in a message to AFP. Frenzied demand for memory chips powering AI data centres has turbocharged Samsung's earnings. The firm said in April that first-quarter operating profit surged roughly 750 percent year-on-year, while its market value topped \$1 trillion for the first time this month. Under the union's 10-year deal -- tied to ambitious performance targets -- annual bonuses for employees in the semiconductor division would amount to 10.5 percent of their segment's operating profit. The bonuses will be paid in shares alongside an additional 1.5 percent in cash. The Samsung agreement has fuelled labour demands across South Korea, with workers in sectors ranging from biotech and autos to shipbuilding asking for a larger share of corporate profits through bonuses.

- [Over 3,000 new accountants named](#) (2026-06-02 13:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) late on Tuesday announced that 3,004 out of 9,745 or 30.83 percent of examinees passed the Certified Public Accountants Licensure Examination (CPALE). Results were announced four working days following the exams. The top ten of the CPALE are as follows: 1. James Al Alcayde Serondo - University of the Philippines-Diliman (91.17 percent) 2. Miko Andre Reyes Villenas - Southern Luzon State University-Lucban (91 percent) 3. Jonathan Eurich Lo Go - De La Salle University-Manila (90.83 percent) 4. Blas Miguel Villacampa Escarro - University of San Jose-Recoletos (90.67 percent) 5. Ace Benhur Macalipay Ligo - Mindanao State University-General Santos City (90.17 percent) 6. Angle Jean Geonzon Bagacay - Mindanao State University-General Santos City; Marl Angelo Mirador Caracas - President Ramon Magsaysay State University-Iba; Heart Cordero Pecson, FEU Diliman (90 percent) 7. Carl Ace Albios Dela Cerna - Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (89.83 percent) 8. Steven Brielle Salpid David - Xavier University; Ernest John Alburque Manalo - FEU Diliman (89.67 percent) 9. Andrea Santos Meneses - Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Sta. Mesa; Roverson Dayunot Mortega PUP-Lopez; Jamela Mehetabel Colarina San Juan - PUP-Sto. Tomas (89.50 percent) 10. Ivy Ramos Aldave DLSU-Manila; Joan Alliah Mocoy Carilimdiliman - University of San

Jose-Recoletos (89.33 percent) “The results of examination with respect to eight (8) examinees were withheld pending final determination of their liabilities under the rules and regulations governing licensure examinations,” the PRC clarified. The CPALE was taken last May 24 and “succeeding dates” at testing centers in the National Capital Region, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Koronadal, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao and Zamboanga.

- [Hong Kong arrests parents who refused DNA test for baby](#) (2026-06-02 13:33)

HONGKONG — Authorities have arrested a couple on suspicion of child neglect after they refused to provide DNA test results for a baby boy they said had been born at home, the city's security chief said on Tuesday. The unmarried couple said the child had been born two months ago but had not yet received a birth certificate, local media reported. They had previously said they refused to provide DNA test results for birth registration, citing privacy and religion as reasons. On Tuesday Secretary for Security Chris Tang denied it was a privacy issue and called on the couple to provide evidence that they are the boy's biological parents. “At this point, the mother has not been able to provide any records of her prenatal checkups or any medical consultations,” he told reporters. She had also refused to provide photos taken while she was pregnant, he added. “With the baby's welfare as a starting point, we will first send the baby to the hospital for a medical exam,” Tang said. The couple have also said that Swedish authorities have taken custody of their older daughter during an illegal stay in Sweden in 2023. Their Facebook page campaigning for her return drew attention to the current Hong Kong case. Newborns must be registered within 42 days after birth under Hong Kong law. Anyone found guilty of child neglect faces up to 10 years in prison.

- [House okays bill vs online grooming, AI-aided child sexual abuse](#) (2026-06-02 13:28)

MANILA, Philippines — With over 280 lawmakers voting in the affirmative, the House of Representatives on Tuesday evening approved House Bill 9461 or the proposed Child Online Safety and Protection Act of 2026, a priority measure. “A child's right to safety does not end when they go online. As more aspects of daily life move into digital spaces, our responsibility to protect children must extend there as well,” Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III said in a statement. “Every child deserves to grow up free from exploitation, coercion and abuse. This measure strengthens our ability to protect the most vulnerable members of our society and ensures that predators have fewer places to hide”, Dy said. Based on the statement, the bill aimed to include child sexual abuse committed with the use of artificial intelligence-generated and digitally manipulated content in the definition under the law. The bill, it said, “criminalizes online grooming, sexual extortion, luring, image-based sexual abuse, and livestreamed exploitation.”

- [A robot is helping an ailing couple stay in their home. Are more to come for an aging population?](#) (2026-06-02 13:25)

DURHAM, N.H — After outliving Booker T. Bones, their second service dog, Brenda and Brian Marquis still needed help with some of the more difficult parts of daily life. They found Robbie, a

robot that rolls out of a hallway into their living room several times a day. “Do you want to exercise now? Please answer yes or no,” the caregiver robot asks 59-year-old Brian Marquis, who has been living with a traumatic brain injury since a 2012 car crash. “Yes,” he responds. Then he stands up as the robot’s googly-eyed digital screen “face” morphs into an exercise video that guides him through an afternoon workout. The decades-long quest to build home robots that are both helpful and lifelike — spurred on by fictional machines like The Jetsons’ humanoid maid Rosie — is still mostly a pipe dream. That’s despite growing appeal as the oldest baby boomers are turning 80 this year and the United States faces a deepening shortage of home care aides, driven by low wages, high turnover and demanding workloads. But the machine helping the Marquis family — a robot piloted by a University of New Hampshire laboratory, with funding from the National Institute on Aging — offers a glimpse of the emerging possibilities. ‘Stretch’ aids a dementia patient with a range of tasks. The wheeled robot that some have likened to a coat rack was not what Brenda Marquis initially had in mind when she wrote an email to a robotics professor at nearby UNH, asking for advice on robotic dogs. Robbie, the couple’s name for a new robot model officially called Stretch 4, spends much of the day at a charging station between the kitchen and bedroom. When it comes out, it does important work, like nudging Brian, who has dementia, to eat lunch or drink water. Brenda Marquis, 59, said she and her husband have physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities that make life complex. “We’ve been kind of trapped in a problem here in New Hampshire of being able to find and recruit enough home care support,” Brenda Marquis said in an interview at the couple’s Durham, New Hampshire apartment, where she scoots around in a motorized wheelchair while taking care of her husband. “That was when I started looking into robotics and trying to figure out what to do.” At the other end of Brenda’s email was Momotaz Begum, a UNH computer science professor who has spent years experimenting with “socially assistive” robots that can aid people with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. Her robotics lab is full of experimental robots, including the four-legged variety. Begum said the lab asked focus groups of older adults at memory care units what kind of robot they would like as a home companion. Many preferred pet-like robot designs. “The common feedback that we got about Stretch was, ‘OK, this one looks like a coat hanger,’ ” she said. “But what we learned over time is that the look doesn’t matter.” Several makers are designing robots for elder companionship. Apart from robotic vacuum cleaners, the closest thing many older adults have to caregiving robots is a speaker powered by an artificial intelligence voice assistant like Alexa. Some robot makers have expanded that concept into swiveling tabletop machines like ElliQ, designed for elder companionship. But those aren’t mobile or functional enough for Begum, who said she is “trying to reduce that caregiver burden. And the caregiver actually does way more than social companionship.” Humanoids, meanwhile, are still far from being useful in most homes and pose physical danger to people with limited mobility if the robot trips and falls. The founders of Hello Robot, maker of the Stretch robots, said its simplicity is the point. “Our robot’s very practical, pragmatic. I think it communicates that,” said CEO Aaron Edsinger, a former director of robotics at Google. “If you show up looking like a humanoid, that expectation’s going to be set so high, it’s going to be very hard to do.” The typical version of the Stretch 4 includes a telescoping gripper that can retrieve a water bottle and hold it out for a

person to drink through a straw. Show it a prescription bottle and it can help read the fine print. The robot pulls together information from its cameras and onboard sensors, together with other sensors installed in a home, to figure out its location and who is in the room. Manufactured at Hello Robot's headquarters in Martinez, California, and sold for nearly \$30,000, the new model that launched in May is far from being as ubiquitous as a Roomba or an AI-powered speaker. But for its target clientele, it can be a lifeline. Robbie's programmed care protocol for Brian is posted on the couple's wall, and it includes exercise instructions, meal and medicine reminders, evening routine reminders and quick washup prompts that are only triggered after Brian enters the bathroom. "I was never into technology," Brian Marquis said. "Then I realized I can't remember to wash my face and my armpits. So, it just really kind of set me free almost." Brenda Marquis said it also freed her from hours of daily work and helped her reduce expenses. Fearful of leaving her husband at home too long, she was ordering groceries on Instacart. Now she can leave him with Robbie and go get groceries herself. "I can go ahead and go to that mahjong game or whatever. Robbie's gonna take care of him," she said.

• ['We need to act now' Race to develop Ebola vaccine heats up](#) (2026-06-02 13:17)

PARIS, France — Several non-profit organisations announced Monday they are ramping up efforts to rapidly develop a vaccine for the rare strain of Ebola driving a deadly outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nearly 250 people are suspected to have died and more than 1,100 infected with the strain in the DRC and neighbouring Uganda, though the true spread of the virus is feared to be much wider. While it marks the 17th Ebola outbreak in the DRC, it is just the third caused by the Bundibugyo strain, for which there are no approved vaccines or treatments. The escalating nature of the outbreak has sparked a race to find a vaccine that can be quickly developed, manufactured then tested in humans during clinical trials in the affected region. The World Health Organization said on Saturday that its experts had determined "the most promising candidate vaccine" was a single-dose shot using the rVSV platform. The only licensed Ebola vaccine, which targets the more common Zaire strain, uses the same platform. The non-profit International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) announced Monday it had reached a deal with the University of Texas Medical Branch to develop the rVSV candidate. The university's Thomas Geisbert led work on both the Bundibugyo candidate and the licensed Zaire jab. Geisbert told AFP last month that 2013 research demonstrated his jab provided very strong protection against Bundibugyo in monkeys. However the vaccine "just sat there" for more than a decade because of a lack of interest, in particular from pharmaceutical firms, the virologist added. The WHO estimated it would take seven to nine months before the rVSV vaccine is ready to be tested in humans. - 'Fast-track' - Also on Monday, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) announced funding to "fast-track" development of three Bundibugyo vaccine candidates, including \$3.2 million towards the rVSV jab. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who visited the epicentre of the outbreak in the DRC on the weekend, said in a statement the funding was "an important step forward". Another vaccine candidate receiving CEPI funding was developed on the University of Oxford's ChAdOx1 platform, which also

underpinned AstraZeneca's Covid vaccine. This viral vector jab -- which will be manufactured by the huge Serum Institute of India -- could become available for clinical trials within two to three months, the WHO said. CEPI also said it had committed \$50 million to a vaccine candidate being developed by US pharma giant Moderna which uses the mRNA technology pioneered in its Covid vaccine. In a preprint paper published online last week, researchers at France's INSERM institute called for trials to see if the licenced Zaire vaccine could also help fight Bundibugyo. - \$50 million pledge - Also on Monday, the Gavi vaccine alliance announced it would make up to \$50 million available for Bundibugyo vaccine efforts. "We need to act now to ensure that, once one or more vaccine candidates are ready, manufacturers are in a position to start producing doses at scale," Gavi CEO Sania Nishtar said in a statement. IAVI president Mark Feinberg told a press conference on Monday that Gavi's new commitment could fund the production of roughly 500,000 doses. It also provided a "signal to manufacturers they can make this investment and not carry excessive risk," he added. Even once doses for a trial are ready, there will be challenges in deploying them in a vast, remote area of the DRC that is already suffering crises including hunger, malaria and conflict. Gaining the trust of communities where vaccines will be trialled will be crucial, the WHO emphasised. And once a trial is finally carried out, there is no guarantee it will demonstrate the vaccine works. "We have reasons to believe that we can generate effective vaccines, but we don't want to downplay at all that we have to treat them as investigational products," CEPI CEO Richard Hatchett said last week. There are also several efforts to quickly trial several Bundibugyo treatments, including antivirals called remdesivir and obeldesivir, and the monoclonal antibody MBP134.

• [Sara accuses Marcos govt of "removing" opposition, protecting "power"](#) (2026-06-02 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte has accused the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of "protecting power" than serving the people by removing "any form of opposition" against the government. Her statement comes after the Senate's majority bloc made a boycott of Tuesday's session, as well as after the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada for charges of plunder. In a statement, Duterte said that the situation in the country should be a "cause for concern for every Filipino who believes in democracy, regardless of their beliefs or political colors," "We see how government institutions and the people's money are being used against any form of opposition. Instead of focusing on the real problems faced by our fellow citizens, power is being used to silence the voices of dissent," Duterte said. She reiterated that the independence of institutions must be protected, not only of the Senate and the House of Representatives as institutions, but every Senator and member of the House "must be free to perform his or her constitutional duty according to conscience, free from threats, pressure, or any form of intimidation," "Good governance does not require the elimination of opposition. Democracy works best when there is a healthy opposition that is free to question," Duterte said. She said that a government that fears dissent is not demonstrating strength, rather it is "revealing insecurity. And that insecurity is reflected in the direction our country is taking today," Duterte highlighted what she described as three disturbing realities: The effort to divert attention from legitimate questions surrounding the flood control controversy; The willingness

to disregard constitutional safeguards in pursuit of a politically motivated impeachment; and the relentless pursuit of greater political power under the guise of Charter Change."These are the symptoms of a government that has become more preoccupied with protecting power than serving the people," Duterte said..She stressed that the Filipino government deserves " a government focused on solving problems, not silencing critics; on strengthening institutions, not bending them to political ends; and on serving the nation, not perpetuating power,""Democracy is not weakened by dissent. Democracy is weakened when those in power become afraid of it," Duterte said.

- [House okays right to information bill](#) (2026-06-02 12:22)

MANILA, Philippines — With over 280 lawmakers voting in the affirmative, the House of Representatives on Tuesday evening approved House Bill 9397 or the Right to Information Act.The bill aims to establish a framework for citizens to address records, documents including contracts, data and other information from all three government branches including state firms and state universities and colleges. The bill also covered constitutional commissions, local government units, and other government offices.Enactment of the bill will mean the creation of an online portal through which Filipinos can file and monitor their requests for information.Also if it is enacted, the Right to Information Commission will be created to hear appeals on denied requests, investigate possible violations, and enforce compliance in the government.

- [Barzaga, third congressman to be expelled in House history](#) (2026-06-02 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Cavite 4th District Rep. Kiko Barzaga was not the only member of the House of Representatives who had been expelled. He was in fact, the third.Barzaga was booted out of the House on Tuesday over his social media posts and for conduct "unbecoming" of a lawmaker with 265 voting in the affirmative; 14, negative and eight abstentions.Then Philippine Assembly member Dominador Gomez, while serving under Manila’ s first district, was the first to be expelled from the chamber, with a vote of 40-38, because of “legal controversies” on June 18, 1908, according to Supreme Court records.In 1902, Gomez founded the Democratic Labor Union of the Philippines, which was described by the High Court as an illicit organization.Negros Oriental 3rd District Rep. Arnolfo Teves, because of his role in the murder of then provincial governor Roel Degamo, as well as abandoning his role as a lawmaker was unseated on Aug. 16, 2023.Teves was the first member of the current Philippine House of Representatives to be expelled from the chamber, with lawmakers voting 265-0-3 to remove him.

- [House expels Barzaga](#) (2026-06-02 11:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives expelled Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco Barzaga.With 265 voting in the affirmative, the plenary adopted Committee Report 298 of the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges that expelled Barzaga for conduct unbecoming of a House member and disorderly behavior. Fourteen lawmen voted against Barzaga's expulsion while eight abstained.According to Committee Chairman and 4Ps partylist Rep. Jonathan

Clement Abalos, Barzaga had been meted two consecutive 60-day suspensions that became the basis of the panel's recommendation to expel the lawmaker, which is considered the highest form of punishment at the House."The committee considers [that] another penalty of suspension will not likely deter the improper behavior which continuously reflects negatively on the image of the House of Representatives," Abalos said.

- [Bonoan seeks hospital arrest](#) (2026-06-02 10:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan filed a motion for hospital arrest before the Sandiganbayan where he is facing a plunder case, along with four other people, including Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. Bonoan was brought to a hospital on Monday for hypertension. He and Estrada have been linked to the flood control scam.

- [Photographer Mandy Navasero, 84](#) (2026-06-02 10:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Veteran Filipina photographer Luz Amandolina “Mandy” Navasero died on Monday, her family announced. Navasero was 84 years old. “Our mom lived a full and meaningful life. She touched many people with her kindness, warmth, wisdom, and love. While our hearts are heavy with grief, we are grateful for the many beautiful memories she leaves behind and for the love she shared with all of us,” her family said in a statement on Tuesday. The cause of death was not disclosed. Navasero was the founder, director of photography and chief executive officer of the Mandy Navasero PhotoPro Studio (MNPS). “MNPS has now expanded its services to meet various clients’ needs-- digital photography since early ‘90s combined with public relations (PR) consulting, and photo safaris to destinations such as Batanes, Coron, Boracay, Laguna Loop, Luang Prabang, etc. since 1984,” the studio’s profile read. Born on Valentine’s Day 1942, Navasero obtained a mass communications degree from Philippine Women’s University and took her masters at the Ateneo de Manila University in English Literature. According to her LinkedIn profile, Navasero was a graduate of the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California in the United States in 1987, having also served as a Philippine Airlines flight attendant and worked at Bank of America for 13 years. “[I] put up my own business by 1982 as a photography studio cum PR agency. Then Batanes Photo Safari in 2006 up to now. Contributed Street Smart to the Philippine Daily Inquirer for 30 years. Still writes and contributes articles of interest with pictures. Member of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, 3rd term as director,” her profile read. The veteran photographer is survived by her four children, Julia, Kate, Amanda, and Kert. Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, starting on June 3, 2026 at 1 p.m., and will run until June 6. Navasero will be cremated on June 7 at 1 p.m.

- [Minority bloc senators seek Cayetano resignation](#) (2026-06-02 08:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Minority bloc senators sought the resignation of Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano for dereliction of duty on Tuesday. They asked the majority to join them instead.

- [Philippines, Japan sign space cooperation deal](#) (2026-06-02 06:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) inked a Joint Declaration of Interest in Space Cooperation. The declaration, signed on May 27, 2026, by PhilSA Ad Interim Director General Gay Jane P. Perez and JAXA President Hiroshi Yamakawa during President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s state visit to Japan, reaffirmed the two countries' shared goals and interest in working together on satellite missions and data applications, space exploration and human spaceflight, and space sustainability. "Across the Asia-Pacific, nations are turning to space science as a means to improve governance, protect the environment, and to champion inclusive development," said President Marcos during the largest space forum in Asia last November.

- [Former Public Works secretary Bonoan discharged from hospital, on way to Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-02 05:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan was discharged from the Philippine National Police General Hospital on Tuesday, a day after he was confined following a "near stroke" caused by a spike in his blood pressure. Bonoan was released at 1:23 p.m. to personnel from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. Medical staff said Bonoan's blood pressure has since stabilized. He is en route to the Sandiganbayan in an ambulance to comply with the court order for his detention.

- [Former Public Works secretary Bonoan discharged from hospital, on way to Sandiganbayan](#) (2026-06-02 05:59)

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- [Bus firm to cooperate with LTFRB probe on Benguet road crash](#) (2026-06-02 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The management of Victory Liner on Tuesday assured concerned government agencies of its full cooperation in the ongoing investigation in connection with the road accident in Tuba, Benguet on May 30, 2026 which resulted in a woman's death and injury to over 90 people. The bus liner, in a statement emailed on Tuesday to reporters, said it also acknowledged the issuance of a preventive suspension order by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) covering 26 of its fleet of buses. "First and foremost, we reiterate our deepest condolences to the family of the passenger who lost her life and our prayers for the full recovery of all those who sustained injuries. The welfare of our passengers remains our highest priority," the bus company vowed. It reiterated that it would provide all necessary records, maintenance documents, operational reports, and other information that may help establish the facts surrounding the incident. "We note that the findings are preliminary and an ongoing investigation is underway. All relevant facts should be thoroughly

examined before final conclusions about the cause of the accident and responsibilities are made,” said the company whose main office is near Monumento, Caloocan City. The bus firm noted that while no company is perfect, “Victory Liner remains committed to safety, compliance, fleet upgrades, and excellent service.” “Over the years, our company has invested heavily in modern vehicles, preventive maintenance systems, driver training programs, and operational safety protocols to protect our passengers’ welfare. These investments reflect our belief that public transportation is a public trust,” it said. It said that it was already working closely with relevant government agencies, hospitals, and insurance providers to ensure that all affected passengers would receive the assistance, medical support, and insurance benefits, among others, “without unnecessary delay.” Saying it was committed to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement, the bus firm said safety would remain paramount as it began reviewing maintenance, protocols, and fleet management to find measures that could better protect passengers. Initial reports indicated that a southbound bus bound for Pangasinan lost control while negotiating a steep curve along Marcos Highway in Sitio Caucalan, Barangay Taloy Sur, also in the same Benguet town. It then collided with a private vehicle and another bus which traveling uphill toward Baguio City. As a result, the southbound bus overturned, blocking the lane leading to Baguio City which triggered an emergency response.

- [Watchdog for Sara Duterte impeachment trial formed](#) (2026-06-02 05:13)

MANILA, Philippines—With the upcoming impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, a non-partisan citizen’s network was launched to monitor the proceedings. On Monday, civil society leaders, students, lawyers and concerned citizens gathered at De La Salle University in Manila to launch the “Bantay Senado,” which aims to “help ensure that the proceedings are conducted in a constitutional, fair, impartial, and transparent manner.” According to Bantay Senado convenor and spokesman Professor Cleve Arguelles, senator-judges owe it to the Filipino people to be “fair and impartial” throughout the process.

- [Senate majority accused of holding legislation hostage after walkout over Estrada arrest](#) (2026-06-02 05:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the majority bloc’s boycott of the Senate session on Monday sought to hold legislation hostage over the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. The majority bloc members did not attend Monday’s regular session to protest what it described as an attack on Senate independence following Estrada’s arrest over plunder charges related to his alleged involvement in the flood control fund scandal. The minority bloc, in a joint statement Monday evening, said the issue was not about Senate independence but about the majority’s boycott of duty. Lacson said what happened Monday was not a case of standing up for the Senate’s independence but “plain and simple dereliction of duty by the majority bloc led by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano.” “Standing up for the Senate’s independence does not place SP Cayetano and any senator above the law. It has nothing to do with non-adherence to the rule of law,” Lacson wrote on X on Tuesday. “Dereliction of duty will not solve this partisan gridlock. Its sole purpose is to hold legislation hostage,” he added.

- [UST' s The Varsitarian reaps historic wins in US journalism awards](#) (2026-06-02 04:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Varsitarian, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) school publication, made history as the first Philippine and Asian student publication to win at both the national and regional levels in the prestigious Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Mark of Excellence Awards. The 98-year-old official student publication of UST joined the roster of winners from top American educational institutions, including Harvard University, Northwestern University, Columbia University, and Yale University. The publication' s UAAP Season 88 Term 1 Primer, “Welcome to My House,” bagged the national award for Best Sports Videography. It also won the Region 2 in the same category. The video primer was produced by sports editor Rob Andrew Dongiapon and managing editor Karis Tsang, edited by photo editor James Magboo, and animated by assistant art editor Regine Sanota and artist Aisha Fortes. In the SPJ' s Region 2 Mark of Excellence Awards, the September 29 “Thomasian walkout against corruption” coverage, led by the V' s News, Special Reports, and Photography sections, topped the breaking news reporting category for schools with more than 10,000 students. The UAAP Season 87 2025 Term 2 Primer “Superstar” also won the regional award for Feature Videography category. Also in the SPJ Region 2 Mark of Excellence Awards, The Flame, the student publication of Faculty of Arts and Letters, won under campus reporting category with tuition hike stories. The Flame got finalist citations for its story titled “More than a year after Tomasino Web ruckus, six UST media entities claim to have faced various restrictions,” photo essay on Nazareno 2025, and feature story titled “Just another break: How Thomasian atheists spent the Holy Week.” The SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards honor the best in collegiate journalism annually, recognizing entries first at the regional level before first-place winners advance to the national competition. SPJ' s Region 2, to which the Philippines was assigned this year, covers campus media in Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia. This year, The “V” stood out among collegiate works published or broadcast in 2025, which saw students and staff from 45 newsrooms across the United States receive national honors. Founded in 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi, the SPJ is the most broad-based journalism organization in the US, focused on protecting press freedom, promoting media ethics, and recognizing outstanding professional and student achievements. In October 2025, the Varsitarian won in several categories in the Pinnacle Awards of the US College Media Association (CMA). The V won anew in the Apple Awards given during the CMA' s spring conference in New York in March 2026, including Best Newspaper, Best News Website, and Best News

- [Dizon orders replacement of sandbags used as barriers along Kalinga road with proper warning devices](#) (2026-06-02 04:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon ordered immediate corrective measures after discovering inadequate safety barriers along a damaged section of the Babalag-Kinama-San Francisco National Road in Barangay San Pedro, Rizal, Kalinga during an inspection visit on Monday. Dizon expressed disappointment after seeing that sandbags had been used as makeshift barriers to mark a road slip area, saying such temporary measures

were insufficient to protect motorists and commuters using the vital route. The DPWH chief immediately directed concerned personnel to replace the sandbags with proper road safety devices and warning systems to prevent accidents and ensure safer travel conditions. The order aligns with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to guarantee the safety of road users, particularly on major national roads that serve as critical transportation links for communities and agricultural producers. The affected highway is an important route for farmers in Kalinga, enabling them to transport agricultural products to markets and nearby provinces. Dizon stressed that public safety could not be compromised and that road hazards must be addressed using appropriate engineering and traffic management measures. While in Kalinga, the DPWH also joined the Department of Education's Brigada Eskwela activities at Liwen West Elementary School in Rizal town.

- [NBI files ethics charge complaint vs lawmaker for 'Senate assassination' claim](#) (2026-06-02 03:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation has filed an ethics complaint against controversial Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco Barzaga at the House of Representatives on Tuesday. NBI Director Melvin Matibag personally filed the complaint at the office of House Secretary-General Cheloy Garafil. Matibag said that the complaint stemmed from several social media posts of Barzaga where he claimed there was an attempt at the NBI to assassinate senators during the standoff held last May 13. "There are nine posts that we have validated on his account, he is accusing the members of the NBI to attempt an assassination at the Senate," Matibag told reporters. In a Facebook post, Barzaga claimed that the complaint was filed by Matibag on orders from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "Inutusan ni Marcos ang NBI na mag file ng Ethics Complaint laban sa akin, mukhang naapektuhan siya sa pagbaba ng trust ratings niya, (Marcos ordered the NBI to file an ethics complaint against me. Looks like he is affected in the decrease of his trust ratings)," Barzaga said.

- [SC bars registration of similar 'W' trademarks](#) (2026-06-02 03:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that trademarks with logo designs that closely resemble existing registered marks could not be registered if they were likely to confuse consumers. In a decision written by Associate Justice Ramon Paul Hernando of the First Division granted the petitions of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, LLC and reversed previous rulings that allowed Oceanic Empire Limited to register the trademarks "W Globalcenter" and "W Fifth Avenue," as well as retain its registration for "W Tower." Starwood, which owns several registered "W" trademarks used for its hotel and entertainment businesses, argued that Oceanic's marks were confusingly similar and could mislead the public into believing the two companies were connected. The Intellectual Property Office and later the Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Oceanic, saying no one could claim exclusive rights over a single letter and that the companies operated in different industries. The Supreme Court disagreed. The Court said trademark law protected consumers from confusion and only required a likelihood—not proof—of confusion. Applying the Dominancy Test, the high

tribunal found that the stylized “W” was the most noticeable feature of both parties’ trademarks. It clarified that Starwood does not own the letter “W” itself, but has rights over its distinctive stylized version. The Court ruled that the additional words “Globalcenter,” “Fifth Avenue,” and “Tower” did not sufficiently distinguish Oceanic’ s marks because they were merely descriptive and less prominent than the “W” logo. The Court also noted that both companies prominently use the “W” in their buildings and promotional materials, increasing the possibility that consumers could associate one business with the other. It further found that the parties’ businesses are related because both are involved in high-end property developments and rely heavily on branding and design. The ruling ordered the denial of Oceanic’ s trademark applications and the cancellation of its “W Tower” trademark registration.

- [Marcos leads NCR Brigada Eskwela kickoff](#) (2026-06-02 01:55)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday led the National Capital Region (NCR) Brigada Eskwela Kick-Off 2026 to prepare public school classrooms for this school year. The President was joined by Education Secretary Sonny Angara during the Brigada Eskwela at Kapitbahayan Elementary School in Navotas City. Carrying the theme "Bayanihan sa Paaralan: Nagkakaisa para sa Kaayusan at Kaalaman," this year’ s Brigada Eskwela is being held nationwide from June 1 to 5 in preparation for the opening of classes on June 8. During the event, Marcos inspected ongoing school preparations and safety facilities, and visited partner organizations’ booths. The President also observed an ongoing "Tara, Basa!" session that prepares Grade 2 learners to be grade-level ready, and participated in literacy activities, including a storytelling session with selected Grade 1 learners.

- [Gender discrimination continues as CHR seeks stronger govt protection](#) (2026-06-02 01:52)

MANILA, Philippines – As the nation celebrates Pride Month 2026, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) said the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, and more (LGBTQIA+) community continues to experience harassment and discrimination in various aspects of life. The CHR, as the country’ s gender ombudsman, recognizes the progress made by the local government units (LGUs), schools, and workplaces and other institutions that have adopted gender-inclusive policies and practices, Chairman Richard Palpal-latoc said on Tuesday. While these developments are encouraging, significant challenges remain, Palpal-latoc said. “Cases involving the profiling and harassment of transgender persons in public spaces, denial of benefits for same-sex partners, discriminatory hiring practices, and other forms of prejudice underscore the urgent need for stronger and more consistent legal protection,” the CHR chief said. The commission emphasized that Pride Month was not only a celebration of diversity, it was also an affirmation of the right of every person to be recognized, respected, and treated equally, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics. “It is a reminder that human rights begin with the recognition of our shared humanity and the equal worth of every individual,” the top CHR official said. The CHR reiterated its appreciation on LGUs that have enacted anti-discrimination ordinances as well as

initiatives that promote inclusive workplaces, accessible services, and safer spaces for persons of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). Palpal-latoc said the agency has been urging policymakers to prioritize the passage of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sex Characteristics Equality Bill and the Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill. These measures are critical to institutionalizing protection against discrimination and ensuring that all persons can participate fully in society and access their rights without fear, invisibility, or exclusion,” said Palpal-latoc, a lawyer. The CHR stressed that equal employment opportunities must be upheld in both the public and private sectors. “Employment, education, healthcare, and public services should be accessible to all on the basis of fairness, merit, and respect for human dignity, free from prejudice and discrimination,” Palpal-latoc said.

- [Pagcor boosts safeguards against casino money laundering](#) (2026-06-02 01:30)

MANILA, Philippines -- The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor) has ordered casinos and other gaming entities to strengthen their anti-money laundering (AML) controls after issuing a new set of red flag indicators aimed at detecting transactions linked to corruption and illicit financial activities. “Casinos must establish internal controls and risk-based procedures that are commensurate with money laundering risks inherent in their products, services, customer base, and delivery channels,” Pagcor said in a memorandum. Under the memorandum, regulated entities are required to review and assess their existing AML and counter-terrorism financing controls and determine whether enhancements are necessary to effectively detect corruption-linked transactions. The memorandum, Pagcor said, sought to help regulated gaming firms identify signs of corruption-related abuse and strengthen their customer checks, transaction monitoring and suspicious transaction reporting.

- [Yellow alert up for Visayas power grid due to inadequate supply](#) (2026-06-02 01:23)

MANILA, Philippines -- The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) issued a yellow alert for the Visayas grid on Tuesday due to inadequate power supply caused by inoperable coal plants and high demand. Based on its advisory, the NGCP said that as of 8 a.m., the Yellow Alert will be issued between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. as peak demand is expected to reach 2,412 megawatts (MW) against the available capacity of 2,542 MW. NGCP said that 28 plants were on forced outage, while 11 were running on derated capacities, totaling 996.40 MW of unavailable power for the grid. The transmission firm said that the reasons for the yellow alert declaration were mainly because of the continued inoperability of Visayas' large coal plants, namely Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 1 (169 MW), Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 2 (169 MW), Panay Energy Development Corp Unit 3 (150 MW), and Unit 2 of KEPCO SPC Power Corp. (103 MW) and high system demand forecast. A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid's contingency requirement but does not necessarily lead to power interruptions.

- [Most parts of PH to have rain, thunderstorms due to ‘habagat’ –Pagasa](#) (2026-06-01 23:03)

MANILA, Philippines – The southwest monsoon, locally known as ‘habagat,’ would be the dominant weather system in the coming days, bringing occasional, scattered rains and thunderstorms particularly over Luzon and the Visayas, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday. Weather specialist Veronica Torres of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a 5 a.m. briefing that habagat is bringing occasional rain over Zambales, Bataan, Cavite, Batangas, and Occidental Mindoro. She warned that flash floods or landslides may occur due to moderate to heavy rains in these areas. Habagat will also affect Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, and Western Visayas, bringing cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms, according to Pagasa. The rest of the country, meanwhile, would likely have partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms over the next 24 hours, it added. Although Pagasa has yet to declare the onset of the wet season, habagat is its primary indicator, the weather bureau said.

- [Browns trading 2-time AP Defensive Player of the Year Myles Garrett to Rams](#) (2026-06-01 21:20)

INGLEWOOD, California — The Cleveland Browns are trading two-time AP NFL Defensive Player of the Year Myles Garrett to the Los Angeles Rams in a blockbuster deal, three people briefed on the move told The Associated Press on Monday. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade has not been finalized. The Browns will acquire pass rusher and linebacker Jared Verse — the 2024 AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year — a 2027 first-round selection and other draft picks that are still being worked out. Garrett has not been seen at the team facility during offseason workouts even though he made a couple of visits to Cleveland during the Cavaliers' NBA playoff run. Garrett has a minority stake in the Cavaliers. Coach Todd Monken said two weeks ago he had not had a face-to-face meeting with Garrett since being hired in late January. Defensive coordinator Mike Rutenberg said last week he had some conversations over the phone with Garrett about the direction of the defense. Garrett supported defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz being promoted to head coach before ownership opted for Monken. Schwartz ended up resigning after three years in Cleveland. Garrett was the unanimous choice for Defensive Player of the Year last season after he had 23 sacks and broke the NFL single-season record. However, Garrett has been frustrated with the Browns' direction over the past couple of seasons. Cleveland is 8-26 the past two years after making the playoffs in 2023. Garrett demanded a trade at the end of the 2024 season, but signed a four-year contract extension last March with a total value of \$204.8 million that made him the highest-paid non-quarterback in NFL history. The contract also included a no-trade clause, which meant that Garrett had the final say in his future destination. However, Garrett's frustration with the team's direction remained high even after the extension. In March, the Browns and Garrett agreed to modify the contract and defer option payments over the 2026-28 seasons. The first payment of around \$10 million was due on May 28, but was moved to near the start of the regular season. “I’m committed to winning, and as long as the team (and) organization are doing so

and they're committed to that same thing, then I'm all on board. But if we're thinking anything other than winning — tanking or rebuilding, that's not me," Garrett said on Jan. 2 before Cleveland's regular-season finale against Cincinnati. Monken is the seventh coach hired by Dee and Jimmy Haslam since they bought the franchise in 2012. The previous six coaches under the Haslams have compiled a 73-139-1 regular-season record, the second-worst mark in the NFL. The Browns have had just four winning seasons since returning to the NFL in 1999. The trade is yet another blockbuster deal swung by Rams general manager Les Snead, whose eagerness to use his draft picks in trades for star veterans has kept the Rams among the NFL's top teams during coach Sean McVay's decade on the sideline. Snead notably acquired star cornerback Jalen Ramsey from Jacksonville in 2019 in a deal that included two first-round picks, securing the cornerstone of the secondary for a team that won a Super Bowl. But the Rams only won it all after they acquired Matthew Stafford in early 2021 in an even bigger trade for Jared Goff and two first-round picks. Just a couple of months ago, Snead acquired star cornerback Trent McDuffie from Kansas City in a deal for four draft picks, including a first-rounder, to rebuild the secondary that was the weak link of last season's team. Before Snead shocked the NFL by picking quarterback Ty Simpson this spring, the Rams had made only one first-round selection over the previous nine years. That pick was Verse, who quickly became a star during his two seasons as the anchor of the Rams' rebuilt pass rush in the wake of Aaron Donald's retirement. Verse had 4 1/2 sacks while being selected as the NFL's top defensive rookie in 2024, and he had 7 1/2 sacks last season along with three forced fumbles. Byron Young led the Rams with 12 sacks and interior lineman Kobie Turner contributed seven sacks, and both young stars are heading into the final year of their rookie contracts. With his Rams in title contention in November 2021, Snead acquired vaunted pass rusher Von Miller from Denver in a trade for LA's second- and third-round picks. Miller contributed nine sacks in 12 games, providing exactly what they needed alongside Donald to win it all. The current Rams are among the preseason Super Bowl favorites after winning 12 games and reaching the NFC championship game last season. Stafford, the reigning league MVP, is returning at the head of the NFL's most potent offense last season along with a retooled defense featuring McDuffie and fellow ex-Kansas City star Jaylen Watson as its new cornerbacks — and now they've added the most feared pass rusher in the league. The Rams' roster in 2026 now includes last season's NFL leads in yards passing, TD passes, total receptions (Puka Nacua), receiving touchdowns (Davante Adams) and sacks (Garrett). After the Rams won the Super Bowl in February 2022 and then crashed out of the playoff picture in an injury-filled 2022-23 season, Snead briefly discarded his usual draft philosophy. He rebuilt his roster through a series of key selections in 2023 and 2024, drafting an entirely new defensive line with Verse, Young, Turner and Braden Fiske — along with All-Pro receiver Nacua. With his rebuilt roster looming as a Super Bowl favorite again, Snead used his depth on the defensive line to make it even better.

- [Pride Month 2026 has begun. Here's what to expect for the LGBTQ+ celebrations](#)
(2026-06-01 21:14)

SAN FRANCISCO — Pride month has begun across the U.S., bringing parades and parties to big cities and small towns to celebrate LGBTQ+ people. The rainbow-filled festivities this year come as President Donald Trump's administration is pushing policies to roll back the rights of transgender people and curtail recognition of diversity, equity and inclusion. Jordan Braxton, co-president of USA Prides, a organization of Pride groups, says the events have always been rooted in protest. "A festival is a time to celebrate," she said. "Those are acts of resistance, too." The first Pride celebrations came in protest. The event has its roots in the violent police raid of New York's Stonewall Inn, a gay bar, on June 28, 1969. The raid sparked a series of public protests and catalyzed the gay rights movement at a time when many LGBTQ+ people kept their identities to themselves. To mark the first anniversary in June 1970, there were marches in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. Now, events take place in big cities, suburbs and small towns around the world. President Bill Clinton proclaimed June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month in the U.S. with an executive order in 1999. Since then, Democratic presidents have signed similar orders each year they've been in office. Republican presidents, including Trump, have not. Now, many are celebrations with a dose of defiance. Parades and street fairs headline Pride celebrations. But there's more to them than that. San Francisco Pride includes a golf tournament and a human right summit. Twin Cities Pride in Minneapolis has a bar crawl, and Central Alabama Pride in Birmingham features a singing competition. This year's celebrations include main events in Los Angeles on June 14, Chicago on June 20 and 21, San Francisco on June 27 and New York on June 28. There are events this month in international cities including Paris, Rome, Sao Paulo and Tokyo. While those events have been around for more than 50 years, this year marks just the sixth edition of a formal Pride celebration in Haddon Township, New Jersey, a Philadelphia suburb. A parade is scheduled for Thursday, and a community night is Friday. Isis Petrie Williams, president of Haddon Township Pride, said that the 2,000 to 3,000 people in the parade will include local high school marching bands, youth sports teams and many people passing out candy. "We decided to have a radical expression of joy, acceptance and love, centered on exposure and community connection," she said. Some policy changes have not been LGBTQ-friendly. For years, policies across the U.S. were generally becoming more welcoming to LGBTQ+ people, including in June 2015 when a U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalized same-sex marriage nationally. In recent years, several policies have swung the other way. The Supreme Court in March ruled against a ban on "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ+ kids in Colorado, saying it violated free speech protections. During Pride Month last year, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed a Tennessee ban on gender-affirming care for transgender kids. This decade, most Republican-controlled state governments have passed similar restrictions on gender-affirming care, barred transgender women and girls from female sports competitions, and restricted which restrooms transgender people can use in schools — and, in some cases, other public places. Trump has signed executive orders seeking some of the same policies on a federal level. On Monday, one of those policies suffered a blow when a court ruled that the military illegally banned transgender troops. Some sponsors have pulled out of the celebrations. Last year, some big corporations stopped contributing to Pride events. Braxton said she's noticed some investment firms pulling back this year, following companies such as Anheuser-Busch and Walmart last year. "It's all because of Trump's DEI policies."

Corporations are afraid that if they sponsor a Pride event, they are going to get scrutinized from this administration, which is completely sad,” she said. But she said that smaller events have seen local businesses boost sponsorships. That's been true for New Jersey's Haddon Township Pride. Williams said the Coast Guard is the only major national sponsor that's abandoned the event in recent years. Meanwhile, local hospitals, restaurants, law firms, coffee shops and other businesses are contributing.

- [Modi meets Myanmar's military-backed president as India says engagement will continue](#)
(2026-06-01 21:11)

NEW DELHI — India said it will continue engaging with Myanmar after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks Monday with the leader of the country's military-backed government, despite Western sanctions imposed after the military seized power in 2021. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters in New Delhi that India's policy is “not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangements” in Myanmar and that New Delhi believes engagement is the best way forward. Western nations have sought to isolate Myanmar's military rulers since they ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in a 2021 coup that triggered a crackdown on opponents and a nationwide conflict and humanitarian crisis. Some critics and human rights groups have said Min Aung Hlaing's visit to India risks lending legitimacy to the military-backed government. “We have always proceeded on the principle that sustained dialogue is what is important,” Misri said, adding that isolating Myanmar would be counterproductive. “History has shown that disengagement doesn't give us any results that are better than engagement,” he said. The visit is Min Aung Hlaing's first to India since he was sworn in as president in April following an election that critics say was designed to cement the military's hold on power. His last visit to India was in 2019, when he served as Myanmar's military chief. India shares a 1,643-kilometer (1,020-mile) border with Myanmar and a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal. The neighboring country hosts thousands of refugees from Myanmar, many of whom fled fighting in northwestern Chin state and other conflict-affected areas. Myanmar is also strategically important to India's security interests. The two countries have cooperated on border security and intelligence sharing to combat insurgent groups operating out of the border region. Modi and Min Aung Hlaing did not address the media after their meeting, unlike most bilateral talks involving visiting heads of state or government in New Delhi. But Misri said the two leaders discussed trade, defense and security cooperation, border management, and regional issues, with talks also focusing on expanding economic and technology ties. He said both sides agreed to deepen collaboration across sectors including trade, energy and critical minerals, and to accelerate major connectivity projects. The leaders also discussed cooperation against cybercrime and human trafficking, issues that have affected thousands of Indians lured to scam centers in the region. Misri said India and Myanmar have worked together to rescue more than 2,400 Indian nationals over the past 18 months. During the visit, Min Aung Hlaing also met Indian President Droupadi Murmu, Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

- [Hundreds of youths protest outside Kenya's Ebola quarantine center for US citizens](#)
(2026-06-01 20:38)

NAIROBI, Kenya — Hundreds of youths in Kenya's central town of Nanyuki on Monday demonstrated against the establishment at the Laikipia Air Base of an Ebola quarantine center for American citizens exposed to the virus. The protests come two days after Kenya's High Court suspended the establishment of the facility and the arrival of any foreign patients pending the hearing of a case filed by the Law Society of Kenya and a constitutional watchdog. The two organizations cited Kenya's fragile health system as the reason why foreign Ebola patients should not be quarantined in the country. U.S. officials said Thursday that the United States was planning to send Americans exposed to Ebola while abroad to a new facility in Kenya instead of flying them home. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the administration's plans. They said the facility would be at Laikipia Air Base and would be operational with 50 quarantine beds by Friday. On Monday, hundreds of youths marched to the gates of the air base, chanting anti-Ebola slogans. Health Minister Aden Duale on Sunday said the quarantine center was for "everyone" and not exclusively for U.S. nationals. The U.S. government intends to commit \$13.5 million toward Kenya's Ebola preparedness efforts, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement. Local leaders, including Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, had told journalists that they were opposed to the establishment of an Ebola quarantine center. "This will expose our people to Ebola," he said, adding that many locals work inside the air base and could be exposed. A resident, Malin Ndegwa, said Kenya should not be exposed to the virus by hosting foreigners when it is not the epicenter of the outbreak. "Why are they not doing it in the DRC (Congo)? Why are they not doing it in Uganda? Why must they bring it here? So we are saying, we categorically, no negotiations, no public participation, we want nothing. We want that facility taken out of our town, we want it taken out of Kenya," he said. Kenya has not recorded Ebola cases, but neighboring Uganda has reported nine and closed its border with Congo. At least 282 confirmed cases have been reported in Congo with over 1,000 suspected cases of the Bundibugyo virus, the current species of Ebola, which has no approved treatment or vaccine.

- [8 crested ibises released in Japanese town decades after extinction in Japan](#) (2026-06-01 19:49)

TOKYO — Eight crested ibises were released into the wild in a north-central Japanese town, decades after the birds went extinct in the country. The endangered birds took off from each of their wooden cages at a ceremony Sunday in Hakui city in the Noto region, where they were last seen in the wild. Residents cheered when the birds soared into the sky the moment Crown Prince Akishino, his wife Kiko and other officials cut a ribbon around the cages. The eight birds have been raised at a conservation center on Sado Island in the neighboring prefecture of Niigata following a successful captive-breeding program. Ten more birds are waiting to be released. The white birds, called Toki in Japan, are native to East Asia and admired for their orange-pink hues under their wings and bright red marks around their eyes. The birds went extinct on the Honshu main island in the 1970s, threatened by overhunting and environmental

degradation. The last remaining Japanese native ibis died in 2003 on Sado Island. But the birds came back to life thanks to China's support for breeding. In 1999, artificial breeding by a pair donated from China successfully led to the first Japanese crested ibis chick born in captivity, according to the Environment Ministry. The breeding and conservation efforts have since helped the recovery of the birds' population. In 2008, 10 of the birds raised at the Sado conservation center were released into the wild on the island, where their population has increased to around 500, the ministry says. The release of the beloved birds on Sunday was also seen as a good omen for the Noto region, which is still recovering from the deadly 2024 earthquake.

- [Survey finds generational gap in attitudes to AI romance](#) (2026-06-01 19:24)

SHANGHAI — Almost 50 percent of young adults in six major economies think AI romantic companionship will improve human happiness through emotional support in the next decade, the results of a large survey suggested Monday. The percentage dropped progressively across older age categories to just a quarter of people aged 55 and over, according to the research shared exclusively with AFP. Leaps in AI development have seen people turn to chatbots as confidants and lovers, while advancements in robotics are helping produce more sophisticated sex dolls -- raising questions over the impact on human relationships. The survey of nearly 10,000 people across the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, Indonesia and Hong Kong provides a snapshot of this "rapidly changing moral landscape", pollsters YouGov said. It also shows "a profound ideological split between Western and Asian markets", with the latter seemingly more accepting of technologically enabled sex and romance. In terms of emotional support, 48 percent of all respondents aged 18-24 and 47 percent of 25 to 34-year-olds said they thought "AI intimacy companions" -- a category ranging from chatbots to sex dolls -- would improve human happiness in the next decade. When the same question was asked focusing on deeper connection and sexual wellbeing, the figures came in at 32 percent and 38 percent respectively. On both counts, older people were less optimistic. The psychological impact of chatbots on vulnerable people has been under scrutiny, with the deaths of several teenagers linked to AI use by their families. - Geographic split - YouGov and the media company that commissioned the research, Tokyo-based Star X Gen, told AFP they were surprised by the regional disparity. In Indonesia, 50 percent of people -- of all ages -- said they thought AI companions would improve connection and sexual wellness. It was 34 percent in Hong Kong and 24 percent in Japan, declining to 20 percent in the United States, 15 percent in Germany and just nine percent in Britain. "While Western audiences largely view synthetic intimacy as a threat to authentic human closeness, Asian audiences appear increasingly ready to integrate AI into their personal and physical lives," said YouGov's Philippe Chan. While the use of AI chatbots for romance and sex is becoming more commonplace, their embodiment in robots or dolls is at a more nascent stage. Across all 9,912 respondents, only 17 percent said they would consider using an "AI intimacy doll", compared to 59 percent who said they would not. Across the board, younger adults were more likely than older ones to consider using a doll -- and in Japan and Germany, the number of younger people who would think about trying a doll was nearly double the national average. "While the global (general population) remains wary, the next generation is

actively redefining the boundaries of companionship," the report said. In Japan, over a third of younger adults said they believed AI dolls could provide a sense of love, outnumbering those who disagreed.

- [Bicam okays bill expanding Tertiary Education Subsidy](#) (2026-06-01 19:22)

MANILA, Philippines — A bicameral conference committee approved on Monday the bill aiming to expand the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES). "We are happy to report the approval by the Bicameral Conference Committee of the bill amending the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act. As Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education, principal author, and sponsor of this measure, I consider this a major step toward making tertiary education more accessible, more equitable, and more responsive to the real needs of Filipino learners," Tingog Rep. Jude Acidre, who led the House of Representatives' contingent to the bicameral panel, said in a statement. Under the bill, the statement said, students from Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program households "will be placed at the top of the TES priority list". The bulk also aims to create the Private Education Assistance program which would, the statement said, "provide government grants to disadvantaged students who enroll in priority programs in CHED-recognized private higher education institutions and TESDA-registered technical-vocational institutions, subject to quality standards and pilot implementation before full rollout." CHED stands for Commission on Higher Education and Tesda, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. The measure is a priority one of the Marcos administration.

- [Cobolli stops thinking and quells Svajda fightback at French Open](#) (2026-06-01 18:32)

PARIS, France — Flavio Cobolli said he made the mistake of "thinking" before he steadied on Monday and clawed into the French Open quarter-finals, beating Zachary Svajda 6-2, 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/5). Cobolli raced through the first two sets in a total of one hour 25 minutes, breaking twice in each. Then he wobbled once to surrender the third set and, leading 5-1 and with a match point, wobbled again in the fourth before surging through the tiebreak. "The match is never done and today I almost shit in my pants," said Cobolli on court immediately after the match. He offered a more analytical response at his later press conference. "I think when the match is almost done, you start to think of it, and that's the problem with my character, because I don't like to think a bit," he said. "I just want to play, play my best tennis possible. But if I think, especially if I'm nervous, I start to play a different tennis." At No. 10, the Italian goes into the last eight as the third-highest remaining men's seed. It will be the 24-year-old's second Grand Slam quarter-final. He reached the last eight at Wimbledon last season. Cobolli will face either fourth-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime or unseeded Chilean Alejandro Tabilo. Twice in the third set Svajda, a 23-year-old American, held serve to save the match. He then took the tiebreak as Cobolli's accuracy deserted him. In the fourth, Cobolli galloped to a 4-0 lead. From 5-1 up he could not finish Svajda off, wasting a match point at 5-4. The Italian found just enough composure to take the tiebreak and win in three hours, 21 minutes. Cobolli is a former Roma youth footballer. Shortly after his press conference he was back on Chatrier to help four French Paris Saint-Germain players -- Ousmane Dembele, Bradley Barcola, Desire

Doue and Warren Zaire-Emery -- parade the Champions League trophy they won in Budapest on Saturday. Cobolli grabbed a selfie with the trophy. He said that while he was at Roma he played with Riccardo Calafiori, who missed Arsenal's Budapest defeat with injury, as well Edoardo Bove, now of Watford and Matteo Cancellieri of Lazio. "At the end, I don't like to play with a team; only in Davis Cup," said Cobolli. "So I decide to quit with football. When I play tennis, I feel different emotion, and I feel better with myself."

