

PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: November 04, 2026 - November 11, 2026

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

Executive Summary

The Philippines faced a week of significant security challenges and diplomatic engagements from November 4 to November 11, 2026. The nation was grappling with a widespread wave of cyberattacks and data breaches affecting numerous government agencies and private institutions, leading to the exposure of millions of sensitive records. Concurrently, tensions in the South China Sea remained elevated as China issued warnings to the Philippines regarding alleged interference and maritime conduct, even as both nations committed to maintaining diplomatic dialogue. In response to external threats, the Philippines continued to bolster its defense capabilities, securing a coastal radar system and surveillance drones from Japan and expressing interest in acquiring more advanced missile systems from India. Relations with the European Union saw positive developments with the formalization of an Enhanced Partnership and substantial progress on a Free Trade Agreement, underscoring diversified security and economic cooperation.

Key Security Developments

- Widespread Government Data Breaches Confirmed

From November 5 to 7, 2026, a cybersecurity monitoring group, Deep Web Konek, flagged a massive wave of data breaches and exposures affecting 23 local institutions, including 16 government agencies, four higher education institutions, two private companies, and one non-government organization. The National Privacy Commission (NPC) confirmed receiving breach notifications from at least ten government agencies by November 10, including the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Office of the Vice President (OVP), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These incidents involved the alleged theft of millions of personal, corporate, and administrative records, with some threat actors invoking hacktivism.

- Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Data Breach

On November 4, 2026, it was reported that an unknown threat actor exfiltrated nearly 69GB of sensitive information from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA). The breach, which occurred in a 24-minute window, compromised 27 backup databases containing records related to migrant workers, contracts, and financial data. Threat intelligence firm Hunt.io, which identified Chinese language fragments in third-party code but did not attribute the attack to a specific

nation-state, noted the use of sophisticated privilege escalation tools and a Singaporean staging server for data transfer.

• China Warns Philippines Amid South China Sea Tensions

On November 4, 2026, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned his Philippine counterpart, Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro, about alleged "malicious interference" in their bilateral relationship and urged caution regarding the South China Sea dispute during a phone call on November 3. Wang accused certain Filipino politicians of making statements that crossed China's diplomatic red lines. Despite the strong warning, both sides agreed to maintain diplomatic dialogue and manage differences peacefully, emphasizing mutual respect and avoiding actions that could escalate tensions.

• Japan Provides Coastal Radar and Surveillance Drones

On November 10, 2026, Japan agreed to provide the Philippine military with a coastal radar system and surveillance drones, a grant valued at 4.3 billion Japanese yen (€24 million). The agreement, signed in Manila by Philippine Foreign Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro and Japan's ambassador Katsuro Kitagawa, aims to help the Philippines track ships and protect vital shipping routes, including those in the South China Sea and the Luzon Strait. This marks Japan's first complete defense system supplied under its Official Security Assistance program.

• Philippines Seeks More BrahMos Missiles from India

On November 4, 2026, Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro Jr. expressed Manila's interest in acquiring additional BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missile systems from India. Speaking during the Third Delhi Defense Dialogue, Teodoro indicated a desire to expand the country's coastal defense capability and shared requirements for equipment better suited to Philippine conditions. The Philippines was the first foreign customer for the BrahMos system, with the initial agreement signed in January 2022.

• AFP Investigating Alleged Air Force Data Breach

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) announced on November 10, 2026, that it is investigating reports of cybersecurity breaches involving military systems, including the Philippine Air Force (PAF). AFP spokesperson Col. Francel Margareth Padilla stated that military cybersecurity units were examining online reports of alleged data leaks but had yet to verify the allegations or confirm if sensitive information was compromised. The AFP Cyber Command and the Air Force's 950th Cyber Wing are coordinating on the investigation.

• President Marcos Jr. Pushes for South China Sea Code of Conduct Finalization

On November 10, 2026, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reiterated his goal to finalize the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea during the upcoming 49th

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit, scheduled for November 15-17 in Manila. This initiative aims to establish rules governing the behavior of countries in the disputed waters and prevent incidents that could lead to armed conflict, despite ongoing challenges in negotiations.

- EU-Philippines Enhanced Partnership Formalized

The European Union and the Philippines formally elevated their relations to an Enhanced Partnership in July 2026, a development reiterated in news reports on November 9, 2026. This partnership expands cooperation across trade, security, digital technology, climate action, and governance. EU Ambassador Massimo Santoro highlighted the potential for increased cooperation, including progress toward a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with negotiations reaching substantial conclusion in September 2026.

- National Privacy Commission Confirms Breaches in 10 Government Agencies

As of November 10, 2026, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) confirmed that it has received personal data breach notifications from ten government agencies. These agencies include the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), Department of Justice (DOJ), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). The NPC is reviewing the circumstances of each incident.

- Security Measures for Undas 2026

A "whole-of-government" effort was implemented for the safe and orderly observance of Undas (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day) 2026, with authorities deploying thousands of personnel nationwide. The Philippine National Police (PNP) placed all police units on full alert, deploying approximately 72,500 police personnel, supported by other government workers, to secure cemeteries, transport terminals, and public areas. The Bureau of Fire Protection and the Philippine Coast Guard also mobilized personnel for fire safety and maritime security.

Cyber Threat Landscape

The Philippines experienced a significant surge in cyber incidents during this period, characterized by widespread data breaches affecting numerous government agencies and private entities. Cybersecurity monitoring group Deep Web Konek reported a "massive wave" of data breach and exposure incidents from November 5 to 7, impacting 23 local institutions. These included major national government agencies

such as the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Office of the Vice President (OVP), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Philippine Air Force (PAF), among others. Millions of personal, corporate, and administrative records were allegedly leaked, along with one website defacement event. The National Privacy Commission (NPC) confirmed receiving breach notifications from at least ten government agencies by November 10, indicating the severity and breadth of the compromise.

Specific incidents include the exfiltration of nearly 69GB of sensitive information from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) on November 4, compromising migrant worker records. While the attackers' identity remains unknown, Chinese language fragments were found in third-party code, though no direct attribution to a nation-state was made. Threat actors cited in the compilation of incidents by Deep Web Konek include groups operating under names such as "DeathNote Hackers," "Happy Go Lucky PH," "sinigangmixwithgabi," "core849," and "CrimsonSec Philippines." The Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) website was reportedly defaced by "Nullsec Philippines." The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is actively investigating alleged cybersecurity breaches involving military systems, though verification is ongoing. The SEC, which confirmed a data breach on November 9, suggested the leak potentially originated from malware infection or unauthorized access by a third-party threat actor on users' own devices.

The government's response includes investigations by the NPC, DICT, and AFP Cyber Command, with agencies like the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and SEC confirming incidents and coordinating with the NPC. The widespread nature of these attacks highlights significant vulnerabilities in the digital infrastructure of both public and private sectors. There were no new reports within this period explicitly naming the exploitation of CVE-2026-0257 (Palo Alto Networks PAN-OS), CVE-2026-63077 (JetBrains TeamCity), CVE-2026-45659 (Microsoft SharePoint Server), CVE-2026-59310 (Broadcom VMware vCenter), CVE-2025-14733 (WatchGuard Firebox), or CVE-2026-15410 (SonicWall SMA1000 Appliances) against Philippine organizations. Background: Threat actors known to target the Philippines include APT32 (Vietnam-linked), APT40 (China-linked), Earth Lusca (China-linked), LOTUS PANDA (China-linked), Naikon (China-linked), GOBLIN PANDA (China-linked), Hellsing (China-linked), and TianWu (China-linked).

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from November 4 to 11, 2026, saw the Philippines navigating complex geopolitical dynamics, primarily centered on its relationship with China and its strategic alliances. The South China Sea dispute remains a critical flashpoint, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi issuing a stern warning to his Philippine counterpart,

Ma. Theresa Lazaro, on November 3. Wang accused certain Filipino politicians of "malicious interference" and urged caution in their words and actions regarding maritime issues. This diplomatic exchange, while tense, also saw both nations agreeing to maintain dialogue and manage differences peacefully, indicating a desire to prevent further escalation ahead of the upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit in Manila and APEC meetings in Shenzhen. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s push to finalize the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea during the ASEAN Summit underscores Manila's commitment to a rules-based order and de-escalation in the contested waters.

The Philippines continued to strengthen its defense partnerships with major powers other than China, notably Japan, India, and the United States. Japan's grant of a coastal radar system and surveillance drones on November 10 is a tangible step in enhancing Manila's maritime domain awareness, particularly in the South China Sea and Luzon Strait, areas critical to Japan's own shipping routes. This move, however, has drawn criticism from Beijing, which views such security assistance as an attempt to build a security network around China. The Philippines' expressed interest in acquiring more BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missiles from India further signals its intent to bolster its deterrence capabilities against potential maritime aggression. These acquisitions and expressions of interest, along with the ongoing context of joint exercises like Balikatan with the US and other partners (though no new exercises in this specific week), reflect Manila's strategy of "coalition deterrence" and diversifying its security partners to counter China's assertive actions in the region.

The widespread cyberattacks on Philippine government agencies also carry geopolitical implications. While no specific nation-state attribution was made for the POEA breach, the mention of Chinese language fragments in third-party code could fuel suspicions, especially given the existing geopolitical tensions. Such incidents highlight the vulnerability of critical infrastructure and sensitive data, which could be exploited by state-sponsored actors for intelligence gathering or disruptive purposes, further complicating regional stability. The Philippines' role as ASEAN chair and host of the upcoming summit places it at the center of regional diplomatic efforts, making its internal security and cyber resilience crucial for the broader strategic landscape.

EU Relations and Implications

Relations between the Philippines and the European Union saw positive momentum during this period, building on recent advancements. The EU and the Philippines formally elevated their relations to an Enhanced Partnership in July 2026, a development that was highlighted in news reports on November 9, 2026. This upgrade signifies a commitment to broader cooperation across various sectors, including trade, security, digital technology, climate action, and governance. A

significant aspect of this enhanced relationship is the substantial progress made in negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which reached a near conclusion in September 2026 and was reiterated in news on November 6 and 9. This FTA is expected to remove over 94% of tariffs and affect more than 97% of trade between the two entities, potentially boosting the Philippine economy through increased exports and investment inflows.

In terms of security cooperation, the EU approved a separate €15 million package in July 2026 to help Philippine forces monitor the country's waters, funding coastal radar, infrared surveillance equipment, and training. This initiative, the EU's first grant to the Philippines under the European Peace Facility, directly supports maritime security, particularly relevant given the ongoing tensions in the South China Sea. This cooperation aligns with the EU's broader Global Gateway Strategy, which includes digital projects like the Philippines — Digital Economy Package and SCOPE Digital — Copernicus Earth Observation Southeast Asia.

The widespread cyber incidents affecting Philippine government agencies and private entities during this period have direct implications for EU interests and cooperation. Data breaches involving sensitive personal and administrative information could undermine confidence in the Philippines' digital infrastructure, potentially impacting the security of data exchanged through EU-funded digital projects. While the EU's relationship outlook was assessed as "Stable" in August 2026, the recent cyber vulnerabilities could necessitate increased focus on cybersecurity capacity building within the "Digital & ICT" cooperation sector. Ensuring robust cybersecurity frameworks will be crucial for the successful implementation and long-term viability of joint digital initiatives and for protecting the integrity of trade and investment data under the prospective FTA.

Military and Defense Analysis

The Philippines continues its strategic shift towards external defense, driven by escalating tensions in the South China Sea. This period highlights ongoing efforts in force posture enhancement, modernization programs, and capability development, primarily through strengthened alliances and strategic acquisitions.

A key development is the Philippines' expressed interest in expanding its BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missile capability from India. On November 4, 2026, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. confirmed Manila's desire for additional BrahMos units, signaling a procurement ambition to further bolster its coastal defense. The Philippines was the first foreign customer for the BrahMos system, with its initial battery operational in Western Luzon, a critical area facing the South China Sea and Luzon Strait. This acquisition provides a significant long-range precision strike

capability, crucial for deterring hostile maritime activity. The focus is not just on acquiring platforms but also on developing the capacity to operate and maintain them effectively, including training personnel and establishing robust logistics.

Further enhancing its maritime domain awareness and surveillance capabilities, the Philippines secured a grant from Japan for a coastal radar system and surveillance drones on November 10, 2026. This €24 million package will equip the Philippine Navy with radar and the Air Force with drones, specifically to monitor shipping routes in the South China Sea and Luzon Strait. This builds upon previous Japanese grants, including five coastal radar systems provided in February 2023, and signifies Japan's growing role in supporting regional security. Additionally, the EU has committed €15 million for coastal radar and infrared surveillance equipment, further diversifying the Philippines' maritime monitoring assets.

While no major military exercises were reported within this specific week, the context of ongoing modernization is set against the backdrop of recent large-scale Balikatan exercises with the United States and other allies (April-May 2026), which focused on coastal defense, integrated air and missile defense, and interoperability. These exercises, along with the 2025 AJEX DAGIT-PA, are designed to test the Philippines' ability to repel invaders and sustain operations without immediate allied assistance, reflecting a "Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept." The military is also planning to procure over 500 infantry fighting vehicles to improve the safety and mobility of ground troops, though details remain limited for security reasons. Overall, the Philippines is actively pursuing a multi-faceted approach to defense modernization, leveraging international partnerships and strategic acquisitions to enhance its deterrence and response capabilities in a challenging regional security environment.

Outlook and Forecast

The short-term outlook (1-3 months) for the Philippines' security posture is characterized by continued high vigilance, particularly in the cyber domain and the South China Sea. The immediate aftermath of the widespread data breaches will likely see intensified government efforts to investigate, mitigate, and enhance cybersecurity defenses. This will involve forensic analysis, patching vulnerabilities, and potentially implementing new policies to prevent future compromises. The National Privacy Commission and relevant agencies will be under pressure to provide transparent updates and hold accountable those responsible for the security lapses. Simultaneously, the diplomatic maneuvering over the South China Sea will remain a central focus, especially with the upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit in Manila (November 15-17, 2026). Discussions on the Code of Conduct (COC) will be critical, and any progress or setbacks will significantly influence regional perceptions of stability.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas continue to be the disputed features in the South China Sea, particularly Scarborough Shoal and Second Thomas Shoal. While both China and the Philippines have agreed to maintain dialogue, the underlying territorial claims and recent assertive actions by China mean that accidental collisions or confrontational encounters remain a significant risk. The presence of Chinese vessels and aircraft in these areas, coupled with Philippine resupply missions and patrols, creates a volatile environment. Internally, while no new counter-terrorism incidents were reported, the ongoing threat from remnants of terrorist groups and clan-based militias in Mindanao, particularly in ungoverned spaces, remains a persistent concern, as highlighted in previous analyses.

Indicators to monitor include the progress of investigations into the recent cyberattacks, particularly any attribution to specific threat actors or nation-states, and the government's subsequent policy responses and investments in cybersecurity. In the diplomatic sphere, the outcomes of the ASEAN Summit regarding the South China Sea Code of Conduct will be a crucial indicator of regional stability and the effectiveness of multilateral engagement. Any new defense acquisitions or joint military exercises, especially those involving key allies like the US and Japan, will signal the Philippines' continued commitment to strengthening its external defense. Furthermore, monitoring China's reactions to these defense enhancements and its actions in the South China Sea will be essential.

Strategic recommendations for the Philippines include prioritizing a comprehensive overhaul of government cybersecurity infrastructure and protocols, potentially seeking international assistance and expertise from trusted partners like the EU and US. Diplomatically, the Philippines should continue to leverage multilateral forums like ASEAN to build consensus on a rules-based order in the South China Sea while maintaining open, albeit firm, communication channels with China. Militarily, the ongoing modernization program should focus on integrating newly acquired assets, enhancing interoperability with allies, and developing robust maintenance and logistics capabilities to ensure sustained operational readiness. Investing in intelligence gathering and analysis, particularly in cyber and maritime domains, will be crucial for proactive threat detection and response.

Structured Assessment

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

• Sara Duterte had 'loose investment' in GenCorp, received P2.14M -- witness (2026-11-11 05:32)

Vice President Sara Duterte has a “loose investment” in GenCorp. Industries Inc., from which she received P2.1 million in returns of capital from 2022 to 2025, a defense witness told the Senate impeachment court on Wednesday.

• Impeachment court removes 'absurd' comments from the record (2026-11-11 05:12)

Senate impeachment court presiding officer Francis “Chiz” Escudero on Wednesday ruled to strike from the record the “absurd” remark mentioned in the trial amid discussions on the findings of financial forensic analyst Atty. Alexander Cabrera.

• Slovak top envoy Juraj Blanar to visit PH on Nov. 12-15, 2026 (2026-11-11 04:07)

Slovak Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Juraj Blanar will be in the Philippines from November 12 to 15 for an official visit.

• Defense witness: VP Sara has zero stocks in GenCorp. firm (2026-11-11 03:52)

Vice President Sara Duterte is not a stock holder of Gencorp Industries, Inc., one of the Vice President"s declared business interests, a defense witness said Wednesday.

• Cebu-based shipping firm denies hand in cigarette smuggling (2026-11-11 03:48)

Cebu-based shipping firm Gothong Southern has denied involvement in the recently reported smuggling of P13 billion worth of cigarettes into the country.

• Over 23,000 personnel to secure ASEAN Summit 2026 (2026-11-11 03:27)

More than 23,000 personnel will be deployed to secure the 49th ASEAN Summit in Metro Manila, according to authorities on Wednesday.

• PNP: 300K wanted persons, including Bato, Zaldy Co, Bantag, Atong Ang, remain at large (2026-11-11 03:21)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is pursuing around 300,000 wanted persons nationwide as the organization targets zero backlog.

• Who is Suzette Balucanag-Punay, in-house counsel of 2 firms linked to Sara Duterte? (2026-11-11 03:08)

The defense panel on Wednesday morning presented Atty. Suzette Balucanag-Punay as its fourth witness in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

• Martin Romualdez camp: Suspension does not constitute a finding of guilt (2026-11-11 01:08)

The 90-day preventive suspension ordered by the Sandiganbayan on former Speaker Martin Romualdez does not mean there was a finding of guilt, his camp said Wednesday.

• Dedicated lane set up along Roxas Boulevard for ASEAN Summit 2026 delegates (2026-11-11 00:44)

A dedicated lane has been set up along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City for vehicles transporting delegates and VIPs attending the ASEAN Summit.

• LIVE UPDATES: Sara Duterte Impeachment Trial (November 11, 2026) (2026-11-10 22:35)

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte will continue on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, with the Defense presenting witnesses to debunk the allegation of unexplained wealth of Duterte.

• Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 42: What to expect (2026-11-10 22:13)

The Defense will present on Wednesday its fourth witness for Article II of the impeachment case, concerning allegations on Vice President Sara Duterte"s unexplained wealth.

• ICC urged to limit questioning time for traumatized witness in Rodrigo Duterte case (2026-11-10 22:12)

PRAGUE, Czech Republic - As the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial Chamber III decides which witness testimonies to admit in the trial of former President Rodrigo Duterte, the victims" legal representatives are urging judges to limit the questioning time for one witness to protect

her psychological well-being.

• EXPLAINER: Who is Apollo Quiboloy? (2026-11-10 18:06)

The Department of Justice (DOJ) reported Tuesday that the US government's request for the extradition of Apollo Quiboloy has been filed before the Makati Regional Trial Court.

• Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 41: Contempt warning, salary differential, witness's accounting firm ties (2026-11-10 16:38)

Senate impeachment court Presiding Officer Francis Escudero opened the 41st day of the impeachment trial by warning witnesses against lying or mocking the court, saying they could be held in contempt.

• Sara Duterte's P64,000 Davao payout not reflected in 2024 ITR, prosecution says (2026-11-10 15:14)

The P64,000 payout that Vice President Sara Duterte received from the Davao City government in 2023 for her services as city mayor was not reflected in her income tax return (ITR) for the following year, the House prosecution panel said Tuesday.

• Prosecution seeks sanctions vs. VP Sara, spokesperson over alleged sub judice violations (2026-11-10 14:41)

The House prosecution panel has asked the Senate impeachment court to sanction Vice President Sara Duterte and her spokesperson, Atty. Paolo Panelo, over statements that allegedly violated the sub judice rule, including remarks that supposedly questioned the integrity of the court.

• Marcos: Gov't saved P1.4 billion in MacBook deal for DepEd teachers, staff (2026-11-10 14:37)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the government was able to save P1.4 billion in its deal with Apple Inc., where it secured MacBook Neo laptops well below the unit"s suggested retail price in the Philippines.

• More than 300 domestic flights could be affected by ASEAN Summit, says DOTr (2026-11-10 14:12)

More than 300 domestic flights could be affected amid the arrival of world leaders in the Philippines for the 49th ASEAN Summit, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said Tuesday.

• PCSO Lotto Results: No winners of P512-M Ultra Lotto jackpot on Tuesday, November 10 (2026-11-10 13:59)

There were no winners of the P512 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot drawn by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

• Poa: Is there something wrong with going to China? (2026-11-10 13:35)

Poa asked what was wrong with going to China after another one of the defense team's witnesses at Vice President Sara Duterte"s impeachment trial was grilled about making a trip there.

• LOOK: President Marcos reviews ASEAN Summit preparations (2026-11-10 12:15)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. inspected the preparations for the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on Tuesday.