- [Money transfer giant Wise hit by Belgian laundering probe](#) (2026-06-01 18:15)

BRUSSELS — Belgian prosecutors said Monday that they were in the advanced stages of an investigation into the money transfer giant Wise, on suspicions criminals used its accounts for money laundering. The Brussels prosecutors' office said it opened the probe last year as the British firm's name kept popping up in hundreds of requests for assistance from investigating authorities in other countries. "The investigation is now at an advanced stage and nearing its conclusion," a spokesperson for the prosecutors' office told AFP, confirming information first reported by the European Investigative Collaborations (EIC) network. "The findings primarily concern the use of Wise accounts for criminal purposes, with indications of non-compliance with anti-money laundering legislation, particularly due to a failure to identify customers and their activities," the spokesperson said. Detectives were probing whether criminal groups used Wise services to launder the proceeds of illicit activities including fraud, corruption and drug trafficking. Transactions worth more than 500 million euros (\$581 million) were being looked at, the prosecutor's office said. The probe focuses on Wise Europe, the Belgium-headquartered European subsidiary of the firm, which said it was working with prosecutors to respond to queries about its business. Such requests for information "are a normal part of operations and are not, in themselves, indicative of non-compliance with anti-money laundering requirements or of any wrongdoing," the company said in a statement. "No specific findings have been shared with us to date," added the company, which has more than 19 million active customers worldwide and processes approximately 4.7 million transactions a day. Wise says it handled more than \$243 billion in cross-border transactions in the financial year 2026. By midday, its share price on the London Stock Exchange had fallen by nearly 15 percent.

- [Estrada, 3 DPWH officials transferred to Quezon City Jail](#) (2026-06-01 17:52)

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and three Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials were transferred to the Quezon City Jail Male Dormitory on Monday following the completion of required legal, medical, and custodial procedures, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DILG said the transfer was carried out based on the latest report from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The officials transferred were Assistant District Engineer Denryl Caesar Cortuna, District Engineer Manny Bumagat Bulusan, and District Engineer Arturo Lombres Gonzales Jr., along with Estrada. The BJMP reported that Cortuna was admitted to the facility at 5:47 p.m., while Estrada, Bulusan, and Gonzales were admitted at 8:15 p.m. after undergoing prescribed medical assessments. Following medical clearance, the four were admitted to the jail's general population in accordance with existing

custodial procedures, the BJMP said. The DILG emphasized that all individuals committed to BJMP custody are processed and treated under the same detention rules and protocols regardless of their position or status. "Court orders are implemented, due process is observed, and the law is applied equally to all," the department said.

- [Estrada, 3 Former DPWH officials transferred to Quezon City Jail](#) (2026-06-01 17:52)

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and three Former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials were transferred to the Quezon City Jail Male Dormitory on Monday following the completion of required legal, medical, and custodial procedures, according to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DILG said the transfer was carried out based on the latest report from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The officials transferred were Assistant District Engineer Denryl Caesar Cortuna, District Engineer Manny Bumagat Bulusan, and District Engineer Arturo Lombres Gonzales Jr., along with Estrada. The BJMP reported that Cortuna was admitted to the facility at 5:47 p.m., while Estrada, Bulusan, and Gonzales were admitted at 8:15 p.m. after undergoing prescribed medical assessments. Following medical clearance, the four were admitted to the jail's general population in accordance with existing custodial procedures, the BJMP said. The DILG emphasized that all individuals committed to BJMP custody are processed and treated under the same detention rules and protocols regardless of their position or status. "Court orders are implemented, due process is observed, and the law is applied equally to all," the department said.

- [Numbers game in the Senate is now "11-11"](#) (2026-06-01 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Now that the numbers game in the Senate is "11-11" with the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, will Senate President (SP) Alan Peter Cayetano deliberately cancel the last two session days of Congress to secure his position? The 11-member Senate minority bloc raised this question as Congress adjourns sine die on June 6 and will reopen on July 26 to coincide with the holding of the joint session of Congress to hear the State of the Nation Address of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. Fugitive Sen. Ronald Dela Rosa belonged to the majority group. He is wanted by the International Criminal Court over crimes against humanity linked to his involvement in the drug war of former president Rodrigo Duterte. He slipped out of Senate protective custody on May 13 and is now subject of a manhunt. "The public has every right to ask whether SP Cayetano is repeating what he did in the House of Representatives, when questions were raised about a leader refusing to step aside, refusing to convene and holding up proceedings when the numbers were no longer certain," the minority bloc said in a joint statement. They were referring to the time when Cayetano was House speaker in 2020 and refused to turn over the position to then Marinduque representative Lord Allan Velasco despite a term-sharing deal brokered by Duterte. "The question now is just as serious: will they do this again for the next two session days, and will they keep the Senate idle simply to avoid facing the numbers on the floor?" they asked. For the first time in the recent history of the Senate, the session was suspended without valid reason which kept the minority bloc in the dark. Cayetano

was supposed to resume session at 5 p.m. But he, and fellow members in the majority group have not yet arrived by 5:30 p.m. The minority bloc stayed until past 7 p.m. as they waited for the majority group to arrive. They finally decided to leave after the airconditioning system and wi-fi connection at the session hall were turned off, said Sen. Raffy Tulfo. The minority said important measures were left hanging because of the majority's boycott, including the Magna Carta of Barangay Health Workers, the Anti-Hospital Detention Bill, the confirmation of generals before the Commission on Appointments and the bills granting Philippine citizenship to Bennie Boatwright III and Matthew James Ramos. "Today was a step toward accountability in a controversy that the public has long demanded action on, and after years of people asking why nothing was happening in flood control investigations, it is unacceptable to suddenly call the rule of law an attack on the Senate," the bloc said. This may be the first time in decades that Senate work stopped because the presiding officer himself refused to work, the minority said. The group said that "even during typhoons and the height of the pandemic, work was suspended only because of necessity or because systems still had to be set up, not because the leadership chose a boycott of duty." The Senate "should open its doors, call the session to order and return to work, because no Facebook post, no appeal to institutional pride and no political drama can erase the basic duty of senators to show up, follow the law and serve the people," the added.

- [Estrada's daughter pointed dirty finger at me - Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 17:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said he was given the dirty finger and cursed by a daughter of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada as authorities moved to arrest him on Monday afternoon. "There was a slight altercation between me and the daughter," Remulla told reporters in Camp Crame after Estrada was processed at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headquarters there. "She gave me the dirty finger and cursed at me. I said, 'It's okay. I understand you're emotional' ... It was nothing personal. Everyone became emotional," Remulla added in a mix of English and Filipino. Remulla however could hardly identify which of Estrada's daughters did the gesture. Estrada has two daughters: Janella, who is the undersecretary for the National Authority for Child Care, and Julienne. Estrada and four others were ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan earlier on Monday over plunder cases filed against them in connection with the flood control scandal. The lawmaker is now detained at the New Quezon City Jail Male Dormitory.

- [Impeach trial to help voters decide, says Luistro](#) (2026-06-01 17:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment trial will help the voting public decide whether Vice President Sara Duterte deserves their confidence, Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday. "That is why impeachment trial should happen because considering that she has pronounced already her intention to run for president in 2028, this impeachment trial will help the sovereign Filipino decide whether or not she deserves the faith and confidence of the electorate", Luistro, the House of Representatives' lead impeachment prosecutor, said in a press conference. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11,

2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and the kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. It then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two complaints heard by the Luistro-led House Committee on Justice. This committee on Apr. 29, 2026 found probable cause to impeach her so it sent the impeachment articles to the House plenary for action.

- [Newly-appointed EPD director assumes new post](#) (2026-06-01 17:11)

Newly-appointed Eastern Police District (EPD) Director Brig. Gen. Melecio Buslig, Jr., vowed to strictly implement the five guiding principles of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) to maintain peace and order in the Metro East. Buslig made the assurance on his first day as Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of EPD where he was given Arrival Honors Monday morning at EPD Multi-Purpose Hall, Caruncho Ave., Brgy. Malinao, Pasig City and held a Talk-to-Men Program. Buslig, a member of the PNP Kaagapay Class of 1996, was referring to observance of basic crime prevention and solution; full adherence to Police Operational Procedures (POP) in the performance of duty; doing what is right at all times; non-involvement in any illegal activities; and full respect for personal belief and religion while staying close to GOD as the guiding principles of the NCRPO. Members of the EPD Command Group led by Col. Ireneo Dalogdog, deputy district director for Administration (DDDA) together with the District Staff, Chiefs of Police of Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, and San Juan City Police Stations, Force Commander of the District Mobile Force Battalion (DMFB), as well as other key officers, Police Non-Commissioned Officers (PNCOs), and Non-Uniformed Personnel (NUP) of EPD Headquarters warmly welcomed Buslig. He also warned that rogue police officers have no place in the Eastern Police District and within the Philippine National Police (PNP), stressing that accountability and discipline will be strictly enforced. He likewise assured that personnel who perform their duties properly will be duly recognized and commended. PBGEN Buslig, Jr., also introduced his flagship program and emerging best practice, the EPD SHIELD, which stands for: S – Securing Barangay H – High Visibility Policy I – Eliminate Opportunity for Criminals E – Engage and Empower Communities L – Leveraging Technology D – Decisive Operations. Buslig further announced that the EPD SHIELD will be formally launched in the coming days as part of the District's strengthened crime prevention and public safety initiatives. He emphasized his leadership philosophy as a team player, urging all personnel to actively participate, take ownership of their responsibilities, and support one another to ensure the success of the Eastern Police District. The Eastern Police District welcomes PBGEN Buslig Jr., and expresses full support for his leadership as it continues to strengthen peace and order, crime prevention efforts, and public service delivery across its area of responsibility.

- [Palace to “ill-advised” Pulong Duterte: fire your ghostwriters](#) (2026-06-01 17:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday clapped back at Davao City 1st District Rep. Paolo “Pulong” Duterte to fire his “ghostwriters” to save himself from being “ill-advised” and avoid issuing statements that could embarrass him. Presidential Communications Office

(PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro made the pronouncement in response to Duterte's challenge to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to outline his administration's accomplishments tangibly felt by the public in his upcoming State of the Nation Address (Sona). "If you are going to talk to Congressman Pulong, I hope you can ask him if he is the one who is crafting his message? Does he have a ghostwriter or does he have a PR man? Because if he is using a ghostwriter, I will echo what the president said. Maybe, it would be better if he will fire his ghostwriters or PR man," Castro said in Filipino in a press conference, implying that Duterte is out of touch with reality. "Because the news and statements being released by Congressman Pulong are ill-advised. Or maybe, they really just want to sow intrigue," she added. The Palace Press Officer further stated that Marcos does not need to wait until he delivers his address before both chambers of Congress to make known the government's programs and accomplishments. "Why wait for the SONA? If he just watches the press briefings, he could see what the president is doing," Castro said. "It would be better if he watched press briefings, news, mainstream, state-owned media. Because it seems that he is not updated, does not read, does not watch the news. It is pitiful. He seems to be living in the dark, living in fake news, living in his own imagination," she added.

- [Marcos commits to stronger PH-Vietnam economic ties](#) (2026-06-01 16:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday reaffirmed the Philippines' strong and enduring relationship with Vietnam as he encouraged Vietnamese businesses to pour more capital in the country. Marcos made the call during the Vietnam-Philippines Business Forum which coincided with Vietnamese President Tô Lâm's state visit. Addressing government officials and business leaders from both nations, the chief highlighted the historic roots of both countries' relations, noting that diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Vietnam were formally established 50 years ago during the administration of his father, former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. "This year carries a special significance. The Philippines and Vietnam are celebrating a Golden Jubilee—50 years of diplomatic relations," Marcos said. "The ties between our countries were formally established during the presidency of my father, President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. It was likewise through the efforts of my mother, then First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, that the foundations for peace, understanding, and cooperation between our two nations were first laid," he added. He underscored his administration's commitment to deepening trade and investment ties with Vietnam while implementing reforms aimed at making the Philippines more competitive and attractive to foreign investors. Among the key initiatives cited were the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE) Act, the amended Foreign Investments Act, the amended Retail Trade Liberalization Act, and the Green Lanes for Strategic Investments program. "Our message to the region is clear: The Philippines is positioning itself as a premier destination for smart, sustainable manufacturing and high-value services. We are open to partnership, ready for investment, and eager to work with you in creating new opportunities for growth," Marcos said. He also recognized Vietnam as a vital partner in advancing stronger economic cooperation, building more resilient supply chains, promoting

digital innovation, and fostering deeper integration within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). Vietnam ranked as the Philippines' 11th-largest trading partner in 2025, with total bilateral trade reaching US\$7.17 billion. Apart from Lâm, also in attendance at forum were senior Filipino and Vietnamese government officials and members of the business community seeking to explore new opportunities in trade, investment, and economic collaboration.

- [Muntinlupa to give rice aid to 31,000 families](#) (2026-06-01 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Muntinlupa City government announced on Monday that 31,000 households will receive rice assistance this year under the national government's "Bigay Bigas sa Masa" program, with four rounds of distribution scheduled across the city. The city government said the program provides direct food assistance to vulnerable sectors, including indigent persons with disabilities, low-income workers, and families facing health, social, and housing-related challenges. Qualified beneficiaries include indigent PWDs and their care-dependents, fisherfolk, farmers, tricycle, jeepney and pedicab drivers, motorcycle taxi and delivery riders, barangay health workers, Kabalikat members, and informal waste workers. Families with health and social vulnerabilities, as well as informal settler households and residents affected by fires since January 2026, are also eligible for the program. The city government said pilot distribution started in May and will continue in the coming weeks as additional beneficiaries are served. Under the program guidelines, only one beneficiary will be counted per household.

- [No winners in Grand Lotto, Mega Lotto 6/45 draws for June 1](#) (2026-06-01 16:34)

There were no winners in the Grand Lotto and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Monday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The winning combination for the Grand Lotto was 36--04-09-44-42-24, with a jackpot prize of P45,000,000. No winners were also recorded in the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw, which had the combination 28-38-41-35-40-05 and a jackpot prize of P36,124,029.88.

- [Accountability, politics should never be mixed — Ombudsman](#) (2026-06-01 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Accountability and politics should never be mixed, Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano, the spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman, said on Monday. This was after Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said that many times, he was offered case dismissal in exchange of turning his back on the Senate "independent majority bloc" but that he did not accept it. "Accountability and politics should never be mixed", Clavano said in Filipino when asked by media. "If there are people who are trying to blur the line between these two, they should be held accountable. No one can decide in the name of the Ombudsman when it comes to pending cases, because doing this can also be considered a form of corruption", Clavano said. "These cases have long been being investigated. In fact, every step of the process is publicized", Clavano said. Last Thursday, the Ombudsman charged Estrada and four others including former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan with plunder before the Sandiganbayan. The three others were former DPWH-National Capital

Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. The Ombudsman also filed two graft charges. Estrada, Bonoan, Cortuna, Bulusan, and Gonzales Jr. were named accused in one. Only Estrada and Bonoan were the accused in the other. "The cases stem from an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025. Our evaluation shows that substantial public funds were deliberately funneled into designated infrastructure projects in exchange for predetermined commission fees or kickbacks. Case records point to an accumulated sum of illicit payouts amounting to an aggregate sum of over PhP 573 Million which were systematically delivered to the principal respondent, Senator Jinggoy Estrada", Clavano said in a statement last Thursday. While acknowledging that the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office issued a certificate on the absence of records that Estrada made budget insertions, the Ombudsman's office said the certificate "does not capture all stages of the budgetary process, wherein insertions may be made in a layered method." Estrada has said in Filipino in a statement, "I am determined to face this case and prove that the accusations against me are not true." Bonoan denied links to alleged corruption. "Hindi po. I can shout [it]. Hindi po ako involved" (No. I can shout [it]. I am not involved)", he said in a media interview at the House of Representatives last September when he attended as a resource person in the investigation conducted by the House infrastructure committee on flood control projects. The Ombudsman's office has been conducting flood control-related investigations.

- [Families of pre-martial law senators condemn ‘disgraced’ Senate, invoke legacy of honor and public service](#) (2026-06-01 16:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Families of several prominent pre-martial law senators issued a scathing statement on Monday, saying the present Senate has strayed far from the standards of integrity, competence, and public service that once defined the institution. In a statement dated June 1, relatives of former senators including Jose “Pepe” Diokno, Jovito Salonga, Lorenzo Tañada, Raul Manglapus, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Sergio Osmeña Jr., and others declared: “This is not the Senate we once knew.” The group contrasted what it described as the discipline and patriotism of past lawmakers with what it sees as a decline in the chamber’s moral standing and credibility. They said the senators of their generation entered sessions prepared, studied legislation thoroughly, guarded public funds, and viewed public office as a sacred duty rather than a platform for personal gain or public spectacle. “There were no rehearsed displays of piety. No public weeping. No vulgar theatrics. No shameless scrambling for attention. No drama masquerading as patriotism... Only work. Honest work. Patriotic work.” they said. The statement then turned sharply critical of the current Senate, accusing many members of operating under what it called a “dark cloud” of serious allegations, including corruption, abuse of power, obstruction of justice, and other offenses. “The Senate, once the forge of our laws, has become a refuge for those who brazenly violate them,” the families said. Without naming specific senators, the group urged Filipinos to “count the lawmakers who have become lawbreakers” and question whether the institution remains worthy of public admiration. The statement comes amid heightened political tensions in the Senate following recent clashes

between administration and opposition-aligned lawmakers, as well as controversies surrounding investigations, accountability issues, and allegations exchanged by rival political camps. “Numbers do not confer honor. Power does not erase disgrace. And no majority vote can cleanse moral rot,” they added.

- [Estrada surrenders, Bonoan in hospital](#) (2026-06-01 16:17)

(UPDATE) SEN. Jinggoy Estrada, charged with plunder, surrendered to the police Monday, saying he had turned down several offers from persons he did not identify to abandon the majority bloc in the Senate in exchange for a dismissal of the charges against him. In a press conference before his surrender, Estrada said he would not seek Senate protection and would not accept his salary while he was defending himself in court. “I will not be broken by accusations, nor will I yield to political pressure. I will meet these charges head-on, defend my honor through due process, and place my faith in the truth,” Estrada said in a prepared statement. In a press briefing, the senator said he will “remain firmly” with the majority bloc under the leadership of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano. Cayetano, an ally of the Duterte clan, engineered a leadership change in the Senate on May 11, just ahead of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, with the senators sitting as judges. “I will not yield to threats. I will not be intimidated. I will not be pressured into surrendering my independence of judgment,” Estrada said. The Palace dismissed suggestions that it had a role in the filing of plunder charges against him for alleged kickbacks from flood control projects. “As far as I know, his name was mentioned last year when there was an investigation. Not only in the Senate investigation, but also in the House of Representatives,” said Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro.

“They were also summoned to the ICI (Independent Commission for Infrastructure). Senator Jinggoy's name was also mentioned in Senator (Panfilo) Lacson's partial report,” Castro told reporters in Filipino. “So, it cannot be said that this is about forming a majority consisting of 13,” she added. Some members of the majority bloc such as the Senate president and Sens. Imee Marcos, Rodante Marcoleta, Camille Villar, and Mark Villar were present to lend him support. Estrada claimed that he was offered several times to abandon the majority group in exchange for the dismissal of the charges against him but did not identify who approached him. “Whoever they are, just wait for the next episode,” he said in Filipino. In the presence of Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, Estrada surrendered to the arresting team from the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation Division Group (PNP-CIDG) after the Sandiganbayan issued a warrant for his arrest on plunder charges. After Estrada's surrender, the Senate resumed its session. Last week's session was abruptly adjourned after the minority bloc waked out to protest what they said was a railroading of a vote to change the Senate rules to allow absent senators to vote online, a move they said would enable Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, who is in hiding to avoid arrest on charges of crimes against humanity, and other senators from the majority bloc who are facing arrest, to still cast their vote on crucial issues, including the impeachment trial. Headed for jail Estrada will be committed to the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas, the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division clerk of court confirmed. Earlier on Monday, the court ordered the arrest of Estrada and four others including former Department of Public Works and

Highways (DPWH) secretary Manuel Bonoan in the plunder case filed against them last week by the Office of the Ombudsman. The three others were former DPWH-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. Estrada and Bonoan have both denied the charges. Sent to hospital In a press briefing, Remulla said Bonoan was sent to hospital for hypertension, where he will stay until his condition stabilizes. “When the doctors say that he is fit to stand trial, then he will be brought to the Sandiganbayan. Meanwhile, he has been given full security. He won’t be able to leave. And we restricted access to him,” he said. Remulla said Bonoan is currently under hospital arrest but has not been indicted yet. In a statement Thursday, Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said the case stemmed from “an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations” within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio for fiscal year 2025. “Our evaluation shows that substantial public funds were deliberately funneled into designated infrastructure projects in exchange for predetermined commission fees or kickbacks. Case records point to an accumulated sum of illicit payouts amounting to an aggregate sum of over P573 million which were systematically delivered to the principal respondent, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada,” he added. Clavano acknowledged that the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office had issued a certificate on the absence of records that Estrada made budget insertions, but said the certificate “does not capture all stages of the budgetary process, wherein insertions may be made in a layered method.” Estrada posted a P90,000 bail for his graft charges while plunder, a case punishable by reclusion perpetua, is a non-bailable offense. Estrada was taken to the CIDG for booking including taking of mugshots and was turned over to the Sandiganbayan for issuance of commitment order. Comparison to dela Rosa In her remarks from the Palace, Castro said Estrada’s surrender was “good” because he did not evade authorities, unlike dela Rosa who has gone into hiding after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant in connection with the past leadership’s bloody war on drugs. “Senator Jinggoy did the right thing by voluntarily surrendering. Not like what is happening now with Senator Bato. That’s what should be done by someone who knows he has a valid arrest warrant,” Castro said. Meanwhile, San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora on Monday urged the public to respect the legal process after warrants of arrest were issued against Estrada in connection with plunder and graft cases. In a statement sent to The Manila Times, Zamora said the cases are now before the Sandiganbayan, which he described as the proper venue to hear and resolve the allegations. He said the court should be allowed to examine the evidence, determine the facts, and render judgment based on the rule of law. Zamora acknowledged that the issue may stir strong emotions among residents because of Estrada’s long association with San Juan City. “As a San Juaneño, I understand how emotional this issue can become,” he said. Despite this, the mayor said respect for institutions and the judicial process must prevail as the cases move forward. He added that Estrada should answer the charges against him and be given the opportunity to defend himself before the court. Zamora said due process remains essential in ensuring accountability is carried out properly. WITH IZEL ABANILLA, KRISTINA MARALIT AND JAMES DANIEL DANIO

- [Marcos, Rubio discuss stronger PH-US alliance](#) (2026-06-01 16:16)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday shared having a “productive” talk with Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday as they discussed further strengthening the Philippines-United States alliance. “I had a productive phone call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio this morning, during which we discussed critical regional and economic priorities, and bilateral trade matters,” Marcos said in a social media post. “Our exchange underscored our countries’ mutual commitment to strengthening the PH-US alliance and addressing shared regional interests,” he added. Meanwhile, the US State Department, through a readout attributed to spokesman Thomas Pigott, noted that the conversation also touched on bilateral security and economic priorities, including developments in the South China Sea and other regional concerns. “The secretary reaffirmed US commitment to developing the Luzon Economic Corridor and exploring ways to address the energy challenges in the region,” it said. The Luzon Economic Corridor is an international infrastructure and supply chain initiative meant to connect Subic Bay, Clark, Metro Manila, and Batangas. Originally launched by the US, Japan, and the Philippines, its priority projects include rail and port modernization, clean energy, and agribusiness and digital connectivity. “The secretary emphasized the strength of the United States-Philippines alliance and the continued close cooperation as the two countries commemorate 80 years of diplomatic relations and 75 years as allies in 2026,” the US State Department said.

- [VP Sara's lawyers seek impeachment case dismissal](#) (2026-06-01 16:15)

VICE President Sara Duterte on Monday sought the dismissal of the impeachment complaints against her, saying they were constitutionally infirm. The impeachment articles against Duterte consist of four primary charges: misuse of public funds, unexplained wealth, bribery and corruption, and public threats. In response to these complaints, Duterte’s lawyers said the articles of impeachment were “constitutionally infirm, procedurally defective, and substantially deficient.” Through her legal team led by Michael Poa, Duterte submitted her reply to the four Articles of Impeachment transmitted by the House of Representatives to the Senate sitting as an impeachment court. “It is always one of our prayers (dismissal of the charges). There were infirmities before the complaints were sent to the Senate,” Poa said in English and Filipino, in a press briefing after submitting the vice president’s reply to Senate Secretary Jose Luis Montales. The vice president’s lawyers said the allegations against her “fall short of the threshold.” “For these reason, the vice president respectfully submits that the articles of impeachment suffer from fatal constitutional, procedural and substantive defects,” Duterte’s camp said. “They fail to satisfy the standards required by the Constitution, and accordingly should be dismissed,” her legal team said. Duterte’s lawyers said the House Committee of Justice conducted a trial on the impeachment articles. “But trial can be done only by the Senate.” Helping voters decide Batangas Second District Rep. Gerville Luistro, who leads the House prosecution team, said the impeachment trial will help the voting public decide whether Duterte deserves their confidence. “That is why impeachment trial should happen because considering that she has pronounced already her intention to run for president in 2028, this impeachment trial will help the sovereign Filipino decide whether or not she deserves the faith

and confidence of the electorate,” Luistro said. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026 over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and saying that she had hired someone to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. if she was killed. The House then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial.

- [PH, Vietnam elevate strategic partnership](#) (2026-06-01 16:14)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday announced that the Philippines and Vietnam have elevated bilateral relations to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership as both countries sealed deals in key areas including trade, investment, defense, maritime affairs, agriculture, and people-to-people exchanges. Marcos announced the development following his meeting with Vietnamese President To Lam, who is the country for a two-day state visit. The Vietnamese leader's visit comes as Manila and Hanoi are set to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations this July and more than one decade since the strategic partnership was forged in 2015. “Today, we elevate our ties to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership, which will be defined by wider pathways for cooperation, stronger political and defense cooperation, and closer linkages between the Filipino and Vietnamese peoples,” the chief executive said. The ramped-up partnership, Marcos added, is “increasingly important” as the region navigates an ever-evolving and uncertain global environment “marked by geopolitical fragmentation, supply chain vulnerabilities, trade pressures, and the rise of emerging technologies, bringing both opportunities and risk.” “There is no doubt that the Philippines and Vietnam share a common interest in maintaining peace, stability, and a rules-based order in our region anchored firmly on international law, including the 1982 Unclos,” he said. “Our robust bilateral trade exceeding \$7 billion demonstrates our mutually beneficial and vital economic partnership,” he added. As reaffirmation of the enhanced partnership, several agreements were signed as witnessed by Marcos and Lam. First is the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Defense Cooperation between the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Ministry of National Defense of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. “This strategically important framework will significantly bolster our joint capabilities in maritime security, military education, and disaster risk reduction and management,” Marcos said. There is also the MOU between the Department of Information Communications and Technology (DICT) and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam on Information Technology and Digital Transformation Cooperation. Another agreement is the Tourism Cooperation Program between the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism for the period 2026-2029. “Building upon a strong performance in 2025, which saw nearly half a million Filipino travelers going to Vietnam and a rising number of Vietnamese tourists coming to our shores, we have agreed to work closely to enhance air connectivity and increase commercial flight frequencies,” the president said. Lastly, an MOU was signed between the University of the Philippines and the Academy of Public Administration and Governance, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics of Vietnam. This, Marcos noted, would institutionalize student and faculty exchanges to internationalize our higher education systems. “Ultimately, our exchanges today

have made one truth abundantly clear: the Enhanced Strategic Partnership does not merely secure our bilateral interests,” he said. “It firmly positions the Philippines and Vietnam as steadfast anchors of peace, innovation, dynamism, and sustainable growth across Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and the wider Indo-Pacific region,” he added.

- [74% of Filipinos back VP impeachment trial](#) (2026-06-01 16:14)

NEARLY three out of four adult Filipinos support the conduct of a Senate impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte, the latest Tugon ng Masa (TNM) survey conducted by Octa Research showed. Results of the nationwide survey showed that 74 percent of respondents favor proceeding with the impeachment trial, an increase from the 69 percent recorded in March 2026. The poll also found that 21 percent opposed the impeachment proceedings, while 4 percent were undecided. Support for the trial was strongest in Metro Manila, where 84 percent of respondents expressed approval, followed by Balance Luzon at 78 percent and the Visayas at 77 percent. Mindanao posted the lowest level of support at 54 percent. It also registered the highest opposition rate among the major geographic areas, with 41 percent of respondents saying they were against the impeachment trial. Octa said the findings indicate that support for the impeachment process remains the majority view across the country despite regional differences in opinion. The survey was conducted from April 20 to 24, 2026, through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 respondents aged 18 years old and above nationwide. The survey has a margin of error of ± 3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Subnational estimates for Metro Manila, Balance Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao have margins of error of ± 6 percentage points. Octa Research described the survey as independent, noncommissioned, and nonpartisan, adding that the results were released as a public service. Prosecutors welcome validation. The House of Representatives’ prosecution team welcomed the Octa Research survey result. “Well, we welcome that survey. It only validates what we believe is the demand of the Filipino people now and we see that in what is happening around that what the people really want is for this impeachment trial to proceed. And this is what the accountability mechanism is all about,” Batangas Second District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the lead impeachment prosecutor, said in Filipino and English in a press conference on Monday. “So, we’re happy and we welcome that 74 percent,” Luistro said. The House, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026, over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and saying that she had hired someone to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. if she were killed. The House then sent the impeachment articles to the Senate for trial. Duterte denied the allegations in the two complaints heard by the Luistro-led House Committee on Justice but did not attend any of its hearings.

- [Angara leads launch of Brigada Eskwela](#) (2026-06-01 16:13)

EDUCATION Secretary Sonny Angara led the nationwide launch of the 2026 Brigada Eskwela from Agusan del Norte to prepare public school classrooms for the coming school year. Schools will open on June 8. “The Brigada Eskwela is proof of the strength of our cooperation for the future of our youth. With the guidance and support of President (Ferdinand) Bongbong Marcos

(Jr.), we united TUPAD (Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers) and Brigada to not only prepare schools, but also bring livelihood to families in need,” Angara said in a statement. The Department of Education (DepEd) said 240,000 Tupad workers nationwide would be temporarily employed to help prepare schools for the opening of classes. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) allocated about P2 billion for the implementation of Tupad, the DepEd said. “The convergence allows eligible TUPAD beneficiaries to participate in school preparation activities such as classroom cleaning, waste management, hauling of furniture and learning materials, vegetation clearing, landscaping, repainting, and other non-technical campus improvement activities,” the DepEd said. Mega, extremely large, very large, and large schools as well as those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), underserved communities, and disaster-affected areas will be prioritized. Tupad beneficiaries may be deployed for up to 10 days during the implementation of Brigada Eskwela and preparatory activities. The DepEd said Angara helped in the school preparations by painting a blackboard and a table in a home economics room.

- [PNP ready to defend Senate shooting findings](#) (2026-06-01 16:12)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is ready to defend the results of its investigation of the May 13 Senate shooting. “Our investigation report was a product of meticulous work and dedication of our personnel to establish what really happened based on the pieces of evidence obtained,” PNP chief, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on Monday. “We are ready to explain and we are ready for any scrutiny,” he said. For weeks, Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano has been calling for an independent inquiry into the incident, particularly after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. commented that the shooting was “fake.” Cayetano said he believes the President is being “given the wrong information.” He said the Senate Committee on Public Order will lead the investigation and summon officials from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Department of Justice (DoJ), PNP and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) earlier linked the incident to Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s escape. The CIDG also said Sen. Robin Padilla, a staunch friend and supporter of dela Rosa and the Duterte clan, was an “indispensable” player in the incident and that his escape would not have happened without Padilla’s help. “We in the PNP will always submit to lawful and rules-based processes, and our investigators are committed to fully cooperate with any investigating body in the spirit of truth and transparency,” Nartatez said.

- [P10M Pag-IBIG loan ceiling boosts housing program](#) (2026-06-01 16:11)

THE P10-million housing loan ceiling of the Pag-IBIG Fund would be a huge boost to the housing sector, allowing more Filipinos, particularly middle-income earners, to access decent and affordable housing, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said on Monday. The expanded financing program will help address unsold inventory in the open market, said Aliling, who also chairs Pag-IBIG’s board of trustees. It is expected to increase housing uptake in urban areas, particularly for available

condominium and residential units in Metro Manila and nearby growth centers, and generate economic activity in housing sector-allied industries. He said that stronger housing demand creates ripple effects on employment and business opportunities, especially in construction, manufacturing, transport, retail, furniture, and other allied industries that benefit from housing development and occupancy. “Due to the increase in the loanable amount at Pag-IBIG, we continue to expand the reach of the expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program so that more Filipinos will have the opportunity to purchase their own homes,” Aliling said. He called on developers to support the government’s affordability thrust by offering more competitive and market-responsive housing packages for Pag-IBIG members. “We should meet halfway — we increase the loanable amount, they (developers) lower their prices. We expect this move to sustain the vibrancy in the housing sector,” he pointed out. Under the updated Pag-IBIG housing loan program, qualified members can apply for financing of up to P10 million, payable for up to 30 years and subject to standard evaluation and capacity-to-pay requirements.

- [DOH tightens vape rules while awaiting total ban](#) (2026-06-01 16:10)

THE Department of Health (DOH) has recommended that while it waits for the passage of a total vape ban, the minimum age of vape use be increased from 18 to 25, vape flavors be banned, and taxes on vaping products be significantly raised. During the commemoration of No Smoking Month at the Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City on Monday, Tina Marasigan, Director IV of the DOH Health Promotion Bureau, said the proposed measures aim to address the alarming rise in youth vaping while discouraging nicotine addiction across all age groups. “While the DOH is unequivocally advocating for the complete ban of vapes in the country, we recognize that this will take time as it requires legislative action,” said Marasigan. In the meantime, the agency is pushing for three key measures to curb vape use and limit the access of vape products among youth. The agency said the proposed measure aims to delay exposure to nicotine and prevent addiction among young adults. With over 16,000 vape flavors available globally, including sweet and fruity variants, these products are seen as a major factor in hooking teenagers and young adults to vaping, according to Marasigan. ALLEN LIMOS Marasigan also noted that the proposed higher taxes on all vaping products will include devices and consumable liquids. Currently, only the consumables (such as vape juices) are taxed, while vaping devices themselves are exempt. The DOH recommends taxing vape devices similar to traditional cigarettes, which are subject to a P60-per-pack tax with a 5-percent annual indexation. The tax aims to reduce the affordability of vaping products, particularly among youth. The DOH has called on lawmakers and civil society to support stricter regulations and to consider the long-term health impacts of vaping. “Health is non-negotiable,” said Marasigan, urging lawmakers to prioritize public health initiatives. Marasigan added that, like floppy disks — which she said Gen Z may no longer know how to use — she hopes future generations will no longer be familiar with what vapes were for.

- [Kevin Keegan reveals stage four cancer diagnosis](#) (2026-06-01 16:09)

LONDON, United Kingdom — Former England and Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan has revealed he has stage four cancer. Keegan's family said in January that he had been diagnosed with the disease after being admitted to hospital for evaluation of "ongoing abdominal symptoms". The 75-year-old provided an update on his health during an appearance at the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in Newcastle at the weekend. "They said we have a top doctor with this new way of fighting what you have got, which is stage four cancer," Keegan said, in quotes reported by the Daily Mail. "He was a Liverpool supporter so I went to meet him." Premier League club Newcastle sent their "heartfelt support and warmest wishes" to Keegan and his family. "Everyone at the club is behind Kevin and sends strength and best wishes to him and his family for the journey ahead," the club posted on X. Keegan was signed for Liverpool by Bill Shankly in 1971, winning the English league title three times and the 1977 European Cup during his time at Anfield. The forward signed for Hamburg in 1977 and was twice named European footballer of the year during his spell at the German club. Keegan returned to England to play for Southampton and Newcastle. He won a total of 63 England caps, scoring 21 goals, and also captained the national team. Keegan twice took charge of Newcastle during his coaching career, also managing Fulham, Manchester City and England. Speaking at the weekend event, Keegan said he would like to return to St James' Park to say goodbye. "I want to say goodbye," he said. "I didn't get the chance when I left the club last time."

- [Marcos orders swift action plan to tackle El Niño's impact](#) (2026-06-01 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the implementation of an action plan in preparation for the onset of a strong El Niño, Malacañang said on Monday. In a press conference, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said that Marcos handed down the directive prior to his departure for his state visit to Japan last week. "The purpose for this, firstly, is for water security, food security, to have energy security, for health protection and for public safety," Castro said. The president ordered the reactivation of the Department of Agriculture's El Niño team, comprised of its attached agencies — National Food Authority, Philippine Coconut Authority, and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. They are tasked to map out drought-prone areas, provide crop measures through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., repair and rehabilitate irrigation and water harvesting system, and promote alternate wetting and drying technology, among others. Meanwhile, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, National Water Resources Board, and National Irrigation Administration, were instructed to desilt reservoirs and water facilities; continue water conservation measures; deploy water tanks and treatment units; and prioritize domestic water supply. "These are just a few of the things that have been discussed; there are many more action plans that will be implemented because it is expected that we will have El Niño in July... the end of June, July," Castro said in Filipino.

- [Govt eyes bigger oil stockpile](#) (2026-06-01 16:08)

THE Philippines plans to try to build a government oil stockpile to defend against the type of shock that hit the import-dependent nation due to the Mideast war, the country's energy minister said Monday. The outbreak of war in February sent pump prices soaring to record highs and forced President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to declare a state of national energy emergency. Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said a government-run national stockpile would aim to add at least 30 days' worth of stocks of petroleum products to the 30-60 day reserves that the government mandates for local oil companies. A reserve would require a "huge investment" she said, with a single 500,000-barrel storage tank — equivalent to the country's daily oil consumption — likely costing P5 billion (\$81 million) to build. The state-run Philippine National Oil Co. and the country's sovereign wealth fund Maharlika Investment Corp. were also being considered as funding sources, Garin said. "This is to ensure that we do not run short of oil or go into panic each time a war breaks out in another country, that we are assured that for a certain number of days, we have a steady supply of oil," she told a news conference. "We are happy to note that Japan will support this initiative by conducting necessary feasibility studies and providing capacity building in the development of a stockpiling system," she added. She said Marcos secured the commitment during a state visit to Tokyo last month.

- [DSWD disburses P8.214B cash aid to over 1.6M PUV drivers nationwide](#) (2026-06-01 16:07)

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has disbursed P8.214 billion in cash relief assistance to 1,642,837 public utility vehicle drivers nationwide. The cash payout forms part of the government's emergency intervention to cushion the impact of rising petroleum prices on drivers whose daily earnings have been strained by recent price hikes. DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said on Monday that the agency continues to roll out payouts across the country to ensure all eligible beneficiaries receive the assistance. "More than 1.6 million public transport drivers have already received their cash relief assistance, and our payout operations continue to ensure that everyone qualified will receive aid in accordance with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to help PUV drivers amid the effects of rising petroleum prices, with no eligible driver left behind," Dumlao said. Tricycle drivers comprised the largest number of beneficiaries, at 1,120,845 recipients, followed by service delivery riders, 248,660; public utility jeepney drivers, 116,301; motorcycle taxi drivers, 88,769; and transport network vehicle service drivers, 68,262. The DSWD said the P5,000 cash aid was distributed under its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation program as part of the Marcos administration's Unified Package of Livelihoods, Industry, Food and Transport (Uplift) intervention framework for vulnerable sectors. Dumlao said the government is also assessing whether a second round of assistance may be needed for transport workers as fuel prices remain volatile. "The government is also looking into whether a second batch of cash relief assistance will be necessary for the transport sector because fuel prices have not yet fully returned to normal, and everything will still depend on how the situation develops in the coming days," she said. To streamline the payout process, especially in Metro Manila, the DSWD coordinated with transport network companies, which the agency said helped improve crowd management and speed up the distribution of aid. Several beneficiaries welcomed the

faster payout system, saying the assistance not only helped cover fuel expenses but also provided additional support for household needs, children's education, and other daily necessities.

- [Business and labor alliance urges Marcos Jr to strengthen labor rights protection](#)
(2026-06-01 16:06)

AN alliance of the country's top business and labor organizations has called on President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to take decisive action to strengthen freedom of association, improve accountability mechanisms, and ensure policy coherence in the protection of workers' rights. In a joint open letter dated May 28, the Leaders Forum stressed that freedom of association remains a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution and by international labor standards, particularly International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 87. The signatories are Edgardo Lacson, chairman, Employers Confederation of the Philippines; Ferdinand Ferrer, president, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Sergio Ortiz-Luiz Jr., president, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.; Jose Sonny Matula, national president, Federation of Free Workers; Abdulani Lakibul, chairman, Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (Sentro); and Raymond Democrito Mendoza, president, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines. The signatories acknowledged the government's efforts to address labor rights concerns, including the issuance of Executive Order (EO) 23 following recommendations from the ILO High-Level Tripartite Mission. However, they warned that reports of violence, intimidation and alleged extrajudicial killings involving workers and trade unionists continue to raise serious concerns that require stronger and more effective government intervention. The group urged the Inter-Agency Committee created under EO 23 to adopt and publish a clear operational framework, establish performance indicators, and regularly report on investigations, prosecutions and resolutions of labor-related cases. The Leaders Forum also called for a sustained and institutionalized dialogue mechanism between government, employers and workers to strengthen transparency, accountability and public trust. On EO 97, which seeks to address national security concerns, the coalition emphasized that implementation must remain fully consistent with constitutional guarantees and international labor standards. The group stressed that measures carried out under EO 97 should not result in red-tagging, profiling, or unwarranted surveillance of legitimate labor organizations and their representatives. It further urged the government to strengthen oversight mechanisms and ensure that lawful trade union activities are never mistaken for security threats. The coalition likewise renewed its call for a serious and transparent review of the continued operation of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, citing concerns over alleged red-tagging, intimidation and the possible impact of its activities on labor rights and industrial relations.

- [Palace asks DOJ: Charge fake news peddlers](#) (2026-06-01 16:04)

THE Presidential Communications Office (PCO) has asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to evaluate and file appropriate charges against four Facebook accounts for allegedly spreading

false claims that the Supreme Court had stopped the arrest of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. The PCO’s Anti-Fake News Desk (AFND) said the posts falsely claimed that the high court had issued a ruling preventing authorities from arresting or surrendering dela Rosa to the International Criminal Court (ICC). “The Supreme Court, in fact, denied Senator Dela Rosa’s petition for a temporary restraining order to stop his arrest on the basis of a warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC),” the AFND said in its narrative report submitted to the DOJ on Monday. The endorsement covers Facebook accounts and pages identified as KaChizmaze, Booc TVs, Cris Lademora, and Lenny Quirz/Linie Quirong. According to the PCO, the accounts posted substantially similar content claiming the Supreme Court had “officially stopped” any attempt to arrest dela Rosa, presenting the information as legitimate news through phrases such as “JUST IN,” “Breaking News,” “landmark ruling,” and “The Court clearly stated.” The agency said the posts generated thousands of reactions, comments and shares, with some social media users asking whether the claim was true and others calling for efforts to stop dela Rosa’s arrest. The PCO said the matter was referred to the DOJ for possible violations of Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act (RA) 10951, in relation to Section 6 of RA 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012. PCO Secretary Dave Gomez reiterated the administration’s campaign against disinformation, warning content creators against fabricating court decisions and presenting them as factual reports. “We warn vloggers and users of social media platforms: do not exploit public confusion for views, engagement, or monetization by spreading false news. Fabricating a Supreme Court ruling and presenting it as news is a serious offense,” Gomez said.

- [1.2 million children in NCR to receive measles shots](#) (2026-06-01 16:03)

THE Department of Health’s (DOH) Metro Manila Center for Health Development (MMCHD) plans to vaccinate over a million children in the National Capital Region (NCR) against measles and rubella. On Monday, the agency launched its “ligtas tigdas” (safe from measles) campaign in Muntinlupa City, which targets vaccinating about 1,200,428 kids below 5 years old to boost their immunity against vaccine-preventable diseases, especially as measles cases rise in some areas of the country. The campaign started in Mindanao earlier this year, where the DOH noted an increase in measles-rubella cases due to the high number of zero-dose children — those who are not fully immunized — and vaccine hesitancy. Vaccinations will be administered at designated vaccination posts in various cities and municipalities in the region. The posts include health centers, village vaccination sites, hospitals, schools, and other accessible locations identified by local governments. According to MMCHD Regional Director Lester Tan, the campaign is a crucial step to boost children’s immunity, especially amid the persistent threat of measles in some areas of the country. “Measles is not a simple illness. It can cause severe complications such as pneumonia, brain inflammation, blindness, and even death, particularly among unvaccinated children. Through the Ligtas Tigdas Campaign, we want to ensure that every Filipino child is adequately protected against this disease,” Tan said. In addition to vaccinations, the campaign will provide vitamin A supplementation to further enhance children’s overall health. The MMCHD is also strengthening its information drive and

community engagement efforts to encourage more parents to have their children vaccinated. To address vaccine hesitancy, the agency has called on parents and guardians, especially those who may still have doubts about immunization, to join the campaign and prioritize their children's health and safety. "We urge all parents to bring their children to the nearest vaccination post. This is not just about protecting individual children, but also about safeguarding entire communities," Tan said.

- [SSS deploys mobile service caravan anew](#) (2026-06-01 16:02)

THE Social Security System (SSS) has deployed anew its 'Palengke (Market) Caravan' through its mobile e-Wheels to public markets and villages in selected towns and cities. SSS President and CEO Robert Joseph De Claro said on Monday the project aims at reducing travel time, long queues, and transaction difficulties experienced by workers, pensioners and beneficiaries. It also supports the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to bring public services faster and closer to the people, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach communities, De Claro said in a statement emailed to The Manila Times. "For many pensioners, informal workers, and members in underserved communities, even a single branch visit can mean transportation expenses, lost income, and hours spent in line," De Claro said. He said the agency is holding a caravan in public markets to bring its services directly to market vendors and ambulant sellers who are unable to visit branch offices because they cannot leave their small businesses unattended. SSS has dispatched its e-Wheels in Metro Manila, Oriental Mindoro, Albay, Negros Occidental, Surigao del Norte and Catanduanes. The services offered by the caravan included employer registration, inquiries and verification, annual confirmation of pensioners or ACOP, updating of member data records, issuance of SSS numbers and forms, online-related transactions such as My.SSS registration, password resetting, payment reference number generation, pension loan applications, and benefit claim applications, De Claro said. The newly launched facial authentication with liveness check for ACOP verification was also deployed, allowing eligible pensioners to complete verification faster and more conveniently without visiting branches. From January to April this year, the agency conducted 3,294 e-Wheels activities nationwide, serving 239,367 members and residents in last-mile communities. In 2024, the SSS e-Wheels Program received the Asean Social Security Association Recognition Award in the innovation category. "By bringing services closer to the people, we are making SSS more accessible, more responsive and convenient for workers, pensioners, and their families," De Claro said.

- [Domeng-enhanced rains flood Metro roads](#) (2026-06-01 15:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Flooding affected several roads in Quezon City, Valenzuela, Malabon and Caloocan on Monday night as rains enhanced by Typhoon Domeng and the southwest monsoon continued to drench parts of Metro Manila, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). Typhoon Domeng had already exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility, but the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said it continued to strengthen the southwest monsoon, or Habagat, bringing

rain over Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon. The MMDA said all flooded roads remained passable to light vehicles and other types of vehicles. Among the affected areas were: • Quezon City* EDSA Dario (flooding subsided)* EDSA Balintawak northbound (flooding subsided)* Valenzuela City* McArthur Highway in front of Goodyear (gutter-deep)* KFC Fatima Marulas (gutter-deep)* In front of Fatima Hospital in Marulas (half-knee deep)* Valenzuela Trade Center in Malinta (gutter-deep)* Malabon City* Rizal Avenue Extension in San Agustin village (half-gutter deep)* Women's Club in Hulong Duhat village (half-gutter deep)* Caloocan City* Monumento Circle (gutter-deep)* C3-NLEX Connector (flooding subsided) The deepest flooding monitored by the MMDA was in front of Fatima Hospital in Valenzuela City, where floodwaters reached half-knee level. Motorists were advised to monitor official traffic and weather advisories as intermittent rains continued across the metropolis.

• [JV Ejercito is saddened by arrest of half-brother Jinggoy Estrada over plunder charges](#)
(2026-06-01 15:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito said he felt sad for half-brother fellow Sen. Jinggoy Estrada but the law must take its course. JV and Jinggoy are sons of former president Joseph "Erap" Estrada with former San Juan mayor Guia Gomez and former senator Loi Ejercito respectively. JV, who belonged to the minority bloc, said that some people have asked him about Jinggoy's claim that the latter was being pressured to leave the majority group. "Bilang kapatid, bilang kasama nalulungkot ako sa nangyayari (As his brother, colleague [in the Senate] I'm sad about what was happening [to him]," Ejercito said. "Pero sabi ko nga bilang lingkod-bayan ay kailangan hayaan nating umusad ang batas (But as I said, as public servants we should allow the law process to proceed)," he said. Ejercito added, "Pinagdarasal natin siya na maging matatag para harapin ang akusasyon [sa kanya] (I'm praying that he'll become strong in facing the accusation [against him])." He raised the need to uncover the truth so that justice will prevail. "That's the bottomline." "Mahirap timbangin. Pero, siyempre may pananagutan din ako dahil ako ay halal ng taumbayan. Kaya kailangan hayaan nating ang batas na umusad (It's hard to weigh things. But, I have a responsibility because I am an elected official. That's why we need to make the law take its course)," he said.

• [AI gains must benefit workers, says UN](#) (2026-06-01 15:28)

GENEVA, Switzerland — The gains generated by artificial intelligence must benefit workers and do so in a fair manner, the United Nations' labour agency said Monday. AI is transforming the world of work, changing how value is created and how decisions are made, at speed and at scale, said Gilbert Hounghbo, the head of the UN's International Labour Organization. "Workers everywhere must be able to share the productivity gains generated by AI. Those gains must be distributed fairly through better wages, stronger labour protections, and more inclusive growth," he told the annual International Labour Conference, which sets the ILO's broad policies. The most prominent figures in AI are stepping back from dire predictions about mass unemployment, as the industry faces growing public hostility over AI's promised transformation of the workplace. Most economic institutions, including the European Central Bank, say that AI

has had only minor effects on employment so far. While AI technology is booming, ILO director-general Hounbou said that "the future of work will not be determined by technology alone, but by the policies, the institutions and the social dialogue that guide it." "The choices we make today will determine whether AI broadens opportunity and shared prosperity or deepens inequality and insecurity," the former prime minister of Togo said. The choices available include investing in skills, strengthening labour and social protection, supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and upholding fundamental principles and rights at work, said Hounbou. "This is ultimately a social and political choice about the future we want," he said. The ILO is unique in the United Nations system in that its 187 member states are equally represented by governments, employers and workers. Those representatives are meeting at the UN's Geneva headquarters from June 1 to 12 to discuss issues related to the world of work. ILO members hope, in particular, to finalise negotiations on a new international treaty for workers on digital platforms. This is "an important step in responding to new forms of work and closing gaps in terms of protection and innovation", said Hounbou. Although they largely control tasks and pay, the platforms classify such workers as independent contractors rather than employees -- a designation that allows them to bypass requirements related to minimum wages, workplace safety and access to social security, according to the NGO Human Rights Watch.

- [Kalinskaya battles into French Open quarter-finals](#) (2026-06-01 15:24)

PARIS, France — Russian 22nd seed Anna Kalinskaya scrapped her way to her second Grand Slam quarter-final on Monday, edging out Anastasia Potapova in a tense French Open fourth-round tie. Kalinskaya clinched a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (10/7) victory after two hours and 49 minutes on Court Suzanne Lenglen against 28th-seeded Austrian Potapova. The 27-year-old Kalinskaya, whose only previous Slam quarter-final appearance came at the 2024 Australian Open, will face either Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska or Frenchwoman Diane Parry in the last eight on Wednesday. "It was an unbelievable fight from both of us until the last second," said Kalinskaya. Potapova fought back from 4-1 down to take control of a nervy deciding set but twice failed to serve out for the match. The 25-year-old, who switched allegiance from Russia to Austria last December, also took a 4-1 lead in the final-set tie-break before making a string of unforced errors to give up the advantage.

- ['AI simply can't replicate it' Japan embraces zine trend](#) (2026-06-01 14:20)

KYOTO — Through the noise of rushing papers and whirring belts at a print factory in Kyoto, two creators watch their photo essay come to life in broadsheet form -- part of an effort to win new audiences in the age of AI. Despite the decline of the publishing industry, self-publication and handmade "zine" magazines are growing in popularity in Japan, reflecting the country's enduring love of paper in the digital era. While speaking to AFP at the plant, his hands black with ink, one of the creators, Kazuma Obara said "I think (paper) is a medium that engages all five senses", unlike social media. Obara and his creative partner Akihico Mori are among the latest artists to use a printing press offered by the Kyoto Shimbun newspaper, which is aiming to find alternative uses for its machines as subscriptions fall. As the machine printed their work on

newsprint paper, five technicians in uniform quickly flipped through the pages to check the quality."I think print media is incredibly open. You can hand it to someone, you can read it together," 40-year-old photographer Obara said, calling mobile phones "very insular".Mori, a 44-year-old writer, said people can "feel the creator's passion when they hold the work in their hands". "I think that's what makes it so appealing, and AI simply can't replicate it."- Rise of self-publishing -The pair's work was later showcased at popular international photography festival Kyotographie that ended in May.Yoshihiko Okazaki of Kyoto Shimbun Printing said the company's services have been used by artists ranging from teenagers to those in their 70s."Surprisingly, it resonates with younger people... I even hear comments like, 'it's interesting precisely because it's old'."Japan has seen a rapid decline in print media, with book and magazine sales falling to just 40 percent of their 1996 pinnacle of 2.6 trillion yen (\$16.3 billion).Newspaper circulation peaked in 1997 at 53.76 million, but it dropped to more than half that in 2025, according to the Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association.Many authors and publishers around the world fear the trend will be accelerated by artificial intelligence and social media -- in the UK, a 2025 study showed that half of novelists believe AI is likely to replace their work.However, like in other countries worldwide, do-it-yourself publication including zines -- which originated in the 1930s with sci-fi fans in the US -- is growing in Japan, especially among younger generations.Public broadcaster NHK reported, citing one private research firm, the self-publishing market is estimated at 150 billion yen in the year ending March 2026, nearly double the figure four years ago.- 'Something tangible' -On one weekend in Tokyo, hundreds of visitors flocked to a zine fair showcasing a wide range of handmade magazines in different sizes and formats -- some incorporating abstract designs, photography or personal monologues."AI and social media are driven by algorithms that feed us nothing but what we want to see or what suits us best," said 22-year-old visitor Harumi Kikuchi."But the fact that many zine makers are here suggests there are many different worldviews."Zine creator Watashi Kishino, who hand draws her daily life in black-and-white illustrations, said people can "make a lot of things with AI and digital technology"."But I believe there's a charm in having something tangible to hold in your hands like this," Kishino said, showing her works.Major bookstores are also embracing the trend as young people increasingly drift away from physical books.Sanseido, a 145-year-old bookstore in Tokyo's book district Jimbocho, began putting zines on their shelves almost a year ago."We felt that zines could appeal to a different audience than traditional readers," Masato Sugiura, deputy head of the sales promotion unit, told AFP."Everyone is looking for something that really speaks to them. Readers are perhaps drawn more to zines, which are niche and cover a broader range of topics," he added.Kishino remains hopeful that physical books and magazines will endure despite the digital age."There's warmth that only paper can offer," she said. "There's definitely people who are looking for that."

- [Solid Bloc 11: This is not Senate independence but a boycott of duty](#) (2026-06-01 14:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate minority bloc on Monday slammed the majority group's attempt to label as Senate "independence" its "boycott" of session amid their duty to tackle pending measures before Congress adjourns on Friday."This is not Senate independence, but a

boycott of duty," the 11-member minority senators said in a joint statement hours after the cancelation of the session after Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano failed to show up. "Let us call this for what it is: the claim that this is about Senate independence is false," the Solid Bloc (SB) 11 said. The SB 11 was referring to Cayetano's call urging the minority bloc to defend the Senate's independence following the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who belonged to the majority bloc. "What happened today was about the rule of law, public accountability and a lawful process before the Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan that no senator, no bloc and no presiding officer controls," the SB 11 said. "Is Senate President Alan Cayetano now questioning the rule of law?" the minority asked. "This is a boycott because of the arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada, and the public should not be asked to believe another convenient line from a leadership that has repeatedly twisted the truth," it added. The minority groupmates said they were present for the 5 p.m. resumption of session, "ready to work, ready to vote on pending bills and ready to keep the Senate running." But the majority led by Cayetano "chose not to show up." "They did not even have the courtesy to inform us when they ignored the rules, and could not extend the basic decency of telling the minority that they had no intention of convening," the SB 11 said. "Let us focus on the work, because the Senate has serious business before it, and if the majority wants to protest, deliver privilege speeches or defend its position, the proper place to do that is on the floor, not by making the chamber stand still," the group said.

- [French museum reports theft of arty banana](#) (2026-06-01 13:58)

STRASBOURG, France — A museum in eastern France on Sunday reported to police the theft of a banana that forms a core part of a multimillion-dollar artwork by Italian visual artist Maurizio Cattelan. The missing fruit -- which was taped to a wall to form the provocative work by Cattelan called "Comedian" -- was noticed by a guard on Saturday to have gone missing. The Pompidou-Metz museum, which is a branch of the famous Pompidou Centre in Paris, said in a statement it had lodged a criminal complaint for theft against persons unknown. It also said it had replaced the banana. It is not the first time damage has been dealt to the conceptual artwork, whose perishable banana centerpiece is replaced every three days to keep it contemporary. In July last year, a visitor to the museum ate the fruit. But guards quickly intervened and stuck up a replacement banana. Cattelan said at the time he was disappointed the hungry visitor had consumed only the banana and not the tape as well. The museum did not take legal action in that instance. This time, though, it decided to make its criminal complaint because the perpetrator was unidentified, and therefore "there is no possibility of dialogue". It also said that "this is the second time this has happened" and it felt it was an issue of respect for the artwork. Cattelan's edible creation, which aims to question the notion of art and its value, has sparked controversy ever since it made its debut at the 2019 Art Basel show in Miami Beach with an asking price of \$120,000. A performance artist, David Datuna, ate "Comedian" at that 2019 show, saying he felt "hungry". But the work's value has only risen. Chinese-born crypto founder Justin Sun in 2024 forked out \$5.2 million for one iteration of the work, then days later ate it in front of cameras in Hong Kong. As well as "Comedian", Cattelan is also known for

producing an 18-carat, fully functioning gold toilet called "America" that was offered to Donald Trump during his first term in the White House. A British court in March found two men guilty of stealing it during an exhibition in 2020 in the United Kingdom, from an 18th-century stately home that was the birthplace of wartime prime minister Winston Churchill. It was split up into parts and none of the gold was ever recovered.

- [Nvidia launches chip for Windows laptops in consumer PC push](#) (2026-06-01 13:54)

TAIPEI — Nvidia unveiled a powerful laptop chip for Windows machines on Monday, staking its claim in the market for next-generation consumer PCs integrated with artificial intelligence. Analysts said the US hardware titan's move challenges the likes of Apple, Intel and AMD in the PC domain, although the new devices will likely carry a hefty price tag. It also represents an attempt by Nvidia -- which the AI boom has made the world's most valuable company -- to diversify into the consumer market, even as it reaps record profits from massive demand for its data centre processors from global tech giants. "Microsoft and Nvidia are going to reinvent the PC. This is going to be the new PC," said Jensen Huang, chief executive of the US tech giant, as he launched RTX Spark ahead of Computex, a major technology show. "If you want to run digital biology, no problem. If you want to do seismic processing, no problem. You want astrophysics, no problem," Huang said. "Microsoft and Nvidia meticulously optimised everything so that this computer literally runs everything the world has ever created, plus it now runs agents, an incredible computer."

- [San Juan Mayor Zamora urges due process in Estrada cases](#) (2026-06-01 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora on Monday urged the public to respect the legal process after warrants of arrest were issued against Senator Jinggoy Estrada in connection with plunder and graft cases. In a statement sent to The Manila Times, Zamora said the cases are now before the Sandiganbayan, which he described as the proper venue to hear and resolve the allegations. He said the court should be allowed to examine the evidence, determine the facts, and render judgment based on the rule of law. Zamora acknowledged that the issue may stir strong emotions among residents because of Estrada's long association with San Juan City. "As a San Juaneño, I understand how emotional this issue can become." Despite this, the mayor said respect for institutions and the judicial process must prevail as the cases move forward. He added that Estrada should answer the charges against him and be given the opportunity to defend himself before the court. Zamora said due process remains essential in ensuring accountability is carried out properly.

- [Bill filed to exempt essential meds from VAT](#) (2026-06-01 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Makabayan bloc on Monday filed House Bill 9564 aiming to exempt essential medicines from value-added tax (VAT). Aside from essential drugs and medicines, those with compassionate special permit or emergency use authorization, and those needed in a public health emergency, likewise covered by the bill were nutritional food and drinks or food and drinks which have micronutrients and "were formulated to meet the diet of individuals who

suffer from poor digestion, malnutrition, obesity, renal problems, and illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, cancer and other similar cases."The bloc is composed of ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio, Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Sarah Elago, and Kabataan Rep. Renee Co.

- [SoftBank overtakes Toyota as Japan's most valuable company](#) (2026-06-01 12:55)

TOKYO, Japan — Japan's tech investor SoftBank Group overtook Toyota on Monday to become the country's most valuable company, as the benchmark Nikkei index briefly reached a new high amid the AI boom. SoftBank, a major backer of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, soared more than 11 percent in the afternoon trade, after its founder announced a 75-billion-euro (\$87.5 billion) investment in AI infrastructure in France. Masayoshi Son told La Tribune Dimanche weekly on Saturday that it "will be the largest investment in Europe in infrastructure related to artificial intelligence". SoftBank said last month its annual net profit quadrupled to more than \$30 billion, mainly thanks to its investment in OpenAI. The company's market capitalisation swelled on Monday to more than 47 trillion yen, while that of Toyota fell to just under 46 trillion yen after its shares dropped nearly five percent. The third largest is chipmaker Kioxia, formerly the semiconductor unit of engineering giant Toshiba. It jumped more than eight percent. Global demand for the chips has been driven by the growth of AI technology. The Nikkei index briefly surpassed 67,000 for the first time in the morning trade.

- [Senate lost protective custody privilege when Bato escaped — Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 12:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Monday said the Senate has lost the privilege of providing protective custody over its members in cases of arrests when Sen. Ronald dela Rosa escaped its premises. "Nung nakawala si Bato [When Sen. Bato escaped], you lost that privilege already," Remulla told reporters in a briefing at Camp Crame. Remulla said the law enforcement's side following Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano's attempt to block the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada who is the subject of a Sandiganbayan Fifth Division warrant for plunder. Cayetano argued with arresting officers invoking "respect for the institution" emphasizing that no senator was ever arrested inside Senate premises. The Senate President tried to convince police officers to walk out of the Senate and arrest Estrada there but authorities pushed through and arrested the lawmaker after his speech. Cayetano accompanied Estrada to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headquarters at Camp Crame where the latter was subjected to standard booking procedures, mugshot taking and medical examination to assess his fitness for trial. Immediately after, Estrada was brought to the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division which decided that he would be detained at the New Quezon City Jail Male Dormitory in Brgy. Payatas. Dela Rosa, who is now the subject of a nationwide manhunt amid the implementation of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant for his alleged role in the Duterte administration's drug war, left the Senate after the May 13 shooting. Operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) attempted to arrest the lawmaker. Subjected to Senate protective custody, Cayetano and the NBI went into an agreement that Dela Rosa will not be arrested but the Senate shall produce him when the time comes that he is needed. This however did not happen because Dela Rosa left on the early hours of May 14 with

Sen. Robin Padilla.

- [Senate session adjourned after Cayetano, members of majority bloc fail to show up](#) (2026-06-01 12:28)

MANILA, Philippines—For the first time in the history of the Senate, the session was suspended for no valid reason. Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano was supposed to resume session at 5 p.m. But he and fellow members in the majority group did not show up. Members of the minority bloc stayed until past 7 p.m. as they waited for the majority group to arrive. They finally decided to leave after the air-conditioning system and wi-fi connection at the session hall were turned off, said Sen. Raffy Tulfo.

- [Bonoan rushed to hospital over ‘near stroke’ — Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works chief Manuel Bonoan was rushed to the Philippine National Police General Hospital (PNPGH) on Monday due to high blood pressure after he was served an arrest warrant in connection with the plunder charges against him. “Secretary Bonoan is on his way to the hospital because his hypertension was listed at 192/100. He will be kept there for an undetermined amount of time before he stabilizes until the doctor says he is fit to stand trial. He will be brought to the Sandiganbayan,” Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla told reporters in a briefing at Camp Crame. “Full security po siya at hindi po siya makakalabas at restricted access papunta sa kanya,” Remulla added. Meanwhile, Remulla also gave an update Sen. Jinggoy Estrada who was likewise ordered arrested by the anti-graft court for plunder. “He started with the finger print, then he went through the mugshot and medical clearance. Tinapos muna silang tatlo. Nung natapos yung tatlo. We decided na si Secretary Bonoan was not fit to go the Sandigan, dun na siya dineretso sa ospital (he was rushed to the hospital),” Remulla said. Remulla clarified that Bonoan is currently under hospital arrest but has not been indicted yet. “We will wait for his indictment before he is formally charged. He was arrested but he was not demanded by the court to go to the hospital, it was our decision. Imminent na ‘yung stroke niya eh (His stroke was imminent) at 192. So it was our decision na dalhin muna siya roon bago siya i-transport papuntang Sandigan (to take him to the hospital before transporting him to the Sandiganbayan), Remulla said.

- [Bonoan rushed to hospital over ‘near stroke’ — Remulla](#) (2026-06-01 11:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works chief Manuel Bonoan was rushed to the Philippine National Police General Hospital (PNPGH) on Monday due to high blood pressure after he was served an arrest warrant in connection with the plunder charges against him. “Secretary Bonoan is on his way to the hospital because his hypertension was listed at 192/100. He will be kept there for an undetermined amount of time before he stabilizes until the doctor says he is fit to stand trial. He will be brought to the Sandiganbayan,” Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla told reporters in a briefing at Camp Crame. “Full security po siya at hindi po siya makakalabas at restricted access papunta sa kanya,” Remulla added. Meanwhile, Remulla also gave an update Sen. Jinggoy Estrada who was likewise ordered arrested by the anti-graft court for

plunder. “He started with the finger print, then he went through the mugshot and medical clearance. Tinapos muna silang tatlo. Nung natapos yung tatlo. We decided na si Secretary Bonoan was not fit to go the Sandigan, dun na siya dineretso sa ospital (he was rushed to the hospital),” Remulla said. Remulla clarified that Bonoan is currently under hospital arrest but has not been indicted yet. “We will wait for his indictment before he is formally charged. He was arrested but he was not demanded by the court to go to the hospital, it was our decision. Imminent na ‘yung stroke niya eh (His stroke was imminent) at 192. So it was our decision na dalhin muna siya roon bago siya i-transport papuntang Sandigan (to take him to the hospital before transporting him to the Sandiganbayan), Remulla said.

- [VP Sara seeks dismissal of impeachment complaint](#) (2026-06-01 10:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday sought the dismissal of the impeachment complaint filed against her for being constitutionally infirm. Through her legal team led by Michael Poa, Duterte submitted her reply to the four Articles of Impeachment transmitted by the House of Representatives to the Senate sitting as Impeachment Court. “It is always one of our prayers (dismissal of the charges). There are infirmities,” Poa said in a press briefing. The Vice President’s counsels said the allegations against her “fall short of the threshold.” “For these reason, the Vice President respectfully submits that the Articles of Impeachment suffer from fatal constitutional, procedural and substantive defects,” Duterte’s camp said. “They fail to satisfy the standards required by the Constitution, and accordingly should be dismissed,” her legal team said.

- [Estrada to be detained at QC jail](#) (2026-06-01 09:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada will be committed to the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas, the clerk of court of the Sandiganbayan’s Fifth Division said. Earlier on Monday, the court ordered the arrest of Estrada and four others including former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan for plunder. Estrada surrendered to a team of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group that went to the Senate to arrest him. The three others ordered arrested by the anti-graft court were former Department of Public Works and Highways-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr.

- [I will not yield to threats — Estrada](#) (2026-06-01 08:50)

MANILA, Philippines—Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Monday said that he will remain with the majority bloc under the leadership of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano. “Hindi ako matitinag sa anumang panggigipit, pananakot, political maneuvering para talikuran ang aking paninindigan (I will not yield to threats. I will not be intimidated. I will not be pressured into surrendering my independence),” he said in a briefing after he surrendered to the Criminal Investigation Division Group following the issuance of a warrant of arrest for plunder. “I am giving instructions to the Senate Secretary to put on hold my salary. Hindi ako papasailalim sa kustodiya ng Senado (I will not seek Senate custody),” Estrada added. Some members of the majority bloc such as Sens. Alan Peter Cayetano, Imee Marcos, Rodante Marcoleta, Camille

Villar, and Mark Villar were present to lend him support.

- [Estrada surrenders to CIDG](#) (2026-06-01 07:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Monday surrendered to a team of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group agents who went to the Senate shortly after the Sandiganbayan issued a warrant for the senator's arrest for plunder. "I stand my ground because what is at stake here is the independence of the Senate. It must remain free from political coercion," Estrada said in a press briefing.

- [Sandiganbayan orders arrest of Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan for plunder](#) (2026-06-01 06:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan has ordered the arrest of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan for plunder, a non-bailable offense. The court's Fifth Division also ordered the arrest of three former officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways -- Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan, and Arturo Gonzales Jr. Last week, Estrada posted bail for a separate graft case filed by the Office of the Ombudsman before the Sandiganbayan. The senator was accused of receiving P573 million in kickbacks from an alleged flood control project. Estrada has denied the charges. Bonoan also denied involvement in the allegedly anomalous project. Earlier Monday, the Philippine National Police said it is ready to arrest Estrada inside the Senate, even if he will be placed under the chamber's protective custody.

- [Meeting between Vietnamese president, Cayetano canceled](#) (2026-06-01 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Vietnamese Embassy in Manila has canceled the scheduled meeting between Vietnamese President To Lam and Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano. The Senate was supposed to host the Vietnamese leader but the embassy informed the chamber's Office of International Relations and Protocol that the meeting will not push through. The Senate Public Relations and Information Bureau informed the media that no reason was given for the cancellation.

- [DOLE reverts to five-day workweek](#) (2026-06-01 05:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reverted to a five-day workweek beginning June 1, ending its temporary compressed workweek arrangement adopted earlier this year. The move followed the signing of a memorandum by Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino on May 28, restoring the standard workweek across all bureaus, services, regional offices, and attached agencies of the department. The agency shifted to a compressed workweek in compliance with Office of the President Memorandum Circular No. 114 which directed government offices to implement energy conservation measures amid global market uncertainties. The presidential directive encouraged government agencies to reduce energy consumption and allowed alternative work arrangements, including a four-day workweek.

- [No need to delay: 5 places to go for preventive health care today](#) (2026-06-01 04:01)

For many adults today, health is no longer a matter of treating illness; it is about staying well so life does not slow down. Beyond the physical and financial burden of getting sick, unplanned disruptions to work and personal responsibilities have prompted many adults to prioritize preventive health care and wellness. Taking a preventive approach to health means making smart choices today to help protect your future well-being. This includes vaccination against certain preventable diseases, including flu, pneumonia, HPV and others, upon the advice of your physician. For health-conscious individuals, the question is no longer, "Why vaccinate?" but "How can this fit seamlessly into my busy life?" The good news is that vaccination hubs are now easier to access than ever. With more options available — from hospitals and clinics to pharmacies and community spaces — there is little reason to delay. Here are five accessible places where vaccines are available today, some of which may be closer than you think:

1. **Hospitals and clinics.** The most familiar setting for vaccination, hospitals and clinics remain trusted spaces where doctors can guide you on recommended vaccines based on your age, lifestyle and health risks. From routine immunizations to adult vaccines, these facilities are a good place to start if you want a more guided approach to preventive care.
2. **Pharmacies near you.** Your neighborhood pharmacy is no longer just a place to buy medicine. Today, trained and certified pharmacy vaccinators can safely administer vaccines, making it possible to get protected while running errands. From flu and pneumonia vaccines to hepatitis B and HPV vaccines, immunization is now more accessible through select pharmacies. It is a convenient option for busy individuals who want to fit health care into their everyday routine.
3. **Dedicated vaccination hubs.** Vaccination hubs offer a streamlined experience focused on preventive care. These facilities are often located in malls, business districts and community spaces, making them easy to access before or after work, or even on weekends. Designed for efficiency, they allow individuals to update their vaccinations or begin their preventive health journey quickly and conveniently.
4. **School-based immunization programs.** For parents and guardians, schools play an important role in protecting children early. Many public schools offer free vaccination programs through the national immunization initiatives of the Department of Health and the Department of Education, while private schools may also coordinate immunization activities. Parents may check with school administrators regarding available programs, particularly those aimed at protecting children against vaccine-preventable diseases.
5. **Community health centers.** Barangay health centers and local government-run clinics continue to serve as vital access points for preventive care. Many offer free vaccinations and screenings, making them an accessible option for families. These centers bring health services closer to communities, helping reduce barriers related to cost and distance.

The takeaway? You have more options than ever. Whether during a doctor's visit, a quick stop at the pharmacy or through community programs, getting vaccinated is now within reach. To learn more about vaccination hubs and available options, visit [Guard Against HPV](#) and take the next step toward protecting your health.

- [Southwest monsoon to bring more rain - Pagasa](#) (2026-06-01 03:57)

MANILA, Philippines— Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon, Bicol Region, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan, and Western Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms. Typhoon Domeng, which did not make landfall or directly hit the country, is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) Monday morning or afternoon, weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said. “Domeng” was estimated at 655 kilometers east-northeast of Itbayat, Batanes while moving north-northwestward at 15 kilometers per hour with maximum sustained winds of 130 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 160 kph. “Domeng has likely reached its peak intensity and will maintain its strength while moving over Okinawa, Japan. Afterwards, weakening trend is expected,” Aurelio said.

- [74% of adult Filipinos back Senate impeachment trial for VP Duterte — Octa](#) (2026-06-01 03:37)

MANILA, Philippines—Nearly three out of four adult Filipinos support the conduct of a Senate impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte, according to the latest Tugon ng Masa (TNM) survey conducted by Octa Research. Results of the nationwide survey showed that 74 percent of respondents favor proceeding with the impeachment trial, an increase from the 69 percent recorded in March 2026. The poll also found that 15 percent opposed the impeachment proceedings, while 11 percent were undecided. Support for the trial was strongest in Metro Manila, where 84 percent of respondents expressed approval, followed by Balance Luzon at 78 percent and Visayas at 77 percent. Mindanao posted the lowest level of support at 54 percent. It also registered the highest opposition rate among the major geographic areas, with 41 percent of respondents saying they were against the impeachment trial. Octa said the findings indicate that support for the impeachment process remains the majority view across the country despite regional differences in opinion. The survey was conducted from April 20 to 24, 2026 through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 respondents aged 18 years old and above nationwide. The survey has a margin of error of ± 3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. Subnational estimates for Metro Manila, Balance Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao have margins of error of ± 6 percentage points. Octa Research described the survey as independent, non-commissioned, and non-partisan.

- [Globe equips govt agencies with skills to detect, stop mobile scams](#) (2026-06-01 02:20)

MANILA, Philippines—To further strengthen mobile security, Globe ramped up its collaboration with government agencies to help equip authorities with the skills needed to operationalize International Mobile Subscriber Identity-(IMSI)Catcher Detectors to enhance efforts against mobile-based scams. Last March, the telecommunications company turned over IMSI Catcher Detectors as it conducted training with concerned government agencies to help them strengthen their capability to use the tools in real-world enforcement. The session gathered representatives from the National Telecommunications Commission, the Cybercrime

Investigation and Coordinating Center, the Philippine National Police – Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and the National Bureau of Investigation for a hands-on learning experience. Dr. Altaf Shaik, a globally recognized expert in cellular and next-generation network security from Technische Universität Berlin, shared insights on how these threats exploit vulnerabilities in mobile networks, along with practical approaches to detecting and mitigating them. During the training, coordination across agencies was emphasized, where information sharing and aligned response can significantly improve outcomes. “This is no longer just about having the tools,” Froi Castelo, Globe Group General Counsel, said. “What matters is how effectively they are used, and that requires stronger coordination and a shared understanding of the threat landscape.” Globe said working closely with government partners will help improve systems and response for faster scam detection and coordinated actions. Anton Bonifacio, Globe Chief AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Data Officer and Chief Information Security Officer, said that detection is just part of the system. “What really matters is what happens after,” he said. “If we can help teams better identify the source of these rogue signals and act on them faster, that’s where you start to see real impact,” Bonifacio said. “This kind of collaboration allows teams on the ground to move faster and stay ahead of increasingly sophisticated threats,” Bonifacio said. Globe stressed that the initiatives would help ensure that the systems behind it would remain secure and reliable as mobile connectivity continues to shape how Filipinos live and work. “Globe and its partners remain committed to strengthening the country’s digital defenses and protecting users from evolving mobile-based risks” Bonifacio said.

- [Rubio reaffirms US commitment to develop Luzon Economic Corridor](#) (2026-06-01 02:13)

MANILA, Philippines—US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reaffirmed his government’s commitment to develop the Luzon Economic Corridor, US State Department spokesman Thomas Pigott said. Rubio on Monday spoke by phone with President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to discuss a range of bilateral economic and security priorities, including efforts to advance peace and security in the South China Sea. Marcos and Rubio also explored “ways to address the energy challenges in the region,” Pigott said. Rubio “emphasized the strength of the United States-Philippines Alliance and the continued close cooperation as the two countries commemorate 80 years of diplomatic relations and 75 years as allies in 2026,” he added. The US Embassy in Manila shared Pigott’s statement.

- [NGCP issues yellow alert for Visayas grid anew](#) (2026-06-01 01:40)

MANILA, Philippines—The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) issued a yellow alert for Visayas on Monday, June 1 as the grid continues to be hounded by supply lack. The yellow alert will be from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. as peak demand is expected to reach 2,488 megawatts (MW), but available capacity is only 2,579 MW. NGCP said that 20 plants are on forced outage, while 11 plants are running on derated capacities. The transmission firm said that some of Visayas’ large coal plants -- Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 1 (169 MW), Therma Visayas Inc. Unit 2 (169 MW), and Unit 2 of KEPCO SPC Power Corp. (103 MW) -- remain unavailable. A yellow alert

is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid's contingency requirement but does not necessarily lead to power interruptions.

- [Farewell 'going better than expected' for French Open quarter-finalist Cirstea](#) (2026-05-31 21:14)

PARIS — Sorana Cirstea said her farewell year is "going way better than expected" after the Romanian veteran reached the French Open quarter-finals for the first time in 17 years on Sunday. The 36-year-old downed Chinese world number 148 Wang Xiyu 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) in the last 16 and will next face either Russian eighth seed Mirra Andreeva or Switzerland's 170th-ranked Jil Teichmann. Cirstea has said she will retire at the end of the season, but hinted she could yet have a rethink after backing up her semi-final run at the Italian Open by equalling her previous best performance at Roland Garros. "This year, it's going way better than I expected," said Cirstea, who arrived in Paris at a career-high ranking of 18th. "I came into my last year, wanted to go out the front door of the sport, wanting to really do well, but I didn't really think it was going to go that well..." "I haven't really thought about it. I'm just trying to take it week by week, and I'm not going to do anything different." "I'm not going to try now to change things or put any pressure. Of course, we will assess things as we go, but at the moment the decision is the same." "Cirstea will make her second French Open quarter-final appearance on Tuesday, hoping to improve on when she lost to Samantha Stosur in the 2009 last eight." "Back then I was a kid, just started on tour," she said. "Didn't know exactly too much what was happening. I was just playing, and I was just at the beginning of my career." "Of course, now I have so many years behind me. I have so much experience, maturity. I feel I'm a completely different player." "It's just very, very different... But in the same time it's very beautiful. I'm very grateful for everything that's happening." "Cirstea got a double break ahead to lead 5-1 in the first set before Wang hit back as the Romanian served for the opener. The 18th seed made no such error the second time around as she polished off the set in just under an hour on Court Suzanne Lenglen. The second set followed much the same rhythm as the first with Cirstea storming to five games before Wang fought back. This time the 25-year-old took Cirstea all the way as the veteran had to dig deep to stave off her opponent in a tie-break.

- ['Totally hooked' Hong Kong targets claw machine addiction](#) (2026-05-31 20:17)

HONGKONG — Claw machine lover Neiki Lee carefully lowers the metal jaws of a crane with a joystick into a pool of prizes, only to have the small toy slip from its clutches again and again. Dozens of stores filled with claw machines have sprung up on streets and in malls across Hong Kong's finance hub in recent years, promising players a treasure trove of prizes and a sense of fulfilment. The colourfully lit machines, often seen drawing people like moths to a flame, have come under regulatory scrutiny this month, as officials raised addiction concerns over the seemingly harmless games. Lee, 48, admitted that she was "totally hooked" and that "this is definitely gambling", adding that she bets at least five Hong Kong dollars every time she attempts to win a higher-value plush toy. - 'Sunk cost fallacy' - An office clerk, Lee said she has spent around HK\$100,000 (US\$12,800) on claw machines over two years -- roughly half her

annual salary."For a HK\$70 toy, you might eventually spend 700, or even 1,700, and still not be able to grab it," Lee told AFP."I really want to give it up. Every day I scold myself and tell myself to quit: no more, no more."Player Tommy Yu, 23, said he sometimes spends hundreds of dollars a day on it despite saying some machines have "traps" built-in."When you put money in but don't get anything back, you feel like you've lost out," he said."Yet it keeps driving you to play."Gambling counsellor Chu Ho Ming told AFP that "the more (the players) invest, the harder it is to leave empty-handed and walk away"."This is the sunk cost fallacy," he said, adding that "it keeps the addictive behaviour loop".Chu said his team have noticed an increase in youth playing games with "gambling elements".- Too late? -Claw machine operators have been able to expand and operate largely unrestricted, after a court ruled in 2022 they are not required to possess public entertainment licenses.But after a sharp rise in the number of public complaints related to so-called claw machine gambling over the last two years, Hong Kong authorities proposed this month to tighten regulations over prize-based arcades, calling the situation after the 2022 ruling "not ideal".The design and business models of such gaming machines are "extremely diverse", officials said, adding that they were committed to tackle the "deep-seated issues".Some lawmakers have suggested capping the prize value at HK\$300 or below, in line with countries including Britain and Singapore.Matthew Chan, who owns three claw machine shops in town, told AFP tighter regulation was needed as the industry "was heading in the wrong direction".Chan bemoaned the government's slowness to act, citing that Taiwan's machines must offer a "guaranteed prize" if a certain amount of money is spent."The market already saw a downsize... (Hong Kong's) consumers have lost confidence in it," he said, adding that some machine operators were ramping up the difficulty and keeping players hooked.But player Lee said she believed operators would find ways to evade any regulation enacted."It's impossible that a law... can be applied in a way that is both flawless and fair" for the industry, she said."It is difficult to root out addiction problems simply by passing a law."

- [Bezzecchi wins Italian MotoGP, extends championship lead](#) (2026-05-31 19:47)

MUGELLO, Italy — Marco Bezzecchi won the Italian MotoGP on Sunday to strengthen his bid for a first world title, as Marc Marquez finished seventh on his comeback from injury.Starting from pole, the Aprilia rider won his battle with fellow Italian Francesco Bagnaia who ended up third behind Bezzecchi's teammate and closest title challenger Jorge Martin.Bezzecchi leads Martin by 17 points in the championship standings after winning his fourth grand prix from the seven raced so far this season.The 27-year-old crossed the line over three seconds ahead of Martin."It's incredible. Winning at Mugello is something I've dreamed of since I was a child, so to achieve it is truly amazing," said Bezzecchi.Bezzecchi was overtaken by Bagnaia, who started sixth on the grid, at the start of the third lap, but stayed on his countryman's tail and took charge on lap 14 with a daring move to the front.Bezzecchi sped off into the distance while Bagnaia tried and failed to hold off Martin and just about fended off attacks from Japan's Ai Ogura.Bezzecchi's win was a perfect end to the weekend for Aprilia after Martin broke the Mugello speed record during Saturday's sprint with an astonishing 368.6 kilometres per hour (229 miles per hour).Marc Marquez had threatened the podium on his return from a shoulder

surgery and a broken foot suffered in a spectacular crash at the French MotoGP earlier this month. The injury kept him out of the main race at Le Mans as well as the last race weekend in Barcelona, and he flagged towards the end on Sunday, losing his battle with Pedro Acosta and slipping down the placings.

- [Japan edge Iceland in final pre-World Cup friendly](#) (2026-05-31 17:09)

TOKYO — Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu backed his team to grind out wins at the World Cup after edging Iceland 1-0 in their final warm-up friendly in Tokyo on Sunday. Substitute Koki Ogawa scored in the 87th minute to send Japan to the tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico on a high after a tough night in front of more than 60,000 at the National Stadium. Japan looked flat after starting their World Cup preparations this week but Moriyasu said snatching a win was a good sign for the tournament ahead. "It was difficult to break Iceland open and they had some dangerous chances on the counter-attack," he said. "But we kept a clean sheet and won, and you get games like that at the World Cup, so this will help us." Japan will face the Netherlands, Sweden and Tunisia in Group F and play the Dutch in their opener on June 14. They will be without winger Kaoru Mitoma, who was ruled out of the World Cup after injuring his hamstring less than a week before Moriyasu named his squad. Former Arsenal defender Takehiro Tomiyasu returned for his first international appearance in two years after long periods out through injury. Liverpool midfielder Wataru Endo also returned from injury to start the game. "If you think of their top performances, they still have room to improve," Moriyasu said of both players. "But they are getting fitter and I want to help them keep raising their level at the World Cup." Tomiyasu started alongside Maya Yoshida, who captained Japan at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and was recalled for a final farewell. The 37-year-old Yoshida, who is not in Japan's World Cup squad, was given a guard of honour by both teams after coming off in the 13th minute, having won his 127th cap. Keito Nakamura started in Mitoma's usual position on the left, and he rolled an early chance wide of the post. Japan took their foot off the gas and Iceland almost took advantage with several goal-scoring chances in the first half. Moriyasu rang the changes at the break and made 11 substitutions in total. The home side's persistence paid off when Ogawa found the net with time running out, cannoning a header in off the post. Iceland coach Arnar Gunnlaugsson, whose team did not qualify for the World Cup, said Japan's players had "the whole package." "I think they will do really well at the World Cup," he said. "I think it's almost like a perfect team, in a sense. They can do everything really well."

- [Senate waits for VP's answer](#) (2026-05-31 16:10)

VICE President Sara Duterte has until today, June 1, to answer the Articles of Impeachment against her, Senate Secretary Jose Luis Montales said on Sunday. In an advisory, Montales said Duterte "may file her answer personally, through counsel, or through electronic mail." The impeachment articles consist of four primary charges: misuse of public funds, unexplained wealth, bribery and corruption, and public threats. Montales said access to the Office of the Senate Secretary on the 6th floor, where the answer will be received and processed, will be "restricted to authorized officials of the Impeachment Court and members of the Vice

President's legal team." Once the vice president submits her comment, the prosecution will be given five days to submit its answer. The vice president or her lawyers can later hold a press briefing at the Senate conference rooms, he said. The Senate convened as impeachment court on May 11, with Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano as presiding officer and the senators sitting as judges. Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega of La Union earlier said prosecutors from the House of Representatives expect the vice president to answer the impeachment complaint. "We are hoping to receive an answer, not a motion to dismiss," he said in a statement. After Duterte files her answer, the House prosecution panel is required to submit its comments within five calendar days. Ortega said a motion to dismiss or a pleading asking the Senate impeachment court to await the Supreme Court's decision on pending impeachment-related issues would be a "dilatory tactic" by Duterte and her defense team. "It will just be a waste of time. We do not think the Senate impeachment court, which has so far acted forthwith on the impeachment case, will allow it," he said. Cayetano on Saturday dismissed allegations by the minority group that the majority bloc's proposed amendment to the Senate rules on remote participation is related to Duterte's impeachment trial. He said there was no proposal to amend the impeachment rules, which have been adopted by the Senate when it formally convened as an impeachment court. Cayetano said the two issues were unrelated, citing the difference in the tense May 26 plenary session, during which the minority group opposed a proposal of Sen. Rodante Marcoleta to amend Senate rules to allow remote participation in sessions. The Senate aims to start the trial on June 6. The pre-trial will begin after the vice president's camp and the prosecutors have submitted their replies to each other's comments. Sen. Erwin Tulfo said the pre-trial phase would involve the marking of evidence, submission of statements, and other procedural matters ahead of the formal hearings. Under a proposed arrangement, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Senate sessions will be held in the morning, followed by impeachment hearings in the afternoon and evening. Tulfo said the sessions will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. After a one-hour break, the trial will resume from 2 p.m. until 11 p.m. or 12 midnight. Based on the current Senate Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Trials, the senators are first sworn to "political neutrality" to exercise their duty without unfair discrimination and regardless of party affiliation or preference. The impeached official is then called to answer to each charge in the Articles of Impeachment. He or she may appear in person or send a representative or counsel to plead for him or her, unlike in a criminal case. If he or she refuses to appear or plead, the impeachment court will continue with trial. The Senate then hears arguments and witnesses from the prosecution and the defense. Unlike in court proceedings, where a judge asks questions sparingly, the senator-judges may ask extensively not just a witness but also counsel for either side. There is no requirement for the impeached official to appear as a witness for himself or herself. After closing arguments, trial is concluded and the Senate votes. At least two-thirds of all the members of the impeachment court must vote for conviction on any of the articles of impeachment for the impeached official to be convicted.

- [200,000 temporary jobs to support school readiness under TUPAD program](#) (2026-05-31 16:08)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will provide more than 200,000 temporary jobs under its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (Tupad) program. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said Tupad beneficiaries will be mobilized to support the Department of Education's Brigada Eskwela program in preparation for the opening of classes. The workers will be deployed starting June 1 to help clean campuses, repair classrooms, and ensure that learning facilities are ready for students when classes begin. Tolentino said the program is expected to generate over 200,000 employment opportunities from June until the start of the school year and even during the early months of classes. It aims to provide immediate income support to disadvantaged, displaced and underemployed workers while addressing urgent school maintenance needs. Beneficiaries will undertake repair and rehabilitation work in schools within their own communities. Tolentino said the DOLE has coordinated with DepEd to ensure the program's smooth implementation. DOLE's regional directors have been instructed to supervise operations, while assistant regional directors will handle day-to-day field monitoring. Tupad, launched in 2009 under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (Dileep), provides short-term wage employment lasting from 10 to 30 days. Beneficiaries are paid the prevailing regional minimum wage for carrying out community-based projects such as cleaning public spaces, declogging waterways, planting trees and repairing public facilities. Beyond temporary jobs, Tolentino is also pushing for stronger livelihood opportunities for graduates of technical-vocational programs. He said that as chairman of the Tesda Board, he wants closer integration between DOLE livelihood initiatives and Tesda training programs to ensure graduates have better employment and business prospects. Tolentino said the government is exploring the provision of starter kits and seed capital assistance for Tesda graduates so they can launch small enterprises, generate income, and transform acquired skills into sustainable livelihoods. In a statement on Saturday, the Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara said Tupad "supports the nationwide effort to ensure that public schools are clean, safe, organized, and ready to welcome millions of learners." "The convergence allows eligible Tupad beneficiaries to participate in school preparation activities such as classroom cleaning, waste management, hauling of furniture and learning materials, vegetation clearing, landscaping, repainting, and other non-technical campus improvement activities," Angara said.

• [Cayetano won't be distracted by 'numbers'](#) (2026-05-31 16:07)

SENATE President Alan Peter Cayetano said he will not allow the "numbers game" in the Senate to distract the chamber from tackling national issues affecting Filipinos. Cayetano was referring to the slim edge the majority bloc holds over the minority group. The majority bloc has 13 members, only two more than the minority bloc headed by Sen. Vicente Sotto III. Cayetano mustered 13 votes to unseat Sotto on May 11. Sen. Ronald dela Rosa made a surprise appearance at the Senate on that day after being absent for six months and delivered the deciding vote for Cayetano. Cayetano has since appealed to senators from both the majority and minority ranks to focus on "game-changing" solutions to the country's economic and social problems. "Ang numbers kasi natin, parati tayo nako-confine sa (We are always confined to)

13-11, sa 12-11,” Cayetano said on a Facebook livestream on May 29. He said that among the important numbers that the Senate should address are inflation, farmers’ productivity, school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, and Acute Immune Deficiency Syndrome cases. “There are many priorities that we need to discuss,” Cayetano said. He said the Senate should be locked in on the economic crisis and how it affects the quality of life of ordinary Filipinos. “When we talk about quality of life, we have to talk about education, health, jobs, if salaries are enough amid the high prices of basic commodities,” he said in Filipino and English. In a privilege speech on May 18, Cayetano urged his colleagues to set clear priorities and identify reforms that could change the direction of the country. “There are so many bills in agriculture, education, health, and finances of our beloved country that we can do,” Cayetano said. “There are millions of Filipinos here and abroad who suffer. So, let us join hands on how we can deliver solutions to these problems.”

- [Marcos, Vietnam’ s president to hold bilateral meeting](#) (2026-05-31 16:06)

VIETNAM President and Communist Party leader Tô Lâm, with first lady Ngo Phuong Ly, arrived in the country on Sunday for a two-day state visit. The Vietnam Airlines plane carrying Lam and his delegation landed at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City at 12:40 p.m. They were welcomed by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. This is the first time Vietnam’ s party leader has made a stop in the Philippines. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is scheduled to receive the Vietnamese leader at Malacañang on Monday for a bilateral meeting. They will discuss their countries’ collaboration in trade and investment, food security, defense and maritime cooperation, education, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. The two leaders will then lead the presentation of the signed agreement and hold a joint press conference. Lâm’ s visit comes as Manila and Hanoi mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Vietnam remains the Philippines’ sole Strategic Partner in Southeast Asia and is home to more than 7,000 Filipinos. The Philippines will open a consulate in Ho Chi Minh City this year as part of the continued expansion of its presence and services in Vietnam.

- [PH, US officials reinforce ‘ironclad’ commitment](#) (2026-05-31 16:05)

THE Philippines and the United States reiterated their “ironclad alliance” during a bilateral meeting between US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on the sidelines of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue last Saturday. The two allies marked the 75th anniversary of the Philippines-US Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT). Teodoro congratulated Hegseth on his plenary address delivered earlier in the day and underscored the Philippines’ strong support for the US’ commitment to strengthening partnerships in the Indo-Pacific. Teodoro said the Philippines is a witness to the robustness of US partnerships in the region, which contribute to greater resilience and deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. Hegseth said the meeting marked the fifth engagement between the two defense leaders, underscoring the depth and consistency of Philippine-US defense cooperation. He commended the success of the Balikatan Exercise last month, noting it as the largest iteration to date. He reaffirmed the US commitment to support the monitoring of the Philippines’ Exclusive

Economic Zone (EEZ). “The meeting reaffirmed the Philippines and the United States’ shared commitment to deepening defense cooperation in support of a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific,” the Department of National Defense said in a statement. Teodoro and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Richard Marles also met on the sidelines of the IISS SLD to discuss efforts to further strengthen defense cooperation between the two nations. “The meeting focused on advancing bilateral defense collaboration and deepening practical cooperation between the Philippines and Australia in support of shared security interests and regional stability,” the DND said. Teodoro and Marles also exchanged views on enhancing collaboration with like-minded partners, including Japan and the United States, underscoring the importance of sustained cooperation in promoting peace, stability and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

• [Marta Kostyuk stuns 4-time champion Iga Swiatek on big day for Ukraine at French Open](#)
(2026-05-31 16:04)

PARIS — There will be a first-time women’s champion at the French Open this year, and two Ukrainian players are among the strongest contenders. Undefeated this season on clay, 15th-seeded Marta Kostyuk showed her strong credentials as she reached the quarterfinals in Paris for the first time on Sunday by taking out four-time champion Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-1 and ruining her birthday. She will be up against her compatriot Elina Svitolina next, ensuring there will be an Ukrainian woman semifinalist at Roland Garros for the first time in the professional era (1968). The seventh-seeded Svitolina rallied past Belinda Bencic 4-6, 6-4, 6-0. “There’s going to be Ukraine in the semifinals, so it’s already amazing,” said Svitolina, whose country is in a 4-year-old war with Russia. “I think it couldn’t be a better, amazing achievement for Ukrainian tennis. I think in such a difficult situation right now in the war, with the invasion, it’s really, really difficult, and I think it’s really inspiring for the next generation to really believe that it is possible one day to play on this court and win.” None of the players still in the draw have yet lifted the trophy in Paris, following Coco Gauff’s elimination on Saturday and Swiatek’s exit. It’s the same in the men’s draw, after the defeats of Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic and with Carlos Alcaraz absent because of an injury. In men’s play, Spanish teenager Rafael Jodar moved into his first Grand Slam quarterfinal after coming back from two sets down to beat Pablo Carreno Busta 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2. Jodar, who also played five sets in the previous round, will play either Alexander Zverev or Jesper de Jong in the last eight. Kostyuk had lost her three previous matches against Swiatek and never taken a set against the former top-ranked player, who turned 25 on Sunday. “I’m still in shock. To beat such an unbelievable player, who won four times here,” she said. Swiatek had a bad day. Kostyuk has been the best player of the clay-court season. She defended extremely well, chasing Swiatek’s shots all over the court, and also produced some stunning groundstroke winners while her rival was also undone by her own mistakes. An intense baseline battle unfolded from the outset. Swiatek showed signs of nerves as she double-faulted, shanked a forehand wide and then missed a volley at the net, allowing Kostyuk to level at 5-5 in the opener. Swiatek hit two more double faults in the 12th game and the 15th-seeded Ukrainian player sealed the set with a backhand passing

shot. Swiatek then briefly left the court. Meanwhile, Kostyuk kept herself warm by stretching and hopping beside her chair, then received some applause as she did a few dance moves to the music playing in the stadium. Following a first week marked by a suffocating heatwave, relief finally arrived in Paris on Sunday, with temperatures dropping to 21 degrees C (70 F) around midday. When play resumed, Swiatek broke but another double fault coupled with more unforced errors brought her opponent back at 1-1. Kostyuk then won the last five games. Kostyuk, who had reached the fourth round at Roland Garros in 2021 when she lost to Swiatek, extended her winning streak on clay to 16 matches. Ahead of the French Open, she won in Madrid, the biggest title of her career, after she claimed another clay-court title in Rouen, France. “The most important thing that I’ve been doing this whole time is really just trying to enjoy,” she said. “It’s helping. I want to keep enjoying. I try not to focus at all on winning or losing because I’m not playing tennis to win, I’m playing tennis because I love it.”

17 years later Romanian veteran Sorana Cirstea, who is planning to retire at the end of the season, beat Chinese qualifier Wang Xiyu 6-3, 7-6 (4) to reach her second Roland Garros quarterfinal, 17 years after first making it to the last eight. The gap between Cirstea’s first and second Grand Slam quarterfinal appearances in Paris is the longest at a single major by any woman in the Open Era. “There is no expiration date for ambition and for dreams,” Cirstea said. “I think back then I was a kid, just started on tour. Now I have so many years behind me. I have so much experience, maturity. I feel I’m a completely different player.”

• [Trump’s shifting Asia policy could hurt PH – political analyst](#) (2026-05-31 16:04)

THE Philippines could face a more uncertain security environment as the United States recalibrates its military and political priorities under President Donald Trump, a geopolitical analyst said. Former diplomat and geopolitical analyst Adolfo Quizon Paglinawan told The Manila Times that changes in Washington’s approach to Taiwan and regional defense commitments could diminish Manila’s strategic leverage. Paglinawan said developments under the Trump administration suggest that Washington’s long-standing “Pivot to Asia” strategy is losing momentum as US attention shifts toward the Middle East and places greater emphasis on burden-sharing among allies. Paglinawan, who is vice president for international affairs of the Manila-based Asian Century Philippines Strategic Studies Institute (ACPSSI), said that while the legal framework of the Philippine-US alliance remains intact, American military commitments under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) appear to be weakening. He cited reported reductions in rotational US troop deployments, the suspension of military infrastructure projects in the northern Philippines near Taiwan, and cuts in funding for annual joint military exercises as indicators of an “effective operational degradation” of American power projection capabilities in the South China Sea. “The cost is the effective operational degradation of the military architecture that makes American power projection into the South China Sea credible,” Paglinawan said. The shift reflects Trump’s broader foreign policy doctrine, which emphasizes greater responsibility among allies and a reluctance to commit US forces to distant conflicts, particularly in relation to Taiwan. Paglinawan pointed to Trump’s recent remarks cautioning Taiwan against declaring formal independence from China

and the US president's statement that he was "not willing to fight a war 9,500 miles from home." He said such statements raise questions about Washington's willingness to defend the so-called "first island chain" — a strategic arc stretching from Japan through Taiwan and the Philippines that has long formed a cornerstone of US regional defense planning. Instead, the United States appears to be positioning Japan as its primary security partner in Asia, echoing aspects of former US President Richard Nixon's "Guam Doctrine," which called for Asian allies to assume greater responsibility for their own defense. Paglinawan said expanding military cooperation among Tokyo, Washington, and Canberra reflects that transition, describing Japan as America's "trusted, forward-looking surrogate leader in Asia." For Manila, Paglinawan warned that an overreliance on Washington could be risky if US security commitments become increasingly conditional. "The West has already conceded the first island chain to China," he said, arguing that Beijing has steadily pursued a long-term strategy in both the South China Sea and Taiwan while avoiding direct military confrontation with the United States. He noted that China's military modernization, naval expansion and construction of fortified artificial islands were undertaken years in advance to establish strategic advantages regardless of fluctuations in American military presence. Paglinawan said Beijing has intensified activities near Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Scarborough Shoal, following reports of reductions in US military deployments in the region. "These are not provocations. They are measurements," he said, describing what he viewed as China's calibrated effort to test the regional balance of power. The analyst expressed uncertainty over whether planned US security assistance under the Philippine Enhanced Resilience Act would be fully delivered amid competing domestic priorities and budgetary pressures in Washington. Despite continuing defense cooperation between Manila and Washington, Paglinawan said many countries in the region are increasingly hedging their positions as questions emerge about the long-term reliability of US commitments. In contrast, he argued that China has pursued a more consistent geopolitical strategy since the start of the administration of President Xi Jinping in 2012. Paglinawan previously served as press attaché and spokesman for the Philippine Embassy in Washington and for the Philippine Mission to the United Nations from 1986 to 1993.