• Both sides in VP Sara impeachment trial flag possible violations of sub judice rule (2026-11-10 11:42)

The defense on Tuesday raised concerns about the prosecution"s possible violation of the sub judice rule, but the latter countered saying that Vice President Duterte herself may have also disregarded the rule with her “incessant attacks” against the integrity of the impeachment court.

• Tiangco: Romualdez referred my additional budget request to Zaldy Co (2026-11-10 11:22)

Navotas Rep. Tobias Tiangco on Tuesday told the Sandiganbayan he approached Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez for additional funding for his district during Romualdez"s tenure as Speaker.

• Defense did not coach witnesses -- Poa (2026-11-10 11:20)

The spokesperson of Vice President Sara Duterte"s defense team, Atty. Michael Poa, said they did not coach the witnesses they presented to the impeachment court.

• Sandiganbayan orders 90-day suspension of Martin Romualdez (2026-11-10 11:01)

The Sandiganbayan Third Division has ordered the 90-day suspension of former House Speaker Martin Romualdez, who is currently detained over a P7.4-billion plunder case.

• Defense witness was partner at accounting firm for VP Sara business assets (2026-11-10 10:48)

A witness for the defense in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte used to be partner at the accounting firm for firms that are declared assets of Duterte and Mans Carpio.

• Jinggoy Estrada had P1.6 billion in budget insertions, says witness (2026-11-10 10:46)

Senator Jinggoy Estrada inserted over P1.6 billion worth of projects in the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in 2025, a witness told the Sandiganbayan on Tuesday.

• US request for Quiboloy extradition filed before Makati court -DOJ (2026-11-10 10:38)

The request of the United States Government for the extradition of Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) founder Apollo Quiboloy has been filed before the Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC), the Department of Justice (DOJ) said Tuesday.

• Davao City accountant Bajan admits going to China in December 2025 (2026-11-10 10:37)

Davao City accountant Vingelin Bajan, a witness presented by the defense in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, confirmed Tuesday that she was one of the local officials who traveled to China late last year.

• Palace to gov't officials: Defend WPS, but be diplomatic (2026-11-10 09:30)

Malacañang on Tuesday urged government officials to exercise diplomacy when discussing issues involving the West Philippine Sea (WPS), but said there was no need to “tone down” their statements as long as these were within their respective mandates.

• NBI files charges vs. 13 tagged in P13-B cigarette smuggling (2026-11-10 09:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed charges against 13 individuals linked to the smuggling of P13 billion worth of cigarettes into the Philippines.

• NPC confirms data breaches in DOJ, DICT, 8 other gov't agencies (2026-11-10 08:57)

The National Privacy Commission (NPC) on Tuesday confirmed personal data breaches involving 10 government agencies, including the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

• Davao City accountant warned of contempt for being 'evasive' in impeach trial (2026-11-10 08:38)

Senator-judges on Tuesday called out Davao City accountant Vingelin Bajan, a witness fielded by the defense, for supposedly being evasive and taking a long time to respond to questions being asked during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

• DepEd reports low HPV vaccination rates among learners due to parents' concerns (2026-11-10 08:36)

The Department of Education (DepEd) reported on Tuesday low vaccination rates for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) among learners, with the vaccine administered for free to female Grade 4 students.

• Who is defense witness Davao City Accountant Vingelin Bajan? (2026-11-10 08:29)

Davao City Accountant Vingelin Bajan on Tuesday took the witness stand as a defense witness for Day 41 of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

• Palace urges probe into mental health concerns at OVP (2026-11-10 08:27)

Malacañang on Tuesday called for an investigation into the causes of mental health issues among personnel of the Office of the Vice President (OVP), saying the matter should neither be politicized nor taken lightly.

• Samal City assessor unsure if Mans Carpio property listed in Sara Duterte's joint SALN (2026-11-10 05:40)

A defense witness in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte said Tuesday he was unsure if the Samal property acquired by the latter's husband in 2013 was the same property declared in their joint Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) from 2015 onwards.

• PISTON sets transport strike vs. Donald Trump on Nov. 16 (2026-11-10 04:44)

Transport group PISTON has announced a one-day transport strike on November 16, the opening of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2026 Summit in Metro Manila.

• This is the estimated amount PH needs to implement its climate commitments (2026-11-10 04:19)

According to the Climate Change Commission, we'll need an estimated amount of at least $250B in investments to implement our climate commitments

• DOLE to employers: Release 13th month pay by Christmas Eve 2026 (2026-11-10 04:06)

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reminded private sector employers to release the 13th month pay of their workers by December 24, 2026.

• Escudero hopes Sara Duterte impeachment trial over before Christmas (2026-11-10 03:54)

Senate impeachment court presiding officer Francis “Chiz” Escudero expressed hope Tuesday that the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte will be finished before Christmas or New Year.

• Marcos to newly appointed AFP officials: Never lose trust, confidence of Filipinos (2026-11-10 03:41)

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday urged newly promoted generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to never lose the "trust and confidence" of Filipinos as they take their oaths of office.

• 29 Chinese vessels spotted in WPS in past week -- AFP (2026-11-10 03:19)

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Tuesday it has monitored 29 Chinese vessels in several West Philippine Sea (WPS) features from November 3 to 8, 2026.

• Impeachment court warns contempt, perjury cases vs lying witnesses (2026-11-10 03:14)

Senate impeachment court presiding officer Francis “Chiz” Escudero reminded Tuesday that witnesses who lie under oath may be cited in contempt and face perjury charges.

• Who is defense witness Engineer John Kenneth Enumerables? (2026-11-10 03:03)

The second witness for the defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte for her impeachment trial is Engineer John Kenneth Enumerables, the assessor of the Island Garden City of Samal.

• Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 40: P6-M Matina property same as P10-M asset in SALN, defense witness insists (2026-11-10 02:42)

The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte opened their presentation of evidence by

presenting Davao City assessor and Engr. Jaime Adalin, who has maintained that the P6 million property acquired by the Vice President"s husband in 2024 is the same P10 million property stated in the Vice President"s wealth statement.

- Senators urge state of calamity declaration in El Niño-hit areas (2026-11-10 02:15)

Twenty senators have signed a resolution calling on President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to declare a state of calamity in areas affected by the strong El Niño phenomenon.

- China rocket causes 'space jellyfish' over Palawan, WPS (2026-11-10 02:07)

The launch of a Chinese rocket caused a "space jellyfish" to appear over Puerto Princesa City and several islands in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) on Monday, the Philippine Navy said.

- Brazil President Lula to visit PH on Nov. 14-15, 2026 for state visit (2026-11-10 01:00)

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will visit the Philippines on November 14 to 15 for a state visit, according to the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Tuesday.

- Comelec resumes voter registration for 2028 polls (2026-11-10 00:25)

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Tuesday reopened voter registration for the 2028 National and Local Elections.

- LIVE UPDATES: Sara Duterte Impeachment Trial (November 10, 2026) (2026-11-09 22:20)

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte continues on Tuesday, November 10, 2026. The defense is expected to present its second witness for Article II of the articles of impeachment against Duterte alleging her unexplained wealth.

- Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 41: What to expect (2026-11-09 22:11)

The defense panel will present on Tuesday its second witness in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte to testify on matters concerning the tax declarations and tax maps of a property in the Island Garden City of Samal.

- Rodrigo Duterte defense team wants ICC prosecution witnesses vs Bato dela Rosa removed (2026-11-09 21:26)

The defense team of former President Rodrigo Duterte has pushed back at International Criminal Court prosecutors over their bid to include two witness testimonies whose accounts

they allege to be based on “rumors, hearsay, and information obtained through media.”

• SWS: 55% of adult Filipinos follow former President Duterte's ICC case developments (2026-11-09 19:39)

Only 55% followed the news about the latest developments on the International Criminal Court (ICC) case against former President Rodrigo Duterte, according to the latest Social Weather Survey (SWS).

• House majority parties back full disclosure on 2027 district allocations (2026-11-09 17:37)

Majority parties in the House of Representatives expressed support on Monday for the full disclosure of congressional district allocations under the proposed 2027 national budget.

• Leni Robredo-Raffy Tulfo leading Baste Duterte-Robin Padilla -- OCTA 2028 tandem survey (2026-11-09 17:37)

Mayor Leni Robredo-Sen. Raffy Tulfo tandem leads Mayor Baste Duterte-Sen. Robin Padilla in a hypothetical 2028 presidential and vice presidential tandem matchup, according to OCTA"s First 2028 Tandem Survey.

• CLSU grad tops November 2026 veterinarians licensure exam (2026-11-09 15:12)

A graduate of Central Luzon State University achieved the highest score in the computer-based licensure examination for veterinarians held earlier this month.

• P27-B projects Romualdez allegedly proposed didn't go through regular process, says DPWH exec (2026-11-09 14:24)

Several projects, worth P27 billion and which listed former Speaker Martin Romualdez as their proponent, didn't go through the regular process, an official of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on Monday.

• PCSO Lotto Results: No winners of P349M Grand Lotto jackpot on Nov. 9 (2026-11-09 13:55)

No bettors took home the Grand Lotto 6/55 prize of over P349 million after no winners were announced in any of the major lotto jackpot draws on November 9, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said Monday.

• Sara Duterte: Gov't officials should not pick fights with other countries (2026-11-09 13:23)

Vice President Sara Duterte cautioned the Philippine government against picking fights with other countries, including China.

• Prosecution flags defense witness's 25-day trip to China (2026-11-09 13:10)

The House prosecution panel on Monday flagged a 25-day trip to China taken by Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin in January this year.

• Prosecution: Defense's first witness a 'weakness' amid discrepancies in testimony (2026-11-09 12:20)

The defense's first witness turned out to be "a weakness" for them due to a testimony peppered with inconsistencies, the House prosecution team said Monday.

• Pangilinan, De Lima still hopeful Robedo will seek presidency anew in 2028 (2026-11-09 10:11)

Allies of former Vice President Leni Robredo remain hopeful that she will change her mind about a second presidential run in 2028.

• PH to press wealthy nations for climate funding (2026-11-09 09:58)

The Philippines will push for stronger international partnerships and increased climate financing to address the economic impact of extreme weather events, including extreme heat, typhoons and flooding, at the ongoing UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye.

• Sara Duterte urges government to prepare food supply amid El Niño (2026-11-09 09:57)

The government should prepare the country's food supply and not just urge Filipinos to ready their buckets in response to the impacts of the very strong El Niño phenomenon, Vice President Sara Duterte said.

• P6-M Matina property same as P10-M asset in Sara Duterte's SALN, Davao assessor says (2026-11-09 09:21)

The P6 million property in Matina, Davao City, that the prosecution in Vice President Sara Duterte"s impeachment trial alleged to have been left out of her statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALN) is the same asset located in Barangay 74-A, worth P10 million, listed on the official"s SALN.

• ASEAN organizing council urges Filipinos to respect summit delegates (2026-11-09 07:56)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Nations (ASEAN) Organizing Council on Monday urged Filipinos to respect foreign delegates expected to arrive in the country for the 49th ASEAN Summit, which the Philippines will host next week.

• Warden: Martin Romualdez's personal staff a regular visitor (2026-11-09 07:56)

The personal staff of former Speaker and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez, Arvin de Guzman, gets to stay in the New Quezon City jail only during visiting hours, Jail Warden Lourdes Pacion said Monday.

• Solon calls for targeted, accessible housing finance programs (2026-11-09 07:37)

A member of the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries has called for targeted, accessible housing finance programs for middle- and lower-income first-time buyers to cushion the impact of prolonged monetary tightening.

• Over 19,800 cops to secure ASEAN Summit 2026 (2026-11-09 07:12)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) will deploy 19,869 police personnel to secure the 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits on November 16 to 18, 2026.

• Leni Robredo won't run for president in 2028, will support 'deserving' candidate (2026-11-09 06:42)

Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo on Monday reiterated that she has no plans to run for president in the upcoming 2028 national elections.

• Defense witness in Sara Duterte trial grilled on 'all-expense-trip' to China (2026-11-09 05:41)

During the cross-examination, private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. asked Davao City assessor Engineer Jaime Adalin if it was true that he was among the Davao City local government officials who went to China in November 2025 on an all-expenses-paid tour sponsored by the Chinese consulate.

• Witness: Romualdez, Co proponents for P27-B DPWH projects per Cabral's instructions (2026-11-09 05:38)

Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez and former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co were identified as proponents of P27 billion worth of projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) upon the instructions of the late Undersecretary Catalina Cabral, a prosecution witness said Monday.

• Macalintal to seek SC reconsideration of BSKE ruling (2026-11-09 05:02)

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal on Monday said he would file a motion for reconsideration (MR) of the Supreme Court's decision upholding the law that postponed the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) and extended the term of incumbent barangay officials.

• PNP: Focus crimes down by 32% in July-October 2026 (2026-11-09 04:37)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has recorded a 32% decrease in focus crimes nationwide from July to October 2026, PNP chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said Monday.

• Around 500 pieces of info on Bato dela Rosa whereabouts received -- PNP (2026-11-09 04:22)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has received more than 500 pieces of information regarding the whereabouts of former senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, PNP chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said Monday.

• Who is Engr. Jaime Adalin, the first witness of the defense? (2026-11-09 03:40)

The defense panel on Monday began the presentation of evidence in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, with Davao City assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin first to be called to the witness stand.

• LOOK: Marcos swears in Rodil Zalameda as SC chief justice (2026-11-09 03:35)

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. swore in Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda as the new Supreme Court chief justice at Malacañang on Monday.

• DepEd begins distribution of 172,000 MacBooks to public school teachers (2026-11-09 03:23)

The Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday began its distribution of over 231,725 units of laptops, including 172,000 units of Apple's MacBook Neo, to public school teachers, with initial units being rolled out in Dagupan City.

• Too early to say if Sara Duterte will testify in own impeach trial --Poa (2026-11-09 02:25)

Defense team spokesperson Atty. Michael Poa said Monday that it is too early to discuss whether Vice President Sara Duterte will take the witness stand in her own impeachment trial.

• LIVE UPDATES: Sara Duterte Impeachment Trial (November 9, 2026) (2026-11-08 22:59)

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte resumes on Monday, November 9, 2026, with the defense team set to present its witnesses. Here are the latest news and updates.

• Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 40: What to expect (2026-11-08 22:46)

The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte will resume Monday after nearly a month-long suspension, with the defense set to begin presenting its case-in-chief.

• Impeachment, budget: Senate lays out November-December 2026 schedule (2026-11-08 16:08)

The Senate issued an outline of its schedule for the two remaining months of the year, marking the dates for the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte and the budget hearings.

• Ultra Lotto jackpot now P500.6 million; no winners of major lotto games on Nov. 8, 2026 (2026-11-08 14:25)

The jackpot for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 game has crossed the half-a-billion-peso mark, but there were no winners of either of the major lotto games on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026.

• VP Sara Duterte confirms requesting anew to visit father at ICC detention (2026-11-08 13:55)

Vice President Sara Duterte confirmed on Sunday that she has filed another request with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to allow her visit her father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, in December.

• DFA rebukes PH officials over China comments, says they must align with Marcos policy (2026-11-08 13:34)

The DFA rebuked other Philippine government bodies and officials over their comments about China, saying that public officials must be aligned with the administration in its response.

• Hontiveros expects Sara Duterte to attend OVP budget deliberation (2026-11-08 07:08)

Senate Committee on Finance Vice Chairperson Senator Risa Hontiveros is expecting Vice President Sara Duterte to attend the Office of the Vice President"s (OVP) budget deliberations, similar to what other agency heads do, as a demonstration of proper conduct.

• Erwin Tulfo files bill seeking worker protection vs. layoffs due to AI (2026-11-08 07:01)

Senator Erwin Tulfo filed a bill seeking to protect workers from artificial intelligence-driven layoffs by amending the Labor Code to establish clear conditions for terminations and guarantee fair compensation.

• 2027 budget bicam proceedings transcripts to be released, will help track realignments - Lacson (2026-11-08 06:55)

The Senate will release transcripts of the discussions during the bicameral conference committee deliberations on the P7.2-trillion national budget for fiscal year 2027, Senator Panfilo Lacson said Sunday.

• EXPLAINER: Who are qualified to get DepEd's new laptops for teachers? (2026-11-08 06:31)

The Department of Education released the guidelines on who are eligible to receive the brand new laptops it procured for public school teachers.

• Gencorp counsel skips Sara Duterte impeachment trial on Nov. 9, cites medical reason (2026-11-08 05:04)

The corporate counsel of Gencorp Industries Inc. will not attend Vice President Sara Duterte"s impeachment trial when it resumes on Monday, citing a scheduled medical examination.

• Comelec urges eligible voters to register early (2026-11-08 00:54)

The Commission on Elections on Sunday urged eligible voters to register early, as voter registration will begin on Tuesday, November 10, and run until June 30, 2027.

• Clark, Subic security measures in place for ASEAN Summit 2026 --organizing council (2026-11-08 00:10)

There will be also security deployment outside of Metro Manila as the country gears up to welcome global leaders for the 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits on November 16 to 18, the organizing council said on Sunday.

• LTO summons bus driver, operator after engine cover kills pedestrian in Quezon (2026-11-07 18:05)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show-cause order (SCO) against the driver and operator of a passenger bus involved in the death of a pedestrian in Atimonan, Quezon.

• DBM: P82.9B set for government workers' bonuses, cash gifts (2026-11-07 16:21)

The government will spend P82.9 billion on bonuses and cash gifts for public sector employees, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said Saturday, as it reminded agencies to ensure the timely release of the benefits.

• DENR, CCC, UNDP to develop response framework on climate-related losses (2026-11-07 15:32)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is working to advance a strategic and coordinated response to climate-related loss and damage.

• Rodrigo Duterte defense challenges expert report bid (2026-11-07 15:19)

PRAGUE, Czech Republic - Among the expert reports that International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors are seeking to admit as evidence, former President Rodrigo Duterte"s defense is challenging one that cites external materials not considered an “integral part” of a witness"s evidence.

• Prosecution rejects claim of failure in Sara Duterte impeachment trial (2026-11-07 14:59)

The House prosecution panel rejected remarks from Vice President Sara Duterte"s spokesperson claiming that the prosecution had failed, with one lawmaker asking: “In what alternate universe did we fail?”

• Watchdog, House speaker agree to work on budget transparency (2026-11-07 10:43)

The People"s Budget Coalition (PBC) commended House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III who expressed commitment to greater transparency in the national budget process, signifying a constructive collaboration between the House of Representatives and civil society groups.

• Ombudsman Remulla flags BIR over taxation, abuse concerns (2026-11-07 09:53)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Saturday flagged alleged abuses within the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), saying business leaders have raised concerns over taxation and permit

processing.

• Remulla: Fake news peddlers want to disrupt institutions, influence courts (2026-11-07 09:08)

Remulla: Fake news peddlers want to disrupt institutions, influence courts

• Business groups, civil society orgs back DFA call for sustained PH-China dialogue (2026-11-07 09:07)

Several business, labor, industry, and civil society organizations in the country expressed support Saturday for the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) call for continued dialogue and cooperation between the Philippines and China.

• Ombudsman: 1% of Chinese visa-free tourists overstay in Philippines (2026-11-07 08:50)

Around 1% of Chinese tourists who entered the Philippines visa-free in recent months did not go back home, according to Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla

• No Pax Silica announcement during ASEAN, US Envoy says (2026-11-07 07:11)

There is no scheduled announcement for the Pax Silica initiative in the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Manila, according to US Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton on Saturday.

• BI supports DOTr push for wider e-gates in NAIA (2026-11-07 07:00)

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) supported the Department of Transportation"s (DOTr) proposal to expand the use of electronic immigration gates (e-gates) across Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to speed up passenger clearance and reduce the necessity of immigration interviews.

• Teodoro honors Filipino and American veterans in observance of US Veterans Day 2026 (2026-11-07 06:57)

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Saturday paid tribute to the Filipino and American veterans who sacrificed and served to protect their respective countries in commemoration of the United States Veterans Day 2026.

• MIAA turns over operational control of CCTV cameras to NNIC (2026-11-07 06:37)

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) has turned over the operational control of more than 2,100 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC).

• Ombudsman calls out BJMP for allowing Romualdez aide while in detention (2026-11-07 06:25)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla called out the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) for allowing former House speaker Martin Romualdez to have a personal assistant while incarcerated.

• Angara calls for stricter digital protection for students (2026-11-07 05:56)

Department of Education Secretary Sonny Angara urged technology and social media firms to implement tougher age-verification controls and delete online content that highlights violence and targets young learners into radicalization.

• 2 foreign fugitives nabbed over alleged links to large-scale fraud, illegal gambling ops (2026-11-07 05:51)

The Bureau of Immigration arrested two fugitives, a Taiwanese and a South Korean, in separate operations for their alleged involvement in large-scale fraud and illegal gambling operations.

• BIR 'data leak' under gov't probe (2026-11-07 04:27)

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is working with the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) and anti-cybercrime law enforcement units to investigate an alleged leak of its agency data.

• Sara Duterte camp: Prosecution had its chance but failed; VP begins defense Monday (2026-11-07 00:02)

The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday hit back at the prosecution, saying the latter had its chance, but failed. It also said Duterte will begin her defense on Monday, November 9.

• EXPLAINER: What is an oil spill and how does it affect communities? (2026-11-06 16:05)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported an oil spill in Mariveles, Bataan, on Friday, affecting approximately 500 square meters of coastal waters.