- [Navotas extends incentive to Grade 10 completers](#) (2026-05-31 16:03)

NAVOTAS Mayor John Rey Tiangco said on Sunday that the local government has distributed graduation incentives to Navoteño students who graduated from the city's public schools for the school year 2025-2026. A total of 3,776 Grade 6 completers received P500 each while 1,986 Grade 12 completers were granted P1,000 each, Tiangco said. Starting this year, Grade 10 completers were also included in the city's graduation incentive program by virtue of an ordinance. As a result, some 2,722 Grade 10 completers received P1,000 each. Meanwhile, graduates of the Navotas Polytechnic College will receive P1,500 following their graduation ceremony later this year, according to the city government. The local chief executive said the city remains committed to investing in education and recognizing the hard work of students. "Education is one of the most important investments we can make for the future of our city. Through these incentives, we hope to encourage our students to continue striving for

excellence and help ease the financial challenges faced by their families,” Tiangco said. He added that the city government aims to ensure that no learner is left behind because of financial difficulties. “We want our students to focus on achieving their dreams and completing their studies. The city government will continue to provide programs that support their academic journey and overall development,” he added. The distribution of incentives is part of the ongoing efforts to motivate students and strengthen educational support programs for Navoteño learners, the city’s Public Information Office said.

- [PH boosts ties with SKorea, Singapore](#) (2026-05-31 16:03)

DEFENSE Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. reaffirmed the Philippines’ commitment to strengthening defense cooperation with South Korea and Singapore during separate bilateral meetings on May 30 on the sidelines of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD). In his meeting with South Korean Minister Ahn Gyuback, Teodoro expressed appreciation for the country’s continued support for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) modernization program and the sustained cooperation in enhancing defense capabilities. Teodoro highlighted the two nations’ enduring historical ties forged during the Korean War, emphasizing the importance of preserving the legacy of Filipino soldiers who fought alongside Korean forces. The two defense leaders talked about regional security developments, including the situation on the Korean peninsula and in the West Philippine Sea. They extended invitations for future engagements, including the Asean Defense Ministers’ Meeting Plus and the Seoul Defense Dialogue later this year. Teodoro and Singapore Minister Chan Chun Sing discussed ways to further strengthen defense relations between their countries. Teodoro underscored the value of expanded joint training and exercises between the AFP and the Singapore Armed Forces in enhancing interoperability and readiness. The two defense leaders also discussed humanitarian assistance and disaster relief cooperation. Teodoro cited the mutual benefits of Singapore’s continued participation in exercises aligned with its expertise and capabilities. Chan welcomed the Philippines’ offer to further expand defense cooperation. Teodoro expressed appreciation for Singapore’s hospitality in hosting the SLD, while Chan conveyed Singapore’s support for the Philippines’ Asean chairship. Teodoro also presented a vision of the Philippines as a hub for convergence among like-minded partners, underscoring its role in preserving the freedom of the seas and the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

- [Free licensure exams for indigents pushed](#) (2026-05-31 16:02)

SEN. Erwin Tulfo has filed a bill exempting qualified indigents from paying board examination fees. Tulfo said on Sunday that through Senate Bill 2035 or the proposed Free Professional Examinations Act, poor college or university graduates could “achieve their dream profession and improve their lives.” Included under SB 2035 are the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) board exams, civil service eligibility exams, and Bar exams. “It is a reality for many Filipinos to finish school but never get the license they worked hard for due to a lack of funds,” Tulfo said in a statement. “Instead of paying for licensure exam fees, they tend to start working

— often becoming underemployed — just to get by,” he said. Tulfo said this gap not only deprives poor Filipinos of opportunities to improve their lives but also limits the country’s pool for the next generation of licensed professionals. Under the proposal, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will determine who will be exempted from paying the board exam fees. The DSWD will issue the certification to be presented to the Professional Regulation Commission, Civil Service Commission, or Supreme Court. Tulfo said that to ensure the bill’s objective is met, availing of this benefit is limited to only once a year.

- [PAO execs praised for defending lawyers](#) (2026-05-31 16:01)

A QUEZON City trial court judge has cited the brilliance of Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) chief Persida Rueda-Acosta and deputy chief Ana Lisa Soriano for defending public lawyers’ rights to retirement benefits in a case filed before the judge’s sala. Judge Maria Gilda Loja-Pangilinan of the Regional Trial Court’s Branch 230 recalled Rueda-Acosta and Soriano’s masterful move when she spoke before 3,000 public attorneys during PAO’s 9th Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Grand Convention late last month at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Loja-Pangilinan was referring to the petition for certiorari and mandamus filed by PAO before her sala a few years back, which was cleverly defended in court by the top two officials in connection with the benefits that the agency’s retirees must receive in accordance with the existing laws, but were previously disapproved by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Citing a legal opinion, the DBM said PAO’s retirees did not qualify to receive the same salary and benefits as those from the National Prosecution Service or Napros. With the two laws — Republic Act 9406 (PAO Law) and RA 10071, Napros Law — at the center of the argument, the judge recalled how Rueda-Acosta and Soriano managed to convince the lower court when they filed the twin petitions instead of a petition for declaratory relief. “Certiorari under Rule 65, grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction; Mandamus, to mandate, to compel. But declaratory relief is more complicated. It’s harder to obtain relief because you are asking the court to interpret the two laws and provide an answer,” the judge said. “Here is how brilliant the PAO is, Chief (Rueda-Acosta) and Deputy Soriano argued the case. They said: ‘We are not asking for our interpretation of the law, Judge, because as far as we are concerned, the law is clear,’ ” she said. The judge said they were right because if they had chosen to file a petition for declaratory relief, they would have admitted their own law was confusing. Moreover, she said a petition for mandamus has simple requisites. “You have a legal right. You are entitled to it. And therefore, it must be ministerial for the agencies to perform the function to serve that right. It’s not that brilliant. Did you think of that? That’s how smart they are,” said the judge in reference to the top 2 PAO officials. In her ruling, Loja-Pangilinan said that in the absence of a judicial declaration that the Napros Law repealed or invalidated the PAO Law, both statutes remain operative. She cited Section 5 of PAO Law and Section 16 of Napros Law, which must be read together and harmonized to give life to the legislative intent that the ranks, salaries, and benefits would mirror each other. The lady judge said she received “a bit of flak” over her decision. But she stood by it and has been vindicated by the Court of Appeals’ ruling, which affirmed her verdict in favor of PAO retirees. She stressed that the basis for receiving

PAO' s retirement benefits equal to those under the Napros Law is now firmly established in jurisprudence through the case of PAO versus DBM. The judge believed that the PAO chief should have the same salary as the chief state prosecutor, as well as state prosecutors and PAO lawyers, down the line, citing RA 9946, which governs the retirement benefits of the judiciary. Saying retirement is more than mere numbers, the judge emphasized that there is the state' s recognition and final acknowledgement of the commitment and value as government lawyers. "But justice is not only about deciding cases. In the end, it is also about how we treat those who work and serve for justice," Loja-Pangilinan told the public attorneys.

- [Heavy rains threaten to delay search for 2 people still missing in Laos cave](#) (2026-05-31 15:26)

BANGKOK — Heavy rains threatened to delay the search for two people missing in a flooded cave in Laos on Sunday, after the rescue of five other people who were trapped underground for over a week. Finnish diver Mikko Paasi, one of the first international rescuers to arrive at the site, told The Associated Press that rains had filled the cave up to the second chamber, preventing divers from entering the cave until pumps can lower the water level. Making the situation even more difficult, a drainage pump broke down, said fellow diver Yoshitaka Isaji of Japan. The cave saga began with a quest to find minerals. The seven villagers reportedly entered the cave last week to look for valuable minerals such as gold before being trapped by a flash flood that blocked their way out. One other villager escaped and alerted the authorities. Rescue teams from Laos and neighboring Thailand have been working together in the past week at the site in a rugged area in the central province of Xaisomboun, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of the capital, Vientiane. They were joined by divers from countries including Finland, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, France and Australia. Several of the rescuers previously took part in the complicated 2018 cave rescue in northern Thailand that saved 12 schoolboys and their soccer coach from a flooded cave. The rescued men are being treated at a local hospital and are doing well, Malaysian diver Lee Kian Lie, who' s taking part in the operation, told the AP on Sunday. "We interviewed them about how the deeper part of the cave looks like. We will continue to search based on the information we have, and perhaps we will be able to get to the other two," he said. According to rescuers, they have navigated more than 200 meters (650 feet) into the cave and discovered five chambers in the system. The five people rescued so far were found in the fifth chamber. The 2 missing may be in a hard-to-reach chamber. Paasi told the AP that the survivors said there' s a narrow crack in the fifth chamber that could be a passage leading to a deeper part of the cave system. "This was the only place that we haven' t checked in the mine, where the two lost miners could still be," he said during a video interview. "Now there' s a theory that, through that small crack, it still continues, and there' s a sixth chamber, which gives us hope now that, if we could penetrate that small restriction, we might be able to reach the sixth chamber and then see what is there." Isaji explained the difficulties of such an endeavor. "The area between the fifth and sixth chamber is extremely narrow, and no one has seen its shape yet. Furthermore, it' s a narrow space, and of course, it' s muddy water, so visibility is absolutely zero. I' ve also heard that the shape is such that you have to twist your

body to get through."He suggested that even if rescuers could get through and find another trapped person, it would be extremely difficult to bring them out. In such a case, he said, a plan would probably involve getting food and water to those trapped and waiting for the passage to be drained.Isaji also mentioned the possibility that the two missing villagers are not actually in the cave at all, since they were said to have moved separately from the five rescued people.The five who were rescued were first found Wednesday. They were identified by their first names as Khamla, Mued, Ee, Ing and Laen.The trapped men took the initiative when the water level droppedThe first man was safely extracted on Friday, guided through a narrow flooded passage by an expert diver. The remaining four left the cave on Saturday, after the water receded enough for them to walk out on their own, rescuers said.The divers had been preparing to help with another extraction when the trapped men apparently saw that the water level dropped and decided to seize the opportunity, Paasi said, adding that he would have done the same had he been in their situation.He and other people waiting at the cave entrance were taken by surprise, and when they emerged the atmosphere was like a party, he said.Videos posted online Saturday showed emotional moments as the men emerged one by one from the cave. Some collapsed on the ground at the cave' s entrance, and were hugged by a group of workers who cried in joy. Later moments showed them lying on a stretcher, wrapped in foil blankets and fitted with an oxygen mask before being transported out of the site.

- [China' s factory activity slows in May, raising questions over its economy](#) (2026-05-31 15:06)

BEIJING — China' s factory activity was flat in May, according to an official survey released Sunday, raising questions about how much further the country' s economy can shield itself from the fallout of the ongoing Iran war and pressure on demand.The official manufacturing purchasing managers index moderated to 50 from 50.3 in April, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Measured on a scale between 0 and 100, a PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.The new orders sub-index dropped to 49.9 from 50.6 in April, while the sub-index on production edged down to 51.2 from April' s 51.5. The sub-index for raw material stockpiles fell to 48.6 from 49.3 in April.China has been less affected by the global energy shock from the Iran war than many other countries, which face inflationary pressures as oil prices have surged due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped in peacetime.Analysts say China's ample oil reserves and diversified sources of energy have helped the world's second-largest economy weather the war nearly unscathed. "Though the energy crisis remains the dominant headwind for Asia, China is relatively more shielded given its robust energy security set-up," Frederic Neumann, Chief Asia Economist at HSBC bank, wrote in a research note last week.Meanwhile, exports remain key for China' s broader economy, HSBC said.While China' s exports to the United States have dropped year-on-year during most months in the past year, its global exports have been robust, particularly to Europe and Southeast Asia.Hopes for a recovery in exports to the U.S. have risen following President Donald Trump' s summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing in mid-May, and after the two countries agreed to set up

separate boards of trade and investment. Autos, technology and artificial intelligence-related exports have been helping to drive export growth, but some economists also point to concerns over the broader economy. Domestic demand remains sluggish in the wake of a years-long property sector slump that has clobbered consumer confidence and investment. “Domestic demand is lagging, but high-end manufacturing and exports are holding the line,” Robin Xing, Chief China Economist at Morgan Stanley, wrote in a research note last week. Chinese leaders have set an annual economic growth target of 4.5% to 5% for this year. That’s the lowest target since 1991, albeit only slightly lower than the “around 5%” target set in 2025. Morgan Stanley said China will still likely meet its 2026 target, but oil prices and the easing of uncertainties around global oil supplies would be key factors determining where things might be heading.

- [Experimental pill promises new hope for deadly pancreatic cancer](#) (2026-05-31 14:51)

WASHINGTON — A novel pill helped people with advanced pancreatic cancer live longer, researchers reported Sunday, raising hopes of long-needed better treatments for one of the deadliest types of cancer. “While not curing the cancer, it is a very large step forward,” said Dr. Zev Wainberg, of the University of California, Los Angeles, who helped lead the study. The drug is called daraxonrasib and it blocks a mutated protein that fuels tumor growth in more than 90% of pancreatic cancer cases — a target that had eluded treatment for decades. The daily pills nearly doubled survival time, with fewer severe side effects, in a study that randomly assigned the experimental drug or more chemotherapy to 500 patients whose metastatic, or spreading, cancer had quit responding to prior treatment. The findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented Sunday at the American Society for Clinical Oncology meeting in Chicago. Those taking daraxonrasib lived for a median of 13.2 months compared with 6.7 months for chemotherapy recipients. While that may seem like a small improvement, Wainberg said it marked the first drug to show a substantial advantage over chemotherapy. “Having treated pancreatic cancer for 16 years, I actually started crying” when first seeing the study results, Dr. Rachna Shroff of the University of Arizona Cancer Center, who wasn’t involved with the research, said from the ASCO meeting. She was struck by how “patients stayed on this treatment because it was providing durable and meaningful benefit to them.” The pills’ effects eventually wane but recipients used them for significantly longer than the comparison group stayed on chemotherapy, reporting less pain and a better quality of life as their tumors shrank. Many still were using the drug after the data was analyzed, which Wainberg said means the survival gap may widen as researchers continue tracking them. Dr. Brian Wolpin, of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, presented the findings Sunday. He said the drug should become “a new standard of care” for previously treated metastatic pancreatic cancer, adding that researchers also will explore its use earlier in the disease, including to see if tumor shrinkage might let more patients qualify for surgery. Side effects most likely to affect pill usage were a rash that can be severe and mouth sores, he said. Maker Revolution Medicines funded the study and the Food and Drug Administration plans to expedite review of the drug. Meanwhile, the agency is allowing what’s called “expanded access” to the experimental drug for patients who meet certain criteria. The drug garnered public attention when former

U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse described on “60 Minutes” how he’s had less pain while taking it. Oncologists are being flooded with requests as the special access program gets started. Pancreatic cancer is among the most deadly forms in large part because it’s hard to detect before it starts spreading to other organs. The American Cancer Society estimates about 67,000 new cases will be diagnosed in the U.S. this year and more than 52,000 people will die from the disease. The five-year overall survival rate is 13%. Unlike with other cancers that have benefitted from a variety of chemotherapy alternatives, pancreatic cancer has been harder to tackle. Cancer specialists not involved in the new research expressed optimism that this may be a turning point in the quest for new options, with dozens of experimental drugs in development. The new drug targets mutations in the RAS gene family that normally regulates cell growth. So-called KRAS mutations are especially critical in fueling pancreatic cancer. But a structure that made it hard for drugs to stick to the mutated proteins meant this cancer driver was long considered “undruggable.” Revolution Medicines’ drug uses what’s essentially a molecular glue to bind with multiple KRAS subtypes. Wainberg said researchers next will probe whether the drug worked better in certain of those subtypes. The drug will change pancreatic cancer treatment, said Dr. Andrew Coveler of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, who wasn’t involved in the research. “This thing works drastically differently,” he said. Wainberg said other drugs in development target specific KRAS subtypes. Other approaches in earlier stages of testing include vaccines designed to prevent recurrence after pancreatic cancer surgery by teaching the immune system to recognize the mutated protein.

- [Dressing visitors in ancient China's imperial splendor is booming in Beijing](#) (2026-05-31 14:29)

BEIJING — Chen Jiao has a curious job: transforming visitors to resemble empresses from ancient China as young people explore a revival of traditional culture. She is one of hundreds of makeup artists working at studios in Beijing near the Forbidden City, once home to the emperors of China’s last two dynasties, Ming and Qing. Every day, visitors arrive to dress in robes richly embroidered with phoenixes and adorn themselves with jade and pearl pendants and gold fingernail guards like those worn in imperial China. Makeup is carefully applied, and their hair is styled and decorated with tassels and hairpins. The average cost is 300 yuan (\$45), though prices can exceed 1,000 yuan (more than \$150). Once dressed up, people go to the walls and moat surrounding the Forbidden City to pose for photos and videos to share on social media. Blending echoes of ancient times with modernity, some pair their historic costumes with sneakers and sunglasses and drink bubble tea. “It can get very busy during peak seasons, especially public holidays and weekends,” Chen said. Recently, she began work at 6 a.m. and transformed around two dozen young women in a single day. There is no off-season for makeup artists, only a brief lull when the Forbidden City closes, she said. Recent years have seen a trend among young people for immersive experiences in historical Chinese costume, which in Beijing is mainly inspired by the country’s last two dynasties. The Ming dynasty, which ruled for more than 270 years until 1644, built the Forbidden City and reinforced the Great Wall. The Qing dynasty, ruled by the Manchu people, itself collapsed in 1912, ending more than two

millennia of imperial rule. Chen Xiao is among the tourists who now come for the the styling activities at Beijing' s historical sites.. A college student from the eastern province of Shandong, Chen traveled overnight to the capital during the recent Qingming holiday. "I feel like if you' re at a specific location, you should wear something that fits the setting," Chen said, wearing a pink outfit typically associated with a "Gege," or Qing dynasty princess. The building where Chen Jiao' s studio is located illustrates the rapid growth. Around 2020, only a handful of costume styling studios operated there. Now there are more than 100, according to local media. "Young Chinese people have discovered the aesthetic appeal of traditional clothing while learning about China' s rich cultural heritage," said Cai Zehong, founder of Hanfu Beijing, one of the earliest ancient-costume associations created by enthusiasts to promote traditions and cultures by the majority Han ethnicity. The long popularity of historical costume dramas in China has contributed to the trend. "I' ve watched a lot of historical costume dramas," Chen Xiao said. "I think I' ve definitely been influenced by those shows. Lately, I' ve been quite into Qing dynasty history. Liu Ruitong, a college student visiting from Hebei province, opted for a black Ming-style costume. "I think this look feels very elegant and dignified, especially in its color palette. I chose black because it pairs beautifully with the Forbidden City and with traditional Chinese scenery in general." Liu said.

- [Frankie Valli cancels the remainder of the Four Seasons' farewell tour, citing health concerns](#) (2026-05-31 13:44)

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico — Frankie Valli, whose legendary falsetto defines the sound of the 1960s rock group the Four Seasons, has cancelled the remainder of the band' s 2026 tour dates, citing health concerns. "I' m so sorry to disappoint the folks who have purchased tickets to my shows, but I have decided to take the rest of the year off from touring to focus on my health," the 92-year-old singer wrote on social media Friday. Valli, the frontman and only original member still performing with the Four Seasons, launched an extended farewell tour billed "The Last Encores" in October 2023. Shows scheduled for April of this year were rescheduled to dates in summer and fall. Now, all eight performances remaining for 2026 in cities from Scottsdale, Arizona, to Detroit have been called off entirely. The Four Seasons found fame in the 1960s, but the band' s hits -- from "Sherry" to "December 1963 (Oh What a Night)" -- span decades. The Four Seasons sold 100 million records worldwide and were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990. Valli, who also established a successful solo career, received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2026. Known for keeping a rigorous touring schedule even as he has aged, Valli appeared to leave the door open for future performances. "I' m looking forward to getting healthy and seeing you all again soon," Valli concluded his Friday message.

- [Billions lost: Raffy Tulfo seeks probe of medicine wastage](#) (2026-05-31 12:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Raffy Tulfo wants to investigate the wastage of billions worth of expired medicines, vaccines, and medical supplies procured by the Department of Health. The senator filed a resolution seeking an inquiry on the Commission on Audit (COA) findings to

ensure accountability among officials responsible for the "mismanagement" of medicine stocks. Tulfo said he sought the probe as he "constantly" received complaints on his radio program from patients about the lack of medicines in public hospitals or barangay (village) health centers. COA said losses due to expired medicines and vaccines reached ₱18.5 billion from 2015 to 2018; ₱2.2 billion in 2019; ₱95 million in 2020; ₱85 million in 2021; ₱7.4 billion in 2022; ₱11.18 billion in 2023; and ₱134 million in 2024. Tulfo raised the need to strengthen procurement, inventory and medicine distribution systems. COA attributed the wastage to overstocking.

- [VP Sara leads Robredo in May presidential preference survey](#) (2026-05-31 11:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte led former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in Pulse Asia's May 2026 survey in a theoretical race for the 2028 presidential polls. Results of the May 3–7 Stratbase-commissioned survey showed Duterte getting the support of 51 percent of the respondents, while Robredo got 41 percent. The respondents were asked, "Whom would you vote for if the 2028 elections were held at the time of the survey?" In Metro Manila, Duterte got 48 percent while Robredo received 46 percent. For Balance Luzon (Luzon minus Metro Manila) Robredo got 55 percent, and Duterte, 33 percent. In the Visayas, Duterte received 50 percent, and Robredo got 46 percent. In Mindanao, Duterte's home region, the gap was widest with 91 percent for the vice president, against Robredo's 7 percent. For Class ABC, Duterte got 54 percent, and Robredo got 39 percent. For Class D, it was 50 percent for Duterte and 42 percent for Robredo. For Class E, Duterte leads Robredo – 55 percent against 37 percent. The survey had 1,500 respondents and a margin of error of ±2.5 percentage points. VP preference Forty-six percent of the respondents in the same survey for vice presidential preference backed Sen. Erwin Tulfo, while 38 percent backed Sen. Robin Padilla. The respondents were asked whom they would vote for as vice president if the 2028 elections were held at the time of the survey. In Metro Manila, the figures were 54 percent for Tulfo and 29 percent for Padilla. In Balance Luzon, the figures were 52 percent for Tulfo and 26 percent for Padilla. In the Visayas, the figures were 63 percent for Tulfo and 30 percent for Padilla.

- [US military fires on Gambia-flagged ship violating Iran blockade](#) (2026-05-31 10:58)

WASHINGTON, United States — The US military said Saturday it had disabled a Gambia-flagged cargo vessel attempting to sail to an Iranian port by launching a missile into its engine room. US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees forces in the Middle East region, said the strike occurred on May 29 after the M/V Lian Star failed to respond to more than 20 warnings. "A U.S. aircraft disabled the vessel by firing a Hellfire missile into the ship's engine room after Lian Star's crew failed to comply. The ship is no longer transiting to Iran," CENTCOM said on X. The statement did not mention if there were any injuries aboard the Lian Star following the strike. "U.S. forces have disabled five commercial vessels and redirected 116 to fully enforce the blockade as a ceasefire with Iran remains in effect," CENTCOM said. The United States has been enforcing a blockade of Iranian ports as Tehran effectively halts all traffic through the Strait of

Hormuz, a key transit point for global oil and gas. Talks on a longterm end to the war and reopening the waterway have yet to reach a final agreement.

- [Trump calls for replacing US 250th concerts with MAGA rally](#) (2026-05-31 10:40)

WASHINGTON, United States — US President Donald Trump called Saturday for the cancellation of upcoming concerts celebrating America's 250th anniversary after several musical acts backed out, saying they should be replaced by a political rally headlined by himself. "We should have a giant MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN RALLY, for 250, instead of having overpriced singers, who nobody wants to hear, whose music is boring, and yet who do nothing but complain," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, adding: "Cancel it." Shortly after they were announced as performers in a Washington concert series around the July 4 holiday, multiple musical acts backed out, with some citing the event's politicization. The concerts were scheduled to kick off on June 25 as part of a major event on the National Mall organized by Freedom 250, a Trump-backed public-private entity. "I understand Artists are getting 'the yips'" about performing, Trump said earlier on Truth Social, one day after a fourth and fifth act announced their departure, out of a total of nine artists originally announced. "So I am thinking about bringing the Number One Attraction anywhere in the World, the man who gets much larger audiences than Elvis in his prime...and the man who some say is the Greatest President in History (THE GOAT!), DONALD J. TRUMP, to take the place of these highly paid, Third Rate ' Artists.'" Trump said he was ordering aides to assess "the feasibility of doing an AMERICA IS BACK Rally" on the mall, where he would deliver a speech "rallying the Country forward like I have done ever since being President!" On Friday, artists including country singer Martina McBride and glam rocker Bret Michaels, frontman of 1980s band Poison, said they were dropping out of the concert series. "Unfortunately, what was presented to us as a celebration of our country has evolved into something much more divisive than what I agreed to be a part of," Michaels posted on Facebook. Trump has openly tried to stamp his mark on the celebrations, most notably by staging an mixed martial arts fight in a specially constructed arena on the White House lawn on June 14 -- his 80th birthday. The remaining line-up of musicians, whose prime came and went decades ago -- such as Vanilla Ice and C+C Music Factory -- has sparked a flood of sarcastic comments on social media.

- [Australian researchers teach brain cells to play 'Doom'](#) (2026-05-31 10:32)

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australian researchers have trained lab-grown brain cells on a silicon computer chip to play the nineties shooter game "Doom" and say they are just scratching the surface of what the neurons could be capable of doing. It's the science-fiction work of biotech boffins at Cortical Labs, who researched and developed the technology that harnesses the workings of the brain's networking system. Each so-called "biological computer" contains around 200,000 living human brain cells, grown from stem cells that were harvested from blood donations. Having mastered the simple computer game "Pong", where a paddle is moved up and down to send a ball across a screen, the brain cells have moved on to bigger things. Initially, the neurons were at the "level of a beginner who's never played a video game before," Alon

Loeffler, Cortical Labs' senior application scientist, told AFP. "Doom" involves a chaotic 3D game-world where the user is required to explore its surroundings and dispatch enemies -- no easy task for a clump of cells. "They were walking into walls a lot, shooting the walls, turning around, doing funny things like that," Loeffler said. "And then eventually they started targeting the enemies more regularly and correctly." "It's not the cleanest execution, however. One demon takes several attempts to slaughter, with shots fired in multiple directions before the target is hit. But the mind-bending research proves the neurons can adapt to stimuli in real time and complete goal-directed learning, Cortical Labs say. Scratching the surface

The researchers converted the digital environment in "Doom" into patterns of electrical signals the neurons on the chip could understand. When an enemy appears, specific electrodes stimulate the neurons on the special chip called a CL1, causing them to react. Different patterns of neuron activity produce specific responses, such as firing the gun or moving left or right. Researchers monitor the electrical activity of the neurons from a computer screen connected to the CL1, represented by thousands of tiny dots. From this data, the team adjusts their input to influence and train the neuron's activity. The CL1 isn't limited to computer games -- the chip can be coded to perform a range of applications, from drug screening to AI-like machine learning. "We are just scratching the surface of what these neural cultures can achieve when integrated in systems like our CL1," said chief scientific and operations officer Brett Kagan. "Our neural cultures have been explored for a variety of tasks," he said -- everything from "robotics, real-time learning tasks that are similar to AI, as well as healthcare, medicine, disease modelling, drug screening and even personalised medicine". Not 'wacky science'

Kagan describes the CL1 chip as "a more sustainable and more powerful form of intelligence". The human brain runs on an estimated 20 watts of power, a level of efficiency that silicon computing and artificial intelligence have not yet been able to replicate. While it's "not aimed to replace what AI is doing" it's intended to "give us abilities that we've never had before", Kagan said. The cells have a six-month lifespan and aren't yet capable of producing consistent, programmable results. But analysts say the project's value could lie in its more sustainable power consumption compared to regular chips. "We need better ways to manage that power envelope and get higher levels of efficiency," William Keating, CEO of semiconductor research company Ingenuity, said. "This isn't wacky science or some bunch of scammers. This is real science and it's making real progress."

- [PRC responds as two Victory Liner buses crash in Benguet](#) (2026-05-31 07:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Victory Liner buses figured in an accident in Taloy Sur, Tuba, Benguet on Saturday, May 30, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) reported. The buses had 87 passengers on board, the PRC said. At least 67 passengers were injured and taken to hospitals. The PRC said 52 patients were brought to Baguio General Hospital, while 15 were admitted at La Union Medical Center in Agoo. The PRC dispatched two ambulances as part of its emergency response. Responders transported two patients to Baguio General Hospital. Welfare teams from the PRC have been deployed to the hospitals to assist affected passengers and their families, help verify patient information, and coordinate immediate welfare needs on the ground. The PRC said it continues to monitor the situation, coordinate with authorities and hospitals, and

validate the status of affected passengers.

- [American allies warn division weakens deterrence in calls for global unity to meet new threats](#) (2026-05-31 07:46)

SINGAPORE — American allies stressed the need for unity at a top defense conference Sunday, saying that as threats increasingly transcend regions, cooperation is more important than ever, even as Washington has become more critical of its traditional friends. U.S. President Donald Trump has been extremely harsh about NATO, and the comments at the Shangri-La conference came the day after U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth again chided Western European allies at the forum for not devoting enough resources to defense. Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi praised Hegseth for his commitment to the Indo-Pacific, but at the same time stressed the continued need for strong coalitions globally. “Division weakens deterrence, unity strengthens deterrence,” he told the conference, hosted by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. “If gaps emerge among the United States, Europe, and allies and like-minded countries, forces which take it as an opportunity will surely come in,” he said. “We must prevent such a situation. We must keep our cooperation going on. Now is the time to make our cooperation even stronger.” As China has been rapidly expanding and modernizing its military, Japan has been reshaping its own defense policy. Last month, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s Cabinet scrapped a ban on lethal weapons exports, a major change in its postwar pacifist policy. China criticized the change, with Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun saying China would “resolutely resist Japan’s reckless moves toward a new type of militarism.” Koizumi scoffed at that accusation as ironic, coming from China. “Think about it, there is a country that has a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons and strategic bombers,” he said, speaking in English. “Japan has neither of such weapons, and yet Japan is labeled new militarism. Isn’t it strange?” He said that transparency comes from “discussion and dialogue” and lamented that China had not sent its defense minister to the conference. In his speech Saturday, Hegseth applauded many Asian partners for their efforts to step-up defense spending, while reiterating criticism of European allies, who he suggested got “distracted by empty globalist rhetoric about the rules-based international order, while European capitals threw open their borders and hollowed out their militaries.” “You can have all the rules you want and rules are great,” Hegseth said. “But if you can’t back them up with hard power, the rules are not worth the paper they are written on.” Many NATO countries failed for years to meet alliance defense spending commitments, but since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022, many dramatically increased military expenditures and plan more in the future. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the conference Sunday, Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles, said he agreed with Hegseth’s point that “the rules based order needs to be underpinned by power,” but at the same time said strong rules were “more important today than they have ever been.” “We are all committed to a rules based system, because that is actually what gives middle powers like Australia or smaller countries agency,” he said. He also said alliances remain critical to the region’s defense. “This is a collective challenge and it demands a collective response, which is actually what the rules based order is all about,” he said. Netherlands Defense Minister Dilan

Yesilgöz-Zegerius said the current conflicts have global implications and demand a shared response. “A war in Europe involves drones from Iran, soldiers and ammunition from North Korea and various types of support from China,” she said. “The lesson is clear: regional tensions are no longer regional. Our security is interconnected.” She said that if middle powers do not work together, they risk becoming spectators or the “subject of conversations,” but with coalitions they can help preserve stability. “The fact that international rules are being violated does not mean we should abandon them,” she said. “On the contrary, it means we must defend them more constantly and more courageously. International law may be imperfect, but history teaches us that the alternative is far worse.”

- [Oscar-winning 'Star Wars' editor Marcia Lucas dies at 80](#) (2026-05-31 07:44)

LOS ANGELES — Marcia Lucas, who won an Oscar as editor of the original 1977 “Star Wars” and was part of a group of women whose editing was essential to film’s New Hollywood era, has died, a lawyer for her family said Friday. She was 80. Lucas, who was married to “Star Wars” creator George Lucas from 1969 to 1983, died Wednesday from metastatic cancer, attorney Deidre Von Rock said in an email to The Associated Press. She died in Rancho Mirage, California, surrounded by loved ones, Von Rock said. Marcia Lucas was the editor on 1983’s “Return of the Jedi” and the pre- “Star Wars” George Lucas-directed films “THX 1138” and “American Graffiti.” She was also part of the editing team for director Martin Scorsese’s 1970s films “Taxi Driver,” “Alice Doesn’t Live Here Anymore” and “New York, New York.” Editor was a rare senior creative position where a woman could find a foothold in Hollywood. Marcia Lucas became one of several women whose work in the editing chair made sense of the work of the overwhelmingly male directors of the New Hollywood of the late 1960s through the early 1980s, including Dede Allen, editor of “Bonnie and Clyde” and “Dog Day Afternoon”; Verna Fields, editor of “Paper Moon” and “Jaws”; and Thelma Schoonmaker, editor of most of Scorsese’s films starting with 1980’s “Raging Bull.” Lucas was often called the unsung hero of “Star Wars,” the original film that after sequels, prequels and spinoffs has come to be known by its subtitle, “A New Hope.” She convinced her then-husband that he should have Obi-Wan Kenobi, played by Alec Guinness, die in his lightsaber battle with Darth Vader and become a spirit guide to Mark Hamill’s Luke Skywalker. And she had to make sense of raw footage that could have been a mess in the wrong hands, including the climactic rebel attack on the Death Star. “It was extremely complex and we had 40,000 feet of dialogue footage of pilots saying this and that. And she had to cull through all that, and put in all the fighting as well,” George Lucas told Rolling Stone in an interview a few months after the film came out. “Nobody really has ever tried to interweave an actual plot story into a dogfight, and we were trying to do that.” Lucas was born Marcia Griffin in Modesto, California shortly after the end of World War II. She moved to Los Angeles with her mother after her parents divorced when she was a small child. She began working as a film librarian and moved into working as an editor on commercials, trailers and promotional films. She was an assistant editor on the documentary “Journey to the Pacific” for Fields, who also hired George Lucas, then a film student at the University of Southern California. The couple became engaged soon after. Their marriage would

essentially end in 1982, but they kept their divorce under wraps until after the release of “Return of the Jedi” in 1983. Marcia Lucas was then married to Tom Rodrigues, a production manager at the Skywalker Ranch production center, from 1983 to 1993. She is survived by her daughters, Amanda Lucas and Amy Soper, and grandchildren Felix Hallikainen, Aeliana Hallikainen and Knox Soper. “Her influence on film is indelible, but those who knew her best will remember the way she made life feel more vivid, more beautiful, more fun, and more full of love,” a family statement said. “Her work was known for its emotional intelligence, rhythm, and humanity — a rare ability to find the truth of a scene and bring heart, momentum, and clarity to the screen.”

- [House prosecutors' birthday gift to VP Sara: Due process](#) (2026-05-31 06:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' team of prosecutors on Sunday said it has a birthday gift for Vice President Sara Duterte: due process. Duterte was born on May 31, 1978 in Davao City. She is 48 years old. “Our gift to VP Sara is due process, the going through the steps of the process one by one so that she can properly answer any allegation against her,” Kabataan Rep. Renee Co, a House impeachment trial spokesman, said in Filipino and English in a radio interview. “So hopefully, she takes hold of and enjoys the birthday wish of due process,” Co said. Duterte has until tomorrow, June 1, to file her answer to the articles of impeachment sent by the House to the Senate. Meanwhile, the Office of the Vice President greeted Duterte on her birthday. “On the celebration of your birthday, the Office of the Vice President joins in paying tribute to your dedication to leadership and service to the Filipino people,” it said on Facebook. “May you continue to be blessed with good health, courage, and wisdom to advance the programs that bring positive change in the lives of our countrymen.”

- [Supreme Court grants legal separation petition of husband abused by ‘controlling wife’](#) (2026-05-31 06:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has ruled that conduct creating a hostile and intimidating home environment may constitute “grossly abusive conduct” under the Family Code and serve as ground for legal separation. In a decision written by Associate Justice Antonio Kho Jr., the court’s Second Division granted a husband’s petition for legal separation, finding that his wife’s actions fell under Article 55(1) of the Family Code, which covers repeated physical violence or grossly abusive conduct. The couple married in 2003 and have two children. During the marriage, the wife ran a small coffee business while the family faced financial strain. The husband pursued nursing studies with plans to work abroad, which did not materialize. He alleged a pattern of controlling behavior from his wife, including strict control of finances and refusal to provide support even for medical treatment such as a recommended root canal. He also claimed she made humiliating remarks in public, including a statement expressing anger over their lack of intimacy and a threat to “cut off his penis,” and that she spoke about him to relatives and friends in a way that distorted facts. The husband further cited her refusal to undergo counseling, restrictions on his social life, and alleged efforts to influence their children to pressure him financially. The Regional Trial Court granted legal separation, finding grossly

abusive conduct. The Court of Appeals reversed, ruling the disputes were ordinary marital conflicts. The high court disagreed. The Supreme Court said “grossly abusive conduct” is not defined in law and must be assessed case by case, based on the totality of evidence. It held that it may include actions that create a hostile and intimidating environment for a spouse or children. Applying this, the tribunal found that the wife’s conduct, taken together, created such an environment and that attempts at counseling and reconciliation failed. It also noted evidence of controlling behavior and found the husband’s decision to distance himself through reassignment justified. The SC granted legal separation and remanded the case to the RTC for liquidation of property and determination of custody and support.

- [VP Sara has until June 1 to submit answer to impeachment complaint](#) (2026-05-31 05:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte has until Monday, June 1 to file her answer to the Articles of Impeachment against her, Senate Secretary Jose Luis Montales said Sunday. In an advisory, Montales on Sunday said Duterte “may file her answer personally, through counsel, or through electronic mail” from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The impeachment articles against Duterte consist of four primary charges: misuse of public funds, unexplained wealth, bribery and corruption, and public threats. Montales said access to the Office of the Senate Secretary on the 6th floor where the answer will be received and processed will be “restricted to authorized officials of the Impeachment Court and members of the Vice President’s legal team.” “Should the Vice President or members of her legal team wish to address the media, they will be escorted to the Quezon and Tolentino [conference] rooms for any press briefing or media interaction,” he said. “For security and operational reasons, media access shall be limited to the second floor,” Montales said. The Senate Office of Senate Sergeant-at-Arms has been directed to ensure compliance with these guidelines, he added.

- [QC accepts applications for scholarship program](#) (2026-05-31 05:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayor Joy Belmonte on Sunday said that the local government now accepts applications for the Quezon City Scholarship Program (QCSP) for school year 2026-2027. Belmonte said eligible ‘QCitizens’ who are holders of QCitizen ID and who are not scholars of another local government may submit their scholarship applications through the QC eServices website until June 5. “In QC, we believe that education remains the strongest tool we can give our youth to achieve their dreams. Through the Quezon City Scholarship Program, we are not only supporting them financially, we are also shaping the nation’s future leaders and changemakers,” she said. Last year, the city government had 9,377 scholars under the program. College students comprised the largest number of beneficiaries at 93.84 percent, followed by vocational education students at 2.69 percent, senior high school students at 2.64 percent, and postgraduate scholars at 0.83 percent. Among tertiary-level scholars, 88.93 percent were from low-income families and marginalized sectors. Since 2019, the QCSP has supported a total of 50,165 students. A total of 15,108 have graduated and are now pursuing careers in various fields including education, engineering, business, healthcare, and information technology. “Every QC scholar represents a family given hope and a brighter future through

education. As we continue expanding this program, we remain committed to ensuring that no deserving student is left behind because of financial limitations,” Belmonte said.

- [PNP chief welcomes high survey rating](#) (2026-05-31 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. welcomed the result of the Boses ng Bayan Index of Governance survey conducted by RPMD Foundation Inc. where he was among the highest ranked officials. The survey, conducted from April 1 to 8, 2026 among 5,000 respondents nationwide, showed that Nartatez garnered a 78.8% Index of Governance score, supported by a 78.5% trust rating and a 79.1% performance rating. Nartatez said the recognition belongs to every police officer who continues to serve with dedication and professionalism. “We are grateful for the trust and confidence of our fellow Filipinos. This recognition is not for one person alone but for the men and women of the PNP who work tirelessly every day to keep our communities safe,” Nartatez said in a statement. “This is a big inspiration for us to continue our mission,” he said. He added that the PNP remains committed to earning and sustaining public trust through integrity, accountability, and responsive policing. “We will continue to strengthen our ties with the community and we will make sure that all actions of the PNP are for the welfare of the community. Public trust is our most valuable asset, and we will continue working hard to deserve it,” Nartatez said.

- [Typhoon Domeng to bring more rain](#) (2026-05-31 04:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Domeng is expected to bring more rain as it continues to move north-northwestward over the sea east of Batanes with maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 150 kph, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Sunday. Weather specialist Veronica Torres said the typhoon’s trough or extension has been bringing overcast skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms in Central Luzon, Cagayan, and Isabela. “Domeng will continue to intensify until it reaches its peak intensity. Afterwards, it will steadily weaken but will remain as a typhoon throughout the forecast period,” Torres said. Typhoon Domeng is expected to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Monday afternoon. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon locally known as habagat will prevail in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon, Bicol Region, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan, Western Visayas, Negros Island Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms will prevail. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

- [Visayas grid placed on yellow alert due to plant outages](#) (2026-05-31 03:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) placed the Visayas grid under yellow alert on Sunday as several power plants remained unavailable. In an advisory, NGCP said the yellow alert would be in effect from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A yellow alert is issued when the operating margin is insufficient to meet the transmission grid’s contingency requirement, indicating that power reserves have thinned but that supply remains adequate to meet

consumer demand. Available capacity in the Visayas grid was projected at 2,573 megawatts (MW) against an expected peak demand of 2,327 MW. NGCP said 22 power plants were unavailable due to outages, while 12 others were operating at reduced capacity, resulting in 959.05 MW of unavailable capacity. Of the plants on outage, 13 have been on forced outage since May, one since March, three since 2025, two since 2024, two since 2023 and one since 2021. The grid operator attributed the yellow alert primarily to the unavailability of several large coal-fired power plants in the Visayas, namely Therma Visayas Inc. Units 1 and 2, Panay Energy Development Corp. Unit 3, and KEPCO SPC Power Corp. Unit 2. NGCP did not announce any rotational power interruption, but advised stakeholders to monitor further updates on grid conditions.

- [Water interruptions set in Metro Manila, Cavite areas](#) (2026-05-31 02:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas of Metro Manila and Cavite will have water service interruptions and low water pressure this week as Manila Water Company, Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. conduct maintenance and network improvement activities. Manila Water said several areas in Quezon City, Pasig and Manila will be affected by service interruptions from June 1 to June 5 due to line maintenance and valve installation works. Among the affected areas are UP Professors Subdivision, Tierra Verde 1 and portions of Matandang Balara in Quezon City, which will experience service interruptions from 10 p.m. on June 1 until 4 a.m. the following day. On June 2, portions of Barangay Pinagbuhatan in Pasig City and Barangay Culiati in Quezon City will have water interruptions from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. due to line maintenance and valve installation activities. Several communities in Manila, including portions of Oro-B, L. Garcia and barangay 770, 773, 774, 775, 778, 779, 784 and 899, will likewise be affected by maintenance work during the same period. Meanwhile, residents of Barangay Bungad and Paltok in Quezon City will have service interruptions from 10 p.m. on June 4 until 4 a.m. on June 5 as Manila Water undertakes line maintenance along West Avenue. Maynilad meanwhile scheduled water service interruptions and pressure reductions from June 1 to June 7 as it carries out leak exploration, network maintenance and other system improvement works. In Metro Manila, portions of Caloocan City and Manila will have reduced water service from midnight to 3 a.m. between June 1 and June 7 while leak exploration activities are conducted along Rizal Avenue and in several areas in Tondo. A separate network maintenance activity in Valenzuela City will affect portions of Barangay Gen. T. de Leon and Parada from 12:01 a.m. to 4 a.m. on June 1. In Cavite, numerous villages in Imus City will have low water pressure or service interruptions from June 1 to June 4 due to high water demand affecting operations at the Patindig Araw Pumping Station. Affected communities include portions of Anabu, Tandang Luma, Malagasang, Bukandala, Bayan Luma, Carsadang Bago, Alapan, Medicion and Poblacion villages. The two water concessionaires advised customers in affected areas to store enough supply ahead of the scheduled activities.

- [Metro Manila, three provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works](#) (2026-05-31 01:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite will have power interruptions from May 31 to June 6 to facilitate maintenance, upgrading and reconstruction work, Meralco said on Sunday. In Bulacan, power interruptions are set on May 31 in portions of Meycauayan City and Marilao from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to allow line reconductoring, pole replacement and relocation work. Areas in Bocaue and Balagtas, including the Intercity Rice Millers Industrial Compound, will also have outages from noon to 5 p.m. for line maintenance activities. In Metro Manila, portions of Mandaluyong City's Old Zañiga and Vergara villages will be affected by a five-hour outage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 31 due to line reconstruction, reconductoring and facility conversion work. Parts of Malate, Manila, and nearby areas in Pasay City will likewise have a power interruption from 9:30 a.m. to noon on May 31. Affected locations include sections of A. Mabini Avenue, San Andres Street, Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street and Leveriza Street. Meralco said the outage is necessary for line reconstruction work along A. Mabini Avenue. Meanwhile, portions of Pasig City, Mandaluyong City and Taguig City will have overnight outages from June 2 to June 3 as Meralco upgrades facilities along Pioneer Street near Reliance Street in Mandaluyong. The interruptions will affect parts of Barangay Kapitolyo in Pasig, Barangay Highway Hills in Mandaluyong and Barangay Cembo in Taguig. In Rizal province, portions of Filinvest East Homes in Antipolo City and nearby subdivisions in Cainta will be without power from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 3 for pole replacement and line reconductoring work. Residents and businesses in Barangay Hagonoy, Taguig City, will also be affected by an outage on June 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as Meralco replaces poles and reconductors lines in Bay Breeze Executive Village. On the same day, parts of Barangay Culiati and Pasong Tamo in Quezon City will have power interruptions from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to facilitate replacement of facilities and line reconductoring work along Teodoro M. Kalaw Street. Meanwhile, several areas in Bacoor City, Cavite, and portions of Las Piñas City will have power interruptions from June 5 to June 6 due to a series of line reconstruction projects in Soldiers Hills IV, Green Valley Subdivision, Moonwalk Village and nearby communities.

- [Typhoon Domeng less likely to make landfall, to exit PAR Monday —Pagasa \(2026-05-30 23:13\)](#)

MANILA, Philippines – Typhoon Domeng is less likely to make landfall as it was forecast to exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) by Monday afternoon, according to the state-run weather agency. At present, Domeng is moving north-northwestward over the sea east of Batanes with maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 150kph, weather specialist Veronica Torres said. In its 5 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the hoisting of any wind signal over extreme Northern Luzon is also less likely. Domeng's trough or extension has already been bringing overcast skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Central Luzon, Cagayan, and Isabela. “Domeng will continue to intensify until it reaches its peak intensity. Afterwards, it will steadily weaken but will remain as a typhoon throughout the forecast period,” Torres said. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon, locally known as habagat, has been affecting Metro Manila, CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon),

Bicol Region, MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan), Western Visayas, Negros Island Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, and BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) where cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms would prevail. The rest of the country would have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms, the state weather bureau Pagasa said.

- [2 defections could tip Senate power balance](#) (2026-05-30 16:12)

TWO senators from the majority bloc may be ready to switch sides soon to unseat Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano and spark another major shakeup in the upper chamber, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said over the weekend. Lacson did not identify the lawmakers but said there were indications that some members of the majority were reconsidering their political alignment amid ongoing tensions within the Senate. His remarks come at a time of heightened political maneuvering and instability in the chamber, which prepares to convene as an impeachment court for the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. While Lacson suggested that two senators had expressed their intent to break away from the majority bloc, he stopped short of naming them, saying that discussions remain fluid and no formal defections have been confirmed. The lack of specifics has led to widespread speculation in political circles, but no senator has publicly confirmed any intention to transfer to the minority bloc or withdraw support from Cayetano's leadership. Numbers remain tight: Cayetano was elected Senate president with the support of 13 senators, while nine backed then-Senate president Vicente Sotto III, and two abstained during the leadership vote. The two abstainers have since joined the minority bloc, leading to a slim margin vulnerable to shifts in allegiance, where even a small number of defections could alter the chamber's leadership balance. Political observers note that if two majority senators were to align with the minority bloc, it could significantly weaken Cayetano's position and potentially trigger another leadership challenge. Positioning The Senate minority has been actively consolidating its ranks, with several senators advocating for a more unified opposition stance on key issues, including Senate rules and impeachment procedures. Discussions have also circulated about possible compromise leadership arrangements should a vacancy arise, though no formal agreement has been reached among minority members. The reported political maneuvering comes as the Senate prepares for Duterte's impeachment trial, a process expected to test the chamber's internal cohesion. Some lawmakers have raised concerns that proposed changes to Senate rules, including allowing absent senators to vote electronically, could influence the dynamics of the trial, though supporters of the majority bloc have denied any intent to affect the outcome of the proceedings. Fluid political landscape Despite growing speculation, no verified confirmation has emerged regarding any planned defections, and Senate leadership continues to operate under Cayetano's majority coalition. Political analysts say the situation underscores the fluid nature of Senate alliances, where shifting coalitions are not uncommon, particularly during high-stakes legislative and constitutional processes. As the impeachment trial approaches, attention remains focused not only on the proceedings themselves but also on whether the current balance of power in the Senate will hold.

- [US, PH Coast Guard boats near Scarborough Shoal](#) (2026-05-30 16:10)

THE United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) were reported to have carried out what appears to be the first publicly tracked joint maritime presence operation near Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), amid continuing tensions in the West Philippine Sea. The operation, based on data cited in maritime monitoring reports from US-based transparency group SeaLight and referenced by Starboard Intel, showed the USCG cutter Midgett departing Manila Bay on May 28 alongside the PCG cutter BRP Melchora Aquino. The vessels were later tracked, positioning themselves on the western approaches to Bajo de Masinloc beginning May 29, maintaining an estimated distance of 35 to 40 nautical miles from the shoal. The reported joint presence comes amid overlapping maritime activity involving other Philippine government vessels. The PCG patrol vessel BRP Cabra and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessel BRP Datu Pagbuaya were also observed operating in the broader area. The BFAR vessel was later seen returning toward Manila Bay while being closely shadowed by China Coast Guard vessel CCG 21563, based on AIS data cited in the same reports. Other Philippine assets were believed to be operating in the vicinity but were not broadcasting Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals, leaving their positions unconfirmed in publicly available tracking data. On the opposing side, AIS tracking reportedly showed a layered Chinese maritime deployment around Scarborough Shoal. At least nine China Coast Guard vessels were identified forming an outer perimeter approximately 20 to 40 nautical miles from the shoal, while at least seven larger maritime militia vessels were observed forming an inner cordon closer in, between roughly 5 and 17 nautical miles. The reports also noted the possible presence of additional People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels in the area that were not visible on AIS. These naval assets have historically operated in the background of similar standoffs but typically do not broadcast their positions. Maritime observers cited in the report described the reported US Coast Guard participation alongside Philippine Coast Guard vessels as a significant development in alliance activity in the West Philippine Sea, given the proximity of operations to Scarborough Shoal, a long-standing flashpoint between Manila and Beijing. Bajo de Masinloc remains under de facto control of China through coast guard and maritime militia deployments, while the Philippines continues to assert its claims over the feature and maintain regular patrols and civilian support operations in surrounding waters, particularly through the BFAR. Maritime monitoring groups emphasized that vessel positioning and AIS patterns suggest a coordinated multi-asset presence involving US, Philippine, and Chinese maritime forces operating in close proximity. However, the reports noted that no official statements confirming the tactical objectives of the operation have been released. The situation remains fluid, with vessel movements subject to change and not fully verifiable beyond publicly available tracking data referenced in the initial maritime monitoring reports. Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said the Philippine government is monitoring what he described as “raw information” regarding possible new structures in Bajo de Masinloc, stressing that developments in the area are being closely watched amid its strategic sensitivity. “There is raw information. Actually, I am saying that Bajo de Masinloc is a dynamic area, so although developments are still small, these are already being monitored,” Teodoro said on Saturday. Teodoro said the information being received has not yet been fully validated but is being treated seriously given the importance of the West Philippine Sea. His remarks come amid

continued Philippine surveillance of activity around Scarborough Shoal, where maritime tensions have persisted for years. Earlier assessments by Philippine maritime authorities have consistently reported the presence of Chinese coast guard and maritime militia vessels in surrounding waters, while noting that no confirmed new permanent structures have been established on the shoal in recent monitoring updates. Defense and security officials have previously clarified that periodic reports of suspected installations or unusual features in the area remain subject to verification and continuous surveillance. Teodoro did not provide further details on the reported “raw information,” but said even small-scale developments in the area are being closely tracked as part of ongoing maritime domain awareness efforts.

- [Ramp up military spending, Hegseth urges Asian allies](#) (2026-05-30 16:09)

(UPDATE) US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday urged Asian allies to ramp up military spending to counter China’s growing power and prevent its dominance in the region, warning of “rightful alarm” over its rapid military buildup. Hegseth, speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Asia’s premier forum for defense leaders, militaries and diplomats, said a stronger, more self-reliant network of allies is essential to deter aggression and preserve the balance of power. “There is rightful alarm regarding China’s historic military buildup and the expansion of its military activities in the region and beyond,” he said. “A Pacific dominated by any hegemon would unravel the regional balance of power,” Hegseth said. “No state, including China, can impose its hegemony and hold the security or prosperity of our nation and our allies in question.” The US expects its Asian allies and partners to increase defense spending to 3.5 percent of GDP, as it pledged a \$1.5 trillion investment in its military, the Pentagon chief said. “Less Shangri-La, more ships, more subs,” Hegseth said, and stressed that allies want stability, not escalation. “What they want, and what the United States delivers, is strength that is disciplined, resolve that is steady, and leadership that is confident enough to speak and walk softly while carrying a big stick.” Hegseth also struck a measured tone on US-China ties, saying relations are “better than they have been in many years,” with more frequent military-to-military engagement helping to manage tensions. “We are meeting more frequently with our Chinese counterparts by maintaining open lines of military-to-military communication.” Zhou Bo, a senior fellow at Tsinghua University and retired People’s Liberation Army senior colonel who was part of the Chinese delegation, described US-China relations as “complicated.” Nonetheless, he said Hegseth struck “a much better tone” this year than last, attributing the shift to Trump’s visit to China. “Both sides have open channels of communication; the situation is not as exaggerated as the outside world makes it out to be,” Zhou said. China, whose defense minister is skipping the dialogue for a second consecutive year, accused Hegseth last year of making “vilifying” remarks. No freeloading Hegseth echoed President Donald Trump’s long-standing demand that allies shoulder more of their own defense costs. Trump has pointedly said European and NATO partners should reduce reliance on Washington. “The era of the United States subsidizing the defense of wealthy nations is over,” Hegseth said. “We need partners, not protectorates,” he added. “We don’t have a strong alliance unless everyone has skin in the game. No freeloading.” Hegseth praised

contributions from allies, including South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, and said Japan was taking concrete steps to bolster its defenses. Tokyo and Washington “must each pull our weight to strengthen the US-Japan alliance,” he said. Ready to restart strikes on Iran On the Middle East conflict, Hegseth said the United States stands ready to resume strikes on Iran if diplomacy fails, as negotiators from Washington and Tehran work to bridge major differences blocking a deal. “Our ability to recommence if necessary... we are more than capable,” Hegseth said. He added that Trump remains “patient” and is seeking a “strong deal” to ensure Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon. Trump said on Friday he would convene advisers in a secure White House setting to make a “final determination” on a proposal to end the Iran war. Hegseth also pushed back on concerns that the conflict would distract from Asia-Pacific priorities. “We can do two things at one time.” Vibe shift Hegseth’s remarks contrasted sharply with last year’s event, when Hegseth painted China as a potentially “imminent” threat to security and outlined a swaggering vision of muscular American deterrence. He also took potshots at Beijing’s absent minister last year, saying: “We are here this morning, and somebody else isn’t.” Chinese delegate Da Wei, director of the Center for International Security and Strategy at Beijing’s Tsinghua University, said this year’s address was “much more moderate.” However, he found Hegseth’s depiction of China “ironic,” adding: “Everyone in the room must have been thinking: who is really hegemonic? “Given what the US is doing in Iran and has done in Venezuela, I think it’s clear to everyone,” Da said. US delegate Tammy Duckworth, a Democratic senator and strong Trump critic, said she was “somewhat disturbed” by Hegseth’s remarks, viewing them as overly conciliatory toward China. “I worry that this administration is being distracted into wars that they’ve started in other parts of the world at the expense of our commitment here in the Indo-Pacific,” she told reporters. Instead of Dong, China has sent experts and scholars from its army’s academic institutions, led by Major General Meng Xiangqing of the National Defense University. Analysts have said Dong’s no-show reflects Beijing’s confidence as an established power with little inclination to answer publicly for its assertive moves in the region. But some argue that China is also running the risk of having no senior policymaker present if two major security issues come up: reopening the Strait of Hormuz and Beijing’s claim to Taiwan.

- [BSP projects May inflation at 7.1% to 7.9%](#) (2026-05-30 16:09)

THE country’s headline inflation could reach 7.1 percent to 7.9 percent in May due to price increases in key food commodities and the weakening of the peso against the US dollar, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Saturday. In a statement, the BSP said the higher prices of rice, vegetables and meat contributed to the upside risks to inflation during the month. The central bank said that a weaker local currency also added to inflationary pressures. These factors, it said, were expected to exert significant pressure on consumer prices. “The BSP projects May 2026 inflation to settle within the range of 7.1 to 7.9 percent. Upside price pressures were driven by rising prices for rice, vegetables, and meat, as well as the depreciation of the peso,” the BSP said in its month-ahead inflation forecast. Several factors helped temper the increase in prices, however, the BSP said. “The recent rollbacks in domestic fuel prices,

lower prices for fish, and slightly lower electricity rates partially offset the prevailing upside price pressures,” it said. Headline inflation accelerated to 7.2 percent in April from 4.1 percent in March. The April inflation data exceeded the BSP’s forecast range of 5.6 percent to 6.4 percent for the month. The increase was primarily driven by faster increases in food and transport costs, reflecting the impact of the global oil volatility triggered by the war in the Middle East.

- [Bantay Senado to watch over impeachment trial](#) (2026-05-30 16:08)

BANTAY Senado will monitor and explain the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. “This will be the first impeachment trial when social media and generative artificial intelligence are already dominant,” Team Pinas Executive Director Carlo Flores said in Filipino and English in the Saturday News Forum. He said disinformation was made easy by artificial intelligence. “Our volunteer influencers, guided by ... our volunteer legal team, will explain what happened in the process, why it is important, how we will weigh the evidence. ... We will give unbiased analysis grounded in law and that will be communicated either in English, Tagalog — if you want, Young Stunna or Geng Geng — so that ... our countrymen will understand,” he said. The House of Representatives, voting 257-25 with nine abstentions, impeached Duterte on May 11, 2026, over alleged misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth allegedly amassed, alleged bribery, and her statement that she had arranged to have President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. killed if something happened to her. The House sent the articles of impeachment to the Senate on May 13. Duterte has a June 1, 2026 deadline to file her answer to the impeachment articles. Her defense team has said it will comply. Duterte denied the allegations in the two complaints heard by the House Committee on Justice, which found probable cause to impeach her. One of the biggest challenges for the House’s impeachment prosecutors was fake news, Iloilo 3rd District Rep. Lorenz Defensor said in a press conference on May 19, 2026. “One of the biggest challenges that we face is fake news, trolls who disseminate false news, who are drilling wrong evidence in the minds of our countrymen,” Defensor said in Filipino and English. Responding to another query earlier in the same press conference, Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the chairman of the House Committee on Justice and the House’s lead public prosecutor for the impeachment trial, said, “Evidence and public opinion are very much intertwined. If you will be able to present strong evidence, ... you will be able to get a favorable public opinion.” Aside from Luistro and Defensor, the following were also part of the House’s team of public prosecutors for the impeachment trial: Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon, 1-Rider Rep. Ramon Rodrigo Gutierrez, San Juan City Rep. Ysabel Maria Zamora, Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel Diokno, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, Dinagat Islands Rep. Arlene Bag-ao, Bukidnon 2nd District Rep. Jonathan Keith Flores, Cagayan de Oro 1st District Rep. Lordan Suan, and Manila 3rd District Rep. Joel Chua. The articles of impeachment seek Duterte’s removal from office and a lifetime ban from any government position. “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.

- [ICC eyes streamlined trial](#) (2026-05-30 16:07)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) has encouraged both the prosecution and defense in the case involving former president Rodrigo Duterte to continue exploring agreements on “agreed facts,” describing it as an efficient way to present evidence and reduce the need for lengthy courtroom testimony. During the first status conference, judges said Rule 68-3 could serve as a “good way of getting the evidence in,” and urged both sides to further identify areas where facts could be formally agreed instead of being fully litigated through witnesses and documents. Rule 68-3 allows the court to accept certain facts as proven when both parties agree, subject to the chamber’ s approval, without requiring full examination in court. The

mechanism is intended to streamline proceedings by avoiding the need to prove undisputed matters. The chamber noted that many elements of the case may already be part of the public record, making them suitable for possible agreement between the prosecution and defense. Judges said continued discussions on agreed facts could help narrow the trial to contested issues while maintaining efficiency in the proceedings. Victims' legal representatives, however, asked the court to ensure they are informed of any agreed facts so they can assess whether these may affect the interests of victims. They cited past ICC practice and argued that notification would allow them to respond within a short period if necessary. The chamber acknowledged the importance of victims' participation but stressed that agreed facts are primarily negotiated between the prosecution and defense. Judges said it is ultimately for the court to decide whether such facts may be accepted, or whether a more complete presentation is required in the interest of justice. At the same time, the court cautioned against any process that could delay or disrupt agreements reached between the parties, stressing the importance of maintaining efficiency as the case progresses.

New incidents The status conference also tackled the possibility of adding new incidents to the case, an issue previously left open by the pre-trial chamber, prompting discussion on how far the scope of the proceedings could extend. Judges said they would set a deadline for any request to include additional incidents, linking it to the broader disclosure schedule. They noted that any expansion must remain structured to ensure the trial does not become unmanageable. The prosecution said it planned to propose a cutoff by the end of August 2026 for adding new incidents and indicated that any additions would be limited in number. It said these were being considered in a "conservative" manner and would remain consistent with the existing theory of the case, often linked to current witnesses or newly received material. Defense counsel, however, raised concerns over what they described as an overly broad framing of incidents, warning that the case could expand into a wide-ranging inquiry if not properly limited. They argued that the trial must remain manageable and clearly defined, pointing out the need for certainty in the parameters of the charges. The prosecution maintained that any additional incidents would not significantly alter the structure of the case, while judges said they would provide clearer parameters once formal proposals are submitted.

Trial Chamber III noted that the pre-trial chamber had intentionally left the issue open, and said it would ensure the trial proceeds in an orderly and efficient manner once the scope is clarified.

Disclosure, witness timelines The ICC also discussed disclosure arrangements, saying that evidence disclosure will continue on a rolling basis under previously agreed deadlines. The court stressed that all parties must comply with set timelines, and any request for delayed disclosure must be supported by formal applications and justified reasons. On witness-related matters, the prosecution said it was working toward disclosing the identities of all witnesses by September 2026, including any newly proposed witnesses. It added that any requests to delay disclosure of identities would be subject to formal motions. Judges emphasized that witness protection measures and confidentiality requests should be filed as early as possible to avoid delays, and said any further updates on sensitive matters could be addressed in private session if necessary.

- [DOTr to intensify enforcement of road safety laws amid rising pedestrian fatalities](#) (2026-05-30 16:06)

THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) said it would intensify enforcement of road safety laws nationwide amid a growing number of road crash fatalities involving pedestrians and cyclists. Transportation Senior Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Mark Steven Pastor said road safety remains an urgent concern that requires a coordinated response from government agencies. "One life lost is too much. We need to stop it," Pastor said at the 2026 Road Safety Summit earlier this week. He added that the DOTr, together with the Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, is implementing measures under the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan (PRSAP) 2023–2028, which include a review of the driver's licensing system to ensure that only qualified and responsible motorists are allowed to operate vehicles, as well as stricter enforcement of safety and maintenance standards for public utility vehicles. Pastor said the agency is working with lawmakers to secure legislative backing and adequate funding for road safety programs. "We have also worked to obtain legislative support from our partners in the Senate and the House of Representatives so that road safety-related policies will receive sufficient funding and be properly implemented," he said. The PRSAP 2023–2028 serves as the country's road map for improving road safety and aligns with the Global Plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety. The plan is anchored on five pillars: road safety management, safer roads, safer vehicles, safer road users and post-crash response. LTO Assistant Secretary Markus Lacanilao said the agency has already adopted stricter enforcement measures and expanded digitalization initiatives to improve monitoring, compliance and accountability in the transport sector. "We will continue to strengthen our road safety initiatives through sustained enforcement operations, intensified anti-corruption and anti-road rage efforts, and stronger action against reckless and dangerous driving," Lacanilao said. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) reaffirmed its support for the Philippines' road safety initiatives. WHO Representative to the Philippines Dr. Eunyoung Ko said the United Nations and WHO remain committed to assisting the government and its partners in promoting safer, healthier, more inclusive and sustainable mobility systems. "The United Nations system and WHO remain committed to supporting the Government of the Philippines and all partners in addressing safer, healthier, more inclusive and more sustainable mobility systems for all," Ko said. The summit brought together government officials, transport stakeholders and road safety advocates to discuss strategies for reducing traffic-related deaths and injuries across the country.

- [Angara: Global scholarships to boost competency of public school teachers](#) (2026-05-30 16:05)

EDUCATION Secretary Sonny Angara said it is crucial to expose public school teachers to global teaching standards to improve their competencies. "We must continually equip our teachers with global perspectives so they can bring innovative practices back to our local classrooms," Angara said. "These international scholarships and exchanges are not just rewards for exemplary service, but necessary investments in the future of our learners," he added. In

relation to the objective, the Department of Education (DepEd) held the Teacher Beyond Borders: Global Scholarships and Exchange Fair on Friday at the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology in Quezon City.” President [Ferdinand] ‘Bongbong’ Marcos [Jr.] has always prioritized the global competitiveness of our labor force, and empowering our teachers is the first step toward achieving that goal,” Angara said in a statement on Thursday.” Through international cooperation programs like this, we are able to equip our instructional leaders with world-class competencies that directly benefit our learners,” he added. The event, the DepEd said, addressed long-standing fragmented access to information by serving as a centralized, one-stop platform where educators could easily navigate application processes, eligibility requirements and necessary documentation. Discussed during the event was the personal and professional growth experienced by Filipino teachers who took part in the Korea-Philippines Teacher Exchange Program. The initiative was a joint project of the DepEd and South Korea’s Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Center of Education for International Understanding. One of those mentioned was Raleigh Ojanola, a master teacher from Koronadal National Comprehensive Senior High School.” The experience opened a lot of realizations,” Ojanola said. “The more I witnessed the Korean educational system, the more I realized that I need to go back to serve my community and to continue to enlighten our learners so that they, too, can become successful,” he added. Ojanola is an envoy representing Mindanao’s cultures as he is immersed in Korean traditions, the DepEd said. Ojanola said he channeled his insights into the Tulong Literacy para sa Akademikong Yaman project, a specialized reading intervention program that integrates Global Citizenship Education concepts into localized reading materials. Meanwhile, Kristine Cruz, a master teacher from Malabon National High School, said she returned from her 2024 deployment with a renewed vision for her community.

- [GK founder Meloto arrested over sex trafficking charges](#) (2026-05-30 16:04)

GAWAD Kalinga (GK) founder Tony Meloto was arrested on Friday night on sex trafficking charges based on complaints first filed last year by two male students who said they were subjected to repeated sexual abuse and unwanted physical advances. Meloto has denied the accusations. In a statement late on Friday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said an operation was conducted in Angat, Bulacan, to arrest Meloto, who was informed of his rights. Meloto was served a warrant of arrest for two counts of qualified trafficking from a regional trial court in Malolos City. No bail was recommended. PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. acknowledged the operating units for their “orderly and lawful implementation of the operation.” “We will not allow any form of human trafficking to go unchecked because lives, human dignity and people’s futures are at stake. We will continue to focus on cases like this while also ensuring that every operation of the Philippine National Police is carried out with respect for human rights and in accordance with the law,” he said in Filipino. In September 2025, the Department of Justice (DOJ) ordered the filing of criminal charges against Meloto for two counts of trafficking in persons after two boys from Gawad Kalinga’s School for Experiential and Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) program accused him of sexual

misconduct. Gawad Kalinga is a nongovernment organization that seeks to reduce poverty, building master-planned communities to relocate slum residents and disaster victims. Rather than just providing free housing, the organization requires residents to contribute sweat equity and runs programs centered on community farming, basic education and local health clinics. As of Saturday, the organization has yet to issue a statement on Meloto's arrest. According to archived pages of the grassroots organization's website, Meloto was born on Jan. 17, 1950, in Bacolod City to a middle-class family. "At a young age, he was already exposed to the squalid living conditions of the poor, his home being near a shoreline squatter community where poverty was already very pronounced," the website said. Meloto was an American Field Service scholar and also took senior high school in De Anza High School in Richmond, California. He qualified as a full academic scholar of the Ateneo de Manila University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics in 1971. "His college years were dedicated to preparing for a career that would take him and his family out of the poverty of his past," Gawad Kalinga's profile of Meloto read. Meloto was offered a position as the purchasing manager of Procter & Gamble and also built his own life being an entrepreneur, it added. "It was in 1985 that Tito Tony's life took a different path that eventually led him to the inspiring work of Gawad Kalinga. He became an active member of Couples for Christ (CFC) and quickly rose in leadership, becoming instrumental in the setting up of the CFC Family Ministries in 1993. This expanded the reach of the mission beyond couples, to include children, youth and young professionals," Meloto's profile read. Meloto was CFC's country coordinator for Australia when he felt the call "to start the work with the poor through a youth development program for gang members and juvenile delinquents in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City." "Since it began in 1995, the program has now evolved to become Gawad Kalinga, a global movement that builds integrated, holistic and sustainable communities in slum areas," the organization said. In 2006, Meloto was a Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Community Leadership. In 2015, Meloto drew fire after saying at the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa that the "greatest asset of the Philippines is our beautiful women" and urged them to produce "cappuccino" children with white husbands. "First time to be called 'sexist and elitist' after 20 years of honoring our women and caring for the poor, after hundreds of speeches here and abroad," Meloto said on his Twitter account at the time. "This is the first I've been called such, and it hurts, because I've always worked for the protection of women and children from domestic abuse and societal discrimination. In fact, GK has been strict in the discipline of men through values formation and GK village rules that do not tolerate habitual drunkenness, drugs, gambling, and domestic and community violence. Our women are not the problem — Filipino women are our biggest blessing because of their caring and nurturing nature. But if men are the problem — our criminals are mostly men — we should not give up on them but instead help reform them and make them part of the solution," he said in an official statement issued by the organization. Then in 2025, the DOJ indicted Meloto for two counts of trafficking in persons after two boys from Gawad Kalinga's SEED complained against him. The boys said that in several incidents dating from 2017, Meloto would regularly abuse them sexually "against their will." "The pattern of respondent Meloto's behavior demonstrates not isolated acts of sexual misconduct or lascivious acts but a structured system

of sexual exploitation, facilitated by organizational hierarchy and deception, he being the founder of Gawad Kalinga and the leader of SEED,” the DOJ said in its resolution filed against Meloto. Meloto’s name has since been removed from Gawad Kalinga’s website and also the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, following his indictment.

- [Pagasa declares start of rainy season](#) (2026-05-30 16:04)

(UPDATE) THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Saturday declared the onset of the southwest monsoon (habagat), characterized by warm, humid winds blowing from the southwest, signaling the start of the rainy season in the country. In a statement, Pagasa said rain could continue because of the influence of Tropical Cyclone Domeng over the eastern Philippine Sea. “With the intrusion of westerly winds and the progression of the general meteorological pattern across the country, these developments suggest the start of the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat), which is one of the precursors of the onset of the rainy season,” the weather bureau said. “As the Habagat becomes a more dominant weather system, occasional to frequent rains and thunderstorms are expected, particularly over the western sections of the country. This may lead to the possible onset of the rainy season in the coming days,” it added. Pagasa also said that rain breaks, or “monsoon breaks,” may occur for days, if not weeks. “Pagasa will continue to monitor the weather and climate situation in the country. The public and all concerned agencies are advised to take precautionary measures against the adverse impacts of habagat and other climate and weather events,” the weather bureau said. At 2 p.m. on Saturday, Domeng intensified into a typhoon, but it is still unlikely to make landfall, according to Pagasa. “Typhoon Domeng is forecast to move north-northwestward until [Sunday] before recurving toward southern Japan for the remaining forecast period. This tropical cyclone is less likely to make landfall over the country,” Pagasa said in its 5 p.m. weather bulletin on Saturday. Also, Pagasa said that Domeng will exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility on Monday. “Domeng will continue to intensify until it reaches its peak intensity on Monday while remaining over the Philippine Sea. Then, it will steadily weaken but remain as a typhoon throughout the rest of the forecast period,” it said. Domeng is unlikely to make landfall, and no wind signal is in effect across the country, Pagasa said.

- [Drilon Urges Senate to Focus on Absentee Voting Issues, Not Personal Attacks](#) (2026-05-30 16:03)

FORMER Senate president Franklin Drilon said Saturday that the Senate should tackle real issues like the proposed absentee voting amendment and its impact rather than personal attacks. Drilon said that it is crucial to determine whether senators should be allowed to vote even when they are not physically present in the session hall. “The only issue is whether absentee voting should be allowed,” Drilon said. “This proposed amendment has many implications and deserves careful debate,” he said in a radio interview. Drilon said critics of the proposal believe the measure could affect the conduct of an impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, particularly in situations requiring crucial votes on subpoenas and

evidence gathering. He noted that questions have been raised about whether the amendment is being pushed in anticipation of future impeachment proceedings, where obtaining the required number of votes could prove decisive. "If certain motions require 13 votes and those numbers are not available, then absentee voting could change the dynamics of the proceedings," Drilon said. "That is the issue that should be discussed." Drilon lamented that the debate had shifted away from policy and procedural concerns and had instead become personal. "The debate became personal, and that is unfortunate," he said. "During my time in the Senate, debates were intense. We often disagreed, but we did not fight. After the debates, we remained colleagues." Drilon criticized remarks questioning a senator's educational attainment or legal background, saying such arguments are irrelevant to the issue at hand. "You cannot underestimate a senator simply because he or she is not a lawyer," Drilon said. He cited the role of Sen. Risa Hontiveros in exposing the "pastillas" immigration bribery scheme, as well as leading investigations on former Bamban Mayor Alice Guo's involvement in illegal POGOs. "Public office should be used to uncover the truth, not to hide it," he said. "Capability should be measured by performance and public service, not by academic credentials alone." Drilon defended the actions of senators who opposed moving forward with discussions on the proposed amendment by raising quorum issues. He said the use of quorum calls, adjournment motions, and other procedural tools is a legitimate parliamentary practice recognized in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. "When there is a major disagreement, the minority has the right to use the rules available to it," he said. "If the majority cannot produce the necessary quorum, then proceedings cannot continue. There is nothing improper about that." Drilon said that such tactics have long been employed in legislative bodies when opposing sides are unable to reach a consensus on contentious measures. "What matters is the substance of the proposal and its consequences for the Senate and the country," Drilon said. "The debate should be based on facts, law, and policy — not personalities."

• [6 Filipino scientists among Asia's top 100 researchers in 2026](#) (2026-05-30 16:03)

(UPDATE) SIX Filipino scientists and innovators were listed among Asia Scientist Magazine's top 100 researchers for 2026. The Asian Scientist 100 list, now on its eighth edition, was launched in 2016 to honor 100 prize-winning scientists, academicians, innovators and business leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region. An honoree must have received a national or international prize in the preceding year for his/her research, or have made a significant scientific discovery or provided leadership in academia or industry. The Filipinos recognized were Romulo Davide and Marcela Navasero of the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños; Mary Donnabelle Balela and Aurelio De Los Reyes V of UP Diliman; Garry Benico of the Central Luzon State University; and May Anne Mata of UP Mindanao. Davide, who was named the 44th National Scientist of the Philippines in 2024, is renowned for his pioneering work in plant pathology and nematology, particularly his research on plant-parasitic nematodes. Dubbed the "Father of Philippine Nematology," he also founded the Farmer-Scientist Training Program, which has empowered about 70,000 Filipino farmers nationwide. Navasera, who was earlier conferred the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, meanwhile, is recognized for her leadership in

natural pest control and agricultural biosecurity. In its 2026 list, *The Asian Scientist* cited her role in “strengthening long-term, cost-effective pest management systems that safeguard national food security” through her work as part of the National Crop Protection Center’s Quick Response Team. Balela, on the other hand, was recognized with the Outstanding Research and Development Award for developing modular Kapok booms for marine oil spills at the 2024 Department of Science and Technology, National Science and Technology Week (NSTW). Her work uses biodegradable, locally sourced Kapok fibers to create reusable oil sorbents that absorb several times their weight in oil, offering a sustainable, low-waste solution for oil spill mitigation and marine environmental protection. Reyes, recognized with the 2024 NSTW Outstanding Research and Development Award, was honored for his mathematical modeling of optimal contraception dosing strategies to improve reproductive health. He was also named the 2025 National Research Council of the Philippines Achievement Awardee for Mathematical Sciences. Benico, a leading expert in aquatic biosciences, was named a 2025 Outstanding Young Scientist by the National Academy of Science and Technology for his research on the taxonomy and diversity of harmful microalgae in the Philippines. He is currently active in efforts to build the capacity of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for red tide monitoring and served as a reviewer for several international journals. Lastly, Mata received the 2025 Outstanding Young Scientist award from the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines, for her exemplary research in infectious disease modeling and analysis, applied mathematics, mathematical biology and operations research. This year’s *Asia Scientist* 100 list also includes three Nobel Prize laureates Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University and Shimon Sakaguchi of the University of Osaka.

- [Go pushes stronger fire prevention, shelter aid](#) (2026-05-30 16:02)

SEN. Bong Go renewed his call for stronger fire prevention and disaster resilience measures as he extended assistance to families displaced by a recent fire in Barangay 145, Caloocan City. Citing recurring fire incidents that continue to affect vulnerable communities, Go said government efforts should not stop at relief distribution but must also focus on preparedness, rapid response and long-term recovery for affected families. During a relief operation conducted on May 26 in coordination with Caloocan City Mayor Along Malapitan, Go’s team provided aid to 50 fire-affected families at the Barangay 145 Hall. In a video call with residents, Go assured victims of his continued support despite his legislative responsibilities. “I will help you wherever you are in the Philippines, as long as my body and time allow, I will go to you,” he said in Filipino. The senator emphasized the need to strengthen the country’s fire response capabilities, particularly in densely populated urban communities where fires can quickly destroy homes and livelihoods. Go highlighted Republic Act 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act, which he principally authored and co-sponsored. The law seeks to improve the Bureau of Fire Protection’s operational capacity over 10 years by acquiring modern equipment, recruiting additional personnel and enhancing training programs. He also reiterated his support for Senate Bill 415, which proposes a Rental Housing Subsidy Program to provide temporary shelter assistance to families displaced by disasters as they work toward

permanent housing solutions. The relief operation benefited 50 families who received financial assistance and grocery packs. Beneficiaries were also provided with snacks, vitamins, water containers, electric fans, shirts and recreational items for children. Selected recipients received shoes and mobile phones. Go underscored the importance of extending timely assistance to disaster victims and fostering compassion among Filipinos. “Let us remember, we only pass through this world once. Whatever good or help we can do for our fellow man, let us do it now because we will not return to this world,” he said.

- [Meralco backs govt efforts to lower power rates](#) (2026-05-30 16:01)

THE Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said on Saturday it is continuing to find ways to keep electricity rates low and ease the burden on power consumers. “Meralco strongly supports the government and the energy industry’s efforts to explore sustainable measures to lower electricity rates. We have always been very proactive in seeking ways to ease the burden on all power consumers and implement initiatives that mitigate rate increases, under the leadership of [the Department of Energy] and guidance of the [Energy Regulatory Commission],” the power utility said in a statement by its vice president and head of corporate communications, Joe Zaldarriaga. Meralco’s statement followed the call of opposition party-list Akbayan on Friday to investigate the power utility over “various and often opaque charges.” “We would like to reiterate that electricity rates in the Philippines, not just Meralco’s, reflect the true cost of power, as these lack government subsidies, unlike those in our neighboring countries. The majority of the costs go to generation charges, affected by market forces, fuel prices, actual supply conditions and foreign exchange movements,” the power utility’s statement added. “Meralco remains fully committed to transparency. Customer bills are unbundled to clearly show where every peso goes — from generation, transmission and system loss charges, to taxes and other government-mandated charges. Most of these are pass-through costs,” it added. The power utility also cited that its own distribution charges account for only 12 percent of the customer’s bill and that the distribution rate has not increased for over 15 years, despite the “year-on-year increase in the cost of basic goods and commodities brought about by yearly inflation and continued weakening of the peso against the US dollar.” “Meralco remains open to constructive discussions and is willing to work with government, regulators, lawmakers and stakeholders on measures that are fair, transparent and supported by appropriate laws and regulatory mechanisms. We support long-term solutions that prioritize energy security and the continued delivery of safe, reliable and stable electricity service for the benefit of the consumer,” the power utility said. In a press briefing on Friday, Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno, along with labor and renewable energy advocates, called on Congress to investigate Meralco amid growing public frustration over “persistently high” electricity bills. Diokno said Congress must act not only to protect consumers, but to “maximize the relatively positive public trust and approval it currently enjoys by translating confidence into concrete relief for households” that have been “burdened” by rising costs of living. “Congress has an extraordinary opportunity right now. For the first time in a long while, public confidence in the institution appears to be rising. We should not let this opportunity go to waste. I hope my fellow

lawmakers will reciprocate this trust with swift action and meaningful solutions. Congress needs to respond to the people's economic concerns. Working families should not be left confused or overwhelmed by electricity bills they cannot fully understand or verify," Diokno said in a mix of Filipino and English. He, together with fellow Akbayan Representatives Percival Cendaña and Dadah Kiram Ismula, and Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao filed House Resolution 995. This resolution called on the House Committee on Energy to "investigate the range of pass-through and subsidy-related charges embedded in electricity bills," which includes generation, transmission, system loss, universal charges, lifeline subsidies, FIT-All, GEA-All, missionary electrification charges, and taxes and fees authorized under existing energy and social welfare laws, including the Electric Power Industry Reform Act and the Renewable Energy Act." This is about easing the burden on households and addressing a fundamental cost-of-living pressure... If these charges are legitimate, they must be clearly and intelligibly explained. If they are excessive or poorly designed, Congress has the duty to correct them. Electricity is not a luxury — it is a basic necessity, and our people deserve clarity, fairness and accountability," Diokno said. In addition, the party-list echoed Sen. Risa Hontiveros' proposal to remove the value-added tax on system loss charges imposed by power utilities. "We are asked not only to pay for the system loss that we did not benefit from, but we also shoulder the taxes that come with it. It's time to end this unjust policy," Diokno said.

- [Gawad Kalinga founder Tony Meloto arrested over sex trafficking charges](#) (2026-05-30 04:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Gawad Kalinga founder Tony Meloto was arrested on Friday night over sex trafficking charges. In a statement late on Friday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said an operation was conducted in Angat, Bulacan to arrest Meloto, only identified by his first name. According to the PNP, the operation was carried out by the "tracker team of the Bulacan Police Provincial Office Provincial Intelligence Unit, in coordination with personnel from the Bulacan 1st Provincial Mobile Force Company and Angat Municipal Police Station." Meloto was served a warrant of arrest for two counts of qualified trafficking under Republic Act 9208, as amended by Republic Act 10364 and Republic Act 11862. "The suspect was apprehended in Barangay Encanto, Angat, Bulacan. Police said the warrant was issued on the same day by a Regional Trial Court in Malolos City, Bulacan, with no bail recommended," the PNP said. "Authorities emphasized that the suspect was properly informed of his constitutional rights in a language known to him before and during the arrest. He was later brought to the appropriate police office for documentation and proper disposition," it added. Gawad Kalinga is a "non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive impact through the Platforms of Solidarity," according to its website posted on Facebook. It describes itself in another website as a "poverty alleviation and nation-building movement."

- [6 Filipino scientists among Asia's top 100 researchers in 2026](#) (2026-05-30 04:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Six Filipino scientists and innovators were listed among Asia Scientist Magazine's top 100 researchers for 2026. The Asia Scientist 100 list, now on its eighth edition,

was launched in 2016 to honor 100 prize-winning scientists, academicians, innovators, and business leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region. An honoree must have received a national or international prize in the preceding year for his/her research, or have made a significant scientific discovery or provided leadership in academia or industry. The Filipinos recognized were Romulo Davide and Marcela Navasero of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Mary Donnabelle Balela and Aurelio De Los Reyes V of UP Diliman, Garry Benico of the Central Luzon State University, and May Anne Mata of UP Mindanao. Davide, who was named the 44th National Scientist of the Philippines in 2024, is renowned for his pioneering work in plant pathology and nematology, particularly his research on plant-parasitic nematodes. Dubbed the “Father of Philippine Nematology,” he also founded the Farmer-Scientist Training Program, which has empowered about 70,000 Filipino farmers nationwide. Navasera, who was conferred the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, meanwhile, is recognized for her leadership in natural pest control and agricultural biosecurity. In its 2026 list, The Asian Scientist cited her role in “strengthening long-term, cost-effective pest management systems that safeguard national food security” through her work as part of the National Crop Protection Center’s Quick Response Team. Balela, on the other hand, was recognized with the Outstanding Research and Development Award for developing modular Kapok booms for marine oil spills at the 2024 Department of Science and Technology (DOST) National Science and Technology Week (NSTW). Her work uses biodegradable, locally sourced Kapok fibers to create reusable oil sorbents that absorb several times their weight in oil, offering a sustainable, low-waste solution for oil spill mitigation and marine environmental protection. Reyes, recognized with the 2024 NSTW Outstanding Research and Development Award, was honored for his mathematical modeling of optimal contraception dosing strategies to improve reproductive health. He was also named the 2025 National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) Achievement Awardee for Mathematical Sciences. Benico, a leading expert in aquatic biosciences, was named a 2025 Outstanding Young Scientist by the National Academy of Science and Technology for his research on the taxonomy and diversity of harmful microalgae in the Philippines. He is currently active in efforts to build the capacity of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in red tide monitoring and serves as a reviewer of several international journals. Lastly, Mata received the 2025 Outstanding Young Scientist award from the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines, for her exemplary research in infectious disease modeling and analysis, applied mathematics, mathematical biology, and operations research. This year’s Asia Scientist 100 list also includes three Nobel Prize laureates Susumu Kitagawa of Kyoto University and Shimon Sakaguchi of the University of Osaka.

- [Pagasa declares start of southwest monsoon season](#) (2026-05-30 03:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on Saturday declared the start of the season of the southwest monsoon or habagat, following the presence of southwesterly winds over the country’s western section. In a statement, the weather bureau said this could continue because of the recent development of tropical cyclone “Domeng” over the Philippine Sea. “With the intrusion of

westerly winds and the progression of the general meteorological pattern across the country, these developments suggest the start of the Southwest Monsoon (Habagat), which is one of the precursors of the onset of the rainy season,” the weather bureau said. As of 11 a.m. on Saturday, “Domeng,” a severe tropical storm, slightly intensified while moving west northwestward over the Philippine Sea, with its center 970 kilometers east of Northern Luzon. No storm signals have been hoisted as of this bulletin.

- [US Defense chief urges allies to ramp up military spending amid 'alarm' over China's buildup](#) (2026-05-30 02:44)

SINGAPORE — US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Saturday urged Asian allies to ramp up military spending to counter China's growing power and prevent its dominance in the region, warning of "rightful alarm" over its rapid military buildup. Hegseth, speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, Asia's premier forum for defense leaders, militaries and diplomats, said stronger, more self-reliant allies are key to deterrence. "There is rightful alarm regarding China's historic military buildup and the expansion of its military activities in the region and beyond," he said. "A Pacific dominated by any hegemon would unravel the regional balance of power," Hegseth said. "No state, including China, can impose hegemony and hold the security of our nation and our allies in question." The US expects its Asian allies and partners to increase defense spending to 3.5 percent of GDP as it pledged a \$1.5 trillion investment in its military, the Pentagon chief said. Hegseth stressed allies want stability, not escalation. "What they want, and what the United States delivers, is strength that is disciplined, resolve that is steady, and leadership that is confident enough to speak and walk softly while carrying a big stick." Hegseth added ties with Beijing were "better than they have been in many years," citing increased military-to-military contacts. "We are meeting more frequently with our Chinese counterparts by maintaining open lines of military to military communication." "No freeloading" Since returning to office, US President Donald Trump has demanded that allies boost defense spending and has pointedly said European and NATO partners should reduce reliance on Washington. "The era of the United States subsidizing the defense of wealthy nations is over," Hegseth said. "We need partners, not protectorates," he added. "We don't have a strong alliance unless everyone has skin in the game. No freeloading."

- [McCullum urges England to 'box smart' like New Zealand](#) (2026-05-29 21:29)

LONDON — England coach Brendon McCullum said his side can learn from a New Zealand side who "box smart" when they face his native country in an upcoming three-Test series. Next week's opener against the Black Caps at Lord's will be England's first Test since January, when a woeful tour of Australia ended in a 4-1 Ashes series loss. "They are probably a great example of where we're in scenarios where we can improve, where we can finesse and sharpen what we're trying to achieve," McCullum, a former New Zealand captain, told a press conference in London on Friday. "They're very resourceful and they hang in games for a long period of time." They may not necessarily have as much knockout power as some teams around the world but they box smarter than most teams in the world and hence why they've been as successful as they have

for a long period of time."McCullum was particularly admiring of a New Zealand attack that, even without the injured Matt Henry, skittled Ireland in this week's one-off Test in Belfast that also serves as a warm-up for the England series."They've got one of the most exciting bowling line-ups in the world," he said. "It's going to be incredibly difficult. It's going to be a stern examination for us."And we're going to have to be at our best to overcome the variation that their bowling line-up has," he added.England were criticised for persisting with an overly aggressive approach in Australia regardless of the match, with the so-called 'Bazball' style a hallmark of McCullum's five years at the helm alongside captain Ben Stokes.They have yet to win any of their four Test series in total against heavyweights Australia and India under McCullum, with England often unable to cement promising positions in games.- 'Poise' -"I'd like to see us become a team that people can recognise for how we play, the positivity we play with, the aggression we play with, but just recognise some of those key moments, where games can be won and lost," explained McCullum."And just have enough poise to be able to make the plays that you need to be able to close out some of those situations more regularly."England have been criticised for prioritising their style of play above actual results but McCullum insisted: "Winning has always been important... it's never been purely about playing entertaining cricket."Some of the messages might have been slightly mixed around that but there's always been a fierce ambition to succeed. We want to be a team which plays brave because we feel that playing brave gives you the best opportunity."And while there were calls for McCullum to be sacked after the Ashes debacle, he insisted he'd never faltered in his determination to see out a contract that runs until next year's home series with Australia and the subsequent 50-over World Cup in southern Africa."I was always very keen to try and finish the job that we started," said the 44-year-old."That never changed. It never wavered. We've got a lot of optimism about where this cricket team can get to and we're realistic about areas where we've fallen short."It's not about reinventing the team per se, it's about sharpening what we've been doing and being a better version."

- [Ex-Trump attorney general defends Epstein files release](#) (2026-05-29 21:01)

WASHINGTON — Former US attorney general Pam Bondi on Friday defended the Justice Department's handling of its files on sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, while acknowledging "redaction errors" in a release that critics say shielded key information while identifying alleged victims.Bondi was giving evidence to the House Oversight Committee in a transcribed interview rather than a sworn, videotaped deposition, frustrating Democrats and survivors who accuse President Donald Trump's administration of withholding the full record of the disgraced financier's sex trafficking case.According to prepared remarks obtained by multiple US media outlets, Bondi said the Justice Department had made an "unprecedented commitment to transparency" under her leadership and produced nearly three million pages of material, including videos and images."To the best of my knowledge, the Department produced everything required under the Epstein Files Transparency Act," Bondi said in the statement.But she also acknowledged flaws in the release."There were redaction errors," Bondi said, referring to the process of blacking out legally sensitive or private personal information. "But since day

one of this process, this department has been committed to accountability and transparency."The comments came as Democrats, Epstein survivors and some Republicans accuse the Trump administration of covering up the full record of the case, despite the Justice Department's insistence that it has released everything it is legally obliged to make public. Bondi became a central figure in the Epstein saga after saying last year that the late sex offender's so-called client list was on her desk for review. The Justice Department and FBI later said there was no such list and no plans to release further information. In her prepared statement, Bondi said she did not personally lead every part of the review and had delegated oversight to then-deputy attorney general Todd Blanche, now acting attorney general. The Epstein Files Transparency Act required the Justice Department to remove names and identifying information of victims before releasing records, but barred officials from shielding powerful figures mentioned in the files merely because of embarrassment. - 'No more lies' - Critics say the department failed on both fronts: it released names and photos of victims who had not previously been publicly identified, while continuing to redact other information that lawmakers argue should have been disclosed. Bondi expressed sympathy for Epstein's victims, saying she was "deeply sorry" for what they had endured "as a result of that monster." But survivors gathered outside the hearing room as Bondi entered and called for witnesses in the Epstein investigation to testify under oath and on camera. The wider controversy has dogged Trump for much of his second term. Trump fired Bondi in April as frustration mounted over her handling of the Epstein files, although she was later named to a presidential science and technology council. Lawmakers on the Oversight Committee voted in March to subpoena Bondi as part of their Epstein investigation, an unusual rebuke of a sitting Trump administration official by members of the president's own party. But the committee's Republican chairman, James Comer, later shifted her appearance from a deposition to a transcribed interview -- meaning it will not be videotaped or conducted under oath. Top Oversight Democrat Robert Garcia came out of the session to accuse the government of continuing a cover up to protect Trump, who socialized extensively with Epstein for years before the pair were estranged in the mid-2000s. Garcia said Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon, who accompanied Bondi despite still serving at the Justice Department (DOJ), had intervened repeatedly to stonewall questions about the president's involvement with the case. "So the DOJ is in there right now stopping questions about President Trump, and about what happened in the release of these files, and why so many survivors were doxxed, and their information released to the public," he told reporters.

- [France summons Russian ambassador after Romania drone crash](#) (2026-05-29 17:56)

PARIS — France said Friday it had summoned the Russian ambassador following a spate of Russian strikes against Ukrainian civilians and a drone crash on an apartment building in Romania. Early Friday, a drone hit an apartment building in NATO-member Romania, wounding two people and drawing condemnation from the Atlantic alliance and the European Union. It was the first crash into a residential building outside Ukraine since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. "This new irresponsible escalation, carried out in blatant violation of

international law, once again shows that Russia's war of aggression poses a threat to the security of Europe and NATO as a whole," the foreign ministry said in a statement. Earlier Friday, Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said Moscow had targeted "a country of the European Union and a NATO country". "I want to condemn this irresponsible act by Russia," Barrot told the France Inter broadcaster. France also condemned Moscow's earlier calls on civilians and foreigners in the capital Kyiv to leave the city. The ministry told the Russian ambassador that "France would remain in Kyiv," it said, slamming Russia's disregard for international law and humanitarian law.

- [Jinggo Estrada charged with plunder, posts bail](#) (2026-05-29 16:41)

SEN. Jinggo Estrada on Friday posted a P90,000 bail at the Sandiganbayan after being issued an arrest warrant along with former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan. The Office of the Ombudsman filed the case last Thursday, together with another case in which Estrada and Bonoan were charged with three others: former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan and Arturo Gonzales Jr. All five were named respondents in the plunder case, which was raffled off to the Fifth Division. A respondent charged with plunder cannot automatically post bail, but if a court orders his arrest, he could file a petition to let him post bail. According to Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano, the cases "stem from an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025." Clavano said kickbacks worth over P573 million were systematically delivered to Estrada. Former DPWH assistant district engineer Brice Hernandez had accused Estrada of maneuvering P355 million worth of insertions in the 2023 national budget in exchange for a 30-percent commission. Estrada has denied the allegation. While acknowledging that the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office certified there were no records that Estrada had made the budget insertions, the certificate "does not capture all stages of the budgetary process, wherein insertions may be made in a layered method," he said. Bonoan denied the charges in an interview at the House of Representatives, where he was a resource person in the investigation conducted by the House Infrastructure Committee on flood control projects. On Friday, Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla told reporters at Camp Karingal in Quezon City that he personally called Estrada on Thursday to discuss the possible implementation of the Sandiganbayan arrest order. "I told him [his choices are] either surrender or arrest. He told me he'll think about it," Remulla said. He said Estrada mentioned he needed knee replacement surgery. Remulla said it was all up to the anti-graft court. "Our job is to process his arrest and submit him to the Sandiganbayan," he said. Remulla assured that Estrada would not receive special treatment if taken into custody, citing the detention of Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla and other accused individuals facing similar cases. "They're all there at the BJMP (Bureau of Jail Management and Penology) [in Quezon City]. There's no special treatment there," he said. Estrada faced corruption-related charges in 2001 and 2014. The case marked the latest development in the government's expanding crackdown on corruption involving flood control projects, which has already implicated several politicians, contractors and public works

officials. On Friday, Sen. Imee Marcos described the cases filed against several majority bloc senators as “political persecution,” claiming the move was part of an effort by administration allies to weaken the Senate majority and consolidate political power. Marcos questioned the timing of the charges and criticized what she described as attempts by minority bloc senators to prevent detained or absent lawmakers from participating in Senate proceedings through online means. “The timing of these cases and the attempt by the minority, who are openly aligned with the administration, to block online participation by senators make it very clear that the cases against Jinggoy and other majority senators are not about justice or accountability,” Marcos said. “It is about the desperation of the administration to hold on to power,” she said. The senator laid out several points defending the participation of senators facing legal cases or detention, particularly in light of ongoing Senate proceedings, including impeachment-related functions. Marcos said lawmakers facing charges are still presumed innocent under the Constitution. “Imprisonment at this point is not punishment since they are presumed innocent,” she said. She argued that preventing senators from participating in Senate functions would disenfranchise millions of voters who elected them into office. The senator further noted that, except for Ronald dela Rosa, the senators involved are not fugitives and have complied with court orders. “They did not run away. They complied with whatever court order. Their physical absence was involuntary,” she said. Marcos also recalled how members of the minority bloc defended the rights of former senator Leila de Lima to continue participating in legislative functions while detained.

- [DILG weighs offering bounty for Dela Rosa](#) (2026-05-29 16:30)

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Friday said it is considering offering a bounty for information leading to the arrest of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. “Pwede, we are considering that but apparently it is not effective yet so tingnan namin kung ano ang kailangan (Possible... We are considering that but apparently it is not effective yet so let’s see what is needed),” Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on the sidelines of the 4th PNP Press Corps National Headquarters Inc. 4th Invitational Shootfest at Camp Karingal in Quezon City. Dela Rosa remains elusive despite simultaneous raids by law enforcement teams, but Remulla claimed to have leads on his whereabouts. During his brief appearance at the Senate earlier this month, dela Rosa had asked Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. if he could be detained at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame if he decides to turn himself in. Remulla defended the police raids in different residences where dela Rosa is believed to be hiding after the senator’s wife, Nancy dela Rosa, complained that a friend’s house had been searched without a warrant presented. “Wala kaming na-va-violate na police procedure. Everything according to the rules of engagement finafollow namin. Wala kaming ginagawang tokhang, we do not violate any rules. We do not aggressively go in na wala kaming sufficient grounds para pumasok (We did not violate any procedure. Everything according to the rules of engagement, we followed. We did not perform tokhang, we did not violate any rule. We do not go in aggressively because we have no sufficient ground to penetrate),” Remulla said. As to the findings of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group

that the senator's escape was "related" to the Senate shooting incident, Remulla said: "We will have to find out. We do not know but apparently I don't believe in coincidences." Nartatez said the raids are being conducted not only to arrest the senator but also to confiscate the firearms he owns with revoked permits. He warned dela Rosa's fellow lawmakers against helping him evade arrest. "They know the consequences, especially if it's coddling or helping a person with a warrant of arrest," Nartatez said. Remulla reiterated the plea for dela Rosa to surrender, guaranteeing that he will be treated "as an officer and a gentleman." On Friday, one of dela Rosa's lawyers, Jimmy Bondoc, said they have not received an official copy of the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Bondoc also said dela Rosa's legal team is in contact only with the senator's family. "We are only in coordination with the family and we are not privy to any other matters," he said. Bondoc stressed, however, that any request for cooperation must be supported by proper legal documents. "As of today, at this time, we have not received a copy of the warrant. Even [with] the ICC warrant, I have not seen it except online," he said. He said no document had undergone domestic judicial procedures, raising questions on whether such a warrant could be immediately enforced in the Philippines. Bondoc also cited unresolved petitions pending before the Supreme Court concerning the country's obligations and relationship with the ICC. "The Supreme Court has not yet resolved the six key constitutional issues in the case," he said. Bondoc said the legal team will first examine any warrant served on dela Rosa "and see if it went through the process being invoked before we can respond." The developments came as ICC-listed counsel Gilbert Andres, who represents the victims of the Duterte administration's antidrug campaign, said a distinct criminal case could be initiated against dela Rosa separately from the ongoing proceedings involving former president Rodrigo Duterte. "A case can be filed separately... there will be a separate case, the Prosecutor versus Ronald Bato dela Rosa," Andres said. Under ICC practice, proceedings against dela Rosa could move independently of Duterte's case, depending on procedural developments and jurisdictional actions before the court, he said. The ICC could later decide whether related proceedings should remain separate or be consolidated, subject to motions from prosecutors and approval by the Trial Chamber. Despite the possibility of additional accused individuals, Andres said the ICC proceedings against Duterte should continue under the existing timetable set by the court. He said the scheduled start of Duterte's trial on Nov. 30 should proceed as planned, citing the ICC's emphasis on efficiency, effectiveness and the right to a fair trial for both victims and the accused. Procedural developments involving dela Rosa or other potential respondents should not delay the proceedings already calendared before the tribunal.