• LTFRB extends regularization application period for 'tempo' TNVS by 30 days (2026-11-06 16:03)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has extended the application deadline for the regularization of ride-hailing service providers operating under temporary or “tempo” status by another 30 days.

• EXPLAINER: What is the difference between flame-based cremation and pet aquamation? (2026-11-06 14:01)

After the dead bodies of 29 cats and dogs were found carelessly dumped in parts of Bulacan when they were supposed to be cremated, a lot of fur parents began to fear that the ashes given to them by pet crematoriums were actually their pets.

• Palace says water supply remains sufficient amid El Niño (2026-11-06 13:00)

Malacañang said on Friday that water supplies remain sufficient despite the ongoing El Niño phenomenon.

• SC upholds constitutionality of law extending Barangay, SK officials' terms (2026-11-06 12:30)

The Supreme Court (SC) has upheld the constitutionality of the law extending the term of office of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials to five years, while scheduling the next Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) for November 2028.

• Malacañang distances itself from Martin Romualdez aide issue (2026-11-06 10:16)

The Palace on Friday distanced itself from the controversy over former Speaker Martin Romualdez reportedly having staff attend to him while detained at the New Quezon City Jail.

• Over 100 Chinese deported over alleged POGO links -- BI (2026-11-06 10:04)

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has deported 115 Chinese citizens who arrested during law enforcement operations against illegal Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs) in October.

• Palace reminds agencies to keep Christmas parties simple (2026-11-06 09:58)

Malacañang on Friday reminded government agencies to keep their Christmas celebrations

simple this year, although no order was needed to implement this.

• Ombudsman eyes charges vs. fake news peddlers claiming he is sick (2026-11-06 09:42)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday vowed to go after Facebook pages that identify him as someone afflicted with leukemia, saying he has been cancer-free for three years now.

• Ombudsman Remulla: Romualdez cannot have personal staff with him in jail (2026-11-06 09:37)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday said they will verify the information concerning former Speaker and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez being accompanied by a personal staff while in detention in a Quezon City jail over a P7.4-billion plunder charge.

• Padilla envies Bato dela Rosa for being 'wanted' by ICC, won't ask him to surrender (2026-11-06 09:34)

Senator Robin Padilla said Friday that he envies Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who is currently in hiding, for being wanted by a foreign institution, referring to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

• Rodil Zalameda takes oath as 28th Supreme Court Chief Justice (2026-11-06 09:21)

Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda took his oath on Friday as the new Supreme Court Chief Justice, succeeding outgoing Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who retired on the same day.

• Ombudsman: 79 flood control-related cases filed in courts (2026-11-06 09:21)

The Office of the Ombudsman has filed with Philippine courts 79 criminal cases related to the multi-billion peso flood control corruption scandal, Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said Friday.

• Rodrigo Duterte 'saddened, very angered' by manhunt vs. allies, says Kitty (2026-11-06 08:41)

Former president Rodrigo Duterte has expressed disapproval of what he perceives as efforts of the Marcos administration to go after his allies and supporters instead of addressing the needs of the nation, his daughter Veronica “Kitty” Duterte said.

• 2 at-large suspects in Bacoor shootout identified --PNP chief (2026-11-06 08:29)

Two suspects who remain at large following a shootout in Bacoor, Cavite, which left five people dead, have already been identified, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said Friday.

• NBI obtains specific details on Bato dela Rosa's whereabouts; info gathering vs Bantag continues (2026-11-06 08:09)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has obtained more specific information that could help establish the whereabouts of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.

• Ombudsman shelves France manhunt for Zaldy Co (2026-11-06 08:09)

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla has postponed his scheduled trip to France to seek local authorities" help to locate former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co, among other public officials facing raps in the Philippines.

• NAPOLCOM probes Rizal cop over alleged abuse of ex-partner, other misconduct (2026-11-06 07:42)

The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) on Friday said it will investigate a police officer in Rizal accused of abusing his former live-in partner, as well as other alleged misconduct during his service.

• Filipino teens among least physically active in the world -- study (2026-11-06 07:25)

Filipino adolescents are among the least physically active in the world, ranking seventh among all countries and topping the ranks in Southeast Asia, according to a study published Wednesday in The Lancet medical journal.

• Kapunan: VP Sara is best evidence against herself (2026-11-06 06:31)

Vice President Sara Duterte is the best evidence against herself, private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan said Friday.

• PNP: No security request so far for witnesses in ICC case vs Rodrigo Duterte (2026-11-06 05:46)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has not received any formal request for the security protection of the witnesses in the case filed against former president Rodrigo Duterte at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

• PNP keeping eye on low-level threat for ASEAN Summit 2026 (2026-11-06 05:15)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is monitoring a low-level threat to the upcoming 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit this month, according to PNP chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Friday.

• Court orders jail authorities to submit detailed report on Romualdez's whereabouts (2026-11-06 04:06)

The Sandiganbayan Third Division has ordered the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to submit a detailed report on the whereabouts of former Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez since the lawmaker"s detention in New Quezon City jail in Payatas last September.

• NBI files estafa, waste management raps vs. pet crematorium operators; seeks ILBO (2026-11-06 04:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is set to file complaints against individuals allegedly involved in the improper disposal of pet remains in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

• Marcos administers oath of 10 Cabinet officials (2026-11-06 03:43)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. administered Friday the oath of office to 10 of his ad interim appointees heading various government agencies.

• Sara Duterte defense team expected to present witness on November 9 --Hontiveros (2026-11-06 02:33)

The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is expected to begin presenting its witnesses and evidence when the impeachment trial resumes on November 9, Senator Risa Hontiveros said Friday.

• Senate impeachment court applies sub judice rule to all articles of impeachment (2026-11-06 02:14)

The Senate impeachment court has ruled that the sub judice principle would be equally applied to all Articles of Impeachment leveled against Vice President Sara Duterte, including the three that were dropped by the prosecution.

• Sara Duterte in Hong Kong from Nov. 6-8, 2026 --OVP (2026-11-06 01:56)

Vice President Sara Duterte would be traveling to Hong Kong from November 6 to 8, 2026, to attend some activities, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) said Friday.

- Hontiveros questions Joseph Sy's absence at Senate hearing (2026-11-06 01:21)

Senator Risa Hontiveros on Friday questioned businessman Joseph Sy's absence from a Senate hearing on Thursday after he reportedly went to the emergency room of a hospital due to health concerns.

- Risa Hontiveros bares possible red flags in proposed 2027 budget (2026-11-06 00:46)

Senator Risa Hontiveros on Friday identified possible budget items that could raise red flags during the Senate's deliberations on the proposed 2027 national budget.

- Ex-DDS cop's testimony sought by ICC prosecutors vs. Rodrigo Duterte (2026-11-05 22:34)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors ask judges to admit preserved testimony from an alleged former member of the Davao Death Squad (DDS), whose evidence they say bears directly on former President Rodrigo Duterte"s alleged criminal responsibility.

- To protect 55 witnesses, prosecutors seek 'special measures' during Duterte's ICC trial (2026-11-05 21:41)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- With less than a month before the International Criminal Court"s (ICC) trial of Rodrigo Duterte, prosecutors are asking for “in-court protective and special measures” for 55 witnesses from the Philippines and abroad from various security risks.

- Pet crematorium enlisted bystanders to bury dead dogs and cats in Bulacan (2026-11-05 16:48)

The owners of a pet crematorium involved in the controversial dumping of pet remains in San Jose Del Monte (SJDM), Bulacan have surfaced, admitting that they enlisted the help of bystanders or “tambays” to bury the dead pets -- only to find out that the animal cadavers were thrown out at several dumping sites.

- PCSO Lotto Results: No winners of P84.8M Superlotto 6/49 jackpot on Thursday Nov. 5, 2026 (2026-11-05 14:14)

There were no winners of the Superlotto 6/49 prize, which surpassed P87.8 million, during the

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draw on Thursday, November 5, 2026.

• Cardinal Advincula urges prayers amid El Niño's worsening heat impact (2026-11-05 13:33)

In a circular letter released Thursday, Advincula directed all parishes and communities under the Archdiocese of Manila to pray the Oratio Imperata ad Petendam Pluviam during Eucharistic celebrations.

• Duterte at ICC: Expert report on 'systemic practice' of EJKs sought for admission (2026-11-05 12:35)

ICC prosecutors seek to include reports of three expert witnesses, one of whom states a “systemic practice” of extrajudicial killings during Rodrigo Duterte"s presidency..

• NUP House members willing to disclose their amendments in proposed 2027 budget (2026-11-05 10:38)

House NUP members are willing to disclose the budget amendments they included in the proposed P7.2 trillion budget for 2027, Deputy =Speaker Ronaldo Puno of Antipolo said Thursday.

• 'Big chance' of Bato dela Rosa getting arrested, says NBI's Matibag (2026-11-05 10:27)

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag on Thursday expressed belief that there is a big possibility that embattled Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa will be located and arrested soon.

• 2 tagged in Bacoor pet crematorium case surrender to NBI; charges to be filed (2026-11-05 10:09)

The husband and wife allegedly responsible for the dumped pet remains in Bulacan have surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), according to Director Melvin Matibag on Thursday.

• PSA finds evidence of Joseph Sy's 'fake' records (2026-11-05 09:50)

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Thursday it found evidence showing that embattled businessman Joseph Sy procured fake documents during his birth registration process.

• Who is Rodil Zalameda, the 28th chief justice of the Supreme Court (2026-11-05 08:46)

Rodil Zalameda is the country's 28th chief justice of the Supreme Court, replacing Alexander Gesmundo, who will retire on November 6.

- DA to sustain subsidies, lower tariffs to reduce food supply chain costs (2026-11-05 08:33)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday it will pursue interventions to slash food supply chain costs as inflation rose to 7.8% in October.

- Who is Dean Ralph Sarmiento, tapped by Sara Duterte's camp as witness (2026-11-05 07:44)

Law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento was listed as Vice President Sara Duterte"s first witness at her impeachment trial. He, however, decided to decline to participate as a witness a day after the announcement was made.

- PH eyes more BrahMos missile units from India, submits wish list -- Teodoro (2026-11-05 07:26)

The Philippines shared a wish list as it plans to acquire additional units of the BrahMos missile system from India, according to Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.

- DOTr's Vince Dizon wants review of motorcycle taxi riders cap (2026-11-05 07:26)

Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon is looking into reviewing the ceilings on the allowed number of riders on motorcycle-taxi service providers being enforced by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

- Speaker Dy backs calls for greater budget transparency (2026-11-05 06:56)

Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III on Thursday said that Dy said the House of Representatives is open to disclosing supporting documents for government projects and make budget deliberations more accessible to the public.

- SSS partners with DICT to integrate digital ID into eGov app (2026-11-05 06:51)

The Social Security System (SSS) has partnered with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to integrate the MySSS Card's digital ID feature and select member services into the eGovPH app.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Columnist Ramon Tulfo apologized on Thursday for reporting that Leyte Representative and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez had snuck out of prison, saying he was given the wrong information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Supreme Court (SC) has approved the use of video conferencing and other means of technology to protect children if they need to recount traumatic experiences.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Philippines and China have emphasized the need to maintain diplomatic dialogue and mutual respect despite their differences, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro said on Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: PhilStar Global

• Child, 4 others dead in 3 Central Mindanao gun attacks (2026-11-10 23:35)

Five were killed, among them an Islamic preacher and a 12-month-old child, in separate gun attacks in three neighboring towns in Central Mindanao on Monday, November 9.

• Bong Go revisits Pasay fire victims (2026-11-10 16:00)

Sen. Bong Go on Monday extended additional assistance to residents displaced by a recent fire in Barangay 190, Pasay City.

- Samuel exits PAR (2026-11-10 16:00)

Typhoon Samuel left the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday without affecting the country.

- Employers ordered to release 13th-month pay by December 24 (2026-11-10 16:00)

Employers in the private sector have been ordered to release the 13th-month pay of their workers on or before Dec. 24.

- AFP gets 2 unmanned surface vessels from US (2026-11-10 16:00)

The United States has provided two Devil Ray T38 unmanned surface vessels to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to boost maritime defense and sovereign rights awareness campaign in the Pacific.

- 29 rescued from distressed boat (2026-11-10 16:00)

Twenty-nine people were rescued after their motorized boat developed mechanical trouble while sailing in the waters off Linapacan, Palawan on Monday.

- Mindanao gun attacks kill 5 (2026-11-10 16:00)

Five people were killed including a one-year-old boy in separate gun attacks in Central Mindanao on Monday.

- P524 million agricultural items found in Valenzuela warehouse (2026-11-10 16:00)

The Bureau of Customs and other government agencies are looking into the possible smuggling of P524 million worth of agricultural products found in a warehouse in Valenzuela City.

- Transport strike set for Trump’s arrival (2026-11-10 16:00)

Transport group Piston will hold a strike during the arrival of US President Donald Trump next week.

- After arrest of 200,000 fugitives, PNP targets zero backlog (2026-11-10 16:00)

The Philippine National Police is aiming to clear its backlog of arrest warrants after accounting for about 200,000 wanted people over the past 14 months, leaving roughly 300,000 fugitives still on the PNP list.

- DPWH engineer links Jinggoy to P1.6 billion budget insertions (2026-11-10 16:00)

Suspended Sen. Jinggoy Estrada allegedly inserted over P1.6 billion worth of projects into the Department of Public Works and Highways’ 2025 budget, a DPWH engineer told the Sandiganbayan yesterday.

• NBI filing raps vs ‘big fish’ over P13 billion cigarette smuggling (2026-11-09 16:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation would file charges against at least 13 people, including the operators of a private port in Cebu, over the smuggling of an estimated P13 billion worth of cigarettes, NBI Director Melvin Matibag announced yesterday.

• D’ Aboville Foundation to lead global Phoenix Species Project proposal (2026-11-09 16:00)

The D’ Aboville Foundation & Demo Farm, a Filipino-French non-profit organization established in 2004, has been selected to lead a five-year project proposal under the Phoenix Species Project.

• Pastor surrenders over death of Mindoro nursing student (2026-11-09 16:00)

A 26-year-old pastor surrendered on Sunday, following police monitoring operations over the killing of a 20-year-old nursing student in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro last week.

• Comelec deploys poll materials for Batanes (2026-11-09 16:00)

The Commission on Elections yesterday started deploying election paraphernalia for the special poll in Batanes on Nov. 28, Comelec Chairman George Garcia said.

• 4 DPWH engineers sacked over kickbacks, falsification (2026-11-09 16:00)

The Department of Public Works and Highways has relieved four DPWH district engineers from their posts over alleged corruption, extortion of kickbacks and submission of falsified project readiness documents.

• PNP: No evidence linking Markle’s son to sex abuse (2026-11-09 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has found no evidence so far linking the son of Thomas Markle Sr. to alleged child sexual abuse activities being investigated by the PNP.

• Raps filed vs Caloocan lotto outlet teller, operator (2026-11-09 16:00)

Charges have been filed against a lotto outlet teller and operator before the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court for allegedly using the establishment’s franchise as a front for an illegal numbers game.

• NCRPO intensifies night patrols in crime-prone areas (2026-11-09 16:00)

The National Capital Region Police Office is stepping up night patrols, particularly in poorly lit streets, isolated areas and transport hubs where commuters and workers are vulnerable to crimes.

• Bunye receives Ateneo law alumni award (2026-11-09 16:00)

The Ateneo Law Alumni Association Inc. has conferred on Patricia Bunye, managing partner of Cruz Marcelo & Tenefrancia, the 2026 Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in the Practice

of Law.

• Dizon: MMDA's Go moving to DOTr (2026-11-09 16:00)

Department of Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon hinted yesterday that Gabriel Go of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has accepted the position of DOTr assistant secretary.

• Super El Niño may push power grids into red alerts, warns DOE (2026-11-09 09:10)

Extreme heat is expected to increase electricity demand while reducing power plant output.

• Major fuel price rollbacks set Nov. 10 with gasoline seen to fall P16.8 (2026-11-09 02:00)

Motorists face sharply lower pump prices Tuesday.

• 1,660 kilos of oil spill debris collected in Bataan (2026-11-08 16:00)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) yesterday said 1,660 kilos of contaminated materials have been collected from the oil spill site in Barangay Ipag in Mariveles, Bataan.

• Wanted terrorist, cohort killed in clash (2026-11-08 16:00)

Police and soldiers shot dead Anwar Sansawi Usman, a remnant of the defunct Dawlah Islamiya, and his henchman in a brief shootout in Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur yesterday.

• AI use in Baguio's Ibag-iw Festival draws flak (2026-11-08 16:00)

Local artists, theater practitioners and cultural observers have criticized the use of artificial intelligence or AI in a production featured in the 9th Ibag-iw Creative Festival here.

• 3 soldiers wounded in Lanao del Sur 'rido' (2026-11-08 16:00)

Government troops pacifying a gunfight between two feuding clans, locally known as rido, ended in a clash that left three soldiers wounded in Picong, Lanao del Sur on Saturday.

• BFAR enforces 3-month Visayan Sea fishing ban (2026-11-08 16:00)

Starting Nov. 15, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is enforcing a three-month fishing ban in the Visayan Sea to allow fish populations to replenish and ensure the sustainability of marine resources.

• Asean Summit security tightened (2026-11-08 16:00)

Authorities will strictly control access to venues of the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and Related Meetings, with only authorized people and vehicles allowed inside restricted areas, the National Capital Region Police Office said over the weekend.

• Special permit OK'd for LRT-2 bus program (2026-11-08 16:00)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has issued special permits for 20 buses covering two major routes of the Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2).

• 4 EDSA busway operators probed for overcharging (2026-11-08 16:00)

Four bus companies operating along the EDSA busway are under investigation for alleged overcharging, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon said yesterday.

• Deadline for TNVS regularization extended (2026-11-08 16:00)

Ride-hailing service partners with a temporary status can apply for regularization until next month, according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

• Pinoy seafarer killed in tanker explosion (2026-11-08 16:00)

A Filipino seafarer was killed while 21 other Filipino crewmembers were unharmed following an explosion on a Marshall Islands-flagged oil products tanker in the Persian Gulf, the Department of Migrant Workers said over the weekend.

• Stakeholders pledge support for new BARMM health chief (2026-11-08 09:51)

Stakeholders also gave the new health minister of the Bangsamoro region, a lawyer, a vote of confidence after his physician-ophthalmologist predecessor did so and assured support for his leadership in the ministry entrusted to him.

• 3 soldiers hurt in crossfire as Maranao clans clash (2026-11-08 08:52)

Three soldiers were wounded and hundreds of travelers got stranded on a stretch of highway in Barangay Biosong in Picong, Lanao del Sur, where two heavily armed Maranao clans were involved in gunfights on Saturday, November 7.

• Wanted Dawlah Islamiya remnant, cohort killed in Maguindanao clash (2026-11-08 07:34)

Policemen and soldiers shot dead a remnant of the now defunct Dawlah Islamiya, wanted for 13 criminal cases pending in different courts, and his henchman in a brief shootout in Barangay Kapinpilan in Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur early Sunday, November 8.

• 3 killed in Maguindanao del Sur ambush (2026-11-08 03:50)

Three men, two of them members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Unit, were killed in an ambush in Barangay Manungkaling in Mamasapano, Maguindanao del Sur del Sur on Saturday morning, November 7.

• Car driven by ex-mayor hits motorcycle rider (2026-11-07 16:00)

A motorcycle rider died after he was reportedly run over by a car driven by a former mayor of Pulilan, Bulacan.

• P1.9 million shabu seized in Iloilo (2026-11-07 16:00)

Shabu with an estimated street value of P1.9 million was seized in a sting that also resulted in the arrest of two drug suspects in Oton, Iloilo on Friday.

• Complete decommissioning of MILF combatants eyed before Marcos' term ends (2026-11-07 16:00)

President Marcos and leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have agreed to complete the fourth and final phase of the decommissioning process for MILF combatants before his term ends, Malacañang said on Friday.

• Boat sinks off Negros; 22 rescued (2026-11-07 16:00)

Twenty-two people were rescued after a motorized boat capsized in the waters off San Carlos City, Negros Occidental on Friday.

• Mindanao ambush leaves 3 dead (2026-11-07 16:00)

Three people including two members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Unit-Active Auxiliary were killed in an ambush by unidentified armed men in Mamasapano, Maguindanao del Sur yesterday morning.

• Amend laws on dead pet care services, government urged (2026-11-07 16:00)

Animal rights advocates are urging the government to amend laws governing afterlife pet care services following the dumping of dead dogs and cats in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

• 19 nabbed in Bulacan online cockfight hub (2026-11-07 16:00)

An underground online cockfighting or e-sabong facility allegedly serving bettors in Cambodia, Mexico and Vietnam was raided by authorities in Pandi, Bulacan on Thursday night.

• DPWH opens Culiat Bridge for buses (2026-11-07 16:00)

The Department of Public Works and Highways has opened the Culiat Bridge II along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City for buses, the DPWH announced yesterday.

• Dizon to pursue more PPP projects with CAAP (2026-11-07 16:00)

More public-private partnerships or PPP projects would be pursued by the Department of Transportation before the term of President Marcos ends in 2028, DOTr Secretary Vince Dizon announced yesterday.

• CIDG nabs trader over fake motorcycle accessories (2026-11-07 16:00)

A Chinese businessman is facing criminal cases for selling counterfeit motorcycle accessories worth over P5 million in Valenzuela.

• Multi-sector education program cited for good results (2026-11-07 09:20)

Community leaders, local executives and a private firm have, from 2003 to this year, produced 1,635 college graduates from four Mindanao towns via a multi-sector education program and more of its current scholars are expected to graduate from tertiary schools soon, local officials said.

• Maguindanao villagers surrender combat weapons to Army (2026-11-07 09:03)

Moro villagers surrendered to an Army unit on Friday, November 6, a dozen firearms and explosives in support of the disarmament campaign of the Army' s 6th Infantry Division and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity.

• Newly-appointed BARMM Cabinet members assume posts (2026-11-07 03:44)

Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua had tapped seven lawyers to oversee different ministries in the autonomous regional government that have extensive public service thrusts benefiting Muslim, Christian and indigenous non-Moro communities in the autonomous region.

• Go extends more assistance to Cebu residents (2026-11-06 16:00)

Sen. Bong Go extended additional assistance to 308 people from various barangays in Cebu City on Wednesday where he cited the importance of continued trust and support of the Filipino people for him.

• Grade 10 student stabbed by schoolmate (2026-11-06 16:00)

A Grade 10 student was wounded after he was stabbed by an 18-year-old schoolmate in this town on Thursday afternoon.

• Oil spill detected in Bataan waters (2026-11-06 16:00)

Spill booms have been deployed in the waters off Mariveles, Bataan after some 25 liters of used oil were spilled into the sea on Thursday, according to the Philippine Coast Guard.

• Criminal raps filed vs pet crematorium owner (2026-11-06 16:00)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed yesterday criminal complaints against the owner of a pet crematorium in Cavite and three other people in connection with the dumping of dead dogs and cats in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

• PCG delists Joseph Sy from Coast Guard auxiliary (2026-11-06 16:00)

The Philippine Coast Guard yesterday said mining magnate Joseph Sy was delisted from the PCG Auxiliary in August 2025 over allegations of fake citizenship.

• Ospital ng Maynila emergency room reaches 171 percent capacity (2026-11-06 16:00)

The emergency room of Ospital ng Maynila has exceeded its regular capacity, reaching 171 percent on Thursday.

• Bayan questions P96-per-day PSA remark (2026-11-06 16:00)

Progressive group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) questioned the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)' s remark that a Filipino surviving on P96 a day is no longer considered poor.

• Bureau of Immigration deports 115 Chinese involved in POGO operations (2026-11-06 16:00)

The Bureau of Immigration has deported 115 Chinese nationals involved in illegal Philippine offshore gaming operations (POGO) in the country, the BI announced yesterday.

• CCTV camera operation turned over to NNIC (2026-11-06 16:00)

The operation of closed-circuit television or CCTV cameras at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was turned over to the San Miguel Corp.-led New NAIA Infrastructure Corp. (NNIC) yesterday.

• PNP nabs SUV driver over robbery-slay case (2026-11-06 16:00)

Police have arrested a 30-year-old sport utility vehicle (SUV) driver who allegedly robbed an online seller of his cellphone before speeding away, leaving the victim to cling onto the vehicle and later fall to his death in Mandaluyong on Nov. 1.

• NBI, PCSO raid Caloocan lotto outlet (2026-11-05 16:23)

An authorized lotto outlet in Caloocan City was raided on Wednesday after operatives caught its personnel allegedly using the establishment as a cover for an illegal numbers game.

• NAIA Undas traffic up 4% (2026-11-05 16:23)

Airfares may be kicking to new highs, but this did not stop Filipinos from traveling during the Undas break, with passenger traffic at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport increasing by four percent.

• Ultra Lotto prize soars to P487.5 million (2026-11-05 16:23)

The jackpot in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 is expected to balloon to P487.5 million for tonight' s draw, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office said yesterday.

• 28 Pinoys in Cambodia face felony charges (2026-11-05 16:23)

Twenty-eight Filipinos detained in Sihanoukville, Cambodia are facing felony charges over their alleged involvement in scam operations, the Department of Migrant Workers said yesterday.

• Joseph Sy skips Senate probe on fake citizenship (2026-11-05 16:23)

Mining magnate Joseph Sy skipped yesterday' s Senate hearing on his alleged fake Filipino citizenship.

• NCRPO tightens security for tourists (2026-11-05 16:23)

National Capital Region Police Office officer-in-charge Brig. Gen. Christopher Abrahano has ordered tighter monitoring in tourist areas following separate incidents involving foreign visitors in Parañaque and Manila.

• Laos shipments watched after P1.36 billion shabu haul (2026-11-05 16:23)

The government will flag all shipments from Laos for closer inspection following the seizure of 200 kilos of suspected shabu believed to have been shipped through Hong Kong to Manila, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said yesterday.

• Private cars still banned on EDSA busway – DOTr (2026-11-05 16:23)

Private vehicles remain prohibited from using the EDSA busway's inner lane amid the rehabilitation of the major thoroughfare, the Department of Transportation said yesterday.

• Boat sinks off Quezon; 7 rescued (2026-11-05 16:00)

Seven people were rescued after a motorized boat capsized in the waters off Quezon province on Wednesday morning.

• 5 killed in Pangasinan firecracker factory explosion (2026-11-05 16:00)

Five people including a minor were killed while two others were injured in an explosion that ripped through a makeshift firecracker factory in this town on Wednesday night.

• BARMM, Christian-majority province strengthen peace efforts (2026-11-05 10:13)

The Christian governor of South Cotabato province in Region 12 and the chief minister of the Bangsamoro region met on Wednesday, November 4, and agreed to expand their cooperation on activities essential to sustaining the gains of the national government's Mindanao peace process.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Office of the Ombudsman has suspended seven engineers and an accountant of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in connection with questionable flood control projects in Surigao del Norte. In a six-page order, the ombudsman said there is sufficient ground to suspend the respondents without pay for six months, pending resolution of administrative cases filed against them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

• Occidental Mindoro rations irrigation water amid El Niño (2026-11-11 06:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The provincial government of Occidental Mindoro is seeking support from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as farmers begin rationing irrigation water amid shrinking river levels due to intensifying El Niño. In a telephone interview on Nov. 10, Governor Eduardo Gadiano expressed concern that many

• 110 endangered hawksbill turtle hatchlings released in Romblon (2026-11-11 06:01)

CALAPAN CITY — A total of 110 newly hatched hawksbill sea turtles were released into the sea off Barangay Agpanabat in Romblon town, Romblon province, on Nov. 10, as part of efforts to protect endangered marine wildlife. The Coast Guard Station (CGS) Romblon joined the Pawikan Association, local government officials and other government agencies in

• Romualdez camp: Ex-speaker’s suspension does not mean guilt (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The preventive suspension of former House Speaker Martin Romualdez does not mean he has been found guilty of plunder, especially since his trial is still ongoing, his camp said on Wednesday. Atty. Ade Fajardo, Romualdez’s counsel, said this a day after the Sandiganbayan Third Division imposed a 90-day preventive suspension against Romualdez

• Sara Duterte impeachment: Defense presents witnesses to counter case (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Several prosecutors may have said that the end is near for Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial, but this does not mean there will be fewer battles and tense moments, with the defense panel starting to present witnesses meant to demolish the prosecution’s arguments. The defense panel submitted documents to the Senate

• Man nabbed for marijuana he sells to North Cotabato students (2026-11-11 06:01)

COTABATO CITY — Police authorities have arrested a high-value drug suspect and seized from him P430,000 worth of alleged marijuana during the implementation of a search warrant in Kidapawan City, North Cotabato. Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, Police Regional Office (PRO-12) regional director, said joint personnel of the Kidapawan City Police Office, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency,

• Masungi asserts fight for PH forests as threats remain (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Masungi Georeserve in Rizal said the “pressure” to preserve what is left of “our forests” is intensifying as threats continue to change. It raised the concern as it reiterated data from the World Resources Institute (WRI), which revealed “a troubling shift in the drivers of intact forest landscape loss.” “At Masungi,

• Bukidnon water district gears up as Super El Niño threatens supply (2026-11-11 06:01)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — As the country braces for the Super El Niño projected to peak at the end of 2026 and persist until the first half of 2027, the Valencia City Water District (VCWD) here has stepped up proactive measures to protect water security across 17 of the city’s 31 villages. Michael Pornia, VCWD

• DENR urges youth to lead community preparations for Super El Niño (2026-11-11 06:01)

LUCENA CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged the youth to take an active role in protecting their health, conserving natural resources, and supporting their communities as the country braces for a very strong El Niño that is expected to bring prolonged dry conditions through the first half of 2027. During

• Luistro: Sub judice manifestation vs Tolosa a ‘diversionary tactic’ (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Lead prosecutor and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Wednesday characterized as a “diversionary tactic” the defense’s manifestation claiming that a member of the prosecution had violated the impeachment court’s sub judice rule in Vice President Sara Duterte’s trial. On Tuesday, lead defense counsel Sheila Sison filed a manifestation flagging private prosecutors, particularly

• 78-year-old man found dead inside hut in Occidental Mindoro town (2026-11-11 06:01)

CALAPAN CITY — Police are investigating the death of a 78-year-old man whose body was found inside his hut in Sitio Mamara, Barangay Cabacao, in the Occidental Mindoro town of Abra de Ilog on Tuesday morning. The elderly victim was discovered by his nephew at 9:30 a.m. after he failed to show up at their

• 3-year-old boy killed, mom hurt in Batangas road crash (2026-11-11 06:01)

LUCENA CITY – A three-year-old boy was killed, and his mother was hurt in a vehicular accident in Rosario, Batangas, on Tuesday morning. The driver of an owner-type custom-built jeep lost control of his vehicle at 9:55 a.m. and slammed into the rear end of a parked tricycle, which was sent hurling at the mother

• PNP: Over 23,000 security forces deployed for Asean summit (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 23,000 police personnel were deployed to secure venues and designated routes for the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and related meetings, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. According to PNP chief of directorial

staff Lt. Gen. Neri Vincent Ignacio, the number of security forces was increased to

• Sandiganbayan summons BJMP's Payatas jail officials anew (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division has once again summoned officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) following its inspection of the male dormitory at the Quezon City jail. Third Division Clerk of Court Atty. Dennis Pulma said the court issued the subpoena on Wednesday to Jail Superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion,

• EXPLAINER: How BARMM's parliamentary government works (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — More than a month after the historic election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua announced the composition of his Cabinet, designating officials to lead the ministries and offices of the regional government. READ: Macacua names new BARMM Cabinet members BARMM is the only region in

• Sandiganbayan rejects Revilla bid to dismiss P92-M flood control case (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division has dismissed the bid of former Sen. Bong Revilla and his co-accused to dismiss the malversation case involving an alleged ghost flood control project in Bulacan worth more than P92 million. Third Division Clerk of Court Atty. Dennis Pulma shared the information on Wednesday. He said Revilla filed

• Girl, 8, killed as speeding police car hits motorcycle in Koronadal (2026-11-11 06:01)

KORONADAL CITY – A speeding police patrol car that crossed while the traffic light was red hit a motorcycle in downtown Koronadal, killing an eight-year-old girl and wounding her grandmother. The collision occurred at around 6:40 a.m. on Tuesday at a traffic light intersection along General Santos Drive and Sinsuat Street in Barangay Zone 4,

• Impeachment court lets Duterte-linked firms' counsel testify for defense (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate Impeachment Court on Wednesday allowed corporate counsel Suzette Balucanag-Punay to testify for the defense despite the prosecution's challenge to her authority to represent two companies linked to Vice President Sara Duterte. Balucanag-Punay, the in-house counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp., was presented by defense counsel

• NCDA warns businesses of legal consequences for rejecting PWD ID (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) on Wednesday warned business establishments that they could face legal consequences for refusing to honor existing identification (ID) cards of persons with disabilities (PWDs), as these remain valid throughout the three-year transition period. In a statement, the NCDA clarified that the mandatory privileges and benefits

• Witness: Sara Duterte had no GenCorp stake, post from 2022 to 2025 (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. on Wednesday testified that Vice President Sara Duterte had no shares or position in the corporation from 2022 to 2025. GenCorp counsel Atty. Suzette Balucanag-Punay was called to the witness stand to testify on Duterte's involvement in GenCorp and Metro City Chow Foods Corp. Asked

• Rare thumb-sized orchid found in Dinagat mining area (2026-11-11 06:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— Environmental researchers have documented a rare, thumb-sized helmet orchid for the first time in the Philippines, recording the specimen inside a forested pocket of an active mining concession in Dinagat Islands province. The orchid, scientifically identified as Corybas pictus, was found within a natural forest patch inside Cagdianao Mining Corp.'s

• PCG suspends sea travel in Palawan due to rough seas (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard District (PGD) of Palawan said sea travel for small boats was temporarily suspended on Wednesday, Nov. 11, due to the effects of the northeast monsoon, or amihan. In an advisory, CGD-Palawan said vessels of 15 gross tonnage (GT) and below were prohibited from sailing in the following areas:

• Marcoleta, 3 co-accused seek dismissal of P75-M plunder case (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Rodante Marcoleta and his co-accused have asked the Sandiganbayan Third Division to dismiss the P75-million plunder case against them. Third Division Clerk of Court Atty. Dennis Pulma shared the information with reporters on Wednesday. "All of the accused – Senator Marcoleta, Mike Defensor, Espiritu, Viray – all of the accused already

• DOH: 7 in 10 Filipino deaths due to noncommunicable diseases (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday said seven out of 10 Filipino deaths were caused by noncommunicable diseases associated with unhealthy lifestyles. According to the DOH, tobacco use contributed to more than 95,000 deaths annually, while excessive alcohol consumption was associated with over 27,000 deaths. Meanwhile, more than 4,000 deaths were

• Kapunan questions defense lawyer's use of 'misplaced' cake metaphor (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Prosecution counsel Lorna Kapunan did not let the defense's "misplaced" use of the idiom "you can't have your cake and eat it too" go unchallenged during Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial on Wednesday. It was defense counsel Justin Nicol Gular who used the expression when Kapunan questioned his line of questioning

• MMDA adjusts Metro Manila mall hours to ease holiday traffic (2026-11-11 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malls in Metro Manila will operate from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays from Nov. 16 to Dec. 25 to help ease holiday traffic, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said on Wednesday. MMDA Chair Don Artes said the agency and mall operators had agreed on the adjusted hours. READ: MMDA

• Manhunt on for gunmen in Zamboanga del Sur couple’s slay (2026-11-11 06:01)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – A married couple was shot dead in a dark and secluded area in Pitogo town, Zamboanga del Sur, on Tuesday, prompting a joint manhunt by police and military forces. Col. Bonifacio Arañas Jr., provincial director of the Zamboanga del Sur Police Provincial Office (ZSPPO), strongly condemned the killings in Purok

• Balicasag tour guide fees questioned (2026-11-11 00:01)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — A Bohol provincial board member has sought an inquiry into the collection of environmental or entrance fees from Department of Tourism (DOT)-accredited tour guides accompanying visitors to Balicasag Island in Panglao town, citing the need for clear and consistent policies across the province’s tourism destinations. Lawyer Jiselle Rae Aumentado Villamor,

• Marinduque group seeks urgent rehab of Marcopper-hit sites (2026-11-11 00:01)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — Nearly 30 years after the 1996 Marcopper mining disaster, residents in Marinduque are pressing for the immediate implementation of a $100-million (about P6.4-billion) settlement to rehabilitate affected areas. The Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (Macec), in a statement on Monday, asked the provincial government to convene the Provincial Rehabilitation

• Army relieves soldier in viral dog killing video (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine Army soldier accused of killing a dog and posting the incident on social media faces possible demotion and criminal charges as the military investigates the alleged animal cruelty case. Army spokesperson Col. Louie Dema-ala on Tuesday said the soldier assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Zamboanga del Sur had

• DSWD reminder: Cash ‘ayuda’ not for gadgets (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Critics of the government’s various “ayuda” schemes may not find this amusing. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Tuesday reminded beneficiaries of its cash assistance program that the aid being handed out was meant for basic necessities. The DSWD issued the statement as it took note of social media

• AFP probes alleged data breach involving Air Force (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines said on Tuesday it was investigating a reported data breach involving the Philippine Air Force (PAF) following online claims that sensitive personnel and administrative records had been compromised. AFP spokesperson Col.

Francel Margareth Padilla said that military cybersecurity units were verifying the informationbut stressed that

• Declaring PH-wide 'El Niño' state of calamity ruled out (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday ruled out the need for now to declare a nationwide state of calamity due to El Niño, saying government agencies were working hard to ease the impact of the weather phenomenon. At a press briefing, Palace press officer Claire Castro said that they have not given much thought at

• Romualdez suspended for 90 days (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Tuesday ordered the 90-day preventive suspension of former Speaker and Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who is charged with plunder over allegations that he received P7.44 billion in kickbacks from government infrastructure projects funded under the national budgets from 2022 to 2025. In a resolution, the antigraft

• 'Evasive,' conflicting answers test impeach court's patience (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Evasive answers, repeated claims of failing to remember important documents, a potential conflict of interest involving a city accountant, and inconsistencies in property records are testing the patience of senator-judges in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, prompting warnings that witnesses who lie under oath could face contempt and perjury charges. On

• VP Trial Day 42: GenCorp, Metro Chow counsel to take witness stand (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The defense counsel of Vice President Sara Duterte will call to the stand on Wednesday the corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries, Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp. Although initially scheduled to testify at an earlier date, Atty. Suzette Balucanag-Punay will be the third defense witness after her testimony was postponed because

• Amihan, easterlies to bring rains over parts of PH on Nov. 11 (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon, or amihan, may bring rains over Luzon, while the easterlies may affect the rest of the country on Wednesday, Nov. 11, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said cloudy skies with rains may prevail over

• WATCH: Sara Duterte impeachment trial | Nov. 11, 2026 (2026-11-11 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines —The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is set to present corporate lawyer Suzette Balucanag-Punay as its third witness on the 42nd day of her impeachment trial on Wednesday. Balucanag-Punay serves as corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp. She was initially scheduled to testify earlier but

• Pagasa: 3 weather systems to bring cloudy skies, rain on Wednesday (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Three different weather systems are forecast to bring cloudy skies and rain over several parts of the country on Wednesday, the state weather bureau said. READ: PH Weather Updates Today: Storm News and PAGASA Forecasts According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) in its latest weather forecast, the

• Prosecution questions VP Duterte's choice of witnesses (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution questioned on Tuesday why Vice President Sara Duterte's defense presented city assessors instead of Registry of Deeds officials to prove that disputed properties were declared in her statements of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALNs). Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong, prosecution spokesperson, said city assessors handle property assessments for taxation, while

• Solar power saves NegOcc gov't P5.6M; gov urges locals to explore switch (2026-11-10 18:01)

BACOLOD CITY – Harnessing the power of the sun, the Negros Occidental provincial government has slashed P5,611,442.22 from its electricity bills following the installation of rooftop solar panels on three of its key buildings. Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson announced the energy savings Tuesday, Nov. 10, on the sidelines of the Solar Technology Roadshow held at the

• Tiangco: Marcos told off Romualdez for taking funds from big projects (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had previously told off former Speaker Martin Romualdez for allegedly taking a portion of funds intended for big-ticket projects, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco testified before the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Tuesday. During the continuation of Romualdez's bail hearing for his plunder case, Tiangco said he had met with

• Ilocos Sur resident surrenders homemade shotgun (2026-11-10 18:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — A homemade 12-gauge shotgun was voluntarily surrendered to the Banayoyo Municipal Police Station (MPS) on Monday, as part of the Philippine National Police's (PNP) continuing campaign against loose firearms. A barangay official turned over the firearm to Banayoyo MPS personnel led by the officer in charge, Police Major Medward Galay.