- [Marcos denies pushing for charter change to extend term](#) (2026-05-29 16:27)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday denied he was considering amendments to the Constitution for possible term extensions and election postponement. Marcos was reacting to the claim of his sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, that there were moves to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly to extend the terms of incumbent officials until 2031, lower the

age requirement for presidential candidates to 35 and cancel the 2028 presidential elections. Speaking to reporters in Tokyo, Japan, Marcos said there were no discussions about Charter change or term extension within his administration. “The truth of the matter is we have never at any point even spoken about this anywhere with anyone at any time,” he said during a press conference. In a privilege speech at the Senate on Monday, Senator Marcos presented what she said was a video compilation containing supposed documentation, footage and statements that she pointed to ongoing efforts to revive Charter change initiatives. She did not directly accuse the president of involvement, but warned against “dangerous political maneuverings” that could undermine democratic institutions and constitutional safeguards. The president suggested that the information related to his sister may have come from unreliable sources, and urged her to fire the staff that provided her with the false claims. “Fake news is a corrosive influence in all sectors of society, in politics, in economics, in actual human relations, et cetera. And if you are not part of the solution, you become part of the problem. And that is a perfect example of that,” Marcos said. The president also said he watched “with horror” the recent controversies surrounding the Senate as the issues get “personal.” Marcos, a former senator, said he has observed a shift in Senate discourse away from professional deliberation. “Very [concerning]. I watched with horror that the Senate has become this,” Marcos said during a media interview in Tokyo, recalling his earlier discussion with Executive Secretary Ralph Recto. “Of course, the only basis for comparison that I have is the time that I was in the Senate. And I never imagined that the Senate would descend into this kind of what’s happening right now,” he said. Marcos said Senate debates during his time were intense and substantive, but lawmakers did not allow disagreements to become personal. “The discussions have become shallow,” he said. The president recalled how senators used to have “well-studied” and “no-holds-barred” interpolations during sessions, yet still maintained professional relationships afterward. “After the session, we would still have coffee together. We would eat together. It was not personal. It’s about work. It’s not about personalities,” he added. Marcos’ views reflect on the wake of the May 13 shooting incident at the Senate, Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s disappearance from the chamber’s custody hours later and senators’ ongoing clash on a proposal to allow online voting. “Then it even reached the point of gunfire. Then it turned out the shooting was fake. I do not understand it,” he said. Marcos echoed concerns raised earlier by former Senate president Franklin Drilon about the Senate allegedly sheltering fugitives from justice. “The Senate is now sheltering fugitives from justice. How did that happen? I don’t understand how a Senate is supposed to function if those are the kind of things that the Senate is embroiled in. I hope they figure it out soon. I really do,” he said. The president also rejected proposals to amend Senate rules to allow online voting, saying the measure appeared intended to allow dela Rosa to participate despite being a fugitive. “I disagree with that. I understand that we had to do it (online voting) in Covid (pandemic) because there was a health risk. But I do not see any particularly good reason for us to allow it now,” he said. The president said that the amendment seemed to focus on dela Rosa, who faces an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court. “It seems to only be applicable to Senator Bato, so Senator dela Rosa can vote because he is hiding,” Marcos said. He said adherence to established rules and procedures

should be maintained in all circumstances. “The long-standing tradition of the Senate is that if you are not physically present on the floor when a vote is taken, that you cannot in fact vote,” Marcos said.

- [Japan commits to defense equipment transfer to Philippines](#) (2026-05-29 16:23)

JAPAN has pledged to strengthen defense cooperation with the Philippines by providing military equipment and technology to enhance security and defense capabilities. The commitment was made after a meeting between President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi in Tokyo on Thursday. In a joint statement, the two nations vowed to step up collaboration to facilitate the transfer of defense equipment, including destroyers, TC-90 aircraft and radar systems. This was in accordance with their agreement concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, and the Official Security Assistance of a collaborative effort to enhance defense capabilities and strengthen security cooperation. Takaichi reaffirmed Tokyo’s pledge to contribute to the capacity-building of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially in the maritime area. The Philippines welcomed Japan’s newly revised Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology, and its implementation guidelines, acknowledging that such efforts contribute to regional peace and stability. Marcos and Takaichi recognized that closer defense cooperation in recent years has laid “a robust foundation for their bilateral partnership.” They agreed to the early convening of the next Philippines-Japan “2+2” (Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting) to strengthen strategic coordination and ensure effective high-level policy discussions. The two leaders also stressed the need to advance maritime cooperation, considering that the Philippines and Japan are “neighbors connected by the sea.” They acknowledged that enhancing maritime cooperation, underpinned by respect for international law, promotes peace, stability and mutual trust. Marcos thanked Japan for its continued support in building up the Philippine Coast Guard through the provision of patrol ships. Marcos and Takaichi also emphasized the importance of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, lawful uses of the sea, unimpeded commerce and the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, in accordance with international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos). They expressed “serious concern” over maritime disputes in the East China Sea and the South China Sea (SCS), reaffirming their “strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the peacefully established status quo by force or coercion.” The two reaffirmed the universal and unified character of Unclos as the comprehensive legal framework governing all activities in the oceans and seas. They also acknowledged the need for an “effective and substantive” Code of Conduct to “effectively govern the behavior of parties at sea” without prejudice to the legitimate rights and interests of all actors navigating the SCS. The two leaders reiterated their support for the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, which is final and legally binding on the parties to the dispute,” the joint statement read. “Noting that 10 years have passed since the issuance of the Award, the two leaders reaffirmed the importance of international law and compliance of the parties to the dispute with decisions and rulings duly rendered through compulsory dispute settlement mechanisms under Unclos.” On Friday, China expressed strong

opposition to the decision by Japan and the Philippines to start maritime border negotiations, calling the talks “illegal” and claiming exclusive control over the waters concerned. Beijing asserted it has an “exclusive economic zone and continental shelf” in the waters to the east of Taiwan. “China is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to this,” foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular news conference when asked about the delimitation talks between Tokyo and Manila. “China solemnly declares that the so-called delimitation negotiations between Japan and the Philippines are entirely illegal and invalid,” Mao said. Beijing has “lodged solemn representations” with both countries, she added. Manila and Tokyo’s shared grievances over Chinese maritime territorial claims have seen them draw increasingly close in recent years. Japan and China are in territorial and economic disputes in the East China Sea, where coastguard ships from both sides routinely stage dangerous standoffs. Beijing has meanwhile deployed navy and coast guard vessels in the SCS, in a bid to bar the Philippines from strategically important reefs and islands, leading to a string of confrontations. Earlier in Tokyo, Marcos and Sasakawa Peace Foundation honorary chairman Yohei Sasakawa agreed to enhance cooperation on maritime security, sustainable ocean governance, peace-building, eradication of leprosy and digital innovation.

- [DFA issues warning to passport applicants](#) (2026-05-29 16:15)

THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is reminding the public to secure passport appointments only through its official online appointment system, warning applicants against unauthorized individuals and online entities falsely offering appointment booking services. In an advisory, the DFA said passport applicants should use only the official DFA Online Appointment System accessible through the DFA Passport Appointment System website at passport.gov.ph to ensure that appointments are valid, secure and properly recorded. Through the official portal, applicants may choose their preferred passport processing site, appointment date and time, and complete all required personal information for their passport application. The DFA issued the reminder amid reports of unauthorized groups and social media pages claiming to offer assistance in securing passport appointment slots. Among those identified was the Facebook page “Philippine Passport Online Assistant,” which the DFA clarified is not affiliated with the department. According to the DFA, these individuals and entities claim special access to passport appointment slots. Such activities are a violation of Republic Act 11983, or the New Philippine Passport Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations. It cautioned the public against paying fixers or third-party agents who may charge excessive fees, compromise applicants’ personal information or provide fraudulent appointment confirmations. Applicants who encounter suspicious online activities, fake appointment services or unauthorized passport assistance providers are encouraged to report them to the nearest DFA Consular Office. Reports may also be submitted through the official email addresses listed in the Consular Office directory available on the DFA Consular website. The DFA reiterated its commitment to protecting the integrity of the passport application process and urged the public to remain vigilant against online scams and fraudulent schemes targeting passport applicants. For official announcements and additional information, the public may visit the DFA Consular website at

consular.dfa.gov.ph.

- [Cargo handler charged for abandoning 36,000 balikbayan boxes](#) (2026-05-29 16:10)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Friday turned over to the Department of Justice (DOJ) documentary evidence supporting its complaint against a local cargo handler accused of abandoning thousands of balikbayan boxes sent by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). The case was filed against Makati Express Cargo Inc. after 36,826 balikbayan boxes were left unclaimed between 2024 and 2025, triggering an investigation by customs authorities and complaints from affected OFWs and their families. Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno led the turnover of evidence to the DOJ, saying the agency remained firm in its commitment to hold accountable those responsible for the abandoned shipments. Nepomuceno said balikbayan boxes carry far more than goods and personal belongings, stressing that they were the fruits of the sacrifices, hard work and enduring love of overseas Filipinos for their families in the Philippines. “These balikbayan boxes represent the sacrifices of our overseas Filipino workers who spend years away from their loved ones just to provide a better life for their families,” Nepomuceno said. The BOC said the evidence submitted to prosecutors included shipping and cargo records, warehouse inspection findings and other supporting documents. The DOJ is expected to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether there is enough basis to file criminal charges against the company and its officers.

- [Tesda offers free AI, digital skills courses](#) (2026-05-29 16:09)

THE Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) said on Friday it is offering free online courses on artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and other digital skills. The initiative, it added, was done in partnership with Uneso-Unevoc and the HP Foundation to expand public access to future-ready training programs. Tesda Secretary Kiko Benitez said the initiative seeks to help Filipinos remain competitive as industries continue shifting toward technology-driven operations. “As industries continue to transform through technology and innovation, it is important that Filipinos are equipped with the skills needed to remain competitive and adaptable in the future of work. Using e-Tesda, we can further expand access to quality training,” Benitez said. More than 30 courses from the HP LIFE Program were integrated into Tesda’s online learning platform to allow Filipinos to study digital and business-related subjects remotely and at their own pace. These include AI, entrepreneurship, marketing, communication, finance and business operations. The course on AI covers responsible use and practical applications in workplaces and businesses. Tesda said most of the courses do not require a college degree, prior work experience or specific educational attainment. Learners need a valid email address, internet connection and a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer to access the platform. Interested learners are required to create a Tesda online program account. Users must complete registration details and verify their account through an activation link sent via email before enrolling in courses. After registration, users may browse available courses and enroll directly through the platform.

- [PH, South Korea partner to boost crime data system](#) (2026-05-29 16:05)

THE Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have signed a partnership with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) for the implementation of a new crime data system aimed at improving law enforcement operations nationwide. Under the agreement, the DILG, PNP, and Koica will develop the Criminal Investigation Data Management and Analysis System (Cidmas), a unified and data-driven platform designed to modernize criminal investigation processes and strengthen crime analysis capabilities. The Records of Discussion were signed on Thursday by Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., PNP Acting Director for Investigation and Detective Management BGen. Matthew Baccay, Koica Philippines Director Jung Youngsun, and Koica Deputy Country Director Lee Hwayeon. According to the DILG, Cidmas will consolidate various crime investigation databases into a single platform, replacing fragmented systems that often require repeated data encoding and manual verification. Once operational, the system is expected to provide investigators faster access to critical information, improve coordination among law enforcement units, and support quicker case resolution and crime prevention efforts. Remulla thanked the South Korean government for its continued support and partnership with the Philippines, citing the longstanding ties between the two countries. “It shows that today, wherever our fortunes may go, for whatever happens, our countries go a long way. Korea and the Philippines remain partners. And we shall remain partners no matter what happens,” he said. Meanwhile, Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Sang-Hwa commended the DILG and the PNP for implementing the Safer Cities Initiative, noting a more-than-16-percent decline in crime rates during the first 43 days of the program’s implementation. Also present during the ceremonial signing were DILG Assistant Secretary Lilian De Leon, other PNP officers, as well as Koica and Korean Embassy officials.

- [‘Domeng’ enters PAR, no landfall, no storm signals](#) (2026-05-29 16:04)

THE Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced Friday that Tropical Storm “Jangmi” has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) under the localized name “Domeng.” In its 5 a.m. bulletin, the weather bureau said that “Domeng” is less likely to make landfall, as it is moving northwestward until Sunday before turning north-northwestward to northward for the remaining forecast period. As of its 11 a.m. bulletin, the storm slightly intensified as it moved northwestward into the Philippine Sea. The center of the storm was estimated at 1,265 kilometers east of Southeastern Luzon, moving northwestward at 15 kph with maximum sustained winds of 85 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 100 kph. It is expected to leave PAR on Monday. While unlikely to hit land, a southwesterly windflow enhanced by “Domeng” could bring heavy rains over western portions of the country on Sunday. No storm signals were up as of press time. “Domeng will continue to intensify and may reach typhoon category tomorrow while remaining over the Philippine Sea. Afterwards, it will steadily weaken,” Pagasa said.

- [DENR hit for ‘serving’ corporate interests](#) (2026-05-29 16:02)

ENVIRONMENTAL group Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (PNE) has alleged that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is not true to its mandate of protecting the environment by serving the interests of big corporations. PNE's statement came after the DENR approved the cutting of over 200 trees along Quirino Avenue in Manila for the construction of San Miguel Corporation's Southern Access Link Expressway (Salex) project. Kalikasan PNE's national coordinator, Cathleen de Guzman, told The Manila Times that the people "can already see whose interests" the DENR is serving. "Stop being a mere rubber stamp for greedy corporations that prioritize profit over people and the environment, while depriving communities of their right to a safe and healthy environment," de Guzman said. De Guzman also urged the DENR to side with communities instead of large businesses linked to environmentally destructive projects. "Instead of siding with big corporations, they should uphold their mandate to protect the environment and the welfare of communities," she added. She further accused the agency of functioning as a "corporate public relations machine" that helps improve the image of companies and projects allegedly responsible for environmental destruction and the displacement of communities. "Now that the public can more clearly see the failures of the DENR as an agency, we hope this becomes a push for them to finally carry out their mandate properly," de Guzman added. On Wednesday, the agency said it will temporarily halt the operation that plans to take down about 400 trees for the project.

- [Makati releases P356 million in mid-year aid to seniors](#) (2026-05-29 16:01)

THE Makati City government on Friday announced the rollout of P356.48 million in mid-year cash incentives for more than 59,000 Blu Card holders, with qualified senior citizens starting to receive their P6,000 cash benefit through GCash. Mayor Nancy Binay said the city has allotted funds for 59,414 registered Blu Card holders, including the more than 8,000 senior citizens, who will receive their incentives through manual payouts in designated village payout centers beginning June 3. Binay said digital payouts through GCash already started on Thursday for senior citizens with registered and validated accounts. "We have made sure that no qualified beneficiary will be left out because of a lack of access to an e-wallet. Everyone will receive their midyear incentive. No one will be deprived. We know our senior citizens are expecting this, so it is only right that they receive the benefit allocated for them," Binay said. The city government said onsite distribution for other qualified beneficiaries will run from June 3 to 10 across Makati's 23 villages. Binay said the schedule for manual payouts has been posted on the city government's official Facebook page, My Makati. The mayor said the city would continue offering alternative payout methods for residents who may have limited access to digital platforms, even as Makati expands the use of cashless disbursement systems. She also reminded Blu Card holders to ensure that their GCash accounts are active and properly registered to avoid delays in receiving the incentive.

- [Seafarer faces charges over bomb joke at NAIA](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

A BUTUAN-BOUND Filipino seafarer was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 on May 26, 2026, after making a bomb joke during aircraft boarding, the PNP

Aviation Security Group (Avsegroup) reported on Friday. The incident occurred when a cabin crew member asked the passenger about the contents of his bag. The passenger allegedly replied that it contained a bomb, later claiming he was just joking. Crew members immediately reported the statement to airport authorities, prompting standard security protocols. The passenger, a 26-year-old seafarer from Talisayan, Misamis Oriental, was scheduled to travel to Butuan City. Aviation police, along with bomb disposal and K9 units, immediately deployed to check the passenger's luggage and the surrounding area, but no explosive or dangerous materials were found. The suspect was later taken into custody by police for the alleged violation of Presidential Decree 1727, or the Anti-Bomb Joke Law. Avsegroup chief BGen. Dionisio Bartolome said that all statements involving bombs or explosives are treated with utmost seriousness, and even jokes are not taken lightly, as they can cause panic and disrupt airport operations. "We urge the public to always be responsible with their words, especially inside airport premises," Bartolome said.

- [Filipinos in Netherlands welcome Duterte trial date release](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

A GROUP of Filipinos in the Netherlands has welcomed the International Criminal Court (ICC) decision to set Nov. 30, 2026, as the trial date for former president Rodrigo Duterte for alleged crimes against humanity related to his bloody drug war. In a statement posted on its Facebook page, Panagutin Network-Netherlands said it is an "important step toward justice for the thousands of victims of the so-called 'war on drugs' and their families." "We recognize that this moment carries deep meaning for communities in the Philippines and in the diaspora who have consistently organized, documented abuses, and demanded justice despite intimidation and repression. The ICC process alone cannot fully heal the wounds left by the drug war and the extrajudicial killings that continue to this day, but it is a crucial acknowledgment of the scale and seriousness of the violations committed by Duterte and his cohorts," it added. Panagutin said justice must not end with the trial of Duterte alone, noting the structures and networks that enabled and implemented these killings, including police chains of command and political enablers, must also be held to account. It urged authorities to arrest and prosecute all co-perpetrators, including fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa. Panagutin called on Filipinos not only in the Netherlands, but all across Europe to mobilize and rally before Duterte's trial starts. "This upcoming trial date is not only a legal milestone for the Filipino people and the families of drug war victims, but also a political and moral moment for all those who continue to seek justice for the victims of the drug war. We encourage collective actions, solidarity gatherings, and sustained campaigning in the lead-up to the trial to ensure that the voices of victims and their families are heard and that demands for accountability remain visible and strong," the group said. The ICC, in a status conference on Wednesday, confirmed that the trial of Duterte is set to start on Nov. 30, 2026, with two more status conferences in the tribunal in the coming months.

- [Film harnessed to boost Filipino identity](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) have formalized a partnership aimed at strengthening the cultural identity of Filipinos living abroad through the power of cinema and storytelling. The agreement, signed on Tuesday at the Philippine Film Heritage Building in Intramuros, Manila, seeks to deepen the connection of overseas Filipinos and their descendants to Philippine history, culture, and national identity by utilizing film as a strategic medium for diaspora engagement. CFO Secretary Dante Ang II and FDCP Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jose Javier Reyes led the signing of the memorandum of understanding, witnessed by CFO Undersecretary Ma. Arlene Borja and FDCP Executive Director Rachelle Villaluna. Under the partnership, both agencies will collaborate on film screenings, educational programs, and cultural initiatives centered on migration narratives, Filipino heritage, and the overseas Filipino experience. “The challenge is keeping the fire of being Filipino alive in the hearts of long-term and permanent migrants, as well as the youth born and raised thousands of miles away,” Ang said. “The answer lies in the power of storytelling, since film is a universal language,” he added. Ang noted that cinema provides a unique way for nonresident Filipinos to reconnect with their roots, gain deeper historical awareness, and see their personal migration stories reflected in the broader national narrative. Reyes underscored the FDCP’s commitment to preserving and honoring the stories of overseas Filipinos, whom he described as “the living embodiment of the national vision.” “The lives of overseas Filipinos are deeply intertwined with the story of the Filipino family and the continuing evolution of the nation,” Reyes said. The collaboration will place particular emphasis on 2nd- and 3rd-generation Filipinos overseas, especially millennials and members of Generation Z who often navigate complex cultural identities while growing up abroad. Through curated screenings of contemporary and historical Filipino films, the program aims to encourage younger generations of overseas Filipinos to move beyond passive awareness of their ancestry toward active cultural engagement and identity reclamation. As part of the agreement, the CFO and FDCP will jointly organize film screenings and awareness campaigns focusing on migrant welfare, Philippine cultural heritage, and anti-human trafficking advocacy. These initiatives are expected to culminate annually during the December observance of the Month of Overseas Filipinos at FDCP Cinematheques and partner theaters nationwide. The FDCP will also provide film resources, educational materials, and post-screening discussions for key CFO programs, including the Youth Leaders in the Diaspora immersion program, the Community Education Program on Migration, and the Migration Advocacy and Media Awards. Meanwhile, the CFO will maximize its international networks and digital platforms to help promote FDCP-led cultural events and Filipino film initiatives to overseas communities around the world. Both agencies are likewise exploring opportunities to co-produce and commission future film projects focusing on Philippine history, migration experiences, and the evolving narratives of global Filipinos. Officials said the partnership builds on previous collaborations between the two agencies, including annual community cineforums designed to engage Filipino migrant communities through cinema and public discussion. Following the signing ceremony, officials toured the newly established 80-seater FDCP Cinematheque in Intramuros, which is expected to host upcoming cineforums and cultural activities for the Month of Overseas Filipinos celebration. Established under Batas

Pambansa Blg. 79, the CFO is an agency under the Office of the President tasked with promoting the welfare and interests of Filipinos permanently residing abroad. It is distinct from the Department of Migrant Workers, which primarily focuses on overseas Filipino workers and temporary migrants.

- [DOT, Mastercard expand support for tourism MSMEs](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

THE Department of Tourism (DOT) and Mastercard are expanding support for tourism-related micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through digital and experiential initiatives to strengthen local economies. The collaboration is part of a three-year Strategic Collaboration Agreement to equip local communities and smaller tourism players with digital and cashless technologies. Tourism Secretary Bernardita "Dita" Angara-Mathay said the partnership aligns with the government's push to position tourism as a key driver of inclusive economic growth. The DOT said merchant-driven activations under the initiative have already generated more than P6.3 million in sales, directly benefiting businesses in travel, dining, and cultural experiences. To support tourism planning, the agency is also using Mastercard's Destinations by SpendingPulse platform, which provides aggregated, anonymous spending analytics to monitor real-time tourist behavior. The data allows the DOT to identify emerging visitor markets and redirect tourism demand toward underserved provincial destinations that stand to benefit from increased visitor spending. Local operators, artisans, and restaurants in Metro Manila, Baguio, Bohol, Bicol, and Ilocos are also being integrated into Mastercard's Priceless Program to showcase curated cultural and culinary experiences to domestic and international cardholders. The DOT said the expanded platform gives smaller tourism enterprises a broader market reach while opening new economic opportunities through experiential travel offerings. Through the partnership, the agency said it hopes to ensure that the benefits of a thriving and digitally enabled tourism industry are felt by the local businesses and communities that form the backbone of Philippine tourism.

- [Ang: 5 of 6 PH schools in Timor Leste unlicensed by DepEd](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

THE Philippine Embassy in Dili reported that there are schools in Timor Leste promoting themselves as Philippine schools despite not being accredited by the Department of Education (DepEd), said Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) Secretary Dante Ang II. The CFO chairman said there are 25,000 learners in 36 accredited Philippine schools overseas (PSOs) in 11 countries, mostly children of Filipino workers in the Middle East. Ang on Friday said there are six Philippine schools in Dili, but only one is DepEd-accredited. He said the CFO relied on reports that institutions operate "beyond the formal system." "That information came from our Philippine Embassy in Dili because we are coordinating with them on several things," he said. "So, we reach out to them. It's an ongoing process to convince them to accredit [with DepEd]," Ang said during a briefing after conducting a media training on rethinking the Philippine migration narrative. Ang said similar unaccredited PSOs face measures against the government "where they operate." "So, I understand even East Timor is gonna clamp them down. I think it is one of the reasons why they should submit themselves to the rules of DepEd

and CFO," Ang said. In February, Ang assured the Philippine Embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that the CFO will protect the integrity of PSOs. Ang raised the need to enhance the competitiveness of PSOs during a high-level mission to the UAE, including a courtesy call on the Philippine Ambassador to the UAE, Alfonso Ver. Ver raised the issue of unregulated online schooling platforms that have reportedly disrupted the operations of legitimate PSOs. Ang has assured the embassy that the CFO would seek DepEd's intervention to address these "fly-by-night" operations and protect the integrity of the overseas educational system. Ang's mission centered on the growing demand for quality Filipino education as the PSO community in the UAE continues to expand. The CFO and the embassy reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the PSO network. Ang's visit was part of the CFO's mandate to regulate PSOs and ensure they "remain viable pillars for the Filipino diaspora." During his meeting with Ver, Ang highlighted the results of consultations with the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge. Local authorities reportedly encouraged the expansion of PSOs, citing not only the rising Filipino population in the UAE but also a growing interest from other nationalities in enrolling their children in the Philippine school system. Ver said that growth must be matched by academic rigor. He noted that for Filipino students to qualify for admission to prestigious local institutions, such as Khalifa University, PSOs must ensure their curricula meet international standards, especially in Mathematics. As the lead agency of the Inter-Agency Committee on Philippine Schools Overseas, the CFO plays a crucial role in mitigating the "social costs" of migration. By ensuring that Filipino children abroad have access to a curriculum that mirrors the one in their homeland, the CFO helps maintain a cultural and educational bridge, easing the eventual reintegration of families or the transition of students to higher education in the Philippines. "The government here offers generous opportunities and a high quality of life, which is why many of our students prefer to remain in the UAE after graduation," Ver said. He pointed to the availability of the 10-year golden visa as a significant incentive for high-achieving Filipinos. This long-term residency permit is granted under specific conditions, including proof of a stable monthly income, significant professional contributions, or community service. Ang detailed several CFO initiatives aimed at professionalizing PSO management and improving student resources to support these institutions. The CFO said central to this are the newly signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) and the Philippine Educational Publishers Association (PEPA). The partnership with PEAC is designed to provide PSOs with access to teacher training and school improvement programs usually reserved for domestic private schools. Meanwhile, the agreement with PEPA ensures that overseas schools have a streamlined, reliable pipeline for the latest textbooks and educational materials, keeping them updated with the K-12 curriculum. By focusing on academic excellence and regulatory oversight, the CFO wants to ensure that the children of migrant workers are not only equipped with skills for global success but also deeply connected to their Philippine heritage.

- [Youth group wants vaping banned on No Tobacco Day](#) (2026-05-29 16:00)

OVER 6,000 young people demanded that the government immediately ban vapes and e-cigarettes for the World No Tobacco Day celebration on May 31. During the "Pilipinas, TobaccOFF NOW!" celebration, youth advocates highlighted the adverse effects of vapes among the youth through various activities, including learning sessions, a panel discussion, fun runs, boot camps, and theater plays. "Through Pilipinas, TobaccOFF NOW! and the broader F* Nicotine campaign, we, the youth, get to express our frustration about tobacco, vape, and other nicotine products taking over our lives and our health," said Vonn Vincent Tanchuan, campaign lead of the TobaccOFF NOW! Movement. According to the Institute for Global Tobacco Control and the National Library of Medicine, approximately 1.21 million Filipino youth currently use e-cigarettes, noting that previous studies have shown that e-cigarette use significantly increases the likelihood of transitioning to conventional cigarette smoking, particularly among nonsmoking youth. In a separate statement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has also highlighted the dangers of flavored and attractively packaged nicotine products, which are often marketed to young people. The WHO said that this year's theme for World No Tobacco Day is "Unmask the appeal – countering tobacco and nicotine addiction," which aims to expose how the tobacco and nicotine industry continues to adapt its products and tactics to attract and retain users, particularly children and adolescents. "Pilipinas, TobaccOFF NOW!" is part of the broader global anti-nicotine campaign F* Nicotine, which operates in countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, and the US. The campaign exposes how the tobacco and vape industry targets youth through appealing packaging and flavors, fostering lifelong addiction. In the Philippines, the movement has localized this approach, rallying young people to demand immediate government action. The campaign began on May 23 in Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, where over 250 young advocates, alongside partners like the Department of Health, Quezon City LGU, ImagineLaw, and HealthJustice, came together to amplify their message. "This is just the beginning of a larger movement that will continue to grow until our demands are met," Tanchuan said, expressing optimism that the movement will translate into policy change.

- [Andreeva sweeps into last 16 at French Open](#) (2026-05-29 15:54)

PARIS, France — Women's eighth seed Mirra Andreeva blew past Marie Bouzkova 6-4, 6-2 in the third round at the French Open on Friday. The 19-year-old Russian survived a break point in the sixth game of the match before breaking herself in the ninth. She then served out comfortably for the set. Andreeva immediately broke the Czech again to start the second set and then broke again, to love, in the seventh game as she won in one hour 35 minutes. "I was very happy I was able to close the first set despite missing some shots," said Andreeva on court at the end. "Very happy I was able to play aggressive throughout the match." Andreeva said the first-week heat wave suited her game and she preferred playing in the afternoon before the courts cooled. "When it's hot and it's sunny I feel I have an advantage because when the ball is bouncing I can get a better shape on it," she said. In the last 16, Andreeva will face either another Czech, 10th-seeded Karolina Muchova, or Swiss Jil Teichmann.

- [When Sue Tilley met Lucian Freud, it changed her life. Now a painting of her could fetch \\$47 million](#) (2026-05-29 15:23)

LONDON — Sue Tilley was working in an unemployment office when she met the artist Lucian Freud. The paintings he made of her in the 1990s are now among the most famous in modern art — and the most valuable. “Sleeping by the Lion Carpet,” regarded as one of Freud’s masterpieces, is going up for sale at Sotheby’s on June 24, with a presale estimate of 25 million pounds to 35 million pounds (\$33 million to \$47 million). Tilley hasn’t seen any of the millions that the portraits have fetched at auction. But she doesn’t regret a thing. “It did change my life,” Tilley told The Associated Press as she sat in front of the 7 1/2-foot (2.3-meter)-high nude image of herself in the auction house showroom. “Who would have thought I’d be in Sotheby’s?” “Sleeping by the Lion Carpet,” painted in 1996, is the last of Freud’s four monumental portraits of Tilley reclining, resting or dozing. An earlier painting, “Benefits Supervisor Sleeping,” sold at auction in 2008 for \$33.6 million, at the time a record for a living artist. “I was thrilled I was in ‘The Guinness Book of Records,’ ” said 69-year-old Tilley, who has a rich laugh and an air of delight at the twists her life has taken. “Unfortunately, it didn’t say my name. There was a picture and it said ‘Benefits Supervisor.’ But I was still thrilled that it was there.”

Cups of tea and paint everywhere

Freud, a grandson of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, is famed for fleshy nudes of friends, family and the artist himself. He slathered oil paint to capture his subjects’ mottled skin tones in portraits that are both unsparing and warm. He even painted Queen Elizabeth II — fully clothed. By the time of his death aged 88 in 2011, he was the most acclaimed British portrait painter of the 20th century. His reputation has only grown since. Another picture of Tilley, “Benefits Supervisor Resting,” was auctioned in 2015 for \$56.2 million. In 2022, his painting “Large Interior, W11” sold for \$86 million. Tilley met Freud through her friend Leigh Bowery, the late Australian performance artist, who also posed for the painter. She recalls “trudging up the stairs” to Freud’s London studio for sittings that involved plentiful tea and chitchat, punctuated by a good lunch. Each portrait was the product of months of work. “Sleeping by the Lion Carpet,” Tilley says, “was the most comfortable one, because I was sitting up in a chair. Lying down on the sofa looks comfortable, but after a while it got a bit painful.” Freud painted his friends, lovers, children and colleagues, and the results are bold and exposing. Tilley says that has never bothered her. “I’m not really vain,” she said. “Sometimes I get out of bed in the morning, and I look at my legs and go, ‘Oh, they look just like that painting.’ ” She loved the messy energy of Freud’s studio, where “he used to make you a drink and whisk it up with a dirty old paintbrush, and there was paint absolutely everywhere. I’d go home and there’d be bits of paint all over me.” Tilley was part of a 1980s and ’90s London creative scene, alongside figures like Bowery, who ran the avant-garde Taboo nightclub and died in 1994 aged 33. She says she enjoyed Freud’s tales of an earlier Bohemian era. “I used to love hearing about when he was roaring around in a Rolls-Royce open top with Cecil Beaton and Marlene Dietrich and goodness knows (who), and when he met Judy Garland,” she said. “I used to love getting the stories of his youth and his misbehavior.”

Freud’s ‘magnum opus’ up for sale

Tilley is unperturbed that her image is ending up in the hands of the ultra-wealthy. “Benefits Supervisor Sleeping” was bought in

2008 by Roman Abramovich, the then-owner of Chelsea Football Club, who was sanctioned by the U.K. after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. "Sleeping by the Lion Carpet" is part of a June 24-25 sale from the collection of British billionaire Joe Lewis, the former majority owner of Premier League soccer team Tottenham Hotspur, which is still owned by his family. Also going under the hammer are works by Henri Matisse, Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele and others, collectively valued at more than 150 million pounds (\$201 million). There's a chance "Sleeping by the Lion Carpet" could set a new record. Oliver Barker, chairman of Sotheby's Europe, describes it as Freud's "magnum opus." "This is a painting that during his lifetime was very much described by Lucian as being the apogee of everything that he was trying to achieve as a painter," Barker said. "The market knows, and it's very savvy, it wants to go for the best of the best — and this is it." Tilley, who is retired and lives on England's south coast, says Freud "gave me a couple of etchings, and then I sold them, because I'd rather have the money, and I went on holiday." She says she doesn't regret Freud not leaving her one of the paintings. Her place in art history is secure. "When I was younger, I used to read art books the whole time and read all about the Pre-Raphaelites and the Impressionists, all the goings on, how they're all friends and interconnected and all the models knew each other," she said. "And now, I've only just realized, I'm part of that. And that's thrilling for me that I've achieved my ambition without really knowing it."

- [What to know about the Bundibugyo virus, a species of Ebola causing an outbreak in Congo](#) (2026-05-29 15:14)

CONGO — The virus causing an outbreak in Congo suspected of killing more than 200 people is less common than others that cause Ebola disease, which is complicating the response because there are no specific treatments or vaccines. "There's nothing even close to ready for clinical trials," said Dr. Celine Gounder, an infectious disease specialist and epidemiologist who treated patients in West Africa during the 2014-2016 Ebola epidemic. "And so that means responders, healthcare workers and other aid workers are really back to the basics." On Thursday, the World Health Organization said its advisory groups had identified some potential vaccines and therapies to test, but recommended they be used exclusively in clinical trials to ensure they are safe and effective. Each would require months of development. Here's what to know about Bundibugyo virus, the rare species behind the outbreak, and the vaccines and treatments being studied to help fight it. Bundibugyo virus has caused two other outbreaks Bundibugyo virus has caused two other outbreaks, all in the same region of the Congo River basin, said Dr. Tom Ksiazek, a University of Texas Medical Branch virologist and veterinarian. He directed the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Special Pathogens Branch, which first identified the virus in 2007. Other viruses that cause Ebola disease are the Ebola virus (sometimes called the Zaire virus), the Sudan virus, and the Taï Forest virus, which is not known to cause large outbreaks. How Bundibugyo virus is spread The virus is spread through close contact with sick or deceased patients' bodily fluids, such as sweat, blood, feces or vomit. Healthcare workers and family members caring for sick patients face the highest risk, experts said. "So very often we see doctors and nurses among the first to be infected and to die," said Gounder,

editor-at-large for public health at KFF Health News. Bundibugyo may be less lethal, but still extremely dangerous. From the few outbreaks health experts have seen, Bundibugyo might be slightly less deadly than Ebola virus or Sudan virus. "I think a 30%-plus mortality rate is still quite scary, but it's hard to say with a lot of precision because we don't have a lot of experience," Gounder said. How to care for patients if there are no treatments or vaccines. In the other two Bundibugyo outbreaks, initial cases were identified early, Ksiazek said, allowing for a quick public health response: getting healthcare workers proper protective equipment, finding and isolating people who were exposed and offering supportive medical care to patients. Proper medical care "reduces mortality significantly," he said. That includes giving patients lots of IV or oral fluids, Gounder said. WHO identifies possible vaccines to test. The most promising vaccine candidates include:— A vaccine similar to Merck's Ervebo vaccine, which targets the Ebola virus – not the Bundibugyo virus causing the current outbreak. A Bundibugyo-specific version using the same vaccine platform is being developed by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. It would likely need at least seven months before it could be tested in a clinical trial, WHO said.— A vaccine built on the same platform as the Oxford University/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. India's Serum Institute is making doses, which could become available within two to three months for a clinical trial, but WHO officials say more animal testing is needed to ensure it can be used against the Bundibugyo virus. The treatments that should be prioritized, according to WHO. WHO's independent experts recommended prioritizing three therapies for clinical trials: Antibody therapies from Mapp Biopharmaceutical and Regeneron and Gilead Sciences' antiviral drug remdesivir. Mapp's experimental antibody treatment, MBP134, targets several forms of Ebola, including Bundibugyo. Regeneron's treatment, mAb114, is a component of Inmazeb, which was approved by U.S. regulators in 2020 for the Ebola virus. Remdesivir, sold under the brand name Veklury, was approved in 2020 as a COVID-19 treatment. WHO also said an experimental antiviral drug called obeldesivir should be studied for protecting people exposed to Ebola victims. The Gilead drug, which is still in mid-stage clinical trials, should be evaluated to see if it prevents close contacts from developing Ebola disease, the agency said. How public health workers are trying to contain the outbreak. Health workers are now working to find and isolate cases, trace their contacts and educate people about how to avoid the virus. In the West African Ebola epidemic, ensuring safe methods of burial was key to stopping the spread, said Gounder, because people were getting sick from preparing their loved ones' bodies for funeral rites. Making sure health workers have proper protective equipment is also critical, experts said. "Of course, it's problematic because vaccines are some of our best tools for combating infectious diseases," said Lina Moses, an epidemiologist and disease ecologist at Tulane University. But other public health tools — public education, contact tracing, quick testing — still work, she said. "It's important to keep in mind that every single Ebola outbreak that has occurred in the (Democratic Republic of the Congo) — we're on our 17th now — has been stopped," she said.

- [Former abbot of China's famous Shaolin Temple sentenced to 24 years in prison for corruption](#) (2026-05-29 15:04)

BEIJING — A Chinese court on Friday sentenced a former abbot of China's famous Shaolin Temple to 24 years in prison after he was found guilty of offences including misappropriation of funds and bribery, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Shi Yongxin, whose original name is Liu Yingcheng, was also fined 3.5 million yuan (about \$516,000) by the court in central Henan province after a trial. The court found that Shi used his positions, including as the temple abbot, to illegally embezzle over 131 million yuan (\$19 million) alone or in conspiracy with others, between 2003 and 2025, CCTV reported. The court also discovered that Shi misappropriated funds amounting to over 151 million yuan (about \$22 million) for personal use for more than three months without repayment between 2012 and 2022, among other findings, the report added. The court said Shi's crimes involved huge amounts, his bribery offenses were particularly serious and his criminal conduct lasted for a long period. "They caused severely harmful consequences and adverse social impact," CCTV reported the court as saying. Shi confessed his crimes, voluntarily disclosed details that law enforcement authorities had not yet discovered and showed remorse, CCTV added. Last year, Shaolin Temple announced that Shi was under investigation on suspicion of misappropriation and embezzlement of project funds and temple assets. Shi was also alleged to have committed criminal offenses and violated Buddhist precepts by maintaining relationships with multiple women over a long period and fathering at least one child, according to a notice from the temple's authority on its WeChat account at that time. The fame of the Shaolin Temple, based also in Henan, has gone beyond a religious institution. It is renowned for its martial arts culture, or kung fu, which has been referenced in many movies and TV dramas, including the 1982 film "The Shaolin Temple," starring martial arts superstar Jet Li. China's state news agency Xinhua reported in 2015 that Shi was known as a "CEO monk" and that he had sparked controversy for developing commercial operations to promote kung fu shows and merchandise.

- [Bus hits cars in Virginia, killing 5 people and injuring 34, state police say](#) (2026-05-29 14:46)

STAFFORD, Virginia — A bus struck six vehicles on Interstate 95 in Virginia as traffic slowed for a work zone, killing five people and sending 34 to hospitals, state police said Friday. The crash happened at about 2:35 a.m. on southbound I-95 in Stafford County. All five of the people who died were in vehicles hit by the bus, and three of the injured are in critical condition, police said. "The preliminary investigation indicates that traffic was slowing southbound for an upcoming work zone," state police said in a news release. "A bus failed to slow for traffic and struck six vehicles." It was not immediately known what the bus was being used for or how many people were aboard. The crash is under investigation and charges are pending, police said. Southbound lanes remained closed seven hours after the crash, with traffic being detoured.

- [NBI continues manhunt for dela Rosa, says no definite leads yet](#) (2026-05-29 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said on Friday that it was continuing intelligence and operational efforts to locate Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, stressing that authorities have yet to establish any definite leads on his whereabouts. NBI Director Melvin Matibag, in a media briefing, said the bureau's monitoring and tracking operations remained

active across Luzon and other regions amid ongoing verification of reported sightings. “At this moment, we still have no definite leads as to his exact location,” Matibag said, adding that surveillance operations are continuing while all information is being validated. He also said that based on available immigration data, there is no indication that the senator has left the country. “According to our immigration records, there is no confirmation that he has exited the Philippines,” he said. Matibag said the NBI was maintaining coordination with other law enforcement agencies as part of efforts to monitor movements and support possible enforcement actions. “We are coordinating with other agencies to track any developments and possible movements,” he said. He added that the bureau has already put in place procedures for possible surrender or arrest scenarios, including detention and processing protocols should an arrest order be implemented. “We are prepared for the necessary procedures in case of surrender or arrest,” he said. The NBI chief also noted that the agency continued to receive and validate information from informants and social media reports as part of its ongoing intelligence work. “We continue to verify information coming from informants and social media while our surveillance operations remain active,” he said.

- [Marcos back in PH after 'productive' Japan visit](#) (2026-05-29 12:59)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. returned to the Philippines Friday evening after what he described as a “very constructive and highly productive” state visit to Japan. The plane carrying the President, First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and the entire delegation landed at Villamor Airbase in Pasay City at 6:19 p.m. Speaking to reporters before flying back to Manila, Marcos reported that his four-day state visit to Japan generated about \$3.4 billion in investment pledges. During the visit, the President said he had “very fruitful” meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, which included discussions on the start of negotiations for military information sharing and maritime boundary delimitation talks. “Bound by shared values and common aspirations, we agreed to elevate our relationship from a strengthened strategic partnership to a comprehensive strategic partnership,” Marcos said. “This reflects how our cooperation has grown not only stronger but deeper and broader, not only across the traditional areas of security, maritime and defense cooperation, trade and investment, but also across new frontiers critical to our future, such as energy security, supply chain resilience, decarbonization, artificial intelligence, and space cooperation,” he added. Marcos’ visit to Japan also paved the way for the signing of several agreements, including a deal on the avoidance of double taxation, as well as cooperation in agriculture, fisheries, health services and human resource development. The President also said that Japanese firms signaled additional investment plans worth P56.3 billion for expansion projects covering key sectors such as semiconductor, advanced electronics, precision manufacturing, and shipbuilding. The expansion plans, he said, were expected to generate around 10,300 direct and indirect jobs for Filipinos. Marcos said major Japanese firms such as Furukawa Electric Corporation, Sumitomo Electric Industries, MinebeaMitsumi Inc., and Tsuneishi Group Corporation remained confident in the Philippine economy and its long-term growth prospects. “I suppose the way we could describe it is that we have aspirations to become a hub

in Asia," the President said. "Because as I keep reminding our potential investors, the Philippines is only four hours away from every major capital in Asia, and that puts us geographically at the center of Asia," he added. The President also expressed appreciation for the "warm" welcome extended to him by Japanese Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. He also met with members of the Filipino community in Japan, estimated at around 33,000, thanking them for their contributions to both countries' economies. "I commended their invaluable contributions to nation building and assured them that their welfare remains an enormous and a high priority of the government. Their hard work and dedication continue to strengthen the bond between our two countries," Marcos said.

- [How to enroll in Tesda's free online AI and digital skills courses](#) (2026-05-29 10:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos who want to learn artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, and other digital skills may now enroll for free through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Online Program after Tesda partnered with Unesco-UNEVOC and the HP Foundation to expand access to future-ready training programs. The agency announced on Friday that the initiative integrated selected courses from the HP LIFE Program into Tesda's online learning platform, allowing Filipinos to study digital and business-related subjects remotely and at their own pace. What courses are being offered? Tesda said learners could access free online courses on artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, marketing, communication, finance, and business operations. The courses also include lessons on AI concepts, responsible AI use, and practical AI applications in workplaces and businesses. According to Tesda, the HP LIFE Program currently offers more than 30 online courses. Who can enroll? The Tesda Online Program is open to Filipinos who want to improve their digital and employability skills. Based on Tesda Online Program materials, most courses do not require a college degree, prior work experience, or specific educational attainment. Tesda's online platform is also designed for students, overseas Filipino workers, returning OFWs, fresh graduates, jobseekers, career shifters, and working professionals seeking flexible learning opportunities. What are the requirements? Learners need a valid email address, internet connection, and a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer to access the platform. Tesda Online Program materials also recommend a stable internet connection and a modern web browser for smoother access to online modules and video lessons. How can Filipinos access the courses? Interested learners may visit [e-tesda \(dot\) gov \(dot\) ph](https://e-tesda.gov.ph) and create a free TESDA Online Program account. According to Tesda Online Program materials, users must complete registration details and verify their account through an activation link sent via email before enrolling in courses. After registration, users may browse available courses and enroll directly through the platform. Tesda said the courses were self-paced, allowing learners to study anytime and anywhere depending on their schedule and internet availability. Some courses may also require learners to complete quizzes, assessments, and final tests before finishing the program. Are the courses really free? Tesda said the online courses were free of charge under the partnership with the HP Foundation and Unesco-UNEVOC. Tesda Online Program materials also state that the platform does not require tuition fees or entrance examinations for most

courses. Will learners receive certificates? Tesda Online Program learners may receive a digital Certificate of Completion after finishing required modules and assessments. However, Tesda clarifies that the online certificate is different from a Tesda National Certificate or Certificate of Competency, which still requires a face-to-face competency assessment at a TESDA-accredited assessment center. Tesda also said completed courses and competencies would appear in the Tesda Skills Passport mobile application through its Skills Pathways feature. Why is Tesda expanding AI and digital training? Tesda Secretary Kiko Benitez said the initiative sought to help Filipinos remain competitive as industries continue shifting toward technology-driven operations. “As industries continue to transform through technology and innovation, it is important that Filipinos are equipped with the skills needed to remain competitive and adaptable in the future of work. Using e-Tesda, we can further expand access to quality training,” Benitez said. Tesda said the collaboration was being facilitated through the Unesco Global Skills Academy, which aims to support lifelong learning and employability skills worldwide.

- [DILG mulls offering bounty for information leading to dela Rosa's arrest](#) (2026-05-29 09:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Friday said it was considering offering a bounty for information leading to the arrest of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa who is currently in hiding as authorities seek his arrest. “Pwede, we are considering that but apparently it is not effective yet so tingnan namin kung ano ang kailangan (let's see what's needed),” Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on the sidelines of the 4th PNP Press Corps National Headquarters, Inc. 4th Invitational Shootfest at Camp Karingal in Quezon City. Authorities have failed to find the lawmaker in the simultaneous raids launched in various parts of the country but Remulla said they have “leads” as to the whereabouts of the former police chief. Remulla said the challenge in finding dela Rosa was that the authorities were executing searches in all the “7,467 islands” in the Philippines. During the Senate standoff, Dela Rosa personally asked Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. if he could be detained at the PNP. There were also no surrender feelers or communication coming from the senator’s camp. Remulla meanwhile defended police operations done in different residences where Dela Rosa was believed to have been hiding. This was following the outburst of Nancy dela Rosa, the lawmaker’s wife, that a friend’s house had been searched without a warrant. “Wala kaming naviolate na police procedure (We have not violated any police procedure). Everything according to the rules of engagement finafollow namin (we follow). Wala kaming ginagawang tokhang (We are not doing any tokhang), we do not violate any rules. We do not aggressively go in na wala kaming sufficient grounds para pumasok (without sufficient grounds to enter),” Remulla said. As to the findings of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) that the senator’s escape was “related” to the Senate fiasco, Remulla said, “We will have to find out. We do not know but apparently I don’t believe in coincidences.” Apart from the raids that made news over the week, authorities have performing operations all over the country not only to arrest the senator but also to confiscate the firearms with revoked permits. “Basically titingnan natin lahat nung mga (we are looking at

their) whereabouts, known address as well yung the usual na pinupuntahan niya (places he goes to) and so including the address where his firearms are located. So nakipag negotiate (we negotiated) for them to turn in the firearms,” Nartatez said. The PNP chief also warned dela Rosa’s fellow lawmakers if they planned to assist the senator. “They know the consequences, especially if it’s coddling or helping a person with a warrant of arrest,” Nartatez said.

- [Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan post bail in graft case linked to flood control scam](#) (2026-05-29 08:20)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan posted bail in the graft cases filed against them in connection with the flood control scam before the Sandiganbayan. Bail was set at P90,000.

- [Marcos says watching Senate drama with 'horror'](#) (2026-05-29 08:11)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said he watched “with horror” the recent controversies surrounding the Senate as the issues are becoming “personal.” Marcos, a former senator, said he has observed a shift in Senate discourse away from professional deliberation. “Very [concerning]. I watched with horror that the Senate has become this,” Marcos said during a media interview in Tokyo, Japan, recalling his earlier discussion with Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, also a former senator. “Of course, the only basis for comparison that I have is the time that I was in the Senate. And I never imagined that the Senate would descend into this kind of what’s happening right now,” he added.