• Maritime security beyond disputes explored in Australia media fellowship (2026-11-10 18:01)

CANBERRA, Australia — Emerging maritime security issues, ranging from strategic competition and territorial disputes to cybersecurity and threats to undersea infrastructure, were key topics examined by 13 journalists from Southeast Asia during a weeklong fellowship in Australia. Two Philippine Daily Inquirer correspondents, Joanna Rose Aglibot of Zambales and Geraldford Ticke of Palawan, joined journalists from

• Prosecution notes discrepancies in testimony on VP Duterte's properties (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The testimonies of the witnesses presented by the defense lawyers of Vice President Sara Duterte showed discrepancies that suggest that certain properties were not declared in her statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALNs). Former Rep. Ace Barbers, House prosecution adviser and spokesperson, pointed this out on Tuesday. He noted that

• No mining exploration permit issued in Limay, Bataan, mayor says (2026-11-10 18:01)

LIMAY, Bataan — The municipal government has not issued a permit to any mining company to conduct mineral exploration operations, Mayor Richie Jason David asserted on Tuesday. David said he is not opposed to economic development but expressed concern over the possible impact of a mining exploration project on about 2,000 Aetas who could lose

• Ridon understands evasive witnesses: Jobs, lives at stake back in Davao (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Many may be irritated with the demeanor of the witnesses presented by Vice President Sara Duterte's lawyers as they appear to be evasive, but public prosecutor and Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon understands why they had to do that — as jobs and lives are at stake back home. In a

• Defense witness admits being 'partner in name' at accounting firm (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippine – Davao City accountant, Vingelin Bajan, admitted before the Senate impeachment court on Tuesday that she was only a "partner in name" at an accounting firm linked to companies of Vice President Sara Duterte and her spouse, Atty. Manases Carpio. Bajan was called to the witness stand by the defense team during the

• DBP extends P5.39M for Tarlac reforestation, flood mitigation projects (2026-11-10 18:01)

SAN JOSE, Tarlac—State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and the Provincial Government of Tarlac recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the former donating P5.39 million to jump-start reforestation activities in San Jose, Tarlac and mitigate local flooding risks. Under the DBP Forest Program (DFP), the bank's funding empowers the local government to plant

• LTFRB summons taxi operator for overcharging complaint (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Tuesday summoned the operator of a taxi accused of overcharging a senior citizen passenger traveling from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia). In a statement, the LTFRB said it had issued a show-cause order directing the taxi operator to explain in writing why

• La Union town breaks ground on 1st Ligtas Pinoy Center in Ilocos Region (2026-11-10 18:01)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Residents of Bagulin, La Union, who are forced to flee rising floodwaters and landslides during the rainy and typhoon seasons, will soon have a safer refuge as the municipality broke ground on Tuesday (Nov. 10) for the first Ligtas Pinoy Center (LPC) in the Ilocos Region in Barangay Suyo. Construction is expected

• Marcos makes final walkthrough of Asean Summit venues (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday conducted a final walkthrough at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City ahead of the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit on Nov. 15 to 17. The walkthrough was aimed at ensuring that the facilities are ready for the arrival of leaders from 11 Asean member

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 10: ₱512.21M jackpot not won (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the ₱512.21 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draw on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026. According to the PCSO, no ticket matched the winning combination of 56-41-37-23-18-14, leaving the game's top prize without a winner. The Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot of ₱97.4 million also

• Sandiganbayan airs concerns after inspecting BJMP facility (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division has raised concern about the inadequacy of closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera surveillance system inside the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) following claims that former House Speaker and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez could leave the facility. In an eight-page order dated Tuesday, the court noted a Facebook

• Highlights: Day 41 of Sara Duterte impeachment trial | Nov. 10, 2026 (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The 41st day of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial on Tuesday centered on the credibility of the defense's witnesses, as Davao City accountant Vingelin Bajan admitted under prosecution cross-examination that she was only a "partner in name" at the Ampil, Elises, Ciudadano and Co. CPAs accounting firm linked to companies tied

• NCIP told to probe firm's alleged failure to honor commitments with IP (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Representatives of the Balatoc Indigenous community on Tuesday called on the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to look into a mining company's alleged failure to deliver on its social and economic commitments to its host community. Representatives of the Balatoc Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC), in their demand, cited the memorandum of

• Defense sees no need to change strategy, says it does not coach witnesses (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte on Tuesday said they see no need to change their strategy in presenting witnesses at Duterte's impeachment trial, maintaining that they do not coach or interfere with their testimonies. Lawyer Michael Poa, counsel and spokesperson for Duterte's defense team, said the lawyers do not

• Over 1,000 Negros residents apply as voter registration resumes (2026-11-10 18:01)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — A total of 1,544 voter applications were processed across the Negros Island Region (NIR) on Tuesday, Nov. 10, as the Commission on Elections (Comelec) officially reopened nationwide voter registration for the 2028 national and local elections. The Comelec NIR reported that Negros Occidental processed the highest number with 856

• Take better care of elderly, PWDs amid Super El Niño (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City councilor Alfred Vargas on Tuesday called for special care for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) amid the effects of the Super El Niño, particularly the drought expected to hit Metro Manila by January. Vargas issued the call as he urged Quezon City residents and barangay officials to prepare

• More room to improve budget transparency, steps were taken – solons (2026-11-10 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — While admitting there is room for improvement regarding budget transparency, Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia has maintained that the House has been working on existing and new reforms to ensure a clear process in crafting the appropriations plan. In a press briefing on Monday, Garcia, vice chair of the House committee on appropriations,

• Gun confiscated from teenaged student in Sultan Kudarat (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A firearm was confiscated from a 13-year-old student at school in President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported. According to the PNP, a 9mm pistol with eight rounds of ammunition was found inside the student's bag. Authorities recovered the firearm and ammunition after the student voluntarily opened his bag

• Caap: Plane crash in Davao del Sur town a false alarm (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (Caap) on Tuesday confirmed that the private plane carrying foreign nationals did not crash and landed safely at an airport in Butuan City. Reports of the aircraft crashing in Barangay Sinoron, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur at around 8 a.m. was confirmed by the Digos

• AFP probing into alleged Air Force data breach (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Tuesday said it is investigating an alleged data breach involving the Philippine Air Force (PAF) following online claims that sensitive military personnel and administrative records had been compromised. AFP spokesperson Col. Francel Margareth Padilla said military cybersecurity units were examining

the allegations but had

• Cebu shipping firm: Not under probe for alleged cigarette smuggling (2026-11-10 12:00)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Shipping company Gothong Southern has denied involvement in an investigation into the alleged illegal transport of foreign cigarettes, after reports linking shipping industry personalities to the multimillion-peso smuggling case. In a statement, the shipping company said it is not currently under investigation for the alleged violation of customs regulations involving the

• DPWH witness: No knowledge Jinggoy Estrada requested insertion (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — An official of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Tuesday admitted to having no personal knowledge that Sen. Jinggoy Estrada personally requested an insertion under the agency's budget in the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA). Peter Paul Cortez, DPWH programming division chief, testified during the bail hearing of Estrada

• Lanao Sur renews call for DNA samples for Marawi siege victims (2026-11-10 12:00)

ILIGAN CITY — The Lanao del Sur provincial government has appealed anew to the families of the missing victims in the 2017 Marawi siege to submit DNA samples, as only over a hundred families of the 400 unidentified remains buried at the Maqbara Muslim cemetery in Marawi City have provided specimens. Abdul Mikhail Balindong, a

• No need yet to declare state of calamity over El Niño – Palace (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang finds no need to declare a state of calamity yet in areas affected by El Niño, as government agencies concerned are already working to mitigate its impact. This comes after 20 senators introduced Senate Resolution No. 765. The resolution was passed to "urge the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of

• Private plane in Davao Sur crash report lands safely in Butuan (2026-11-10 12:00)

DAVAO CITY – The plane, allegedly carrying six foreigners, that was initially reported to have crashed in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, Tuesday morning, had landed safely in Butuan City, a top Office of Civil Defense (OCD) official in Region 11 said. Ednar Dayanghirang, OCD-11 director, described the reported crash of the small plane as

• Household worker nabbed over P1.7 million stolen jewelry (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A female household worker, who claimed to have been a victim of the 'dugo-dugo' scheme, was arrested in Makati City for allegedly stealing jewelry worth P1.7 million. According to the National Capital Region Police Office, the housemaid initially denied involvement and claimed she was a victim of a dugo-dugo scheme. The theft

• Army man linked to viral dog slaughter video faces demotion, charges (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine Army soldier has been relieved of his duties and faces possible demotion and formal charges over an alleged animal cruelty incident involving the slaughter of a dog that was recorded and posted on social media. Army spokesperson Col. Louie Dema-ala said the soldier assigned to the 1st Infantry Division had

• DOLE issues 13th-month pay guidelines to employers (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has issued proper pay guidelines to employers for the 13th-month pay to their employees. Labor Secretary Francis N. Tolentino on Monday signed Labor Advisory No. 21, Series of 2026, setting guidelines for paying 13th-month pay under Article 5 of the Labor Code of the Philippines and

• Davao accountant was partner at firm that audited VP-linked companies (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Davao City accountant Vingelin Bajan used to be a partner at the accounting firm that supposedly audited the companies linked to Vice President Sara Duterte, the prosecution showed on Tuesday. During the cross-examination of Bajan, private prosecutor Atty. Mae Divinagracia asked if she was a partner at Ampil, Elises, Ciudadano & Co.

• House denies motion recalling P7.2-trillion budget bill (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The House of Representatives on Tuesday rejected a motion to reconsider the P7.2-trillion spending bill that the chamber passed nearly a month ago, turning down a proposal that would’ve recalled the budget measure back to the House. House lawmakers rejected in a voice vote Bagong Henerasyon Rep. Robert Nazal’s motion to rescind

• DepEd: Government-issued laptops won’t be operational once sold, pawned (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Tuesday warned that government laptops newly issued to teachers will not be operational once they are sold or pawned to others. According to Education Secretary Sonny Angara, the agency has set strict safeguards to ensure that the laptops will be protected against illegal acts or other

• Bukidnon gasoline users laud massive rollback (2026-11-10 12:00)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Motorists in Bukidnon had mixed reactions to Tuesday’s massive fuel price rollback, which slashed gasoline by P17 per liter but diesel by only P4 per liter, even though several pump stations failed to immediately cut back prices, which normally takes effect at 6 a.m. In this city, queues formed early Tuesday

• Defense witness can’t remember signing docs, details of CPA firm (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Davao City accountant presented as witness by Vice President Sara Duterte’s legal team cannot remember signing documents and other details related to an accounting firm — which also was responsible for auditing companies linked to her. During

Duterte's impeachment trial on Tuesday, several senator-judges including Senate Impeachment Court Presiding Officer Francis Escudero

• Tiangco: House lawmakers had to pay 20% 'tariff' when requesting funds (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco on Tuesday testified before the Sandiganbayan Third Division that members of the House of Representatives have to pay a 20-percent "tariff" to get more funding from the 2025 House General Appropriations Bill and General Appropriations Act. Speaking as a witness at the bail hearing of former Speaker Martin

• Resigning never crossed Sara Duterte's mind despite impeachment, says spox (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Resigning from the country's second-highest post never crossed Vice President Sara Duterte's mind, her spokesperson said Tuesday. Duterte's spokesperson lawyer Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. said he has asked Duterte about the matter twice, with the vice president saying it was not an option. "Such a thought never crossed her mind. She never

• PNP eyeing arrest of all 300,000 wanted persons nationwide (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine National Police (PNP) is targeting to arrest the remaining estimated 300,000 wanted persons nationwide as it seeks to clear its backlog following the apprehension of some 200,000 fugitives in the past 14 months. In a statement on Tuesday, the PNP said it intends to reduce the estimated 300,000 remaining wanted

• Bohol board member seeks probe into Balicasag tour guide fees (2026-11-10 12:00)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol– A Bohol provincial board member wants an inquiry into the collection of environmental or entrance fees from Department of Tourism (DOT)-accredited tour guides accompanying visitors to Balicasag Island in Panglao town, citing the need for clear, consistent policies across the province's tourism destinations. Lawyer Jiselle Rae Aumentado Villamor, chairperson of the Sangguniang

• Mark Villar seeks more quality jobs, stronger protection for workers (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Mark Villar is calling for a comprehensive employment strategy focused on skills development, industry-responsive training, and stronger worker protection to curb unemployment and underemployment. In a statement on Tuesday, Villar cited figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showing the number of employed Filipinos reached 49.21 million in July 2026. However,

• Unified 911 logs over 96,000 emergency calls in 10 months – DILG (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The government's Unified 911 emergency hotline recorded 96,447 calls in the first 10 months of 2026, with a reported efficiency rate of 96.64%, the Department of the Local and Interior Government (DILG) said Tuesday. The logged calls from Jan. 1 to Oct. 30

involve police assistance, fire emergencies, medical concerns, search and

• 29 passengers, crew rescued from distressed motorbanca in Palawan (2026-11-10 12:00)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Philippine Coast Guard rescued 29 passengers and crew members of a distressed motorbanca after it suffered mechanical failure off Calibangbangan Island in Linapacan, Palawan, on Monday, according to its report on Tuesday. The Coast Guard said the vessel MBCA Princess Ruby Ann-1 developed a broken propeller shaft during its

• LTO voids license of driver whose truck crushed motorcycle, killing 2 (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has revoked the license of the driver involved in a road crash which killed a rider and his 11-month-old child in Quezon City. Based on the initial investigation of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD), the dump truck was traveling toward Luzon Avenue when it tipped over

• DLSU-Laguna suspends classes, restricts campus access (2026-11-10 12:00)

LUCENA CITY — Classes at De La Salle University (DLSU)-Laguna campus in Biñan City were suspended starting Tuesday morning, Nov. 10, while office work was also halted. In a Facebook post, the DLSU Laguna Campus Student Government announced that, upon the directive of the Office of the Vice President for Laguna Campus (OVPLC), both in-person

• Water supply interruption set in parts of NCR, Rizal, Cavite (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Several areas in Metro Manila, Cavite and rizal will experience water supply interruptions from Nov. 10 onwards due to maintenance activities. In an advisory, Maynilad Water Services, Inc. said maintenance activities will be conducted to keep the water distribution system “safe, reliable and in good condition.” Manila Water likewise announced that it

• Sandiganbayan suspends Martin Romualdez for 90 days (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Tuesday issued a 90-day preventive suspension against former Speaker Martin Romualdez in view of a plunder case stemming from alleged kickbacks in government infrastructure projects. The court issued the order through a promulgated resolution. READ: Over P27-B projects allegedly inserted for Romualdez – witness “The resolution orders

• Defense drops Matina Crossing barangay captain as witness (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense panel on Tuesday withdrew as a witness Matina Crossing Barangay Capt. Cindy Colina. Colina’s testimony was supposed to cover documents related to the official name of Brgy. Matina Crossing in Talomo, Davao City. “We will no longer present the fifth witness in our list, Cindy Colina, the

• 4-day onsite workweek in BARMM offices lifted (2026-11-10 12:00)

COTABATO CITY – Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua ordered on Tuesday the lifting of the four-day onsite work arrangement adopted by Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) ministries and other agencies since March 11 as part of austerity measures in response to the energy crisis triggered by the conflict in the Middle East. In

• Palace: Corruption issues affecting OVP employees' mental health (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday raised corruption and excessive pressure as possible causes of the mental health concerns among employees of the Office of the Vice President (OVP). During a meeting with Filipinos in Hong Kong, Vice President Sara Duterte said her office had launched a mental health program for employees affected by attacks

• Lito Lapid worried Davao City accountant merely being used (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator-judge Lito Lapid has raised concerns about a Davao City accountant merely being used by different sectors, as she failed to answer several simple questions from the prosecution during Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial. At the tail end of the trial on Tuesday, Lapid asked Davao City Accountant Vingelin Bajan if she

• Senate finance panel to sponsor nat'l budget in plenary on Nov. 23 (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The General Appropriations Bill (GAB) for fiscal year 2027 will be sponsored on the Senate floor on November 23. In an advisory, Senate Secretary Atty. Renato Bantug Jr. announced that the next plenary session will be for the sponsorship of the GAB in the morning, followed by interpellations in the afternoon. "Upon

• Marcos admin to review PH economic growth targets (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered a fresh review of the country's economic growth targets for 2026 and 2027 as the government faces the prospect of another downward revision following the economy's disappointing performance in the third quarter. The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) will meet on Dec. 1 to reassess the country's

• Long lines at Malolos gas stations amid major fuel price rollback (2026-11-10 12:00)

CITY OF MALOLOS — Motorists flocked to major gasoline stations in the city on Tuesday (Nov. 10) as fuel prices dropped by as much as P16.80 per liter. At the Petron station beside S&R Shopping Center along MacArthur Highway in Barangay San Pablo, XCS gasoline fell to P69.10 per liter from P85.90, while Premium Gasoline

• Tandag City suspends in-person classes due to heavy rains (2026-11-10 12:00)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The local government of Tandag City, Surigao del Sur, suspended face-to-face classes across all levels in both public and private schools on Tuesday due to heavy downpours that triggered flooding in parts of the city. Mayor Roxanne Pimentel

declared the suspension effective immediately and “until lifted,” citing weather forecasts

• Brian Poe to budget watchdogs: Help find idle funds for projects (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines —FPJ Panday Bayanihan Rep. Brian Poe is asking civil society budget monitors to the government identify programs with unused funds and to check whether the House of Representatives had chosen appropriate sources for proposed realignments in the 2027 national budget. According to a statement issued on Tuesday, Poe raised the request during a

• Tulfo wants VP, whoever prepared her SALN as impeachment trial witnesses (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo on Tuesday urged the defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte to present her and the person who prepared her Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) as witnesses in her impeachment trial. On the 41st day of Duterte’s trial, Tulfo asked defense lead counsel Sheila Sison whether

• Siargao seaside skatepark pushed amid ‘Skate Road’ ban (2026-11-10 12:00)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – Amid intense public backlash over the skating ban on Siargao’s famed Malinao “Skate Road,” the municipal government of General Luna has unveiled plans to construct a dedicated seaside skate park to provide a permanent home for the island’s displaced skating community. The proposed tourism infrastructure project, unveiled Monday and

• Agencies make budget changes, not individual lawmakers – solon (2026-11-10 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The proposed amendments reviewed by the House budget subcommittee originated from government agencies, rejecting the suggestion that individual lawmakers could simply introduce projects of their own choosing through the panel, according to Camarines Sur 4th District Rep. Arnie Fuentebella. Fuentebella, a member of the Nationalist People’s Coalition, said the Budget Amendments Review Subcommittee

• Second most wanted person in Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur falls (2026-11-10 12:00)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Police arrested a person listed as the municipality’s Top 2 Most Wanted Person in connection with a homicide case on Monday, Nov. 9. In a press release on Tuesday (Nov. 10), Sta. Maria Municipal Police Station (MPS) said its tracker team, led by Officer in Charge Police Captain June C.

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of Nov. 10, 2026 (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines —Motorists are set to get some relief as gasoline prices plunge by P16.80 per liter Tuesday, Nov. 10, marking the first double-digit rollback since the Middle East conflict began in February. Diesel prices will also drop by P4.10 per liter, while kerosene will go down by P3.70 per liter. Based on the Department

• Cordillera farmers protest high costs, low prices, farm imports (2026-11-10 06:00)

BAGUIO CITY — Vegetable farmers and gardeners from the Cordillera brought their concerns over rising production costs, low farmgate prices and agricultural imports to national government agencies during a two-day mobilization in Metro Manila that began on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Organized by the activist Kanatengan Network, the delegation is scheduled to submit petitions and seek

• WATCH: Sara Duterte impeachment trial | Nov. 10, 2026 (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — On Day 41 of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, the defense team is set to present its second witness, the city assessor of the Island Garden City of Samal. Samal City Assessor Engr. John Kenneth Enumerables is expected to testify on the property linked to Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases

• Iligan college apologizes over alleged hijab ban on Muslim students (2026-11-10 06:00)

ILIGAN CITY — The Iligan Medical Center College (IMCC) has apologized amid backlash over allegations that Muslim nursing students were required to remove their hijabs during their capping ceremony and clinical duties. "It has never been the institution's intention to cause hurt or make any member of its academic community feel excluded," the college said

• New cold storage facility helps Tarlac onion farmers protect harvest (2026-11-10 06:00)

SAN MANUEL, Tarlac — Tarlac has inaugurated a 10,000-bag onion cold storage facility in San Manuel to help farmers reduce postharvest losses and increase their income. The Metrobank Foundation (MBFI), in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the local government of San Manuel, spearheaded the project. Tarlac ranks sixth among the country's top onion-producing

• NEA to impose sanctions on electric cooperatives resisting solar push (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Electrification Administration (NEA) will impose sanctions on electric cooperatives that resist the agency's push to install solar home systems, its representative said Tuesday. During a hearing of the Senate committee on urban planning, housing, and resettlement, Sen. Francis Escudero said he was aware of electric cooperatives resisting the installation of

• Valencia City allots P140M as it gears up vs. El Niño (2026-11-10 06:00)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon—The local government here has mobilized aggressive El Niño mitigation measures, shifting from broad blanket orders to data-driven, granular interventions and allotting a P140-million fund as state weather forecasters warn of a severe dry spell extending through mid-2027. The city has earmarked a flexible P140 million disaster management fund for next year, prioritizing

• Lacson: Witnesses may face contempt over impeachment trial ‘mockery’ (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator-judge Panfilo Lacson on Tuesday reminded witnesses that the Senate Impeachment Court has the power to cite them for contempt if they make a “mockery” of its proceedings. This comes a day after the testimony of the first defense witness in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Davao City Assessor

• Escudero still hopes impeachment trial will end before Christmas, New Year (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Impeachment Court Presiding Officer Sen. Chiz Escudero on Tuesday expressed hope that the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte will conclude before Christmas or New Year. “If I were to be asked, of course, in a perfect world, I hope the impeachment trial, whichever side wins or loses, will be

• Cops arrest alleged NPA medic in Eastern Samar (2026-11-10 06:00)

TACLOBAN CITY – Police arrested a 23-year-old woman listed as Eastern Samar province’s No. 1 most wanted person and an alleged member of the communist New People’s Army (NPA) during a joint law enforcement operation in Dolores town on Monday. The Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) identified the arrested suspect as alias “Marie,” who is

• Davao assessor yet to submit list of Duterte-Carpio properties – court (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Impeachment Court Presiding Officer Francis Escudero said on Tuesday that a defense witness in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial had yet to submit documents requested by the senator-judges. The witness, Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin, was asked to provide a list of properties owned by Duterte and her spouse,

• WATCH: Escudero warns witnesses vs contempt, perjury (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Presiding officer Francis Escudero warns witnesses in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte that they could face contempt charges and perjury if they are found to have lied before the impeachment court./dp READ: LIVE UPDATES: Sara Dutrte impeachment trial | Nov. 10, 2026

• Marcos calls for competence, accountability among military leaders (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday urged military leaders to be “competent, fair and mindful” as they continue to respond to the needs of Filipinos and defend the country’s sovereign rights. He made the call as he administered the oath of office to Gen. Antonio G. Nafarrete, chief of staff of the Armed Forces

• Batangas City grants tax breaks to EV charging station operators (2026-11-10 06:00)

LUCENA CITY – The Batangas City Council has exempted all establishments that construct and operate electric vehicle (EV) charging stations from paying real property taxes (RPT) and local

business taxes, according to a new ordinance that it has just passed. The ordinance, titled the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Real Property Tax and Local Business Tax

• Makabayan bloc files resolution opposing Trump's Asean visit (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Makabayan bloc lawmakers on Tuesday introduced a congressional resolution urging the House of Representatives to oppose the Marcos administration's reception of US President Donald Trump. They cited concerns over Washington's military footprint and economic policies that have disrupted global trade. President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr extended "unfair preferential treatment" to Trump, ACT Teachers

• Property values are basis for identifying VP Duterte's SALN declaration (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A city assessor from the Island Garden City of Samal (IGaCoS), cited on Tuesday matching market and assessed values as the basis for identifying a property listed in Vice President Sara Duterte's Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN). Defense witness Engr. John Kenneth Enumerables was asked whether the 751-square-meter property

• Bataan robbery-homicide suspect nabbed in Pampanga (2026-11-10 06:00)

MABALACAT CITY — Policemen in Lubao, Pampanga, arrested on Monday a woman who allegedly robbed and stabbed a 62-year-old market vendor in Dinalupihan, Bataan on November 6. Police arrested the 41-year-old suspect at Barangay San Pablo II, where she resides, the Central Luzon police said in a statement. "The suspect was arrested at around 10:20

• Piston, Bayan to hold protests during Asean Summit (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Several groups will stage public demonstrations on Nov. 16, coinciding with the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit. Delegates from the 11 member states, including United States Donald Trump, are set to gather for the regional high-stakes meeting in Metro Manila from Nov. 15 to 17. Transport group Piston on

• BARMM employees eager for year-end bonus under regular parliament (2026-11-10 06:00)

COTABATO CITY – About 40,000 employees of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) are eagerly awaiting the release of their year-end bonus, one month's basic pay plus a P5,000 cash gift, their first under the first elected regular parliament. Minister Ubaida Pacasem of the Ministry of Finance and the Budget and Management (MFBM-BARMM)

• Defense submits to court sub judice statements of prosecution (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense panel of Vice President Sara Duterte submitted on Tuesday supposed sub judicious statements made by private prosecutors. Lead defense counsel Sheila Sison made the manifestation before the Senate impeachment court invoking a prior ruling, which prohibits all parties to talk about the merits of all impeachment articles, including

• Cops' spouses, partners urged to report cases of abuse; PNP vows probe (2026-11-10 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged spouses and partners of police personnel to report incidents of physical and psychological abuse, assuring them that the complaints will be investigated and acted upon. "Do not allow fear or the position of your partner in the organization to silence you," said PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez

• Private plane with 6 foreigners crashes in Davao del Sur town (2026-11-10 06:00)

DAVAO CITY — A private plane carrying six foreigners crashed in Sitio Boribad, Barangay Tibolo, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, on Tuesday morning, authorities said. The crash occurred at around 8 a.m., authorities said. The Digos City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) confirmed the incident. READ: PAF plane crashes in Benguet; 2 injuredIn

• Accountability, aid for Leyte fishers urged after submarine cable oil leak (2026-11-10 00:00)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — The Green Party of the Philippines Leyte chapter urged the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) to address the effects of the mineral oil leak off Tabango town, Leyte, and provide compensation to affected fishing communities. The group said NGCP should take responsibility for the environmental damage and possible

• BARMM racing to pass 2027 regional budget (2026-11-10 00:00)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua directed all new Cabinet members and heads of offices on Monday to speed up their proposed budget allocations as the Bangsamoro Parliament laid down its priority legislative agenda for its first 100 days in office. On top of the priorities is the passage of the

• Chinese-run fish cages blamed for displaced Pangasinan fisherfolk (2026-11-10 00:00)

SUAL, PANGASINAN, Philippines — As Pangasinan and Zambales fishermen lose their fishing grounds in the West Philippine Sea, marginal fisherfolk in this coastal town face a similar problem with the reported encroachment of Chinese fish cage operators in their traditional fishing grounds. Local fishermen are demanding the removal of hundreds of fish cages they said

• Nartatez: PNP getting tips in Dela Rosa manhunt (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police has received not less than 500 tips regarding its manhunt on Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said on Monday, adding that police are conducting operations in remote islands to locate him. "These were properly validated; we went to the locations and

• House to also delete undocumented infra items (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives will join the Senate in striking out infrastructure budget line items lacking documentation, FPJ Panday Bayanihan Rep. Brian Poe

said on Monday. “We will not accept projects that do not have proper papers or propercoordinates because that is unfair to the constituents,” said Poe, assistant majority leader

• Marcos leads rollout of laptops for schoolteachers (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos on Monday led the nationwide rollout of laptops for public school teachers, starting with a ceremonial turnover of 209 Apple MacBook Neo units in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. The event, held at Dagupan City National High School, kicked off the distribution under the Department of Education’s Computerization Program. Of the 231,725

• Robredo ‘definite’: Not seeking nat’l post in 2028 (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Vice President and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo on Monday firmly ruled out running for any national post in the 2028 elections—whether for president or senator—saying she has realized she lacks the “political savvy” required to “navigate national politics.” “As in definite, kan sinabi ko na dae ako ma run for

• DPWH execs relieved as Lopez cleans up ranks (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Newly appointed Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez’s first order of business was to clean up ranks in the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Lopez on Monday relieved four district engineers from their posts over corruption allegations and the submission of false supporting documents for projects proposed for inclusion in the

• Assessor’s evasive answers draw ire of senator-judges (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin, the first witness presented by Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team in her impeachment trial, drew sharp rebukes from senator-judges on Monday over his shifting answers about a China trip and a property owned by Duterte’s husband. Private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. said the questions tested Adalin’s

• Witness says Carpio’s Davao lot in VP’s SALN (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A Davao City assessor on Monday testified that a 379-square-meter property in Matina Crossing owned by lawyer Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, was the same residential lot declared in her statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), disputing the prosecution’s claim that the property was omitted from her

• Samal City assessor to take stand as 2nd defense witness (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense lawyers of Vice President Sara Duterte will present on Tuesday, the city assessor of Island Garden City of Samal as its second witness. Samal City Assessor Engr. John Kenneth Enumerables is anticipated to testify on the property linked to Duterte and her husband, Atty. Manases Carpio. This, as the defense

• Walang Pasok: High heat prompts Nov. 10 class suspensions (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines—Class suspensions have been announced for Tuesday, Nov. 10, as several areas brace for high heat-index conditions, with affected schools shifting to online or other distance-learning arrangements. Among the announcements, Himamaylan City in Negros Occidental suspended classes at all levels in public and private schools, while Capiz State University's (CapSU) Roxas City Main Campus

• Marinduque governor urged to fast-track $100M Marcopper settlement (2026-11-10 00:00)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — An environmental group has urged Marinduque Gov. Melecio Go to help facilitate the implementation of a $100-million (about P6.4 billion) settlement for the rehabilitation of areas affected by the 1996 Marcopper mining disaster. The Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (MACEC) on Nov. 9 urged Go to convene the Provincial Rehabilitation

• Amihan, easterlies to bring rains across parts of PH on Nov. 10 (2026-11-10 00:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon, or the amihan, and the easterlies are forecast to affect the country on Tuesday, Nov. 10, as Typhoon Cempaka moves farther away from the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), according to the state weather bureau. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration

• Asking witness about China trips improper, unfair, says VP spox (2026-11-09 18:01)

Atty. Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. (Screengrab from video of the Office of the Vice President) MANILA, Philippines — Questioning defense witness Jamie Adalin on his trips to China was improper and unfair, Vice President Sara Duterte's spokesperson, lawyer Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr., said on Monday. Adalin, the City Assessor of Davao City, testified as the

• Manila Water readies 33 reservoirs for prolonged El Niño (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water has inspected and prepared its 33 reservoirs across the East Zone as part of ongoing measures to help maintain reliable water service amid the very strong El Niño, which is expected to bring prolonged dry conditions through the first half of 2027. With a combined storage capacity of 557 million liters,

• Heat index hits 42°C in Coron, Palawan and Borongan, Eastern Samar (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The heat index peaked at a dangerous 42°C in Palawan and Eastern Samar on Monday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Pagasa reported that heat indices were recorded in its stations located in Coron, Palawan and Borongan, Eastern Samar. Pagasa had explained that a heat index of

• Caraga poverty rate drops to 7.8% in 2025 (2026-11-09 18:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Poverty incidence among families in Caraga (Region 13) dropped to 7.8 percent in 2025, according to preliminary results of the 2025 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) released on Monday by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The official report, issued by the PSA Regional Statistical Services Office-13 (Caraga), showed

• Pagadian City hosts 2026 MindaCon, more tech investments seen (2026-11-09 18:01)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – The National ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Confederation of the Philippines (NICP) has reaffirmed its commitment to driving digital transformation in the countryside. During Monday's opening of 11th Mindanao ICT Conference (MindaCon) 2026 from Nov. 9 to 11, NICP president Jessraf Palmares lauded the city government's thrust toward digital

• Doubled night shift differential for private sector workers pushed (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A bill seeking to double the minimum night shift differential for private-sector workers from the current 10 percent to 20 percent of their regular hourly wage has been filed by Sen. Loren Legarda. According to Legarda, the proposed increase would help recognize the sacrifices and health risks faced by workers whose schedules

• Pope names Mati bishop as new head of Davao archdiocese (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Mati Bishop Abel Apigo was appointed by Pope Leo XIV as the new archbishop of Davao, succeeding Archbishop Romulo Valles, who already reached the mandatory retirement age for bishops, according to CBCP News. Apigo was appointed as the second bishop of Mati by Pope Francis in 2018. He completed his philosophical and

• Closed fishing season may trigger price hike, supply issues – Pamalakaya (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines—The upcoming closed fishing season in major fishing grounds across the country could trigger an artificial shortage of fish and drive up market prices, the fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) warned. In a statement, Pamalakaya said the annual three-month fishing ban, scheduled across several fishing grounds between November and

• Luistro presses Mans Carpio to testify on assets shared with VP (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution is wondering who will explain the financial records and disputed assets of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases "Mans" Carpio, considering that the latter is not in the initial witness list of the defense. Rep. Gerville Luisto, the lead prosecutor, pointed this out on Sunday in

• Baguio City Mayor Magalong urges responsible use of AI in schools (2026-11-09 18:01)

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Benjamin Magalong has urged education leaders to promote the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in schools, emphasizing that the technology

should support learning rather than make students dependent on it. In a statement Sunday,Nov. 8, Magalong stressed the need for proper and controlled use of AI in education during

• Butuan drug suspect busted, over P700,000 shabu seized (2026-11-09 18:01)

A 30-year-old suspect, alias “Cyclone,” was arrested in a drug buy-bust operation in Barangay Ong Yiu, Butuan City on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026.(Photo courtesy of Police Regional Office 13) SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – Anti-narcotics operatives seized over P700,000 worth of suspected shabu from an alleged street-level drug pusher arrested in an entrapment operation

• Dy: House will soon launch transparency platform on its website (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives will soon launch a transparency platform on its website that will allow Filipinos to scrutinize government-funded projects, including their locations, funding allocations, and implementation status, Speaker Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III announced on Monday. The project is part of continuing reforms to strengthen transparency and accountability in public

• Lotto draw results on Monday, November 9 (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines—No ticket holder won the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday, November 9, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Grand Lotto 6/55 draw result: 53-44-36-18-20-28. Jackpot prize: ₱349.05 million Mega Lotto 6/45 draw result: 29-27-12-11-43-05. Jackpot prize: ₱15 million. Minor games The PCSO also reported the following results

• Ilocos Sur town sets P180 minimum farmgate price for live hogs (2026-11-09 18:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, ILOCOS SUR, Philippines — The municipal government of Santa in this province has set a minimum farmgate price of P180 per kilogram for live hogs, aiming to protect local raisers while promoting fair pricing for meat vendors and consumers. Santa Mayor Jeremy Jesus “JJ” Bueno III issued Executive Order No. 178, Series of

• Baguio council seeks specific indigenous identities in health records (2026-11-09 18:01)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The city council urged the City Health Services Office (CHSO) to replace the general term “Igorot” with specific ethnolinguistic classifications in its official forms and patient records to ensure more accurate representation of indigenous peoples in the Cordillera. According to the council, the request was made through Resolution No. 834-2026, which

• Defense confident next witnesses will show up – Poa (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is confident that its next witnesses will appear before the Senate impeachment court, amid the withdrawal and request to be excused Monday of the two individuals initially lined up to testify. Defense

counsel and spokesperson Michael Poa said this on Monday, adding that the

• Candon City sets aside P124M for tobacco farmers (2026-11-09 18:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, ILOCOS SUR, Philippines — The city government of Candon has allocated P124 million for agricultural assistance to tobacco farmers, including the provision of farm inputs, fuel support and improvements to tobacco-curing facilities. The assistance was distributed during the Candon City Tobacco Enhancement Program held on Monday, Nov. 9, at the Candon City Sports

• What's the status of your agency's 2024 PBB processing? (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Only two out of 315 government agencies have received their 2024 Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) funding, according to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Based on its online tracker released on Nov. 6, the DBM has released the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) on Oct. 29 for Central Luzon State University amounting

• Hold protests after Asean Summit, security official tells groups (2026-11-09 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A security official overseeing preparations for the country's hosting of the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit has appealed to groups planning protests to hold their protests after the regional gathering as a way for Filipinos to show respect to visiting foreign leaders. Retired Major Gen. Potenciano Camba, deputy director

• Bataan drug buy-bust operation uncovers alleged drug den; 7 arrested (2026-11-09 18:01)

MARIVELES, BATAAN, Philippines — A police buy-bust operation that was supposed to target a suspected drug peddler led to the discovery of an alleged drug den inside a residential house along De Guzman Boulevard in Barangay Poblacion on Monday afternoon, Nov. 9. Seven people, whose ages ranged from their mid-20s to 30s, were arrested, according

• Legazpi City declared insurgency-free (2026-11-09 18:01)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — The Philippine Army has declared Legazpi City under Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) status after recording no armed encounters or insurgent activities in the city over the past 12 months. The declaration was made on Monday, Nov. 9 during a ceremony at the Legazpi City Convention Expo Hall A,

• Defense witness' answers in Sara Duterte trial irk Erwin Tulfo (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A Davao City assessor testifying for Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team in her impeachment trial was warned on Tuesday that he could be cited for contempt after evading questions about whether he had traveled to China in 2025. Engineer Jaime Adalin was presented by the defense in connection with allegations that

• NBI: 13 face raps over alleged P13-B smuggled cigarettes (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Monday filed an agricultural economic sabotage complaint against thirteen individuals allegedly involved in smuggling cigarettes worth P13 billion. READ: BOC seizes over P1.17-B suspected smuggled cigarettes in Cebu port According to NBI Director Melvin Matibag, the case stems from the 59 container vans seized by

• Man posing as soldier for alleged swindling nabbed in Agusan (2026-11-09 12:00)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — A 34-year-old man who spent months impersonating an Army soldier to run an alleged elaborate swindling racket across Mindanao has been arrested, leaving behind a trail of swindled vehicles, gadgets, and over P100,000 in stolen cash. The suspect, identified only as alias “Jan,” was apprehended in Purok 6, Barangay

• House majority parties back disclosure of every districts’ 2027 funding (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Major political parties in the House of Representatives backed on Monday the full disclosure of congressional district allocations under the proposed 2027 budget. Representatives of majority bloc parties – National Unity Party (NUP), Nationalist People’s Coalition (NPC), Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat (Lakas-CMD), Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP) and Nacionalista Party (NP) – expressed

• Solon says House only amended P115B in 2027 budget bill (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The House of Representatives rechanneled P115.82 billion from the executive’s spending plan, Bataan Rep. Albert “Abet” Garcia said on Monday, revising the previous P116.32 billion figure that a special panel of lawmakers reportedly finalized last month. Garcia, the senior vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, revealed that the realignments were about

• LOOK: Google Maps images of Duterte’s Matina Crossing property (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The prosecution on Monday presented purported Google Maps views of Vice President Sara Duterte’s property in Matina Crossing, Davao City, as it questioned whether the property was properly declared in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN). During Day 40 of the Duterte impeachment trial, prosecution counsel Benjamin Tolosa Jr.

• Over a decade since Yolanda, thousands of housing units remain empty (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of homes built for survivors of Super Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) remain unoccupied more than a decade after the storm devastated the Visayas, unleashing storm surges reaching about two meters high. Through the National Housing Authority’s (NHA) Yolanda Permanent Housing Program, the government had a revised target of 194,195 units. As of

• 192 nabbed, P7.1M in ‘shabu’ seized in Soccsksargen ops in October (2026-11-09 12:00)

COTABATO CITY – Police authorities in Soccsksargen (Region 12) arrested a total of 192 drug suspects in October and seized suspected shabu worth P7.1 million. Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, Police Regional Office (PRO-12) regional director, said Monday they conducted 172 anti-drug operations last month in different parts of the region. Manibog said of the 172

• 74 bird species recorded at Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Seventy four bird species have been documented in the first-ever bird race and photo competition at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPPWP) last month. The LPPWP, in a statement on Sunday, Nov. 8, said the “Ibong Dayo: Individual Bird Race and Photo Competition” from Oct. 17 to 19 was held to mark

• Rep. Tiangco to testify in Romualdez bail hearing on Tuesday (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco will testify on Tuesday in the plunder bail hearing of former House Speaker Martin Romualdez before the Sandiganbayan Third Division stemming from alleged kickbacks in infrastructure projects worth P7.44 billion. The prosecution confirmed that Tiangco will appear as a witness before the court in response to th query

• VP trial: Senator-judges flag Davao land assessor’s China trips (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Senator-judges on Monday questioned defense witness Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin’s trip to China along with other local government officials. Adalin’s overseas travel came to light when, during the cross-examination, private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. asked whether or not back in November 2025 Davao City LGU officials, had a supposed all-expense-paid

• PNP logs 32% drop in focus crimes in last 4 months (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) reported a 32% decline in focus crimes nationwide from July to October 2026. “Our latest figures show a downward trend in focus crimes over the past four months,” said PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. in a press briefing on Monday. “From July to October 2026, the PNP

• Motorcycle driver killed in crash involving ex-Bulacan official (2026-11-09 12:00)

PULILAN, Bulacan— The former mayor of Pulilan town in Bulacan was involved in a road accident last week that led to the death of a motorcycle rider she may have run over. Former Pulilan Mayor Ma. Rosario Ochoa, 71, was driving an SUV when two motorcycles crashed into her path and may have accidentally driven

• Macacua swears in 4 deputy ministers, Marawi rehab manager (2026-11-09 12:00)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua swore in new deputy ministers for four ministries of the Bangsamoro Government on Monday. The new deputy ministers are Atty. Abubakar Katambak, Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education; Nur-Ainee Tan Lim, Ministry of Social Services and Development; Edchamcy Abelardo, Ministry

of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs; and Engr.