- [As the United States turns 250, Americans still can't get enough of French luxury](#) (2026-05-29 07:16)

NEW YORK — At the pinnacle of the American cultural pyramid, one particular inspiration has echoed across the centuries through friendship and tension alike: France. The American love affair with French luxury goods and their cultural cachet and craftsmanship has spanned the younger country’s history, and a new exhibit explores the story of how these treasures shaped a cultural exchange that marks 250 years of Franco-American relations. Among the standouts in the exhibit’s cabinet of curiosities: the Givenchy coat worn by former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy; a Cartier lunar module replica from Apollo 11; and a medal commissioned by Benjamin Franklin at the “Hidden Treasures” exhibit at The Shed in Manhattan. The organizers behind the exhibit, Comité Colbert, represent the top French luxury “maisons,” or houses — including fashion, perfume, jewelry, hospitality and spirits. They asked 65 luxury maisons and cultural institutions to excavate archives and unearth pieces that embodied the Franco-American bond. The exhibit, which runs through the end of May, comes at a time when American consumers account for a major share in the demand for French luxury goods. Those luxury houses are taking notice — and expanding in the United States. “American people love French elegance — the ‘je ne sais quoi’ of French luxury,” said Bénédicte Épinay, president and CEO of Comité Colbert. “It’s a deep link starting at the 18th century and still alive.” France was a ‘dominant’ culture when the US was born. Just as Comité Colbert is

honoring France's bond with the U.S., the U.S. is celebrating its own 250 milestone — its semiquincentennial. "The U.S. is a relatively young country," said James Burroughs, professor of commerce at the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce. "For much of our existence, we were a relatively modest economy. We were overshadowed by dominant cultures like France." The link between the two countries can be seen in perhaps the most renowned American symbol, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France dedicated in 1886. But even before that — and even before French historian Alexis de Tocqueville famously wrote his epic work about U.S. democracy in the 1830s — Americans turned to France as arbiters of taste. To commemorate France's support during the Revolutionary War, one of America's Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, turned to French artists and the Paris mint to commission the Libertas Americana medal in 1782. Exhibit attendees can get an up-close look at the medal's design. Each item on display was presented in shipping containers to symbolize the trans-Atlantic voyage between both countries. In an effort to market French luxury goods to U.S. audiences, one French Champagne company's unique approach is on display at the exhibition. An ad from Champagne giant Veuve Clicquot from 1964 shows how the company paired its Champagne with hamburgers to appeal to American audiences and to break away from the image of saving a glass of Champagne for special occasions. "Luxury," Burroughs said, "is always about status and signaling." Fashion, unsurprisingly, has been front and center. Much like its role in the French luxury sector, fashion brought the star power to the exhibit. Givenchy offered Kennedy Onassis's pink, brushed-cashmere wool coat from her 1961 visit to France for the exhibit. Madonna's revealing pinstriped Jean Paul Gaultier dress from his 1992 runway show to benefit AIDS research is also on display. French luxury houses are catering to their American audiences by bringing their designs to the United States as well. The French fashion maisons from Dior, Louis Vuitton and Chanel have all staged their runway shows in the U.S. in recent months. "European luxury goods companies are in the process of getting deeper into the USA," Luca Solca, luxury goods senior analyst at Bernstein, said in an email. "In the past, only the two coasts and Las Vegas had luxury stores. American consumers are step by step warming up to European luxury. In a similar vein to what Chinese consumers did many years ago." These brands are not only holding extravagant runway shows in the U.S. but are expanding their businesses across the U.S. Hermès opened a new location in Nashville last year. "What the French have done really well ... in the last 15 years, is that they have opened up their range of products to create offers that are very relevant to the mass American consumer," said Thomai Serdari, New York University marketing professor and director of the luxury and retail MBA. French jewelry brand Boucheron featured a dramatic diamond Belle Époque style necklace at the exhibit replicated after the necklace the brand sold to Irish-American couple Marie-Louise Mackay and her husband, John William Mackay in 1899. The couple, who amassed their fortune through silver mines, commissioned 50 pieces from the house. Looking to capture a new generation of collectors, the brand now has three U.S. stores under its umbrella since opening on Madison Avenue in 2024. Hélène Poulit-Duquesne, Boucheron's CEO and incoming president of the Comité Colbert, told The Associated Press that the brand has plans to open a fourth store in the United States before the end of the year. After increased growth from spending during the pandemic, the luxury sector is now grappling with

tariffs from the Trump administration and economic uncertainty. The European Commission agreed to a deal with President Donald Trump on a 15% tariff on goods last year before the Supreme Court ruled against Trump's call in February. For the luxury houses, Épinay said, tariffs are in the past. "Politics and economics, it's up and down," she said. "We're here to celebrate this strong cultural link between us."

- [Court orders arrest of Jinggoy Estrada, Bonoan but sets bail](#) (2026-05-29 06:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Second Division issued an arrest warrant and hold departure order against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan in the graft case filed against them. Bail was at P90,000.

- [Remulla to Estrada: Surrender or face arrest](#) (2026-05-29 04:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said Sen. Jinggoy Estrada was given only two options amid his looming arrest in connection with the multibillion-peso flood control scandal — voluntary surrender or arrest. "Regarding the impending arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada, the options are simple: voluntary surrender or arrest," Remulla said in an official message posted on the Department of the Interior and Local Government's Facebook page. "These are the standard procedures followed by law enforcement authorities in serving a warrant and do not deviate in any way from established Standard Operating Procedures," he added. Remulla disclosed that he had spoken with Estrada regarding the possible implementation of the arrest order stemming from plunder and graft charges filed before the Sandiganbayan. "Surrender or arrest. He mentioned that he needed knee replacement surgery. I replied that it's up to the Sandiganbayan's appreciation. Our job is to process his arrest and submit him to the Sandiganbayan," Remulla said. The Office of the Ombudsman filed plunder and graft charges against Estrada, former Department of Public Works and Highways secretary Manuel Bonoan, and several other officials over the alleged P573 million worth of kickbacks tied to flood control projects. Prosecutors also recommended that the cases be treated as non-bailable. Estrada said he would exhaust all available legal remedies in response to the charges filed against him. The case marked the latest development in the government's widening crackdown on alleged corruption linked to flood control projects, which has implicated several politicians, contractors, and public works officials.

- [Makati rolls out P356M mid-year aid for seniors](#) (2026-05-29 04:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Makati City government on Friday announced the rollout of P356.48 million worth of mid-year cash incentives for more than 59,000 Blu Card holders, with qualified senior citizens starting to receive their P6,000 benefits through GCash. Mayor Nancy Binay said the city has allotted the funds for 59,414 registered Blu Card holders in Makati, including more than 8,000 senior citizens who will receive their incentives through manual payouts in designated village payout centers beginning June 3. Binay said digital payouts through GCash started on May 28, 2026 for senior citizens with registered and validated accounts. "We have made sure that no qualified beneficiary will be left out because of lack of access to an e-wallet."

Everyone will receive their mid-year incentive, no one will be deprived. We know our senior citizens are expecting this, so it is only right that they receive the benefit allocated for them,” Binay said. The city government said onsite distribution for other qualified beneficiaries will run from June 3 to 10 across Makati’s 23 villages. Binay said the schedule for manual payouts has been posted on the city government’s official Facebook page, My Makati. The mayor said the city would continue offering alternative payout methods for residents who may have limited access to digital platforms, even as Makati expands the use of cashless disbursement systems. She also reminded Blu Card holders to ensure that their GCash accounts are active and properly registered to avoid delays in receiving the incentive. The city government said unclaimed incentives may still be claimed on June 11 and from June 15 to 18 at the Cash Division on the third floor of Makati City Hall Building 1. Binay said the city remained committed to providing timely assistance and accessible services for elderly residents, citing their contribution to Makati’s growth and development.

- [PH, JICA to boost development cooperation](#) (2026-05-29 04:09)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President Tanaka Akihiko to further strengthen Philippines-Japan cooperation on infrastructure, healthcare, climate action, and peace and development initiatives in Mindanao. In a Facebook post during his state visit to Japan, Marcos highlighted JICA’s role in supporting projects that improve connectivity and generate jobs for Filipinos. “JICA continues to help power projects that create jobs, improve connectivity, and make everyday life better for Filipinos,” Marcos said following his meeting with Tanaka at the Okura Hotel in Tokyo on Thursday. “We also welcomed JICA’s continued support as we work to protect our economy and our people from the impact of rising global oil prices and global uncertainties,” he added. During the meeting, Marcos and Tanaka discussed ongoing and pipeline projects aimed at boosting connectivity, disaster resilience, human resource development, and economic growth. The discussions included future cooperation on railway systems, road networks, bridges, and disaster risk management initiatives as the Philippines continues its infrastructure expansion efforts. Both sides also tackled support programs meant to help the Philippines address the effects of rising oil prices and broader global economic uncertainties. The Japanese government, through JICA, is targeting the signing of nine pipeline loans worth ¥292.10 billion, or around \$1.84 billion, for Japanese Fiscal Year 2026.

- [Seafarer faces charges over bomb joke at NAIA](#) (2026-05-29 04:06)

MANILA, Philippines — A Butuan-bound Filipino seafarer was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 after making a bomb joke during aircraft boarding, the PNP Aviation Security Group (Avsegroup) reported on Friday. The incident occurred on May 26, 2026 when a cabin crew member asked the passenger about the contents of his bag. The passenger allegedly replied that it contained a bomb, later claiming he was just joking. Crew members immediately reported the statement to airport authorities, prompting standard security protocols. The passenger, a 26-year-old seafarer from Talisayan, Misamis Oriental, was

scheduled to travel to Butuan City. Aviation police, along with bomb disposal and K9 units, immediately deployed to check the passenger's luggage and the surrounding area, but no explosive or dangerous materials were found. The suspect was later taken into custody by police for the alleged violation of Presidential Decree 1727, or the Anti-Bomb Joke Law. Brig. Gen. Dionisio B. Bartolome, Avsegroup chief, said that all statements involving bombs or explosives were treated with utmost seriousness and even jokes were not taken lightly as they could cause panic and disrupt airport operations. "We urge the public to always be responsible with their words, especially inside airport premises," Bartolome said.

- [PH, Japan sign double tax convention, other deals during Marcos visit](#) (2026-05-29 03:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and Japan have signed a landmark agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and several new cooperation deals covering agriculture, health, and human resource development during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s state visit to Japan. Marcos and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi witnessed the signing of the double taxation convention (DTC) during their bilateral meeting at the Akasaka State Guest House in Tokyo on Thursday. "Today, we also witnessed the signing of an important agreement on the avoidance of double taxation, which will enhance the business environment and promote greater cross-border investment," Marcos said during his joint press conference with Takaichi. The President said Manila and Tokyo likewise forged new arrangements aimed at expanding cooperation in agriculture and fisheries, improving equitable access to quality healthcare services, and sustaining long-standing collaboration in human resource development. The two countries also agreed to deepen cooperation in strategic and emerging sectors, including artificial intelligence, space development and applications, energy security, and supply chain resilience. Marcos and Takaichi also announced the start of negotiations for a General Security of Military Information Agreement and discussions on the delimitation of maritime boundaries. "These are very important steps to further strengthen our defense cooperation and to uphold a rules-based maritime order. They will enhance the mutual trust between our two countries," the President said.

- [Angeles building collapse toll climbs to 6](#) (2026-05-29 03:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The death toll on the building collapse in Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga has climbed to six, following the discovery of human remains at the site on Thursday night. A post on the Facebook page of the city's information office indicated that the remains of a sixth victim was found at 11:31 p.m., according to an update by the Incident Command Post. The Bureau of Fire Protection in Central Luzon confirmed that the body was recovered at 12:40 a.m. on Friday. "As of 12:40 a.m., BFP Special Rescue Force successfully extricated one unidentified body, marking the 6th casualty for the 9-storey collapsed structure incident at Angeles City," the BFP said in a Facebook post. The Search, Rescue and Retrieval Operations of the BFP entered its sixth day. "Manual clearing of debris and heavy equipment operations are continuously being conducted to aid responders in accessing affected areas of the collapsed structure," the agency said.

- [No winners in Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws for May 28](#) (2026-05-28 21:26)

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 39--40-01-47-29-17, with a jackpot prize of P25,000,000. No winners were also recorded in the Lotto 6/42 draw, which had the combination 39-38-34-21-10-03 and a jackpot prize of P10,000,000.00.

- [Think it's hot now? The next five years will smash records, UN says](#) (2026-05-28 20:07)

WASHINGTON — In the next five years, the Earth is overwhelmingly likely to surge again and again past the international climate threshold set as safe and shatter its hottest-year record along the way, according to new United Nations climate projections. The World Meteorological Organization also forecasts an overheating Arctic that warms nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit (1.66 degrees Celsius) between now and 2030 and a dangerous drought with potential wildfires for the Amazon, a crucial part of Earth's natural defenses to lessen human-caused climate change. A hotter globe from the burning of coal, oil and gas means more extreme weather including floods, droughts and heat waves, scientists said. The projections by the U.N. climate agency and the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office said there's a 75% chance that the average global temperature between 2026 and 2030 will be more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) higher compared to pre-industrial times. That threshold is the agreed-upon limit of warming — averaged over 20 years — set in 2015 by the Paris climate agreement. A U.N. science report a few years later detailed how exceeding that 1.5 mark means more likely death, danger and species loss. Even though it's only a few tenths of a degree, some of the planet's ecosystems, such as coral and glaciers, can't handle the strain. Passing warming limit has consequences, but no cliff. There's a 91% chance that at least one of the next five years will shoot past the 1.5 degree threshold and an 86% chance that one of those years will smash the record for Earth's hottest year set in 2024, the WMO report said. The WMO projects each year between now and 2030 to be between 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) and 1.9 degrees Celsius (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit) since the late 1800s. "It's important to note that (1.5) is not kind of a cliff edge that we're going to fall off," said report co-author Melissa Seabrook, a climate scientist at the U.K. Meteorological Office. "Every kind of 0.1 of a degree has more and more severe impact." She pointed to unprecedented May heat in Europe this week. An entire year or more above the 1.5 degree mark "means a whole range of extreme weather events, probably many so hot/wet/dry that it exceeds anything we've experienced in the past and thus crucially, anything our city planning, agriculture etc. has anticipated," Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto, who wasn't part of the report, said in an email. "This will mean many people will lose their lives, we are in for a lot of food price shocks, and more intense wildfires." Nearly all the shorter-term forecasts call for a strong El Nino — a natural warming of parts of the central Pacific that alters weather worldwide and spikes global temperatures — to form soon. The WMO report said it could stretch all the way to 2028. Because of that, Seabrook said 2027 will likely break the 2024 heat record. And if the next five years do average more than 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, that means

Earth will have warmed a quarter of a degree Celsius (0.45 degrees Fahrenheit) in a decade, which is faster than the previous rates of warming. Those were closer to two-tenths of a degree Celsius per decade. Climate scientists are debating whether global warming is accelerating, “which obviously is quite scary,” and if these projections come true it would give additional evidence to those who see a speeded up rate of change, Seabrook said. Accelerating warmth forecast in the Arctic The projections, based on the averaging of about 200 runs of computer simulations using 13 different climate models from various countries, show warming in the Arctic rising 3.5 times faster than the rest of the globe, because there's less ice and snow that had been reflecting solar radiation to space, Seabrook said. It becomes a vicious cycle. “As the temperature warms, more sea ice melts, the worse this makes it,” Seabrook said. Winters in the Arctic from 2020 to 2025 on average were 2.1 degrees Fahrenheit (1.2 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1991-2020 average. The WMO projects the next five winters will average 5.1 degrees Fahrenheit (2.8 degrees Celsius) warmer than that recent normal, Seabrook said. The report also forecasts Arctic sea ice to continue to shrink in the summer. Amazon may get drier, sparking fire worries The report calls for even warmer and unusually dry conditions in the Amazon basin, and that could be devastating for both local residents and the planet as a whole, Seabrook said. People rely on the Amazon for water and the hotter, drier conditions should increase wildfire risk, Seabrook said, threatening to turn the Amazon, which now sucks heat-trapping carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, into a region that worsens the problem. Africa's Sahel area, which has been extra dry, is likely to get more than normal rain and that could lead to flooding, Seabrook said. United Nations officials said efforts to curb climate change haven't been enough. “Despite the progress of recent years, it's clear that global heating is still outpacing global efforts to contain it, and the baking temperatures in Europe, India and elsewhere show yet again the brutal human and economic impacts of humanity still burning colossal amounts of coal, oil and gas,” U.N. climate chief Simon Stiell said about the WMO report. “Whether it's extreme heat, mega-storms, floods, massive wildfires or droughts hitting food supply and prices,” he said, “every nation is already paying a huge price from this global climate crisis.”

- [Venus Williams and Hailey Baptiste withdraw from French Open women's doubles](#) (2026-05-28 17:53)

PARIS — Venus Williams will not play in the women's doubles at the French Open alongside Hailey Baptiste. They withdrew on Thursday and no reason was given by organizers. But Baptiste was forced to retire during her second-round singles against Wang Xiyu on Wednesday after landing awkwardly on her left leg late in the first set. The Americans were replaced by Eudice Chong and Veronika Rejvec in the draw. Williams, who turns 46 next month, was a singles wild-card entry at the Australian Open. She lost in the first round and became the oldest woman to compete in an Australian Open singles main draw. A seven-time major singles winner, Williams previously held the No. 1 ranking in singles and doubles. Williams lost the French Open singles final to younger sister Serena in 2002 and they twice won the French Open doubles together, in 1999 and 2010.

- [Why your co-worker might be listening to music tuned to 432 hertz](#) (2026-05-28 17:40)

NEW YORK — Yoselin Sanchez has been in chronic pain since she was born with cervical scoliosis. While little eases the discomfort, she's found ways to distract herself from hurting. She practices yoga. She performs free flow dance. And while she works, she frequently listens to house music tuned to 432 hertz, a frequency lower than typical concert pitch. "Music is medicine. Sound is medicine," said Sanchez, who provides telehealth services for a healthcare management organization in California. "It helps me focus and be engaged with the patient I'm assisting, and it also helps me relax." Music recorded in 432 hertz (cycles per second) is taking off on social media platforms and music streaming services, where users can find an increasing number of tracks and playlists employing the alternate tuning, everything from meditation soundscapes to reggae songs recorded by Ziggy Marley. Many proponents assert that 432 hertz is aligned with nature. Others assign the frequency healing properties or the power to reduce blood pressure. So far, there's no robust scientific evidence to support those claims. "There are frequencies going on right now that are higher than what we can hear and lower than what can hear. And they're not special because they're one of the billions and billions of frequencies that we're receiving right now," said Susan Rogers, a Berklee College of Music professor emeritus who worked as Prince's sound engineer during the 1980s. "To set one aside and say that it is the frequency of the universe is, as far as the science community is concerned, nonsense." To Sanchez, it doesn't matter if the pain relief and emotional benefits she ascribes to 432 hertz music have a scientific explanation. "When it comes to music, it could activate different feelings in people, the vibrations of it. It's not like a one-size-fits-all," she said. The story behind 440 and 432 hertz Throughout history, as people sang or played music together, they tuned their instruments to the same pitch to create a harmonious sound. Singers and musicians often chose a musical note — typically the A above middle C on a piano — as a reference point. The music genre known as "432 Hz" is characterized by its tuning, in which the A above middle C is pitch-adjusted to vibrate at 432 hertz instead of the standard 440 hertz. The lower frequency is noticeable to the naked ear, sounding like slightly lower notes. Some people feel the alteration produces a warmer, more harmonious sound that resonates with the human body and the natural world. Many orchestras and musicians now tune their instruments to 440 hertz. But that wasn't always the case. Until the 19th century, musicians tuned instruments according to local standards, which varied from one country to the next, said Fanny Gribenski, a music historian at New York University. "For most of music history, people are just singing within their own vocal range," she added. Eventually, there were orchestras and musical groups tuning to higher frequencies, and some composers became concerned that singers would be unable to perform music from the past, Gribenski said. "The idea that it should be mainly a lower frequency than the ones that were in use at the time is really the cultural concern for protecting music from the past, protecting the voices of singers," she said. At the same time, as international travel became more widespread, the desire for a common tuning frequency grew. In 1939, representatives from multiple European countries and the U.S. agreed to accept 440 hertz as the international standard. Artists continued to experiment with pitch over the decades that followed. In the 1980s and '90s, sound engineers sometimes took a recorded song and sped it up or slowed it down to achieve a brighter or slower sound, moving away from the frequency of 440 hertz,

Rogers said. But Rogers doubts that retuning a whole band or orchestra to 432 hertz would improve its sound since many modern instruments were designed sound prettiest while tuned to 440 hertz. “Some of those instruments might sound a little sweeter, but it’s likely that most won’t,” she said. Higher pitch generally means more brilliance, or perhaps a little more power in some instruments, Gribenski said. For those listeners who appreciate the lower 432 hertz music, “I wonder if there is a sense of deceleration, slowing down slightly, and also taking one step down from the bright sounds of modernity,” she said. Working and 432 hertz music Fans of working while accompanied by a 432 hertz soundtrack cite a variety of reasons. Amelia Beamer, who handles marketing at the North Carolina pharmacy her parents own, Andrews Apothecary, says she thinks taking work breaks to listen to music tuned to 432 hertz helps with her attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. She’s noticed that she feels more focused if she listens before she starts a project. Beamer works for 25 minutes, takes a five-minute listening break and then returns to the task at hand. She also listens to other frequencies, such as music tuned to 528 hertz. “It definitely helps me feel more grounded and more centered,” Beamer said of 432 hertz music. “It helps me slow down and to take some intentional space and time for myself.” Diana Wolf Torres, who creates videos and writes a newsletter about robots, frequently gets migraines and is sensitive to noises. If a gardener is using a leaf blower next door, she has difficulty ignoring it. Listening to music tuned to 432 hertz or other sounds such as white noise while wearing noise-canceling headphones helps. “I just want to be there and get it done and feel like I’m doing my best writing possible, and anything that keeps me in the zone is a fantastic tool,” Torres said. Torres doesn’t think there’s any science or special properties behind 432 hertz music but that “maybe some people find this lower tuning more soothing.” She noted that most listeners won’t know if music labeled 432 hertz on social media is labeled accurately. “What does it matter? If you’re getting an effect, are you really going to check the resonance? Do you care?” Torres asked. Sanchez, the telehealth worker, also enjoys listening to tunes fixed to other alternative frequencies, such as 528 hertz and 963 hertz. “It’s something worth exploring and finding out for yourself whether it has any benefits or not,” Sanchez said. “For me, I find that grounding is beneficial to my overall wellbeing, so I see how it helps my livelihood.”

- [One Tech Tip Your next job interview could be with an AI bot](#) (2026-05-28 17:19)

VERNON HILLS, Illinois — Have you applied for a new job? If you’ve been shortlisted, get ready to be interviewed by artificial intelligence. Deluged by a flood of AI-generated job applications from easy-apply job boards, recruiters are turning to AI to cope. Companies are using chatbots to interview candidates, typically at the screening stage, through phone calls, text messaging or video chats with on-screen avatars. Recruiters have been using AI-powered hiring tools for years to assess job applicants, and their use has been expanding in step with technology advances. Many people find AI job interviews unsettling, though the trend seems here to stay. According to recent research by hiring platform Glasshouse, more jobseekers are reporting they’ve faced AI job interviews. But many applicants have walked away from the hiring process because of it, which could be a sign that they’re either creeped out, or they could be

fraudulent or were not serious candidates, depending on who you ask. Here's what to expect from an AI job interview and how to do your best: Do your homework. Whatever the interview format, the fundamentals still apply, said Amanda Augustine, a career coach at CareerMinds, which helps companies support laid-off workers with resume writing and job search services. Ahead of the interview, review the job description, research the organization, and understand what it's looking for. "The more prepared you are, the easier it will be to tailor your responses, even when you're interacting with AI instead of a person," she advised. Get used to the format. If you've never done an AI job interview before, the first time could be unnerving or unsettling. I did a demo AI interview set up by Netherlands-based TestGorilla, one of numerous platforms providing recruitment tools for companies. First came two sets of questions, one that tested problem-solving skills and another gauging work experience. Then I faced an AI-generated female face. "My goal is to learn more about you and the experiences, skills and competencies that you might bring to this role," it said, adding that I should plan to spend about two minutes to answer each of three questions. Unlike a human interview, there was no warm-up chit-chat, no chance to build a rapport. There was no point in smiling or trying to break the ice. Experts say the best way to get over that is preparation. "You need to practice out loud," said Priya Rathod, workplace trends editor at online job board Indeed. "And when I say practice out loud, I mean, say the actual answers out loud," because the chatbot needs to record what you're saying, she said. Also keep in mind you're providing information about yourself to a machine, not having a conversation. "You have to be particularly descriptive and a very clear communicator in your language so that they can pick up on things that a regular interviewer might pick up through your facial expressions and tone," Rathod said. An AI interviewer "cares less about my tone and more about what it is that I'm saying," she added. Use an online interview simulator to prep — there are many available. They can record your answers and provide instant feedback on your content, delivery or pacing. They'll also help you get used to speaking into a camera, manage time limits and give your answers in a structured way without the natural back-and-forth of a live conversation, Augustine said. Get ready for behavioral questions. For my demo interview, the AI grilled me for a communications professional role. One question it asked was how I use AI in my "workflow," including examples of both success and failure. When I replied that I saved lots of time with an AI transcription tool for interviews and other recordings, it summarized my answer and then asked me if I wanted to add anything else. I wasn't sure whether I had answered satisfactorily. I scored "below average" on this question, according to TestGorilla's assessment, which said I provided "no concrete metric" such as minutes saved. "The improvement claim is therefore vague," it said. AI interviewers are asking these "behavioral questions" because they want candidates to provide examples of how they handled specific work situations, complete with numbers and metrics, Rathod said. "Those are the kinds of questions that AI relies heavily on. And the trap that we see a lot of people falling into is giving really vague answers," she said. Candidates should still rely on tried and tested tactics like the STAR method — short for situation, task, action, result. So be prepared to talk about a specific work situation and the task assigned to you, the action that you took, and the result, Rathod said. "You want to use numbers as much as possible. Even if you're not in a revenue driving role, there are ways in which you can say

(how) you influenced something or impacted something within a group,” she said. Setup still matters. Don't neglect the physical setup of your desk and computer — it's still important even if the video-based interview is with AI, and not a person. Test your audio and video in advance. Make sure the lighting is bright enough and is on your face. Raise your laptop to eye level so that you're not looking down at the camera. “Small adjustments, such as using a stack of books or a ring light, can make a noticeable difference in how polished and professional you present,” Augustine said. Don't be tempted to use AI shortcuts. Jobseekers might be tempted to use AI to help come up with answers. After all, they're so easy to use and if you're not talking to a human, no one will be able to tell, right? “That's a big no-no because it's pretty obvious” to both the AI interviewing tool and anyone who might review the recording, said Rathod. Using AI for your answers “can sometimes immediately disqualify you.” If you're having difficulty answering, you can always ask it to clarify or repeat the question. The question might even be designed to figure out if you're using AI to cheat. TestGorilla's head of marketing, Mehak Chowdhary, said it sometimes poses simple questions worded in a very convoluted way. “We do that intentionally to understand whether you are running an AI alongside, because the AI will then try and optimize for the length of the question,” she said. “But if you know your skill set, you will understand what's being asked. “And we strongly recommend candidates put the AI devices aside. This is a test of your capability.”

- [A rare blue micromoon rises this weekend](#) (2026-05-28 16:54)

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — Get set for a rare blue micromoon this weekend — a blue moon that's also the most distant and smallest-looking full moon of the year. A bonus: The brilliant star Antares will photobomb Sunday's spectacle for a celestial three-for-one. A blue moon occurs every two to three years when a second full moon squeezes into a single month. May 1 saw this month's first full moon. Since the moon's orbit isn't a perfect circle, the upcoming full moon will be farther from Earth than usual at a distance of 252,360 miles (406,135 kilometers), making it seem a bit smaller and dimmer. It's the opposite of a supermoon when a full moon comes closer to us than normal. The most recent supermoon, for instance, was just 225,130 miles (362,312 kilometers) away. The Virtual Telescope Project's Gianluca Masi, who will provide a live webcast from Italy, said Sunday's micromoon will appear about 6% smaller and 10% dimmer than that of an average full moon — “differences that are subtle enough to likely go unnoticed by most observers.” The scene will be especially thrilling south of the equator across the Pacific. For stargazers in Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, eastern Australia, parts of Antarctica and a smattering of other islands, Antares will vanish temporarily as the blue micromoon passes in front of it. The red supergiant star, 550 light-years away, is known as the “heart of scorpion” in the constellation Scorpius. A light-year is almost 6 trillion miles (9.7 trillion kilometers). There won't be any disappearing act for those looking up elsewhere in the world, with Antares constantly visible alongside the full moon. And despite the name, this blue moon won't appear turquoise, sapphire or any other shade. The term simply refers to the uncommon occurrence of two full moons in one month.

• [Aid supplies reach heart of Congo's Ebola outbreak as WHO head travels to Kinshasa](#)
(2026-05-28 16:49)

BUNIA, Congo — Aid workers rushed supplies Thursday to the center of Congo's outbreak of a rare type of Ebola virus while beleaguered medical personnel struggled with a lack of equipment, a distrustful population and armed groups in a volatile region. A white cargo plane with aid donated by the European Union delivered masks, gloves, boots and medications — all of which are in short supply — to the northeastern town of Bunia at the heart of the outbreak in Congo's Ituri province. U.N.-branded forklifts lifted several cases into trucks. Health workers with scant supplies have been struggling to contain an outbreak of the Bundibugyo virus, a kind of Ebola that has no approved treatment or vaccine. In some areas, doctors have resorted to wearing expired medical masks while treating suspected patients. Dangers faced by health workers have been heightened by anger among residents over the stringent medical protocols for dealing with the bodies of victims, which clash with local burial rites. Residents have launched at least three attacks against health centers in Ituri province. Aid donated by the EU is expected to arrive in batches over the next eight days, Jérôme Kouachi, head of emergency operations at UNICEF in Congo, told The Associated Press. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was on his way to Congo to see the efforts first-hand efforts. The WHO has declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, in the hope of ramping up aid. The United States on Thursday said it is increasing its aid to Congo and Uganda by \$80 million, bringing its commitment to more than \$112 million since the outbreak. The additional money would pay for personal protective equipment for health care workers, Ebola test kits, support for health screening at airports and contact tracing, the U.S. State Department said. The Congolese government has confirmed more than 1,000 suspected cases, with at least 220 deaths, since it declared an outbreak on May 15. But the virus had been spreading undetected for weeks, and the WHO suspects it is much larger than what has been reported. The virus has also reached neighboring Uganda, which has confirmed seven cases and one death. On Wednesday, the Congolese government said the first survivor to recover from the virus had left a health center. “We are trying to catch up,” Congo Foreign Minister Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner said earlier this week. “It is a race against the clock.” The response on the ground has been hampered by multiple challenges, including customs' red tape, insufficient storage facilities, bad roads and weak telecommunications, humanitarian agencies said in a report on Thursday. Tedros on Wednesday called for a ceasefire in a region where armed groups have staged violent attacks for decades. “We cannot build community trust or isolate the sick while bombs are falling,” he said. Tucked in the northeastern part of Congo close to the Ugandan border, Ituri province has been reeling from attacks by the Allied Democratic Force, a rebel group allied with the Islamic State group, and a coalition of ethnic militias. In early May, the ADF killed at least 40 people and burned several homes in Ituri. The illness has also been reported in two Congolese provinces south of Ituri — North Kivu and South Kivu, where the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel group controls many key cities, including Goma and Bukavu. The rebels have reported two cases. The region's main airport in Goma, which doubles as a staging ground for humanitarian efforts into the region,

has been closed since January 2025, when M23 seized the city. The conflict has precipitated one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with at least 7 million people displaced in eastern Congo.

- [Justice Department opens investigation into E. Jean Carroll, who accused Trump of assault](#) (2026-05-28 16:47)

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has opened an investigation into whether E. Jean Carroll, the longtime advice columnist who has said Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in a New York department store 30 years ago, lied during the course of civil litigation against the Republican president, according to a person familiar with the matter. The person who confirmed the existence of the investigation was not authorized to publicly discuss an ongoing inquiry and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The perjury investigation is being led by the federal prosecutors' office in Chicago, and acting Attorney General Todd Blanche has had no involvement because of his prior work as Trump's personal attorney, the person said. Lawyers for Carroll did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press on Thursday. It's the latest in a series of investigations the Trump administration Justice Department has opened into perceived adversaries of the president. The actions, including securing an indictment last month against former FBI Director James Comey, have raised alarm from Democrats and former officials that an institution meant to make prosecutorial decisions independent of the White House is being weaponized. Carroll has said a flirtatious, chance encounter with Trump in 1996 at Bergdorf Goodman's Fifth Avenue store in Manhattan ended violently. She said Trump slammed her against a dressing room wall, pulled down her tights and forced himself on her. Trump has called the allegations a "made-up scam," and he has attacked her motivations, saying they were politically driven or arose from a desire to promote her memoir. A jury in 2023 found Trump liable for sexually abusing Carroll, awarding her \$5 million. The following year, another jury awarded Carroll \$83.3 million in a defamation case related to Trump's social media attacks on her. The Justice Department is scrutinizing a statement Carroll made in the course of the civil litigation that no one else was paying her legal fees. It later became public that a Chicago-based organization backed by Reid Hoffman, the co-founder of LinkedIn, had helped fund Carroll's case. Trump's lawyers in the civil case accused Carroll of concealing that information, which they said called into question whether the case was politically motivated. A court entry earlier this month said Trump won't have to pay the award until the U.S. Supreme Court gets a chance to review the case or reject an appeal. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to a request by one of Trump's lawyers that it let the president delay the payment to Carroll, though it required that he post a \$7.4 million bond to cover any additional interest costs, a request Carroll's attorney had made.

- [Plunder cases filed vs Estrada, Bonoan](#) (2026-05-28 16:12)

THE Office of the Ombudsman on Thursday filed plunder and graft charges against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan and three other people before the Sandiganbayan. "The Office of the Ombudsman has recommended no bail for the respondents

in this case,” Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said in a press briefing after the cases were filed in court. “Likewise, the office will pursue hold departure orders for the respondents so as to preserve the integrity of the case in court.” Later on Tuesday, the cases were raffled off to the Sandiganbayan divisions that would issue arrest warrants if probable cause is found. Estrada and Bonoan were the accused in the graft case that was raffled off to the Sandiganbayan Second Division. In the other graft case, which was raffled off to the court’s Fifth Division, the accused were Estrada, Bonoan, former Department of Social Welfare and Development (DPWH)-National Capital Region officials Denryl Caesar Cortuna, Manny Bulusan and Arturo Gonzales Jr. All five were named as accused in the plunder case, which was raffled off to the Fifth Division. If a court division finds probable cause, that division will issue an arrest warrant. Estrada: No due process Estrada on Thursday said he will exhaust all legal remedies to face the plunder charges filed against him before the Sandiganbayan. He noted that ever since the Senate leadership changed on May 11, the resolution of cases involving some members of the majority bloc, to which he belonged, was expedited. “As I have said before, if this is the price that I have to pay for standing by my principles and for what I believe in, then so be it,” Estrada said in a statement. He noted that barely a week after the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued its resolution regarding his case, the Ombudsman immediately filed the case without first conducting a thorough and independent fact-finding investigation. He said his lawyers are preparing the necessary steps to show the irregularities in the process of the filing of charges against him as some vital evidence in his favor was “not given weight and consideration.” Estrada said this includes the letter from the Senate Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office which states that there was no record that he made an insertion in the 2025 national budget. But this “was simply set aside,” he said. Estrada also said he was not given the chance to study the resolutions of the DOJ and the Ombudsman so that he could file a motion for reconsideration before the filing of the plunder charges against him before the Sandiganbayan. This has serious implications on his right to due process, he added. Bonoan, too, has denied any involvement in corruption. Layered insertions “The cases stem from an intricate mechanism involving illegal budgetary insertions and project allocations within the DPWH infrastructure portfolio for Fiscal Year 2025,” Clavano said. “Our evaluation shows that substantial public funds were deliberately funneled into designated infrastructure projects in exchange for predetermined commission fees or kickbacks. Case records point to an accumulated sum of illicit payouts amounting to an aggregate sum of over P573 million which were systematically delivered to the principal respondent, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.” While it acknowledged that the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office issued a certificate in the absence of records that Estrada made budget insertions, the Ombudsman’s office said the certificate “does not capture all stages of the budgetary process, wherein insertions may be made in a layered method.” Former DPWH undersecretary Roberto Bernardo, former NCR regional director Gerard Oplencia and former Bulacan first district engineer Henry Alcantara were excluded from being charged because they were state witnesses. “Our case is built on solid, immovable evidence,” Clavano said. “These state witnesses have provided comprehensive, cross-corroborated sworn statements that map out the execution of this scheme from its inception down to the logistics of the illicit payouts.” “The Office of the

Ombudsman is determined to pursue all cases still pending. We have one shot to get these cases right. The Filipino people need to see justice. This office is here to make sure we deliver just that,” he said. The charges came almost a year after President Ferdinand Marcos put the so-called ghost infrastructure projects, believed to have cost Filipino taxpayers billions of dollars, center stage during a July speech. Several construction firm owners, government officials and politicians have been accused of pocketing funds from the projects, but this is the first time a criminal case has been filed against a sitting lawmaker over the scandal. On Tuesday, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said about eight more senators were being investigated and that three of them could also face charges. He did not provide their names. Remulla said the president’s congressman cousin Martin Romualdez, who resigned as a House speaker in September after being implicated in the scandal, is also being investigated. Last year, former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co, Public Works officials and members of a construction firm were charged in connection to the scheme. Estrada was charged in 2014 with plundering millions of pesos meant for government development projects, but the court acquitted him a decade later. Bishops call for accountability The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) urged the government to uphold accountability — especially for public officials. In a statement on Thursday, Bishop Colin Bagaforo of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue said the recent political developments, such as the escape of fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa and Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial, are reminders that accountability must apply to all “regardless of political affiliation, social status, popularity or position in government.” “We therefore reiterate our call to all institutions mandated to uphold justice and accountability, including the Ombudsman, the Sandiganbayan and other accountability mechanisms of government — to relentlessly pursue all cases where there is probable cause and sufficient basis under the law,” Bagaforo said. “Those entrusted with greater power, authority and influence carry an even higher moral and legal responsibility before the people,” he added. The CBCP further noted that the rule of law is nullified if it makes exemptions — especially if those are made for those in power. Bagaforo encouraged the Filipino people to remain vigilant and actively engaged in demanding integrity and transparency in public service. At the same time, the CBCP called on public officials implicated in corruption to demonstrate “delicadeza” and a sense of shame. “Leadership is not merely about legal survival; it is also about moral credibility and the preservation of public trust,” said Bagaforo. Bagaforo also recognized that while they are calling for accountability, there are still public servants who continue to uphold them. “They represent the kind of leadership the Filipino people truly deserve — one rooted not in self-interest, but in integrity, accountability and love of country,” said Bagaforo. WITH AFP AND ALLEN LIMOS

- [Japan keen to boost defense ties with PH](#) (2026-05-28 16:11)

TOKYO — Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is receiving an exceptional level of hospitality in a four-day state visit to Japan that culminated on Thursday. There is a palace banquet, a prestigious national award and a clear message that Tokyo is keen to upgrade ties with a nation it sees as a key defense partner — and major arms customer — at a time of fears

over China's military activity in Asia. Marcos' visit ending with his departure on Friday has included a greeting by Emperor Naruhito, who gave him the Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum. On Thursday, Marcos held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, which are expected to result in statements further strengthening defense and weapons cooperation. Speaking on Wednesday to Japanese lawmakers, Marcos said the emphasis on raising ties to a higher level reflects an "exceptional level of trust" between the nations. Both nations have China firmly in mind as they tighten a military relationship that the United States hopes will act as a bulwark against Beijing's ambitions in the East and South China Seas, and its designs on Taiwan, the self-governing island China claims as its own. Marcos is the first potential major customer of Japanese arms since Takaichi's government scrapped a ban on lethal weapons exports. The change in April was a break from Japan's postwar pacifist policy as the nation accelerates its military and arms industry buildup. The nations agreed to pursue negotiations on a sale of multiple Abukuma-class destroyers and Japanese navy TC-90 training aircraft. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., who observed joint live-fire exercises with his Japanese counterpart earlier this month, also expressed interest in Type-88 surface-to-ship missiles. Japanese officials say Marcos' state visit also is linked to the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries and to the Philippines this year holding the rotating presidency of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Marcos and Takaichi also are expected to arrange formal talks meant to achieve a military intelligence sharing pact, which would enable closer communication and help tighten trilateral military cooperation with the US, their mutual ally, Japanese officials said. Japan has provided a set of five coastal surveillance radars to the Philippines as part of official security assistance and intelligence-sharing would enhance reconnaissance cooperation. Japan wants to enhance its partnership with the Philippines beyond Marcos' presidency, which ends in 2028, as Tokyo looks to avoid what is considered flip-flopping on China policy by some previous Philippine governments. Marcos has taken a hard-line stance against China over maritime disputes in the South China Sea. During his presidency, the Philippines and Japan have rapidly bolstered their security ties bilaterally and trilaterally with the US. Japan and the Philippines signed a pact in 2024 allowing their forces to smoothly visit each other's country for joint military drills. This paved the way for Japan to deploy 1,400 military personnel as regular participants in joint military exercises. The two countries signed a separate defense pact this year that would allow the tax-free provision of ammunition, fuel, food and other necessities when their forces stage joint training. During the state visit, Marcos and Takaichi also are set to discuss energy cooperation and a Japan-initiated multinational funding framework announced in April. That framework is designed to help Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, stabilize oil reserves through financial assistance to build necessary infrastructure as they struggle from the fallout of the Iran war that has halted oil transports through the Strait of Hormuz. Maritime ties On the sidelines of the president's state visit, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and Japanese maritime stakeholders held a high-level dialogue at the country's embassy in Tokyo, Japan. A Philippine delegation, led by DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Patricia Yvonne Caunan and DMW Undersecretary Felicitas Bay, met with the Japanese Shipowners' Association, the International Mariners' Management

Association of Japan and the All Japan Seamen' s Union. During the meeting, the DMW announced a Japan Desk to “streamline communication and expedite labor coordination with Japanese principals.” “Today’ s dialogue is more than just a meeting. It is an opportunity for us to listen to one another, strengthen our partnership and ensure that the welfare, protection and future of Filipino seafarers remain at the center of our shared efforts,” Cacadac said in a speech. Bay, on the other hand, outlined system reforms in the DMW to address administrative bottlenecks raised by Japanese shipowners. “These include the rollout of an online employment contract verification system [for land-based workers], digital accreditation, and streamlined transaction flows to cut red tape and shorten crew-change lead times,” the DMW said. Both countries reiterated their commitments in improving tracking systems and processes for seafarers in high-risk areas, curbing predatory “ambulance chasing” litigation through mediation and ensuring that Filipino seafarers “remain competitive” amid the global maritime industry’ s digital and green transition.

- [DOJ studies task force vs systemic corruption](#) (2026-05-28 16:10)

THE Department of Justice (DOJ) is preparing to create a new interagency task force aimed at addressing institutional and systemic corruption in several government agencies long perceived to be vulnerable to graft, a well-placed source within the department told The Manila Times. The source said the initiative is being discussed under the leadership of Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, who has reportedly directed preliminary talks on forming a coordinated investigative and enforcement body focused not only on individual corruption cases but also on alleged networks operating within key government institutions. According to the source, discussions included agencies that have previously faced allegations or public scrutiny involving corruption, bribery, regulatory capture, smuggling and illicit facilitation schemes. Among the agencies mentioned in the internal discussions were the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Bureau of Customs (BOC). The source said particular attention may be given to the BOC amid continuing government efforts against smuggling and recurring reports involving the illegal entry of agricultural products and cigarettes despite existing enforcement campaigns. “The direction is no longer just going after fixers or low-level personnel, but identifying how these systems operate and who protects them,” the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the discussions have not yet been made public. The source added that DOJ leadership is exploring a more centralized anti-corruption framework that would allow prosecutors, intelligence units and law enforcement agencies to coordinate investigations more efficiently. Initial discussions, according to the source, have included the possible participation of representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, and other regulatory and enforcement agencies. The proposed task force may also examine alleged procurement irregularities, revenue leaks, smuggling protection schemes and possible collusion between public officials and private groups, the source said. No official announcement has yet been made by the DOJ regarding the creation of the task force. DOJ officials have also not issued

a formal statement confirming the discussions. The development comes amid renewed government calls for stronger anti-corruption measures and tighter monitoring of revenue-generating agencies, particularly those involved in Customs collections, infrastructure spending and regulatory approvals. The BOC has repeatedly faced allegations and investigations related to corruption and smuggling over the years, particularly involving agricultural commodities, tobacco products and other highly taxed imports. Meanwhile, the DPWH, BIR and FDA have also periodically faced public scrutiny over alleged irregular transactions, bribery and permit-processing anomalies. FRANCO JOSE BAROÑA The source said the proposed body remains in the preparatory and discussion stage, with no final structure or formal mandate yet.

- [Pag-IBIG housing loan maximum raised to P10M](#) (2026-05-28 16:09)

THE Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), or Pag-IBIG Fund, has raised its maximum housing loan amount per borrower to P10 million in a bid to make the program more accessible, especially to middle-income and higher-earning Filipino workers particularly in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas. The increase in loan ceiling reflects the agency's mandate to serve Filipino workers from all income segments under the national government's Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program, Pag-IBIG Fund CEO Marilene Acosta said. "At Pag-IBIG Fund, our mandate is to serve all Filipino workers. This means serving first-time homebuyers and members who need subsidized support, as well as middle-income and higher-earning members who also need affordable long-term financing to buy homes for their families," Acosta said in a statement emailed to The Manila Times. Citing Pag-IBIG's strong financial position, she said it was able to offer a higher loanable amount while keeping its housing loan rates not only affordable, but among the lowest in the market. "With the higher loan ceiling, qualified borrowers now have even better access to home financing payable for up to 30 years, with interest rates that may go as low as 5.75 percent a year depending on their chosen fixing period," the Pag-IBIG chief executive said. "More importantly, this allows us to widen the reach of the Expanded 4PH Program so that more members across more income segments can gain access to decent and affordable homes, while eligible socialized housing borrowers continue to benefit from the 3-percent subsidized rate," she added. The broader Pag-IBIG Housing Loan Program aimed to make homeownership a practical alternative to renting for more Filipino workers, especially when available housing units are offered at prices that match members' income and borrowing capacity, Acosta pointed out. "For many families, rent is already one of their biggest monthly expenses. Through Pag-IBIG Fund's affordable housing loan terms, monthly amortizations for reasonably priced homes can be lower than rent in many urban areas. This is the value we want to give our members: instead of paying rent month after month, they can use their hard-earned income to pay for a home they can eventually call their own," she said. Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said the higher loan ceiling complements the program's ongoing subsidized 3-percent housing loan rate for qualified buyers of socialized housing, enabling Pag-IBIG Fund to serve more members seeking homes beyond the socialized housing segment through affordable long-term financing. The increase is part of the government's broader effort to

make homeownership more accessible to Filipino workers across income segments, said Aliling, who chairs Pag-IBIG's board of trustees. "With the higher P10-million loan ceiling, Pag-IBIG Fund can now serve more members, especially Filipino workers who seek homes in higher price segments but still require long-term and affordable financing to own homes near their workplaces, schools and sources of livelihood," he said. "This move allows Pag-IBIG Fund to widen access to home financing across more income segments, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more inclusive and accessible to more Filipino families," the housing czar added. Given the oversupply of ready-for-occupancy condominium units specifically in the National Capital Region and other urban areas, the top officials said that the move supported efforts to improve the take-up of available housing units. The DHSUD chief emphasized that the higher loan ceiling, combined with Pag-IBIG's long-term home financing, can make the purchase of these units more affordable for qualified members. Urging developer-partners to recalibrate their prices, Aliling convinced them to offer reasonable packages and help bring their available units within the reach of Pag-IBIG Fund members. "When housing prices, borrower capacity and affordable financing meet, more Filipino workers can finally own homes of their own," Aliling said.

- [CIDG says Padilla 'indispensable' to dela Rosa's escape](#) (2026-05-28 16:08)

THE escape of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa from the Senate premises would not have been possible without the help of his good friend and fellow senator Robinhood Padilla, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police said on Thursday. Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II said in a briefing at Camp Crame there was "indispensable cooperation" between the two senators. Padilla admitted giving dela Rosa a ride in his car in the early hours of May 14, shortly after the shooting incident, but insisted it was not because he was helping dela Rosa escape from authorities who were trying to serve him an arrest warrant. He said he just wanted to bring dela Rosa to Makati City, where a car was waiting for him. Morico refused to accept Padilla's explanation. "Hindi po 'yun incidental (It wasn't incidental). It's not a mere hitchhike, it is well-planned, well-coordinated. May (There was a) backup vehicle," Morico said.

- [Leachon sues garin for cyber libel](#) (2026-05-28 16:07)

HEALTH reform advocate Dr. Tony Leachon has filed a cyber libel case against congressman and former Health secretary Janette Garin over allegedly defamatory statements she made online. In a statement on Thursday, Leachon said the video — which was posted on May 22 — shows Garin accusing Leachon of "killing a patient without seeing the patient" and making other remarks ridiculing his professional competence. "This case is not about silencing critics. It is about drawing the line between fair comment and malicious falsehood. Integrity in governance and integrity in discourse are inseparable. Truth matters," Leachon said. "The allegations in the Facebook video meet the elements of cyber libel: defamatory content, public dissemination, clear identification and malice," he said. Leachon claimed that Garin's statements were meant to "dishonor his reputation as a physician-leader." He said his decision to press

charges is grounded in the principle that “there is no wrong time to do the right thing.” Previously, Garin had remarked that Leachon always wanted to “land on headlines” and that he had always eyed the position of Health secretary, which Leachon denied. The Manila Times sought comment from Garin but she has yet to answer. Leachon also recently filed an Ombudsman case against Executive Secretary Ralph Recto and other Cabinet officials over the transfer of P60 billion in Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) funds to the National Treasury.

- [ICC judges streamline Duterte case, order defense to outline disputed evidence](#) (2026-05-28 16:06)

JUDGES at the International Criminal Court (ICC) ordered the defense in the case against former president Rodrigo Duterte to submit a pre-trial document identifying which prosecution evidence it disputes, as the chamber moved to streamline proceedings and avoid delays. During Wednesday's first case status conference, Trial Chamber III Presiding Judge Joanna Korner said the order was intended to support the “fair and expeditious conduct” of the proceedings under Article 64(3) of the Rome Statute and Regulation 54 of the ICC regulations. “The Trial Chamber is of the opinion that it would assist the fair and expeditious conduct of this trial for the defense to provide a document before the start of trial, which sets out... the matters which the prosecution are proposing to lead in evidence with which the defense takes issue,” Korner said. The defense will be required to file the document one month before the trial begins. The directive came after defense lead counsel Peter Haynes argued that the alleged acts in the case do not amount to crimes against humanity. Korner clarified that the order does not require the defense to disclose its full strategy or prevent it from raising additional issues later in the proceedings. She also said the filing would not replace or interfere with the defense's right to submit a formal pre-trial brief. The conference saw extensive arguments over the deadline for victims seeking to participate in the proceedings. Haynes urged the chamber to impose a Sept. 30, 2026 cut-off date, warning that allowing applications to continue until late in the trial could create false expectations among victims whose cases may ultimately fall outside the scope of any conviction. “The harm that can be done in admitting thousands of victims to participate... only for them to find out in the reparations phase that none of them fall within the ambit of the convictions,” Haynes said. The chamber heard that the case currently involves 49 incidents and 73 deceased individuals. The prosecution opposed the proposed cut-off, arguing that the incidents listed by prosecutors were “only indicative” and not exhaustive. “A high number of victims will manifest themselves,” Senior Trial Lawyer Julian Nicholls said, adding that additional victims may still emerge during trial preparations.

- [Student-athlete recruitment ramped up](#) (2026-05-28 16:04)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) announced the recruitment of overseas Filipino student-athletes to compete in national and international competitions. The two agencies planned to form a Philippine schools overseas (PSOs) student-athlete delegation to compete in the Batang Pinoy and the Palarong Pambansa

— the country's flagship national youth games. The initiative follows a recent exploratory meeting among the CFO, the PSC and global sports organization Fil-Nation Select. "The discussions centered on institutionalizing talent identification programs and cultural immersion initiatives designed to seamlessly connect overseas-based Filipino athletes with their heritage and the national sports ecosystem," the CFO said in a statement. The CFO is tasked with registering, regulating and monitoring PSOs. It oversees dozens of educational institutions serving Filipino communities across the globe, particularly in the Middle East to cater to children of Filipino workers in the region. Under its cultural and educational development mission, the CFO said it "is positioned to utilize these overseas campuses as grassroots launching pads for athletic scouting." Jan Karlo Magracia, CFO head executive assistant, said that PSOs serve as a direct channel to strengthen the cultural and political ties of non-resident Filipinos. He said that PSOs provide an untapped, structured environment for talent identification and grassroots sports promotion among the youth diaspora. To ensure that recruited athletes maintain a deep connection to the homeland, Marita del Rosario-Apattad, chief of the CFO's project management division, proposed integrating the CFO's existing Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLeaD) program. Apattad said that the program's cultural components could reinforce national identity while offering a dual platform for leadership training and athletic exchanges. PSC Chairman John Patrick Gregorio welcomed the prospect of taking the CFO's grassroots programs global. Gregorio said expanding tournaments like Batang Pinoy to include diaspora student delegations would give nonresident Filipino youth a premier avenue to hone their skills while directly boosting the country's national pool. The collaborative vision gained immediate momentum as coach Cris Gopez, founder of Fil-Nation Select, detailed his organization's global projects and shared enthusiasm for sourcing international talent to fortify Philippine national teams. Following the multi-agency briefing, the PSC plans to sign a memorandum of agreement with Fil-Nation Select. The CFO intends to draft its own separate memorandum of understanding with the PSC to operationalize the talent scouting pipeline within its regulated schools.

- [Temperatures likely to stay at record highs](#) (2026-05-28 16:03)

GENEVA — Global average temperatures are likely to continue at or near record levels this year and for the next four years afterwards, the United Nations warned Thursday. The 11 hottest individual years ever recorded all happened from 2015 onwards and the UN's weather and climate agency said the trend was set to continue, with a new hottest-ever year "likely" before 2031. There is a 75-percent chance that the 2026-2030 five-year mean temperature will surpass the key threshold of 1.5 C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said. The WMO outlook comes as western Europe swelters under a "heat dome" of warm air, breaking temperature records for May in Britain and France. "Global average temperatures are likely to continue at or near record levels in the next five years," the agency said. "It is likely (86 percent chance) that one year between 2026 and 2030 will surpass 2024 as the warmest year on record." El Niño effect on 2027 "There is an El Niño predicted for the end of 2026, which increases the chances of the following year, 2027,

being the next record-breaking year,” said Leon Hermanson, lead author of the WMO’s Global Annual-to-Decadal Update. The last El Niño contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55C above the pre-industrial average. El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon that warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns. It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months. 1.3 C to 1.9 C range. The 2015 Paris climate accords aimed to limit global warming to well below 2C above pre-industrial levels — and preferably below 1.5 C. The targets are calculated relative to the 1850-1900 average, before humanity widely began industrially burning coal, oil and gas, which emit carbon dioxide — the greenhouse gas largely responsible for climate change. “Annual global mean near-surface temperatures during 2026-2030 are predicted to range between 1.3 C and 1.9 C above the 1850-1900 average,” the WMO update said. The WMO said there was a 91-percent chance that global average temperatures will temporarily exceed 1.5 C above the pre-industrial baseline for at least one year between 2026 and 2030. Furthermore, there is a 75-percent chance that the entire 2026-2030 five-year mean will exceed 1.5 C above the 1850-1900 average. However, it is considered exceptionally unlikely — less than one percent — that any single year will exceed 2 C above the pre-industrial baseline in the next five years. Arctic heat warning. The 1.5 C barrier is expected to be broken with increasing frequency. The 1.5 C and 2 C limits in the Paris accords refer to sustained long-term warming — typically over 20 years — so temporary breaches do not necessarily mean the long-term goal is out of reach. Last year was one of the three warmest years on record, with the globally averaged near-surface temperature estimated at more than 1.43 C above the 1850-1900 baseline. The report was produced by Britain’s Met Office national weather service and the WMO’s lead center for annual to decadal climate prediction. It compiles forecasts from 13 different institutes. The report said Arctic temperatures over the next five northern hemisphere winters (November to March) were predicted to be 2.8 C above average temperatures for 1991-2020 — more than triple the global temperature anomaly for the same period. Predicted precipitation patterns for May to September from 2026 to 2030 forecast wet anomalies in the Sahel, northern Europe, Alaska and Siberia, as well as dry anomalies over the Amazon.

- [P841M fake goods seized in Valenzuela raid](#) (2026-05-28 16:02)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) said its operatives have seized an estimated P841 million worth of suspected counterfeit products in a raid at a warehouse in Valenzuela City. Customs authorities said the raid was initiated based on intelligence information saying the warehouse was being used to store large volumes of counterfeit imported items. Operatives from the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) conducted surveillance and on-site validation to confirm the alleged illegal activities. Armed with a Letter of Authority, a joint enforcement team swooped down on the warehouse on April 10. During the inspection, authorities discovered thousands of suspected fake branded products packed inside the facility. The inventory showed a total of 1,460 boxes of perfumes and 364 boxes of lotions

bearing labels of internationally known brands. Among the brands allegedly copied were Jo Malone, Versace and Cetaphil, along with several other popular consumer products. Customs officials said the shipment may have violated provisions of Republic Act 8293, or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, particularly those covering infringing and counterfeit goods. Possible violations of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, including seizure and forfeiture provisions under Section 1113 in relation to Section 1400, are also being investigated. The warehouse was immediately sealed and secured by customs personnel with assistance from the Philippine Coast Guard to prevent the unauthorized movement of the goods. Authorities later issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention on April 28, 2026, as investigators continue tracing the source and distribution network behind the counterfeit products. Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno commended MICP District Collector Geoffrey de Vera, CIIS-MICP operatives and partner enforcement agencies for the successful operation, stressing that intelligence-driven enforcement remains key to dismantling smuggling and counterfeit trade operations under the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. WILLIAM DE PASUPIL

- [DSWD widens peace-building aid in conflict-hit communities](#) (2026-05-28 16:02)

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has expanded its peace-building and development interventions in conflict-affected areas, reaching thousands of former combatants and vulnerable families through livelihood, infrastructure and social protection programs. The agency said on Thursday that its Peace and Development Buong Bansa Mapayapa program continues to serve communities in Mindanao and other underserved areas as part of the government's broader effort to sustain peace and promote inclusive growth. DSWD Undersecretary Alan Tanjusay said more than 26,000 decommissioned Moro Islamic Liberation Front combatants are now working with the department as they return to civilian life. Among the department's key interventions is the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Livelihood Program, which provides capital assistance to community associations in conflict-affected areas to help them establish sustainable sources of income. "We provide livelihood assistance, including as much as P300,000 in seed capital for groups living in conflict areas or those displaced by armed conflict so they can start rebuilding their livelihoods," Tanjusay said. The DSWD also continues to roll out infrastructure projects, including roads and bridges, in isolated communities, to improve mobility and access to basic services. Tanjusay said Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian visited Sirawai, Sibuco and Sulu, where housing units, financial assistance and livelihood support were distributed to residents, including former combatants. He added that the department is also partnering with local government units to address community-specific needs, including environmental programs such as tree planting. MOISES CRUZ

- [DepEd activates Oplan Balik Eskwela](#) (2026-05-28 16:02)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) will launch the National Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) on June 1, a week ahead of school opening day. "We are ensuring, together with various agencies of the government, that our learners' return to school will be safe, organized and smooth,"

Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement. The DepEd is collaborating with several agencies, including the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine National Police, Department of Health and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority for Balik Eskwela. Angara said utility providers Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System have finalized oversight measures to guarantee uninterrupted power and water services to all schools. “To process public feedback efficiently, the OBE Public Assistance Command Center will open public hotlines, emails and social media channels to handle public grievances in real time,” Angara said. REINA TOLENTINO

- [LTO criticized for using unauthorized IT system](#) (2026-05-28 16:01)

A MULTISECTORAL coalition has blasted the Land Transportation Office (LTO) for reportedly using an information technology (IT) system of a company whose contract has already ended. The contract reportedly has expired in at least five regions in the country. Coalition 169 said the continued rollout of Stradcom’s IT system in Regions 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula), 10 (Northern Mindanao), 11 (Davao Region), 12 (Soccsksargen) and Caraga must first have the approval of the Department of Economy, Planning and Development. “Worse, it appears that no clearance has been disclosed for deployment on government-owned workstations,” Coalition 169 spokesman Johnny Gomez said in a press conference in Quezon City on Thursday. Coalition convenors Rene Santiago and Bernard Yu told reporters that a DepDev approval was a critical safeguard to ensure the public is not charged excessive fees for services delivered under a Build, Own, Operate arrangement. They said that nongovernment quick response (QR) code domains are being used in official LTO transactions handled through Stradcom. “With this, public information could be exposed to data privacy and cybersecurity risks if processed outside official state-controlled digital infrastructure,” Santiago and Yu said. Gomez said that no action was made on the case his group filed before the Office of the Ombudsman on May 4, 2026, against current and former transport officials, including ex-Transportation chief and now Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon over alleged irregularities tied to LTO’s continued use of Stradcom’s IT system. In the complaint, the group questioned the continued collection of a P169 “computer fee” from motorists. Gomez and his group alleged that some transport officials were protecting Stradcom, whose contract expired in February 2013. They estimated that the fee has generated around P2 billion to P3 billion annually since Feb. 10, 2013, amounting to billions of pesos collected from motorists and other LTO clients. “While P169.06 per transaction may appear minimal, its cumulative impact is significant. Across millions of transactions annually, this represents a substantial financial burden on Filipino motorists,” they said. Besides Dizon, other respondents include Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez, ex-Transportation chief Jaime Bautista, Transportation Undersecretary Ramon Reyes, ex-undersecretaries Jesus Ferdinand Ortega and Mark Steven Pastor, LTO chief Markus Lacanilao, former LTO chiefs Vigor Mendoza II and Teofilo Guadiz III, and Stradcom president Anthony Quiambao. The coalition said it has sought the preventive suspension of incumbent officials for up to six months. Gomez said his group would continue to pursue legal remedies and public accountability until the issue was resolved. The Times tried to

get comments from the agency but received no reply. An agency source said top LTO officials would issue a statement soon.

- [Stricter child abuse measures pushed](#) (2026-05-28 16:01)

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian renewed calls Thursday for tighter enforcement of laws against online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. The senator issued the statement after the Philippines ranked 15th worldwide in responding to child sexual violence, according to the 2026 Out of the Shadows Index. The global index, which evaluated 60 countries on their efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents, also placed the Philippines fifth in the East Asia and Pacific region. "Criminals continue to exploit the internet to abuse and profit from our youth. We must ensure that our laws are strictly enforced," Gatchalian said in Filipino. He emphasized the need to sustain aggressive measures against online child exploitation, citing the growing use of digital platforms by traffickers and abusers to target minors. Gatchalian highlighted key legislation aimed at strengthening the country's legal framework against child exploitation, including the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children Act or Republic Act (RA) 11930 and the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2022 or RA 11862. RA 11930 institutionalized stronger safeguards against online child abuse and exploitation, including tighter monitoring of digital financial transactions linked to illegal activities and stronger coordination among government agencies and internet service providers. Meanwhile, RA 11862 expanded the definition of trafficking offenses and imposed stiffer penalties on perpetrators involved in child trafficking and other forms of exploitation. To support enforcement efforts, the 2026 national budget earmarked 119.2 million pesos for anti-trafficking operations and enforcement initiatives. An additional 111.6 million pesos was allocated for the National Coordination Center against Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials. The Out of the Shadows Index measured country performance across four major pillars: governance and accountability, prevention, healing and support services, and justice systems. Advocates have long warned that the Philippines remains vulnerable to online child exploitation due to widespread internet access, high social media usage, poverty, and the increasing sophistication of cybercrime networks. JAVIER JOE ISMAEL

- [Speaker Dy urges villages to lead fight against illiteracy](#) (2026-05-28 16:01)

SPEAKER Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III on Thursday rallied villages nationwide to take the lead in the fight against illiteracy, stressing that education and literacy are powerful tools in lifting Filipinos out of poverty. In a video message addressed to the Liga ng mga Barangay, Dy said this year's theme, "Zero Illiteracy — One Barangay at a Time," highlights the crucial role of barangay in ensuring that every Filipino gains access to learning, economic opportunities and a better life. "The theme carries a very deep message because the fight against illiteracy is not only a campaign for education. It is a campaign to provide opportunities, livelihood, and dignity. It is a fight for the future of our nation," he said. He warned that illiteracy continues to deprive many Filipinos of opportunities and prevents communities from fully participating in

economic growth and development. The speaker emphasized that literacy empowers people to improve their lives and participate more fully in society and the economy. “That’s why it is important that we understand that literacy is empowerment. It is the key to empowering the people to improve their lives,” he added. Dy stressed that villages play the most important frontline role in addressing illiteracy because they are closest to the people. “You are the first to see the children who are not going to school, the youth who needs guidance, and the families who need support and to be given the opportunity to learn and progress,” he said. He said the campaign against illiteracy begins in communities. Dy also emphasized that improving literacy would create more job, business, and livelihood opportunities while strengthening the country’s workforce. “The people would be better prepared for the modern economy. Our workforce becomes stronger and our communities becomes more productive. In short, addressing illiteracy is not only a social responsibility — it is also an economic investment for the country’s future,” Dy said. Dy said the anti-illiteracy campaign reflects President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s vision of Bagong Pilipinas, where every Filipino is given the chance to learn, improve their lives and contribute to national development. “Ito ang diwa ng Bagong Pilipinas: isang bansang walang naiiwan, kung saan bawat Pilipino ay may pagkakataong matuto, umasenso, at makilahok sa pag-unlad ng bayan (This is the essence of the New Philippines: a nation where no one is left behind, where every Filipino has an opportunity to learn, progress and participate in nation-building),” he said. Dy, who began his career in public service as Kabataang Barangay chairman in Cauayan, Isabela, likewise renewed his support for stronger protection and benefits for barangay workers through measures such as the proposed Magna Carta for Barangays. “Kaya patuloy nating isinusulong ang mga hakbang tulad ng Magna Carta for Barangays upang mabigyan kayo ng sapat na suporta, benepisyo, training, at proteksyon na naaayon sa laki ng inyong tungkulin (That’s why we continue to push for measures like the Magna Carta for Barangays to provide you with ample support, benefits, training, and protection appropriate to your big responsibilities),” he said. “Dahil kung mas empowered ang ating mga barangay, mas magiging epektibo rin ang ating laban kontra kahirapan, kawalan ng oportunidad, at illiteracy (If barangays are more empowered, the fight against poverty, lack of opportunity and illiteracy becomes more effective).” PNA

- [China urges fair treatment of nationals arrested in Philippines](#) (2026-05-28 16:01)

THE Chinese Embassy in Manila lodged representations with the Department of Foreign Affairs over what it described as frequent apprehension of Chinese in the country. Ji Lingpeng, embassy spokesman, said that the embassy and its consulates in Cebu, Davao, and Laoag have lodged "solemn representations with the Philippine side immediately upon each incident." "China attaches great importance to protecting the personal safety and legitimate rights and interests of Chinese nationals in the Philippines," Ji said in a statement on Thursday. "It must be stressed that China fully respects the Philippines' judicial sovereignty and its efforts to handle cases in accordance with law," he said. "However, we firmly oppose selective and discriminatory law enforcement targeting Chinese nationals." Beijing also asked Manila to "avoid undermining the personal safety, legitimate rights and interests of Chinese nationals, so as not to disrupt and

damage normal people-to-people exchanges and economic and trade relations between the two countries." "The Chinese side reserves the right to take further measures," Ji said. He did not elaborate. The embassy earlier denied that the 69 Chinese arrested in Misamis Oriental are illegal workers. They have "valid" work permits, said Deputy Chief of Mission Zhou Ziyong as he complained of discriminatory law enforcement practice. Ji urged concerned Philippine authorities "to handle the cases in a fair and just manner in accordance with law, and earnestly safeguard the personal safety, legitimate rights and interests, and humane treatment of the Chinese nationals involved." The embassy reminded Chinese citizens "to abide by local laws and regulations, engage in lawful employment and business activities, stay away from acts inconsistent with the purpose of entry or visa category, and avoid overstaying." Ji asked the "Philippine side to notify the Chinese diplomatic missions, within four days, of the facts and reasons for which Chinese nationals have been detained, arrested or deprived of freedom by any means whether the national requests it or not in compliance with the Consular Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines." "Should the investigation confirm that they have violated no Philippine laws, the relevant Chinese nationals shall be released as soon as possible, and no illegal or prolonged detention shall be allowed," he added. BERNADETTE TAMAYO

- [Muntinlupa fire victims get govt assistance](#) (2026-05-28 16:00)

SEN. Bong Go sent an outreach team to provide assistance to families affected by a fire in Barangay Putatan, Muntinlupa City on Tuesday. "What I always say is, we can buy things and earn money if we work hard. But the money we earn cannot buy life," the senator said in a video message. The relief operation benefited 90 families displaced by the fire. Of these, 87 suffered total damage to their homes, while three sustained partial damage. Go's team distributed snacks, vitamins, grocery packs, shirts, basketballs, and volleyballs to affected residents. In his message, the senator recognized government support programs aimed at helping victims rebuild their homes by providing financial aid for construction materials. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, Go encouraged residents with medical concerns to seek assistance from Malasakit Centers, a major part of his advocacy. The program consolidates services from the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office in one location to make it easier for indigent patients to access assistance. Go is the principal author and sponsor of Republic Act (RA) 11463, or the Malasakit Centers Act of 2019, which institutionalized the program nationwide. At present, 167 Malasakit Centers are operational across the country, including 32 in Metro Manila and two in Muntinlupa City. In Muntinlupa, the centers are located at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine and Ospital ng Muntinlupa. According to the DOH, the program has already assisted more than 17 million Filipinos. Stressing the importance of disaster preparedness and fire prevention measures, he noted that RA 12076, or the Ligas Pinoy Centers Act, was signed into law on Dec. 6, 2024, mandating the establishment of permanent and fully equipped evacuation centers in all cities and municipalities nationwide. "We will continue to serve you because it is my habit to

serve, and I believe that service to people is service to God," Go said.

- [EU fines Temu 200 mn euros over illegal products](#) (2026-05-28 15:51)

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The EU slapped a 200-million-euro (\$232 million) fine on Chinese-owned online retailer Temu on Thursday for allowing the sale of illegal products, including dangerous baby toys and defective chargers. According to EU regulators, European consumers are "very likely to encounter illegal items" on Temu, and the company "seriously underestimated how often EU consumers are likely to" see such products. "The company failed to diligently identify, analyse, and assess the systemic risks of illegal products being offered on its platform and the resulting harm to consumers in the European Union," the EU said. Temu said it disagreed with the EU and that the fine was "disproportionate". The platform is extremely popular in the European Union, with 130 million users after entering the bloc's market in 2023. But it has come under fierce scrutiny since October 2024 when the EU opened its investigation, which preliminarily found in July last year that Temu had breached landmark rules over the risks of illegal products. "Temu is a very big player in the European market," EU tech commissioner Henna Virkkunen told reporters, adding that its size meant many EU consumers would be able to get illegal products. Thursday's fine is only the second imposed under the EU's powerful Digital Services Act (DSA) on content, after Elon Musk's X platform received a 120-million-euro fine in December. Under the DSA, the world's most popular digital platforms including social media apps and online retailers must conduct a risk assessment to understand what dangers they pose and how to tackle the risks. The EU slammed Temu for its 2024 risk assessment that it said "falls short of the standards", citing the discovery of baby toys, such as rattles, containing chemicals that exceeded legal safety limits, and chargers that failed basic safety tests. It also pointed to jewellery. The European Commission said Temu failed to properly assess the platform's design and how it "could amplify dissemination risks of illegal products". - EU focus on China - The DSA is part of a bolstered legal armoury to curb what the EU considers excesses by Big Tech, and fines can go as high as six percent of a company's total worldwide annual turnover. Temu's revenues were \$61.7 billion last year. While the EU could have hit Temu with a higher fine, a European Commission official said the amount was proportionate to the breach since it concerned a risk assessment for one year where the conclusions were "clear-cut". Temu must now pay the fine and present a plan to the EU by August 28 that includes what action it will take to address the breaches. If Temu does not comply, it faces periodic penalty payments. It can also appeal the fine, as Musk has already done in the EU courts. Temu said it was "carefully reviewing the decision and assessing all options available to us", insisting it worked "constructively" with regulators. The company also said it has "since implemented additional measures to strengthen risk assessment, platform governance and user protection". The EU continues to investigate other suspected breaches in the same probe including the use of addictive design features that could hurt users' physical and mental well-being, and how Temu's systems recommend content and products. The fine comes a day before the EU executive is set to debate how the 27-nation bloc should approach China to level the playing field, with top EU officials warning that Europe must get tougher to defend its economy. Brussels has already

stepped up its anti-subsidy investigations into Chinese companies investing in Europe, and on Thursday it opened an in-depth probe into Chinese e-commerce giant JD.com's bid for Ceconomy, a major German electronics retail group, on suspicion it was boosted by state subsidies.

- [Youtube says will flag AI-generated content](#) (2026-05-28 15:30)

PARIS, France — Youtube will in future automatically detect AI-generated content and flag the information to viewers on its platform, the Google-owned company said Wednesday. The move reverses a previous policy of relying on video creators to self-report if they had used generative AI tools. "If a creator doesn't specify whether or not they used AI, but our systems detect significant photorealistic AI use, we will now automatically apply a label," Youtube said in a blog post. The video platform's last steps on generative AI date back to 2024, when it requested that creators flag content where they had used the technology. Since then there have been major strides in producing photorealistic images and video, with widely available AI models including Google's Veo 3.1 and Seedance from Tiktok's parent company Bytedance. Creators will be able to challenge the new flags if they think their content has been unfairly labelled as AI, Youtube said. The platform added that the flags would have no impact on its algorithm for recommending videos to users. Other platforms and social networks to introduce automatic flagging of AI content recently include music streamer Spotify. Many online spaces are flooded with AI-generated images, video or audio, which is growing increasingly difficult to tell apart from human creations as the tools become more capable.

- [Introducing Argus, a robot with 20 legs and eyes built to move and see in any direction instantly](#) (2026-05-28 14:24)

DURHAM, N.C. — A robot being developed at Duke University is almost ready to face the world, in any direction. Instead of trying to copy symmetrical shapes from nature by building robots that look like people, dogs or insects, engineering professor Boyuan Chen and his team focused on uniformity in action, or what he calls "dynamic symmetry." The result was Argus. The roly-poly robot named after a mythological many-eyed giant has depth-sensing cameras attached to 20 telescoping legs that radiate from a central core. With no front, back, top or bottom, it can see and move in any direction instantly. "Instead of measuring how your legs are arranged around a different part of your body, we're measuring how fast you can move in any direction," Chen said. "Who said, you know, if you have a robot to help us in a most effective way, it has to look like us?" In experiments, Argus has navigated sandy beaches and forest undergrowth, rolling over obstacles and stabilizing itself after being pushed. It can climb between parallel brick walls by alternating bracing and thrusting motions with its legs. If one or more motor dies or a leg breaks, it continues to function. "Watching Argus move is unlike watching any other robot we've worked with," said Jiaxun Liu, a graduate student and co-author of a study about Argus published online Wednesday in the journal Science Robotics.

"The first time we saw it navigate among trees and rough terrain, even under heavy collisions, we knew this was something different." As part of their work, researchers developed a new

design principle called dynamic isotropy that rates robots on a scale of 0 to 1 based on how uniformly they can accelerate in every direction. Most robots in use today, including humanoids and drones, score below 0.6. Argus scores 0.91. “When a robot can accelerate equally well in every direction, it stops needing to face the world in any particular way,” said Chen, who hopes the same principle could guide the development of search and rescue robots, underwater or aerial vehicles or robots with the ability to grip objects. “Instead of building a robot hand that looks like a human hand ... one idea is to think about having Argus be the hand itself, and it can manipulate objects in any direction,” he said. “The knowledge we can transfer to the rest of the world is much more deeper than building an existing robot or copying an existing species.”

- [AI chiefs walk back job apocalypse warnings](#) (2026-05-28 14:06)

WASHINGTON — The most prominent figures in artificial intelligence are stepping back from dire predictions about mass unemployment, as the industry faces growing public hostility over AI's promised transformation of the workplace. Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang and OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, whose comments have stoked anxiety about AI's potential effects on society, are now arguing that doom-laden warnings were overblown or, in some cases, disingenuous. Speaking to Channel News Asia on Monday, Huang took direct aim at fellow executives who have publicly blamed AI for workforce reductions. “The narrative that connects AI to job loss, for many of the CEOs that are doing it -- it is just too lazy,” he said. “AI has just arrived. How is it possible they're already losing jobs?” Huang, who has long argued that AI will create as many jobs as it displaces, pushed back against the doom-and-gloom forecasts of some industry insiders, saying that the recent wave of corporate layoffs was not driven by AI. “How is it possible that AI became productive and useful only six months ago, and they were somehow laying people off two years ago because of AI? It doesn't make any sense,” he said. “It was just a way for them to sound smart, and I really hate that. I think we're scaring people and that's irresponsible,” he said. - Altman's mea culpa - Last week, British bank Standard Chartered announced plans to axe thousands of jobs by 2030 as artificial intelligence replaces employees in a range of administrative roles. The tech firm behind social network Snapchat cut 1,000 jobs last month, saying AI is boosting efficiency as it pushes towards profitability. Altman, meanwhile, offered a mea culpa. Speaking at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Accelerate AI Conference in Sydney, he said rapid AI development would not produce the “jobs apocalypse that some of the companies in our space advocate or talk about” -- including his own. “I thought there would have been more impact on entry-level white-collar jobs being eliminated by now than has actually happened,” he told the conference on Tuesday, as reported by The Australian. “I think I understand more about why that wasn't done -- obviously gratefully -- but that is an area where my intuitions were just off.” Anthropic boss Dario Amodei has also softened his tone, predicting recently that even if 90 percent of jobs are automated, the remaining 10 percent would be handled by human workers who would be vastly more productive. Amodei has long drawn criticism from fellow industry figures who regard him as an AI doomer, even as Anthropic has become a highly successful company, with Huang saying last year he “pretty much disagrees with almost everything he says.” The reversals from rivals

Altman and Amodi come as their companies -- OpenAI and Anthropic -- are expected to embark on high-profile IPOs that will require broad buy-in from investors to succeed. But earlier doom-laden statements have now come to haunt the AI industry as the public, notably in the United States, voices serious discontent in polling over the disruption that tech companies and political leaders predict from AI. Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook warned on Wednesday that the full effects of AI on employment may still be ahead. "We could be approaching the most significant reorganization of work in generations," she said in a speech at Stanford University, adding that AI-related job losses could precede any gains -- even if the overall long-run picture remains positive. Most economic institutions, including the European Central Bank, say that artificial intelligence has had only minor effects on employment so far.

- [Marcos secures P53.6B in investment pledges from Japanese firms](#) (2026-05-28 13:46)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday secured P53.6 billion in potential investments from major Japanese companies covering expansion projects in shipbuilding, electronics manufacturing, semiconductor production, artificial intelligence (AI), and green maritime industries. The investments were committed during separate meetings with the President on the sidelines of his four-day state visit to Japan, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said. The investments include those of Tsuneishi Group Corp. to expand its shipbuilding facility in the Philippines, which is expected to make the country the fourth-largest shipbuilding nation in the world next to China, Japan, and South Korea. It also includes potential investments of Furukawa Electric Co. Ltd., which plans to expand its manufacturing operations, particularly those of advanced heat sink models and thermal management products. The company also plans to increase the production capacity for high-performance heat sinks at the Laguna Technopark. Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd. is also expected to invest P4.3 billion in advanced electronics manufacturing, covering the construction of a new 4,706 square-meter facility in Cabuyao, Laguna. MinebeaMistumi Inc., meanwhile, plans to boost its semiconductor backend manufacturing, including battery-related components for hyperscale data centers, optical image stabilization technologies, and advanced precision manufacturing. The investments are expected to support the expansion of high-end smartphone camera actuators, data center battery protection modules, and analog semiconductor operations in Cebu to help address growing global demand linked to AI technologies.

- [Jinggoy Estrada to exhaust all legal remedies in facing plunder charges](#) (2026-05-28 11:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada on Thursday said he would "exhaust all legal remedies" against the plunder charges filed against him before the Sandiganbayan. The senator noted that barely a week after the Department of Justice issued its resolution regarding his case, the Ombudsman immediately filed the case without first conducting a thorough and independent fact-finding investigation. "As I have said before, if this is the price that I have to pay for standing by my principles and for what I believe in, then so be it," Estrada said in a statement.

- [Rep. Janette Garin ready to face cyberlibel allegations](#) (2026-05-28 11:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Speaker and Iloilo 1st District Rep. Janette Garin said she was "fully prepared" to face health reform advocate Dr. Tony Leachon's cyberlibel allegations against her. "While I have yet to officially receive a copy of the complaint allegedly filed against me, I welcome the opportunity to address this matter in the proper legal forum", Garin, also a doctor, said in a statement posted on Facebook. "Legal actions are part of the landscape when you stand up for the public interest," she said. "I am fully prepared to face" the allegation "squarely under the rule of law," she said. Garin also said that she "will file the appropriate responsive pleadings once we receive the official copy of the complaint."

- [Police raids in manhunt for dela Rosa defended](#) (2026-05-28 11:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The police raids in Pampanga, Bulacan and Metro Manila in search of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa were done with an arrest warrant, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said Thursday. This was in contrast to the statement of the lawmaker's wife, Nancy dela Rosa who, quoting a friend whose home was raided by authorities, claimed that there was no warrant during the operation. "The local officials were very cooperative as well as the homeowners," Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander Morico II, CIDG director, told reporters in a press briefing in Camp Crame. "We have our warrant of arrest that we showed if it was needed," he noted. Dela Rosa's wife said her friend was informed by CIDG and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) operatives that an arrest warrant was "not necessary" when asked to present it. On Wednesday, authorities launched intensified manhunt operations against dela Rosa. "I have the highest respect [for Nancy dela Rosa.] So, I understand her position. Of course, a spouse is a spouse. But, the owners can attest, even the local officials in the area, that the CIDG and the NBI acted very professionally," Morico said. "If there is any violation of law that we committed, they can always file cases against us with the National Police Commission or even the Internal Affairs Service," he added. Morico clarified that the warrant presented by authorities was the one issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with dela Rosa's alleged role in the Duterte administration's war on drugs.

- [House outperforms Senate in trust, performance ratings — survey](#) (2026-05-28 10:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives continued to outperform the Senate in both trust and performance ratings, according to the latest "Boses ng Bayan" nationwide survey. The survey, conducted by the RPMD Foundation Inc. from May 20 to 25, 2026, sampled 2,500 randomly selected respondents across socio-economic classes nationwide, with a plus or minus 2 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level. Results showed that the House sustained a significantly higher public confidence level, posting an Index of Governance (IOG) of 62.2 percent, composed of a 61.8 percent trust rating and a 62.7 percent performance rating. Respondents cited institutional stability, coordination among lawmakers, faster passage of measures, and visible constituency-based programs as key factors behind the chamber's stronger ratings, even amid continued economic and political pressures. Speaker Faustino Dy III registered an IOG score of 58.1 percent, marking an increase of 3.1 percentage points from

RPMD's April 2026 survey. His trust rating rose to 57.5 percent from 54 percent, while his performance rating climbed to 58.8 percent from 56 percent. Participants in the survey described the House leadership under Dy as more organized and focused on legislative output and governance priorities, particularly on issues involving inflation, infrastructure, public services, and economic uncertainty. In contrast, the Senate recorded a significantly lower public confidence level, with an IOG of 36.1 percent, composed of a 35.4 percent trust rating and a 36.8 percent performance rating. The survey attributed the lower scores to public dissatisfaction linked to recent controversies, internal divisions, leadership tensions, and high-profile political exchanges that have dominated public discourse in recent weeks. Open-ended responses indicated that many participants viewed the Senate as increasingly preoccupied with political confrontation and personality-driven debates rather than urgent policy concerns. Some respondents described the chamber as struggling with cohesion and focus amid ongoing national issues. The Senate leadership under Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano received similarly weak ratings, registering a 34.2 percent IOG, with trust at 33.9 percent and performance at 34.6 percent. Under Cayetano, respondents cited perceptions of division, politicization, and institutional inefficiency, particularly in relation to inflation, corruption concerns, fuel prices, healthcare, and broader economic pressures. Dr. Paul Martinez, executive director of RPMD Foundation Inc. and a political analyst, said the findings reflected a shift in public preference toward institutions seen as more stable and service-oriented. "Members of the House of Representatives are more directly connected and accountable to their districts, while the Senate has increasingly been associated with political conflict and public confrontation," said Paul Martinez. He added that public patience for political theatrics was waning as households continued to face inflation and rising costs of basic goods, with voters increasingly demanding more concrete and consistent governance outcomes.

- [CBCP calls for accountability for public officials](#) (2026-05-28 10:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) urged the government to uphold accountability—especially for public officials. In a statement Thursday, Bishop Colin Bagaforo of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue (CBCP-ECID) said the recent political developments where the escape of fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa and Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial were reminders that accountability must apply to all "regardless of political affiliation, social status, popularity, or position in government." "We therefore reiterate our call to all institutions mandated to uphold justice and accountability—including the Ombudsman, the Sandiganbayan, and other accountability mechanisms of government—to relentlessly pursue all cases where there is probable cause and sufficient basis under the law," the statement reads.

- [Chinese embassy expresses concern over series of arrest of citizens](#) (2026-05-28 09:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Chinese Embassy in Manila "lodged representations" with the Department of Foreign Affairs over what it described as frequent apprehension of Chinese citizens in the country. The embassy and Chinese consulates in the country "have lodged solemn

representations with the Philippine side immediately upon each incident." "It must be stressed that China fully respects the Philippines' judicial sovereignty and its efforts to handle cases in accordance with law," Ji Lingpeng, embassy spokesman said on Thursday. "However, we firmly oppose selective and discriminatory law enforcement targeting Chinese nationals," Ji said. He urged concerned Philippine authorities "to handle the cases in a fair and just manner in accordance with law, and earnestly safeguard the personal safety, legitimate rights and interests, and humane treatment of the Chinese nationals involved." The embassy reminded Chinese citizens "to abide by local laws and regulations, engage in lawful employment and business activities, stay away from acts inconsistent with the purpose of entry or visa category, and avoid overstaying."

- [Filipino rapper M-Zhayt's politically charged FlipTop round against pro-Duterte rival goes viral](#) (2026-05-28 09:21)

MANILA, Philippines — A politically charged third-round performance by Filipino rap battle emcee M-Zhayt against fellow emcee Plaridhel has gone viral online, after his bars criticizing disinformation, blind political loyalty, and Duterte-era killings ignited heated debate across Philippine social media. The viral exchange came during a recent FlipTop Battle League where M-Zhayt targeted Plaridhel's pro-Duterte stance as part of the match's lyrical and performative format, with both emcees using their stage personas in a form of competitive rap widely regarded as artistic expression and social commentary. Plaridhel, known among FlipTop viewers for openly supporting former president Rodrigo Duterte and the Duterte movement, also works as a teacher outside battle rap, a point repeatedly referenced by M-Zhayt during the round while criticizing misinformation and political fanaticism. Among the most reposted lines were attacks against people who spread fake news, believe AI-generated propaganda, and defend controversial political figures despite allegations tied to extrajudicial killings and corruption controversies during the Duterte administration. The round drew particularly strong reactions after M-Zhayt framed the verse from the perspective of a former Duterte supporter himself, declaring that "Filipinos against abusers" represented the "real unity," while challenging supporters who dismiss victims of violence and political abuse. Several viewers praised the performance as one of the most hard-hitting political rounds in recent FlipTop history, arguing that battle rap has long served as a platform for protest, criticism, and social reflection. Others, however, accused the emcee of turning battle rap into partisan messaging, fueling arguments online over the role of politics in Filipino hip-hop culture. The battle, uploaded after FlipTop's "Second Sight 15" event in Muntinlupa City, rapidly spread on Facebook, TikTok, Reddit, and X, with clips of the third round amassing heavy engagement and reigniting discussion on how battle rap intersects with Philippine politics and freedom of expression.

- [Lawmaker, former Budget chief face separate charges before Ombudsman](#) (2026-05-28 08:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Health reform advocate Dr. Tony Leachon filed a cyberlibel complaint against Congressman and former Department of Health (DOH) secretary Janette Garin over allegedly defamatory statements she made online. In a statement Thursday, Leachon said that the video—which was posted on May 22—showed Garin accusing Leachon of “killing a patient without seeing the patient” and making other defamatory remarks ridiculing his professional competence. “This case is not about silencing critics. It is about drawing the line between fair comment and malicious falsehood. Integrity in governance and integrity in discourse are inseparable. Truth matters,” Leachon said. Also on Thursday, Leachon filed a supplemental affidavit including former Department of Budget and Management (DBM) secretary Amenah Pangandaman in the plunder and technical malversation complaint he filed last Monday against Executive Secretary and former Finance secretary Ralph Recto and other people. These stemmed from the transfer of P60 billion from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to the national treasury. Leachon included Pangandaman “only to the extent of acts...occurring during her tenure as” DBM secretary. Recto has said, “The Supreme Court justices themselves said that I have no criminal liability because I ‘simply followed the law and implemented it in good faith.’” He also said that he did not financially benefit from the said funds.

- [No bail recommended for Jinggoy Estrada, co-accused](#) (2026-05-28 07:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman did not recommend bail in the flood control-related plunder and graft charges it filed against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and other people before the Sandiganbayan. “The Office of the Ombudsman has recommended no bail for the respondents in this case”, Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said in a press briefing after the filing of the cases on Thursday. “Likewise, the office will pursue hold departure orders for the respondents so as to preserve the integrity of the case in court”, Clavano said. A court division will determine whether there is probable cause and if it does find there is, it will issue an arrest warrant. MANILA, Philippines - The Office of the Ombudsman did not recommend bail in the flood control-related plunder and graft charges it filed against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and other people before the Sandiganbayan. “The Office of the Ombudsman has recommended no bail for the respondents in this case”, Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said in a press briefing after the filing of the cases on Thursday. “Likewise, the office will pursue hold departure orders for the respondents so as to preserve the integrity of the case in court”, Clavano said. A court division will determine whether there is probable cause and if it does find there is, it will issue an arrest warrant.

- [Pag-IBIG Fund raises housing loan limit to ₱10M to serve more Filipino workers](#) (2026-05-28 07:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), commonly known as the Pag-IBIG Fund, has raised its maximum housing loan amount per borrower to ₱10 million in a bid to make the program more accessible, especially to middle-income and higher-earning Filipino workers particularly in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas. The increase in loan ceiling reflects the agency’s mandate to serve Filipino workers from all income segments

under the national government’ s ‘Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino’ (4PH) program, Pag-IBIG Fund CEO Marilene Acosta said. “At Pag-IBIG Fund, our mandate is to serve all Filipino workers. This means serving first-time homebuyers and members who need subsidized support, as well as middle-income and higher-earning members who also need affordable long-term financing to buy homes for their families,” Acosta said in a statement emailed to The Manila Times. Citing Pag-IBIG’ s strong financial position, she said it was able to offer a higher loanable amount while keeping its housing loan rates not only affordable, but among the lowest in the market. “With the higher loan ceiling, qualified borrowers now have even better access to home financing payable for up to 30 years, with interest rates that may go as low as 5.75 percent a year depending on their chosen fixing period,” the Pag-IBIG chief executive said. “More importantly, this allows us to widen the reach of the Expanded 4PH Program so that more members, across more income segments, can gain access to decent and affordable homes, while eligible socialized housing borrowers continue to benefit from the 3 percent subsidized rate,” she added. Moreover, the broader Pag-IBIG Housing Loan Program was intended to make homeownership a practical alternative to renting for more Filipino workers, especially when available housing units are offered at prices that match members’ income and borrowing capacity, Acosta said. “For many families, rent is already one of their biggest monthly expenses. Through Pag-IBIG Fund’ s affordable housing loan terms, monthly amortizations for reasonably priced homes can be lower than rent in many urban areas. This is the value we want to give our members: instead of paying rent month after month, they can use their hard-earned income to pay for a home they can eventually call their own,” she emphasized. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said the higher loan ceiling complements the program’ s ongoing subsidized 3 percent housing loan rate for qualified buyers of socialized housing, enabling Pag-IBIG Fund to serve more members seeking homes beyond the socialized housing segment through affordable long-term financing. The increase is part of the government’ s broader effort to make homeownership more accessible to Filipino workers across income segments, said Aliling, who chairs Pag-IBIG’ s board of trustees. “With the higher ₱10-million loan ceiling, Pag-IBIG Fund can now serve more members, especially Filipino workers who seek homes in higher price segments but still require long-term and affordable financing to own homes near their workplaces, schools and sources of livelihood,” he said. “This move allows Pag-IBIG Fund to widen access to home financing across more income segments, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more inclusive and accessible to more Filipino families,” the housing czar added. Given the oversupply of ready-for-occupancy condominium units specifically in the National Capital Region and other urban areas, the top officials stressed that the move was in support of the efforts to improve the take-up of available housing units. The DHSUD chief emphasized that the higher loan ceiling, combined with Pag-IBIG’ s long-term home financing, could make the purchase of these units more affordable for qualified members. Urging developer-partners to recalibrate their prices, Aliling convinced them to offer reasonable packages and help bring their available units within the reach of Pag-IBIG Fund members. “When housing prices, borrower capacity and affordable financing meet, more Filipino workers can finally own homes of their own,” Aliling said. Higher

maximum loan amount remains subject to credit evaluation, capacity-to-pay requirements, collateral appraisal and other housing loan guidelines to ensure that borrowing remains responsible and sustainable for members, Pag-IBIG said. Both Aliling and Acosta believed that higher loan ceiling would further strengthen Pag-IBIG's role in bridging available housing supply to actual homebuyer capacity while encouraging developers to offer homes at prices that better match the income and financing ability of Filipino workers.

- [American fugitive wanted for child molestation arrested](#) (2026-05-28 07:33)

MANILA, Philippines — A 59-year-old American fugitive wanted in the United States for child molestation charges was arrested in Pangasinan by operatives of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) as part of the government's intensified campaign against foreign sex offenders hiding in the country. The arrest of Matthew Cole Calhoun highlights the continuing crackdown under the BI's #ShieldKids campaign, which targets foreign predators and transnational criminals exploiting vulnerable sectors in the Philippines. Authorities said Calhoun, a US citizen, was apprehended during an enforcement operation conducted on the evening of May 16 in Barangay Navaluan, Mangaldan, Pangasinan. The operation was carried out by members of the BI's Fugitive Search Unit (FSU) in coordination with US authorities, the National Bureau of Investigation Ilocos Regional Office, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said the arrest supported the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to strengthen border security and intensify the hunt for foreign fugitives seeking refuge in the country. FSU chief Rendel Ryan Sy said Calhoun was facing multiple criminal charges in Florida, including two counts of lewd or lascivious molestation classified as life felonies. He is also facing two additional second-degree felony charges related to the same offense, according to information shared by US authorities. The BI said American authorities were already moving to cancel Calhoun's passport, a step that would pave the way for his deportation from the Philippines. Viado commended the BI-FSU operatives for the successful operation, stressing that the bureau remained relentless in pursuing foreign criminals hiding in the country. "Our message is clear: predators and fugitives who attempt to hide in the Philippines will be found and removed," Viado said.

- [Ombudsman files non-bailable plunder raps vs Jinggoy Estrada, others over flood control scam](#) (2026-05-28 06:29)

(UPDATE) MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Thursday filed non-bailable plunder charges against Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and others before the Sandiganbayan over alleged links to the flood-control scam. "The Office of the Ombudsman has recommended no bail for the respondents in this case," Assistant Ombudsman Mico Clavano said in a press briefing after the filing of the cases. "Likewise, the office will pursue hold departure orders for the respondents so as to preserve the integrity of the case in court," Clavano said. A court division will determine whether there is probable cause to merit an arrest warrant.

- [Filipino visa fixer gets 18 months for fraudulent US work permit scheme](#) (2026-05-28 06:28)

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — A Filipino was sentenced to 18 months in prison by a US federal court in the Northern Mariana Islands after admitting to a scheme that fraudulently secured work permits for undocumented migrants in the US territory. The US Attorney's Office for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands said 56-year-old Venerando Aquino Martin was sentenced on May 27 by the US District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for visa fraud against the United States. The Northern Mariana Islands, more commonly called the CNMI, is a US commonwealth in the western Pacific north of Guam. Saipan, where the case was prosecuted, is the CNMI's capital and home to a large Filipino community working in tourism, construction, health care, and service industries. According to federal prosecutors, Martin submitted around 242 fraudulent Form I-765 applications, or applications for Employment Authorization Documents, between Sept. 23, 2023, and April 9, 2025. An Employment Authorization Document, commonly called an EAD or work permit, allows certain foreign nationals in the United States and its territories to legally work for a specific period. Prosecutors said Martin falsely claimed the applicants qualified for employment authorization under US immigration laws. Authorities said the fraudulent applications resulted in 66 EADs being unlawfully issued. These permits were later used by undocumented migrants to obtain jobs in the CNMI. US Attorney Shawn N. Anderson said the scheme undermined the integrity of the US immigration system. "Martin engaged in fraudulent conduct at every step of his scheme," Anderson said in a statement released by federal authorities. He added that all 66 recipients of the unlawfully issued work permits had their authorizations revoked and are either already in removal proceedings or awaiting deportation cases. "We will aggressively enforce immigration violations to ensure that foreign nationals meet the qualifications of our work visa programs," Anderson said. Homeland Security Investigations Saipan also warned migrants and facilitators against attempting to circumvent US immigration laws. "Visa fraud weakens our immigration system and puts our communities at risk," said CJ Ammons. "We're keeping a close eye on everyone and everything crossing our borders. If you violate our customs or immigration laws, you will face consequences," Ammons added. Aside from the prison term, the court ordered Martin to serve one year of supervised release and pay a mandatory assessment fee of \$200. The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations Saipan and prosecuted by Assistant US Attorney Garth R. Backe.

- [DPWH rushes to restore access in Davao after bridge collapse](#) (2026-05-28 06:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is racing against time to complete a temporary Bailey bridge at the collapsed Callawa Bridge 2 in Davao City to immediately restore safe passage for motorists, commuters, and residents. Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon said on Thursday that construction crews have been working continuously following the collapse of the bridge on May 19, 2026 which severely disrupted transportation and daily activities in the area. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered the DPWH to fast-track the repair and rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure to ease the hardship being experienced by affected communities. Residents were forced to cross the river manually and climb using ropes after the bridge gave way, highlighting the urgent need for an

alternative route. The temporary Bailey bridge is expected to serve as an emergency crossing while authorities prepare for the full reconstruction of the damaged structure. A Bailey bridge is a portable, pre-fabricated steel bridge designed for rapid deployment during emergencies, disasters, and wartime operations. It can be assembled quickly and is commonly used when permanent bridges become impassable. According to Dizon, the temporary structure is being designed to safely accommodate light vehicles, emergency responders, delivery trucks, and pedestrians. The DPWH chief said that authorities have also deployed personnel in the area to assist residents and monitor safety while construction activities continue. The collapse of Callawa Bridge 2 disrupted the movement of goods and people in several communities, affecting workers, students, and small businesses dependent on the route. "Initial assessments indicated that structural damage and continuous heavy use may have contributed to the bridge failure, although a full technical investigation is still ongoing," added Dizon.

- [Dela Rosa escape 'related' to Senate shooting - CIDG](#) (2026-05-28 06:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The escape of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa from the Senate on May 14 and the shooting incident in the facility hours earlier were found out to be "related," the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Thursday. "Let me just say na (that), you know, two incidents po yun (those two incidents), they're related. The investigation is already with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and I do not want to pre-empt the DOJ," Maj. Gen. Robert Alexander A. Morico II told reporters in a briefing at Camp Crame. The chaotic standoff at the Senate was tagged by Dela Rosa's legal team as "grave supervening events" which clearly demonstrate severe threat to the senator's life. Dela Rosa's camp filed a "very urgent" manifestation with the Supreme Court seeking barring the Philippine government from cooperating with the International Criminal Court (ICC) who issued an arrest warrant against the senator for his alleged co-perpetrator role in the Duterte administration's drug war. Morico clarified that the CIDG investigated the Senate shooting and Dela Rosa's escape separately and refused to make conclusions as investigation was still ongoing. "We base our facts on the evidence we get. We investigate the Senate shooting and the escape separately. We investigate the Senate shooting, the escape is also separate," Morico said. "To make conclusions... The CIDG is only relegated to make investigative support," Morico added.

- [Marcos: PH, Japan eye 'comprehensive strategic partnership'](#) (2026-05-28 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the Philippines and Japan would pursue a higher tier diplomatic engagement through a "comprehensive strategic partnership" amid geopolitical tensions and energy supply disruptions. Speaking before members of the Japanese House of Councilors in Tokyo, Japan on Wednesday, Marcos said the planned elevation of ties reflects the "exceptional level of trust" between the two nations and their shared commitment to addressing regional and global challenges. "For the Philippines, and I believe for Japan as well, this moment calls not for retreat nor hesitation, but for deeper engagement with one another and with like-minded partners around the world," Marcos said. "It is in this context

that the Philippines and Japan are moving to elevate our relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the highest tier in our diplomatic framework, and a first for the Philippines," he added.

- [Death toll in Angeles City building collapse up to 5](#) (2026-05-28 04:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Fire Protection-Central Luzon on Thursday confirmed a fifth fatality from a building that collapsed in Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga. At 7:57 a.m. on Thursday, the BFP recovered the body of a male victim from the building wreckage. "As of [7:57 a.m. on] May 28, 2026, the body of one (1) male victim has been recovered, making it this incident's 5th casualty," the bureau said in a Facebook post. Rescue operations shifted to retrieval mode on Monday. Sixteen more remain missing.

- [Marcos witnesses signing of MOUs in fintech, digital innovation between PH, Japan](#) (2026-05-28 04:46)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. witnessed the signing of landmark collaborations between the Philippines and Japan which will give his administration's digitalization initiative a major push. With the Philippines becoming a major and trusted hub for digital innovation, financial technology, and smart urban development, several Memoranda of Understanding between the Ayala Group and leading Japanese companies in Tokyo were forged during Marcos' state visit to Japan. The agreements with Mitsubishi Corporation, MUFG Bank, and KDDI Corporation advance collaboration in intelligent city solutions, digital finance, marketing technology, and AI-driven infrastructure, highlighting strong Japanese investor confidence in the Philippines and opening new opportunities for innovation-led growth, financial inclusion, and smarter, more connected communities for Filipinos. The intelligent cities initiative will have Makati City as a jump-off point, and will center on how to make AI-powered systems, urban data platforms, smart mobility, connectivity, and digital city services effectively integrate into the lives of citizens. Meanwhile, the MOU between Ayala Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation will explore how to further expand the use of digital wallet GCash. The possible areas of cooperation include loyalty and rewards programs, ticketing platforms, digital commerce, customer engagement tools, and digital marketing technologies. It likewise will be integrated into Ayala and Mitsubishi's ecosystems across real estate, retail, energy, and mobility to advance financial inclusion while also aiming to enhance GCash's digital finance services among them lending, payments, wealth management, and other digital services. Separately, Japanese firms, in a business roundtable led by Marcos, also pledged to invest around \$3.4 billion, or around P210 billion in the Philippines. This, as the president reiterates that the Philippines "is open, ready, and highly capable of supporting the rapid expansion and resilience of Japanese global value chains."

- ['Jangmi' likely to enter PAR later later today; Pagasa sees rainy season either first or second week of June](#) (2026-05-28 01:51)

MANILA, Philippines – The rainy season may take place either on the first or second week of June, the chief of the state-run weather agency said on Thursday. “At present, the isolated and scattered rains that we experience while we are still under dry season are due to the localized thunderstorms but we are now transitioning to rainy season,” Nathaniel Servando, administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), told The Manila Times. Meanwhile, Servando said the tropical storm called "Jangmi" (international name) would likely enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility later in the day as a severe tropical storm and would be called "Domeng," the fourth storm to hit the archipelago in 2026. “It is forecast to reach typhoon category but is unlikely affect the weather conditions. It also has a remote chance to make landfall,” the Pagasa chief said. Its trough or extension, however, has already been affecting some areas in Mindanao, he added. The southwesterly wind flow – which brings warm, moist air from the southwest across the country – has been prevailing over Western Visayas, Negros Island Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, SOCCSKSARGEN (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos), BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Palawan in Luzon, the national weather bureau said. Metro Manila and the rest of the country will be experiencing partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated downpours or thunderstorms due to the localized thunderstorms, according to its latest advisory.