• Defense witness in impeach trial lying through his teeth – Sen. Tulfo (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines— Senator-judge Raffy Tulfo on Monday accused a defense witness of "lying through his teeth" during the 40th day of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin took the witness stand in relation to the remaining article of impeachment against Duterte, which accuses her of amassing

• Passenger dies after jumping overboard from Marinduque-bound ferry (2026-11-09 12:00)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A 40-year-old passenger died after he leapt off a commercial vessel that was traveling from Lucena City in Quezon to Marinduque on Sunday evening, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said in a report on Monday. The passenger, a resident of Barangay San Rafael, Burdeos town in Quezon, was declared dead

• Pet poisoning reported in La Union coastal village (2026-11-09 12:00)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan – Residents of Baroro, a coastal barangay in Bacnotan, La Union, have asked police and animal welfare groups to look into what appeared to be a rampant poisoning of dogs in their community. Baroto has been alarmed after three dogs and a duck were found sprawled dead early Monday at the property of

• Agusan town logs 467 dengue cases; infection hits all 27 villages (2026-11-09 12:00)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Dengue infections here have reached 467 cases as of Friday, with cases logged in all 27 villages since the start of the year, data from the Municipal Health Office (MHO) showed. The death toll remained at two. Health authorities identified teenagers and young adults aged 15 to 19 as

• Father, daughter found dead inside house in Cavite (2026-11-09 12:00)

LUCENA CITY – A 40-year-old father and his 22-year-old daughter were found dead inside their home in General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, on Sunday afternoon, police said. The wife and mother of the victims, who was working in Manila, asked her sister at 3 p.m. to check on the two after they repeatedly failed to answer

• Missing Quezon fisherman safely returns home on his own (2026-11-09 12:00)

LUCENA CITY – A 60-year-old fisherman who went missing in the waters off Polillo, Quezon, on Nov. 6, safely returned home on his own, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported on Monday afternoon. PCG Northern Quezon said Coast Guard personnel based in Real town confirmed the fisherman's safe return home after verifying his whereabouts with

• House backs purge of undocumented projects in 2027 national budget (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – The House of Representatives is prepared to join the Senate in striking out from next year's proposed P7.2-trillion national budget infrastructure line items lacking

documentation, lawmakers said on Monday, amid criticism of projects without pertinent documents. FPJ Panday Bayanihan party-list Rep. Brian Poe said the House will reject projects without detailed plans

• EcoWaste bats for crackdown on mercury-laced beauty products (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines—EcoWaste Coalition has urged health product and digital trade regulators to remove online listings of mercury-laced skin lightening products and step up enforcement against their sellers ahead of the 11.11 and 12.12 shopping sales. The group identified Goree Beauty Cream as a priority for enforcement, describing it as the most visible mercury-laden skin-lightening brand

• Month-long drive vs. loose firearms nets 311 weapons in Soccsksargen (2026-11-09 12:00)

COTABATO CITY – Three hundred eleven assorted weapons were recovered and 27 individuals were arrested in the campaign against unlicensed firearms in the Soccsksargen region (Region 12) in October, police said Monday. “The intensified operations aim to prevent loose firearms from falling into the hands of criminal elements across the region,” Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog,

• Son stabs dad to death in Lipa City (2026-11-09 12:00)

LUCENA CITY – A 40-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 20-year-old son following a heated argument inside their home in Lipa City, Batangas on Sunday night (November 8), police said. In a report on Monday, the Police Regional Office 4-A said the father and son, who were both reportedly under the influence of

• Leni Robredo reiterates stand: ‘No national bid in 2028’ (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo on Monday, Nov. 9, pointed out that the decision not to return to national politics came even before she ran and eventually won as local chief executive of the city that her late husband had led for almost 20 years. She said this in a local radio

• Typhoon Samuel exits PAR; amihan to bring strong winds, rough seas (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Samuel has exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), but the Northeast Monsoon or amihan is expected to bring strong to gale-force wind gusts. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Samuel was unlikely to directly affect the country’s weather throughout the forecast period. No tropical cyclone wind

• Senators to Marcos: Declare state of calamity in El Niño affected areas (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Twenty senators filed a resolution on Monday urging President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to declare a state of calamity over areas affected by the El Niño. Senate Resolution No. 765 was introduced by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente Sotto III, Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, Minority Leader Alan Peter

• Ex-Sultan Kudarat solon facing malversation raps yields in GenSan (2026-11-09 12:00)

COTABATO CITY – Former Sultan Kudarat Rep. Arnulfo Go, who was charged for alleged malversation of public funds and corruption, voluntarily surrendered to police authorities in General Santos City on Sunday, Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, Police Regional Office-12 director, confirmed Monday. “He voluntarily and peacefully surrendered to us on Sunday and we have turned him

• Assessor quizzed: Why confirm property when VP’s SALN has no details? (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — After claiming that lawyer Manases Carpio’s property matched the item declared by Vice President Sara Duterte, the Davao City land assessor was questioned how he was able to make that connection when Duterte’s Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) did not contain details. Counsel for the prosecution Benjamin Tolosa Jr. raised

• Court inspects Payatas jail after tackling Romualdez detention issues (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Monday inspected the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), where former House Speaker Martin Romualdez is detained. Romualdez was jailed in connection with a plunder case stemming from an alleged P7.44 billion kickback in infrastructure projects. WATCH: COURT INSPECTS PAYATAS

• Manila logs over 4,000 dengue cases from Jan. 1 to Nov. 9 (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila recorded 35 new dengue cases on Monday, Nov. 9, bringing the city’s total to 4,769 from Jan. 1 to Nov. 9, according to the latest report from the Manila Health Department (MHD). Dengue had the highest cumulative case count among the illnesses monitored under the city’s W.I.L.D. diseases surveillance, based on

• 4 DPWH engineers sacked over corruption, bogus project certifications (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Newly appointed Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez has relieved four district engineers over corruption allegations and irregularities involving infrastructure projects proposed for the 2027 national budget. Three were removed from their posts following “reports of allegations of corruption” committed by district engineers of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH): Hermon Ines

• Village councilor, pastor found dead in Cagayan (2026-11-09 12:00)

TUGUEGARAO CITY – The bullet-riddled remains of a village councilor and a church pastor were found dumped at a mountainous section of Barangay Capissayan Norte in Gattaran, Cagayan last weekend. Responders recovered the bodies of Johnny Agarpao, a 52-year-old San Miguel village councilor and 30-year-old pastor Jeferson De Leon of Baggao town. A farmer, who

• 4,000 multipurpose buildings cover just 10% of barangays – solons (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The roughly 4,000 multipurpose buildings proposed under the 2027 national budget represent only 10 percent of the country's more than 42,000 barangays, House lawmakers said on Monday as they defended funding for community facilities. Bataan 2nd District Rep. Albert Garcia, senior vice chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, said the number highlighted

• Marcos, Angara start distributing laptops to teachers in Dagupan (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Education Secretary Sonny Angara, joined by First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos, started the nationwide distribution of over 231,000 laptops for public school teachers on Monday, beginning with an initial distribution of 209 Apple MacBook Neo units to 10 public schools in Dagupan City. Held at the Dagupan City

• MMDA announces Nov. 15-18 road closures, rerouting for Asean Summit (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Monday, announced road closures and several traffic schemes from Nov. 15 to 18 as the country hosts the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) Summit and Related Summits. The MMDA advised that roads surrounding the Philippine International Convention Center and Cultural Center of the

• Police probing into 2 shooting incidents in Bukidnon capital (2026-11-09 12:00)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Police are probing two separate shooting incidents that rocked this city on Sunday evening, leaving one dead and another wounded. The first victim was a 56-year-old businessman, a resident of Purok 3, Kurbada, Barangay Tongantongan, Valencia City, who was found dead in a pool of blood inside his room by responding

• AdU legal aid office hails acquittal of 2 clients arrested over protests (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Legal Aid Office of the Adamson University College of Law on Monday welcomed the acquittal of two of its clients who were arrested on Sept. 21 last year, in connection with the Baha Sa Luneta protest. Lawyer Kathy Panguban, director of the Legal Aid Office, said the acquittal was the result

• De Lima hoping Robredo reconsiders decision to ditch bid for nat'l post (2026-11-09 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines – Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima on Monday said the Liberal Party (LP) sis till hoping thaf Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo will reconsider her decision to no longer pursue national office in the 2028 elections. De Lima praised Robredo's commitment to leading the city that her late husband had led

• Caloocan lotto outlet teller, operator sued for illegal numbers racket (2026-11-09 12:00)

CALOOCAN CITY, Philippines — Public prosecutors indicted the teller and the registered operator of an authorized lotto outlet in Caloocan before the Regional Trial Court (RTC) in Caloocan on Monday, Nov. 9. The case stemmed from the teller's arrest last week for using a legitimate government franchise to run an underground numbers game. The Caloocan

• Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 40: Defense to call on first witness (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial will resume on Monday morning, November 9, marked by the start of the defense's presentation of its exhibits. With three impeachment articles withdrawn, the defense is anticipated to call its witnesses on article II, or Duterte's alleged unexplained wealth. The defense requested subpoenas for 25 witnesses,

• House urged to exclude Labrador, Pangasinan from nuke plans (2026-11-09 06:00)

LABRADOR, Pangasinan — A community coalition in Labrador, Pangasinan, has asked a House technical working group to exclude their coastal town from proposed nuclear energy investments, citing threats to livelihoods and the risk of radioactive waste pollution. The request from Talindeg Pangasinan (TaPang) came in a formal opposition letter dated Oct. 14 addressed to the

• Bukidnon starts sugar milling season amid high production costs (2026-11-09 06:00)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — Trucks laden with freshly cut sugarcane filled the industrial yards of Bukidnon's major milling plants on Monday, marking the official opening of the 2026–2027 sugarcane milling season amid soaring production costs. Bukidnon's milling season commenced roughly a month after operations opened on Negros Island on October 1. Before the official rollout, stakeholder

• Lanao del Sur police recover P3M smuggled cigarettes on residents' tip (2026-11-09 06:00)

COTABATO CITY — Police recovered over P3 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes in Barangay Tacub, Pindolonan, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, following a tip from concerned residents. Authorities earlier received information from concerned citizens and local officials about the possible passage of three vehicles loaded with contraband on Saturday evening. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, Police

• Marcos swears in Zalameda as chief justice (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday, Nov. 9, administered the oath of office to Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda. In a ceremony at Malacañang, Marcos formalized Zalameda's appointment as the country's 28th chief justice, succeeding Alexander Gesmundo. READ: Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is new chief justice Gesmundo reached the mandatory retirement age of

• College ‘ban’ on hijab stirs controversy in Northern Mindanao (2026-11-09 06:00)

ILIGAN CITY — An alleged ban on wearing a hijab, a traditional headscarf worn by Muslim women, by a college here has stirred controversy in Northern Mindanao (Region 10), prompting the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) to bring a complaint against the school before the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Ustadz Abdul Jabbar Montañer,

• Over P27-B projects allegedly inserted for Romualdez — witness (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Over P27 billion worth of projects were allegedly inserted for former House Speaker Martin Romualdez upon the instructions of late Public Works Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral, a witness told the Sandiganbayan on Monday. READ: Cabral attempted suicide at home, says lawyer Peter Paul Cortez, chief of the Department of Public Works and

• VP Duterte trial: Defense presents Davao City assessor as first witness (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense panel in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial on Monday called a Davao City assessor as its first witness to debunk allegations of Duterte’s unexplained wealth. Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin is set to testify that Duterte’s property in Matina Crossing was disclosed in her statement of assets, liabilities

• 250 kilos of oil waste recovered after NGCP cable leak in Leyte (2026-11-09 06:00)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) recovered 250 kilos of oil-contaminated materials from the shoreline of Barangay Tugas in Tabango, Leyte, following an oil leak involving an underwater submarine cable belonging to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). The Marine Environmental Protection Unit-Western Leyte continued its shoreline cleanup operations on Monday,

• WATCH: Escudero says Sara Duterte’s defense submits 24-witness list (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has received a list of 24 witnesses from Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team as the trial resumes on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026. Presiding officer Francis Escudero informed the chamber of the developments during the court’s recess, including matters involving the sub judice rule and the presentation of

• Bato dela Rosa manhunt: PNP says it received at least 500 tips (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has received at least 500 pieces of information related to the manhunt for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said. “As I mentioned, there are no less than 500 [pieces of] information. These were properly validated; we went to the locations

• WATCH: Defense presents Davao City assessor as its first witness (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin takes his oath as the first witness for Vice President Sara Duterte as her impeachment trial resumes on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026./dp WATCH: Escudero says Sara Duterte defense submits 24-witness list

• Poa: Too early to discuss calling VP Duterte as witness in impeachment (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Defense counsel and spokesperson Michael Poa said on Monday that it was too early to discuss whether the defense would call Vice President Sara Duterte to testify in her impeachment trial. He made the statement before the defense team began presenting its evidence-in-chief on the 40th day of Duterte's trial, when asked

• Typhoon Cempaka enters PAR, named Samuel locally (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Cempaka entered the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Monday morning and was given the local name Samuel, the state weather bureau said. READ: Amihan to bring cooler weather to much of Luzon on Nov. 9 According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Samuel was last spotted

• Marcos leads distribution of laptops to public school teachers (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the nationwide distribution of laptops to public school teachers, beginning with the ceremonial turnover of 209 Apple MacBook Neo units in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. The event, held at Dagupan City National High School, kicked off the distribution under the Department of Education's (DepEd) Computerization Program.

• Atom hits 24/7 jail aide for Romualdez as 'special treatment' (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The civil society group August Twenty-One Movement (Atom) slammed the alleged "special treatment" given to former House Speaker Martin Romualdez at the New Quezon City Jail, questioning why he was reportedly allowed to have an assistant stay with him inside his detention cell. "In other countries, these types of incidents are not

• BJMP: Romualdez has 24/7 'on-call' aide for medical needs (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker Martin Romualdez has an aide who is on call 24 hours a day to attend to his medical needs, a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) official told the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Monday. BJMP Chief Superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion clarified her earlier testimony that Romualdez's aide, Arvin

• NFA sets palay buying price at P30 per kilo in 4 Ilocos provinces (2026-11-09 06:00)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—The National Food Authority (NFA) in the Ilocos Region is buying clean, dry palay at P30 per kilogram in La Union, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur for one week starting Monday, while offering P29 per kilogram in the Cordillera province of Abra. Based on an NFA Region 1 advisory on Monday,

• Davao land assessor: Carpio's Matina property listed in Duterte's SALN (2026-11-09 06:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A Davao City land assessor testified that a property owned by Atty. Manases Carpio, which was supposedly not declared by his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, was actually listed in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN). During the resumption of Duterte's impeachment trial on Monday, defense counsel Lindon Bacquel

• Church says suspect in Calapan student slay is not its pastor (2026-11-09 06:00)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Authorities have taken into police custody the prime suspect in the killing of a nursing student who was found dead at a vacant lot in Calapan City over the weekend, officials confirmed on Monday. The suspect was initially identified as a 26-year-old church pastor, who voluntarily surrendered to responding officers along

• Bishops in Visayas, Romblon renew opposition to Boracay casino (2026-11-09 00:01)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Catholic Church leaders in Western Visayas and Romblon province have renewed their opposition to casino operations in Boracay, warning that gambling could undermine family welfare and expose vulnerable communities to social and economic risks. In a joint statement made public on Sunday, the Church leaders expressed support for Kalibo Bishop Cyril

• LTO summons bus driver, operator in Quezon road accident (2026-11-09 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show-cause order against the driver of a passenger bus and its operator after a loose engine cover flew off and struck a bystander on the side of the road in Atimonan, Quezon, killing the victim. In a statement on Saturday, the LTO directed the

• 13 years after Yolanda, Tacloban carries lessons into every typhoon (2026-11-09 00:01)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — For 38-year-old Marian Edano, moving forward 13 years after Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) devastated this city does not mean forgetting the husband and relatives she lost to the disaster. Edano lost her husband, Jesus, and several relatives when their house in Sitio Alimasag, Barangay 88, San Jose district,

• P7.2-T budget, tax relief among legislative agenda (2026-11-09 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will put the P7.2-trillion 2027 budget on top of its agenda when it resumes session on Monday after its month-long break, with senators vowing tighter scrutiny and greater budget transparency. The House of Representatives, meanwhile, is seeking to fast-track President Marcos' priority measures, including tax relief for workers, the removal

• Gov't workers to get bonus, cash gift (2026-11-09 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Government employees will receive their year-end bonus equivalent to one month's salary and a P5,000 cash gift with their November pay, with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) directing agencies to ensure the benefits are released on schedule. The DBM said it had released P82.998 billion to cover the benefits of

• VP’s defense begins amid calls for her to testify (2026-11-09 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s lawyers face the task of disproving allegations that she amassed unexplained wealth while in office as her Senate impeachment trial resumes today, after a nearly monthlong recess and amid growing pressure for her to take the witness stand. Senate impeachment court spokesperson Reginald Tongol said the court has

• 3 motorcycle riders die in Quezon road crashes (2026-11-09 00:01)

LUCENA CITY — Three motorcycle riders died in separate road accidents in Quezon province on Saturday, Nov. 7, police said. In Calauag town, a 19-year-old male motorcycle rider and his 17-year-old back rider were traveling along a road in Barangay Sta. Maria when the driver suddenly lost control of the vehicle, according to a police

• WATCH: Sara Duterte impeachment trial | Nov. 9, 2026 (2026-11-09 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s defense team is set to begin presenting evidence as the Senate impeachment trial resumes Monday, Nov. 9, following a nearly monthlong recess, with the panel facing the challenge of addressing allegations of unexplained wealth. Senate impeachment court spokesperson Reginald Tongol said the court had served 22 of the

• Amihan to bring cooler weather to much of Luzon on Nov. 9 (2026-11-09 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Much of Luzon is forecast to experience cooler weather on Monday, Nov. 9, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the cooler weather is due to the expected strengthening of amihan or the northeast monsoon. READ: PH Weather Updates Today: Storm News and

• Typhoon Cempaka to enter PAR Monday, briefly stay before exiting Tuesday (2026-11-08 18:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Cempaka is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Monday morning and will get the local name Samuel, but is not expected to directly affect the country’s weather, according to the weather bureau. In its 11 p.m. advisory on Sunday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

• Prosecution sees VP’s possible ‘I didn’t know’ defense on bank accounts (2026-11-08 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The House impeachment trial prosecution panel believes Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s lawyers may argue that she was unaware of certain bank accounts and financial transactions linked to her and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, its legal spokesperson and. counsel Benjamin “Jay” Tolosa Jr. said over the weekend. Tolosa said

questions raised

• VP’s lawyers didn’t dispute authenticity of financial records – prosecution (2026-11-08 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The House prosecution panel over the weekend said Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s lawyers failed to challenge the authenticity of key financial records during the impeachment trial, focusing instead on bank secrecy and confidentiality objections that the Senate impeachment court has largely rejected. House prosecution legal spokesperson and private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa

• Private prosecutor Kapunan questions Cale88 production records (2026-11-08 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Counsel for the House prosecution panel Atty. Lorna Kapunan has questioned how Cale88 Foods Corp. organized its banana-chip export operations, pointing to workforce entries and production-inventory records examined during Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial. Kapunan contrasted the company’s reported business activity with the limited staffing reflected in its corporate filings and

• Lotto draw results on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026 (2026-11-08 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱500.61 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot or the ₱92.85 million Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw result: 22-14-01-42-09-08 Jackpot prize: ₱500.61 million Super Lotto 6/49 draw result: 34-39-38-18-47-36 Jackpot prize: ₱92.85 million Minor games The PCSO

• Hontiveros: Too early to say there’s already a number for VP conviction (2026-11-08 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — It’s still premature to say that there is already a number enough to convict or acquit Vice President Sara Duterte as her impeachment trial remains ongoing, according to Sen. Risa Hontiveros. “I think premature for me or for anyone to say that there is already a number for conviction or number for

• PCG recovers 1.66 kgs of oil-contaminated waste in Bataan oil spill (2026-11-08 12:01)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has transitioned to monitoring operations in Barangay Ipag, Mariveles, Bataan, after its active response efforts recovered 1,660 kilograms of oil-contaminated waste as of Nov. 7. —Photo from PCG MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has shifted to monitoring operations in Barangay Ipag, Mariveles, Bataan, after recovering 1,660 kilograms

• High daytime heat index, chilly nights logged in Pangasinan (2026-11-08 12:01)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The clash between the Super El Niño and the northeast monsoon, or “amihan,” is bringing cooler nights and scorching daytime temperatures to Pangasinan,

where the heat index has reached 40°C and above. The unusual weather pattern is associated with the shear line, a meteorological boundary where contrasting air masses meet. The interaction

• PNP chief orders cybercrime probe into socmed account impersonating him (2026-11-08 12:01)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has launched a cybercrime probe into a fraudulent Facebook account posing as its chief, while cautioning the public against fake social media profiles impersonating police officials. —Photo from PNP MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) ordered a cybercrime investigation into a fake Facebook account using its

• Hontiveros expects Sara Duterte to attend OVP budget deliberations (2026-11-08 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Sunday said she expects Vice President Sara Duterte to attend the budget deliberations of the Office of the Vice President (OVP) just like the heads of other government agencies do. "I expect her to appear, that was explicitly mentioned by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian during the committee hearing

• Clans in Lanao del Sur rido to face frustrated murder raps (2026-11-08 12:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Authorities will file criminal charges against two warring families that clashed on Saturday in Picong, Lanao del Sur, which stranded hundreds of motorists for several hours along the national highway connecting the cities of Pagadian and Cotabato. Col. Caezar Cabuhat, Lanao del Sur Provincial Police Office director, said that frustrated

• Laguna businessman shot dead (2026-11-08 12:01)

LUCENA CITY – A 40-year-old businessman was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding gunmen in Lumban, Laguna, on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 7, police said. In a report on Sunday, the Police Regional Office 4-A said the victim was standing in front of his water refilling station along Rizal Street in Barangay Primera Parang at 1:40 p.m.

• Valencia City LGU, farmers receive P6.6M agri equipment from DA (2026-11-08 12:01)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Northern Mindanao (Region 10) has extended farm equipment assistance to the city government and farmers' groups here worth around P6.6 million to boost farm production and livelihood opportunities. Jose Apollo Pacamalan, DA-10 regional director, and Valencia City Vice Mayor Greizl Galario-Fernandez signed the Memorandum of

• Suspected fake dentist busted in Agusan del Norte (2026-11-08 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Police operatives arrested a 36-year-old woman for allegedly practicing dentistry without a license during an entrapment operation at her home in Santiago, Agusan del Norte. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, Police Regional Office-13 (PRO-13) director, said personnel of the Regional Intelligence Division-13 carried out the operation last

Friday afternoon in

• Act on environmental woes, learn from Yolanda catastrophe, says church (2026-11-08 12:01)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Borongan called on communities to take concrete action against environmental destruction and protect vulnerable populations, saying the lessons of Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) should result in greater responsibility toward the environment. In a pastoral message issued on Sunday, coinciding with the 13th anniversary of Yolanda’s

• Woman found dead in Calapan was 20-year-old college student (2026-11-08 12:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A 20-year-old college student from Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, whose body was earlier found in a vacant lot in Barangay Sapul, Calapan City, is now being mourned by her school community as police intensify the investigation into her death. The Calapan City Police Station earlier reported that a woman’s body was

• Family of nursing student found dead in Calapan seeks justice (2026-11-08 12:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The family of a 20-year-old nursing student found dead in a vacant lot in Barangay Sapul here is seeking justice, vowing to continue speaking out until the truth behind her death is uncovered and those responsible are held accountable. Police said the body of the victim, identified only as “Maru,”

• MILF vows to work with gov’t to deliver Bangsamoro peace deal in full (2026-11-08 12:01)

COTABATO CITY — The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has committed to work with the national government to fully deliver the promises of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), saying it wants more than the formal conclusion of the peace process. “For its part, the MILF does not seek merely the formal conclusion of

• Cempaka intensifies into typhoon outside PAR (2026-11-08 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka intensified into a typhoon Sunday afternoon ahead of its expected entry into the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), according to the state weather bureau. In the tropical cyclone formation outlook issued at 4 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that the tropical cyclone

• WALANG PASOK: Class suspensions on Monday, Nov. 9 (2026-11-08 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Classes are suspended in some parts of the country on Monday, November 9. Classes in all levels (for public and private schools) are suspended in Cavite City to give way to the disinfection of schools and buildings. READ: WALANG PASOK: Marcos sets new rules on class suspension, resumption Meanwhile, November 9 was

• Skating ban on Siargao's 'Skate Road' met with opposition (2026-11-08 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Online protests and strong opposition from residents, community advocates, and tourism stakeholders met the imposed ban on skating, vendors and gatherings / activities on the iconic Malinao's "Skate Road" in General Luna, Siargao Island, with critics warning that the shutdown is a "severe blow" to grassroots livelihoods and island

• Cops probe into shooting of Leyte anti-mining advocate (2026-11-08 12:01)

TACLOBAN CITY — Police are continuing the probe into the shooting of a known anti-mining advocate at his residence in MacArthur, Leyte, on Nov. 6 as an environmental group condemned the attack and called for the immediate identification and arrest of those responsible. The victim, identified by police as Jesus Cabias, 53, a farmer and

• 26 wanted persons nabbed in Caraga operations (2026-11-08 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— The Caraga (Region 13) police arrested 26 wanted individuals in a series of coordinated operations on Saturday, November 7, highlighted by the capture of the region's fourth most wanted person (MWP) in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, Police Regional Office-13 (PRO-13) director, said the one-day operations yielded

• Storm Cempaka retains strength ahead of PAR entry (2026-11-08 06:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka maintained its strength on Sunday morning ahead of its expected entry into the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), when it will be given the local name Samuel, according to the weather bureau. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Cempaka

• Man shot in both legs in Palawan mangrove area; suspects flee (2026-11-08 06:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Police said two armed men shot a 39-year-old man several times in a mangrove area in Bataraza, Palawan, on Saturday night, Nov. 7, wounding him in both legs. The victim, identified only by the alias "James," is a married resident of Barangay Tarusan. The attack occurred around 8 p.m., according

• Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur among areas that have recovered from ASF (2026-11-08 06:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur are among the provinces that have recovered from African swine fever (ASF), marking progress in efforts to revive the local hog industry. The provinces have moved all their ASF-affected areas from red (infected) zones to pink (buffer) or yellow (surveillance) zones, according to the Department

• Police arrest 3 for stealing PCG member's gun in Tawi-Tawi (2026-11-08 06:01)

COTABATO CITY — Police in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, arrested three men on Saturday afternoon for allegedly stealing a pistol from a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) member. Authorities also

recovered other firearms from the suspects during the law enforcement operation in BarangayPababag, Bongao. In a report to the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region inMuslim Mindanao

• Severe tropical storm may enter PAR Sunday night or early Monday (2026-11-08 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by Sunday evening or early Monday morning, when it will be named Samuel, but it will not directly affect the country, according to the weather bureau. In its 5 a.m. Sunday weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services

• Two arrested in Dipolog buy-bust, shabu worth P340,000 seized (2026-11-08 06:01)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — Anti-narcotics agents arrested two suspected drug dealers and seized around 50 grams of suspected shabu worth P340,000 during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Sta. Isabel, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, on Nov. 6. In a report released Saturday evening, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Regional Office 9 identified

• PCG searches for missing fisherman off Polillo, Quezon (2026-11-08 06:01)

LUCENA CITY — Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel launched search and rescue operations for a 60-year-old fisherman who went missing in the waters off Polillo, Quezon, on Friday, Nov. 6. In a report, the PCG-Northern Quezon said the fisherman, a resident of Real town, left for a fishing trip aboard FBCA Triple J around noon

• Over 1,500 tobacco farmers in Ilocos Sur receive financial aid (2026-11-08 06:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The municipal government of Sinait in Ilocos Sur distributed financial assistance to 1,593 tobacco farmers in recognition of their contribution to the agriculture sector and local economy. The two-day distribution, held at the Municipal Auditorium, was led by Mayor Glenn Guzman through the Municipal Agriculture Office. Guzman assured the farmers

• Police probe discovery of unidentified woman’s body in Calapan (2026-11-08 06:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Police are investigating the discovery of an unidentified woman’s body in a vacant lot along a road in Barangay Sapul, Calapan City, early Saturday, Nov. 7. The Calapan City Police Station (CPS) said the body was discovered at 1:15 a.m. The victim was estimated to be between 20 and 30

• 3 soldiers hurt in Lanao del Sur clan war (2026-11-08 06:01)

COTABATO CITY — Three soldiers were wounded after responding to a rido, or clan, war in Picong, Lanao del Sur, on Saturday, Nov. 7, police said. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PRO-BAR), said the wounded soldiers were part of the government forces that responded to an

• Most wanted Dawlah Islamiyah member slain in Maguindanao del Sur (2026-11-08 06:01)

COTABATO CITY — Police killed the Bangsamoro region's most wanted fugitive and his companion before dawn Sunday, Nov. 8, after they allegedly resisted arrest and engaged lawmen in a gunfight in Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur. Col. John Michael Mangahis, Maguindanao del Sur police director, identified the fatalities as Amar Sansawi Usman, also known as Akhie

• DSWD turns over 4,000-liter water depot to Alabat, Quezon amid dry spell (2026-11-08 06:01)

LUCENA CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) turned over a community water depot to the local government of the island municipality of Alabat in Quezon province on Nov. 7, to help residents cope with water shortages caused by El Niño. The water depot has a storage capacity of 4,000 liters of

• LTO issues show cause order vs bus driver, operator after fatal accident (2026-11-08 06:01)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) issues a show cause order against a passenger bus driver and its operator following a fatal accident in Atimonan, Quezon, where a pedestrian was killed after being struck by the bus's detached engine cover. —Photo from LTO MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show cause

• Erwin Tulfo seeks safeguards for workers displaced by AI (2026-11-08 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo has filed a bill that seeks to provide safeguards for employees displaced by artificial intelligence (AI) amid reports of massive layoffs as companies adopt AI in their operations. While acknowledging that technological progress is inevitable, Tulfo, who chairs the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development, stressed

• Senate to release transcripts of 2027 budget bicam proceedings – Lacson (2026-11-08 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will release transcripts of 2027 budget bicam proceedings to boost transparency, alongside continuous livestreaming of the proceedings, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Sunday. Lacson said the transcripts would help lawmakers and the public identify who initiated amendments to the budget bill and who pushed for realignments of its items. "In the

• 13 years after Yolanda, Borongan diocese warns vs destructive mining (2026-11-08 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Thirteen years after Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) wreaked havoc in parts of Visayas, the Diocese of Borongan has called on the faithful to reject destructive mining, emphasizing that remembering the tragedy is not enough. In its message on Sunday, the Diocese of Borongan remembered the tragic incident that killed people,

• Sara Duterte conviction unlikely to spark mass protests – Ridon (2026-11-08 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's conviction is unlikely to spark massive protests, with a survey showing that half of Filipinos would accept the Senate Impeachment Court's ruling, according to Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon. Ridon, one of the prosecutors in Duterte's trial, said the vice president's supporters may instead rally support online rather

• This week's milestones: Nov. 8 to Nov. 14 (2026-11-08 00:01)

Nov. 9, 1965 The province of Samar was divided into three separate provinces—Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Western Samar (subsequently named Samar)—through a plebiscite which ratified Republic Act No. 4221, approved on June 19, 1965. The plebiscite coincided with the November 1965 general elections. Today, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Samar are all classified as

• Great bluff, true courage: Negros honors its heroes (2026-11-08 00:01)

BACOLOD CITY — The cannons roared, wooden rifles were raised, and "revolutionaries" marched through the streets of Bago City, bringing to life a daring episode in Negros Occidental's history when an army armed with little more than bamboo cannons and wooden guns fooled Spanish forces into surrendering. The spectacle unfolded on Thursday (Nov. 5) during

• Teachers without laptops top priority in DepEd rollout (2026-11-08 00:01)

The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued guidelines for the distribution of more than 231,000 laptops to public school teachers ahead of a nationwide rollout on Monday. "We want to ensure these laptops go to teachers who can maximize them most for teaching and learning, while keeping equity at the center by prioritizing teachers who

• Lawmakers to pass measure expanding nutrition program (2026-11-08 00:01)

Lawmakers have finalized the provisions of the proposed National Children's Nutrition Act, which will establish an expanded National Children's Nutrition Program that aims to address stunting among Filipino children. In a statement on Friday, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) said the new measure approved this month by the bicameral conference committee will

• Deaf airline passenger wins in decade-long discrimination case (2026-11-08 00:01)

A court has fined a former AirAsia senior cabin crew member for refusing to transport deaf passenger Khalil Haj in 2017, ruling that there was no genuine safety concern to justify treating him differently because of his disability. On Oct. 29, the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), Branch 1, in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

• 3 million PWD ID holders asked to register anew (2026-11-08 00:01)

About 3 million holders of persons with disabilities (PWDs) IDs will have to enroll in the new unified digital ID system that seeks to phase out the old physical IDs in the next three years and

flag bogus ones. Signed in July this year, Administrative Order (AO) No. 001, s. 2026, of theNational Council

• Quezon's 'Gamble': PH sheltering Jewish refugees recalled (2026-11-08 00:01)

Original poker cards owned by former President Manuel Quezon are on display at the Quezon Memorial Shrine in Quezon City as part of an exhibit revisiting his decision to shelter Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe before the breakout of World War II. The exhibit, titled "Ai360: Gamble of Compassion," opened on Oct. 29

• Baguio sees fewer tourists during Undas amid rising fuel prices (2026-11-07 18:01)

BAGUIO CITY — Tourist arrivals in Baguio declined by an estimated 15 percent to 18 percent during this year's observance of "Undas" (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day), with rising fuel prices and the prevailing economic situation cited as possible factors behind the drop. In a statement on Saturday (Nov. 7), the city government

• Polangui picked as site of second science high school in Bicol (2026-11-07 18:01)

LIGAO CITY — Barangay Matacon in Polangui, Albay, has been selected as the site of the second Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campus in the Bicol Region. In a Nov. 6 letter to Albay Rep. Raymond Adrian Salceda, PSHS System executive director Ronnalee Orteza said the site was chosen following an inspection and evaluation of

• 135 Naga City inmates registered for National ID (2026-11-07 18:01)

LEGAZPI CITY — At least 135 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the Naga City District Jail Male Dormitory have registered for the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said. The registration was conducted on Oct. 29 and 30 by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-Camarines Sur, which brought a

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 7: ₱341.27M jackpot not won (2026-11-07 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the ₱341.27 million Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot or the ₱10 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026. According to the PCSO results provided, the Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 22-43-34-12-06-27, with a jackpot of ₱341.27 million. No ticket

• Cebu archbishop: Budget insertions raise moral, accountability concerns (2026-11-07 18:01)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Cebu Archbishop Alberto "Abet" Uy on Friday (Nov. 6) warned that questionable insertions in the national budget could undermine public trust, fuel corruption and deprive poor communities of resources intended for essential services. In a pastoral reflection titled "Budget Insertions in the Philippines: A Question of Morality and Accountability," Uy said budget

• Oriental Mindoro logs 117,000 unemployed, underemployed in 2025 (2026-11-07 18:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — An estimated 117,000 residents of Oriental Mindoro were either unemployed or underemployed in 2025, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) published on its official website this week. Of this figure, 21,000 were unemployed, while another 96,000 were underemployed — meaning they had jobs but wanted to work

• Angara pushes stronger online safeguards as school shootings raise alarm (2026-11-07 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Education Secretary Sonny Angara urged technology and social media companies to strengthen age-verification measures and remove online content that promotes violence, as the government seeks to address a series of deadly school shootings and the growing threat of online radicalization among young learners. The call comes following three fatal school shootings in

• 1,000 initial college scholarship slots validated for Mimaropa (2026-11-07 18:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Around 1,000 scholarship slots have been validated and evaluated in the Mimaropa (Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region under the Bagong Pilipinas Merit Scholarship Program (BPMSP), which will provide selected college students with P45,000 in financial assistance for School Year 2026–2027. The program supports academically deserving senior high

• Cops seize P430,000 worth of shabu, pistol in Cotabato town (2026-11-07 18:01)

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato — Police arrested a 43-year-old man and seized a haul of suspected shabu and a .45-caliber pistol during the implementation of a search warrant in Kabacan, Cotabato on Friday, Nov. 6. The suspect, identified by police only as alias “Sam,” was arrested around 4:20 a.m. at his residence in Purok 6,

• Court orders arrest of ex-radioman in Bukidnon for cyberlibel (2026-11-07 18:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A former radio personality is refusing to back down after a Bukidnon court ordered his arrest for cyber libel, claiming the charges are direct retaliation for his outspoken advocacy. Rodel Claro, who currently works as a senior publishing and marketing consultant for a US-based company, is facing three criminal charges

• Spending program, revenue code top agenda in first BARMM Cabinet meeting (2026-11-07 18:01)

COTABATO CITY – The preparation of the 2027 expenditure program as well as refinements in a proposed revenue code for the region topped the agenda of the first meeting of the Bangsamoro Cabinet on Friday. Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua presided over the meeting, reminding that “the success of the regular Bangsamoro Government would be measured

• Siblings nabbed in Butuan buy-bust; P125,000 ‘shabu’ seized (2026-11-07 18:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— Police arrested two siblings tagged as “high-value individuals” and seized more than P125,000 worth of suspected crystal meth, locally known as “shabu,” during a buy-bust operation in Butuan City on Thursday, Nov. 5. Brig. Gen. Rolindo M. Suguilon, director of Police Regional Office 13 (Caraga), identified the suspects through their

• Negros First CyberCentre goes solar (2026-11-07 18:01)

BACOLOD CITY – The Negros First CyberCentre here is following into the footsteps of an increasing number of establishments in the country seeking green options as it officially transitions to clean energy following the successful installation of 949 solar panels at the facility. Provincial Administrator Rayfrando Diaz announced Friday, Nov. 6, that the project was

• 16 local governments in Soccsksargen get P520M for quake recovery (2026-11-07 18:01)

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato — Some 16 local government units in Soccsksargen or Region 12 have received a total of P520 million in national government assistance to help rebuild communities damaged by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck off the coast of Sarangani province in June. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the ceremonial turnover of

• Cops, MGB personnel seize P45-M gear of ‘Chinese-backed’ illegal mine (2026-11-07 18:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Authorities swooped down on a suspected illegal mining operation masquerading as a quarry in the hinterlands of this city before dawn on Friday, November 6, seizing some P45 million worth of heavy machinery. The 4 a.m. raid in Sitio Pin-as, Barangay Tuburan, also resulted in the arrest of six workers

• Cagayan de Oro scraps year-end revelry to build ‘Super El Niño’ resilience (2026-11-07 18:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Mayor Rolando Uy has canceled City Hall’s 2026 year-end party, shifting the local government’s resources from holiday festivities to survival measures ahead of the anticipated “Super El Niño” In a video advisory Friday, November 6, the City Information Office announced the pivot to strict austerity and disaster preparedness. The move channels

• Ridon calls VP Duterte spox remarks a ‘deluded statement’ (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Impeachment trial prosecutor and Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon called the camp of Vice President Sara Duterte’s claim that the House prosecution had failed to establish its case a “deluded statement.” READ: Sara Duterte’s spox: Prosecution in impeach trial failed to prove its case Lawyer Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr., the vice

• 2 nabbed in illegal fuel operation in Batangas City (2026-11-07 12:01)

LUCENA CITY—Two men were arrested for allegedly engaging in the unauthorized transfer and trading of petroleum products during an anti-illegal fuel operation in Batangas City on Friday, Nov. 6, police said. The Police Regional Office 4A (PRO-4A) said in a report on Saturday that the Batangas police intelligence unit received information from a concerned citizen

- Surigao del Sur vegetable growers tap smartphone apps to wipe pests (2026-11-07 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — For years, local vegetable growers in the agricultural town of San Miguel in Surigao del Sur have followed a costly and exhausting routine. This practice constitutes dousing their plots with synthetic pesticides every week just to keep invasive insects at bay. Now, local growers are swapping routine chemical drenching

- BFAR gears up for sardine fishing ban in northeastern Mindanao (2026-11-07 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Commercial and municipal sardine fishing across 11 coastal towns and cities in northeastern Mindanao will temporarily halt starting next month. This comes after marine scientists warned that local fish populations have dropped to critical levels. The three-month annual moratorium, running from Dec. 1 to March 1 next year, is

- BOC: P4.1M illegal cigarettes seized in Negros Occidental (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Around P4.1 million worth of illegal cigarettes hidden inside a refrigerated van was seized by authorities in Negros Occidental, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) reported. The BOC said on Saturday, Nov. 7, that the joint operation with the Philippine National Police (PNP) stemmed from an intelligence report regarding a suspected van carrying

- Kapunan questions P568-M gap between Cale88 sales, bank inflows (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — House private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan on Friday raised questions over a massive P568-million discrepancy between the declared sales and actual bank deposits of Cale88 Foods Corp., a firm linked to Vice President Sara Duterte’s husband, lawyer Manases Carpio. At a press briefing, Kapunan noted that while Cale88 declared only P208.49 million in

- Sara Duterte defense lacks counter-witness on P817M asset gap — Kapunan (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio has failed to present an expert witness to counter the financial findings of the prosecution panel, lawyer Lorna Kapunan said Saturday. Kapunan, a counsel for the House prosecutors, expressed surprise after examining the list of 25 defense witnesses submitted to the Senate impeachment court,

- Prosecution: Answer Sara Duterte’s alleged ₱818-M unexplained wealth (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel is urging the defense team of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte to address nearly ₱818 million in alleged unexplained wealth as the

Senate impeachment court prepares to hear defense evidence on Monday, Nov. 9. Speaking atthe Saturday News Forum in Quezon City, Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry

- PNP logs 8 cybercrime convictions, 144 referred cases in October (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded eight cybercrime convictions and 144 referred cases that involved various online offenses for the month of October. According to the PNP, the eight recorded convictions reflected its sustained efforts to prevent cyber-related criminal acts. Meanwhile, the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group also logged 144 referred cases that involved

- Prosecution questions alleged lavish card spending by VP Duterte husband (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A House impeachment prosecutor said Saturday that the alleged lavish credit card spending of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte's husband, lawyer Manases "Mans" Carpio, is among the key issues the defense must explain when it begins presenting evidence before the Senate impeachment court on Monday, Nov. 9. Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry

- DepEd prioritizes 1st-time recipients in laptop rollout for teachers (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued guidelines for the distribution of 231,725 newly procured laptops to public school teachers, with nationwide deployment scheduled to begin on Nov. 9. Education Secretary Sonny Angara announced that the guidelines under the Laptops for Teachers (L4T) initiative aim to prioritize educators who have never received

- Pagasa: Cloudy skies, rains to affect most of PH on Sunday (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Cloudy skies with rains may continue to affect parts of the country on Sunday, Nov. 8, due to the persistence of three weather systems, the state weather bureau reported. In its 4 p.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the easterlies may continue bring cloudy

- Proposed law seeks to expand feeding program to address stunting (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers are seeking to establish a National Children's Nutrition Program that aims to address stunting among Filipino children through an expanded feeding program targeting learners in daycare centers and public schools. In a statement on Friday, Nov. 6, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) noted that the Senate and House

- DENR on maximum alert vs wildfires amid 'very strong' El Niño (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has elevated wildfire prevention to maximum alert status nationwide as the onset of a "Very

Strong” El Niño triggers extreme heat and severe vegetation drying across grasslands and forests. Environment Secretary Juan Miguel “Mitch” Cuna said regional offices have rolled out comprehensive interventions—including total

• Gov’t workers to get year-end bonus, P5k cash gift with 1st November pay (2026-11-07 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Government workers should receive their year-end bonus and P5,000 cash gift together with their first salary this November, with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) reminding agencies to release the benefits on schedule. In a statement on Saturday, the DBM said it had already released the P82.998 billion needed to cover the

• Heatwave fuels 54% fire surge in Northern Mindanao (2026-11-07 06:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — As a punishing weekend heatwave threatens to push this city’s heat index into the “danger” zone. This condition comes as authorities are raising the alarm over a deadly 54-percent spike in fire emergencies across Northern Mindanao. State meteorologists project the “feels-like” temperature to hit a blistering 41 degrees Celsius this

• Amihan, easterlies, shear line to bring rains across country (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A shear line is forecast to affect the eastern section of southern Luzon, while the northeast monsoon (amihan) and the easterlies are expected to bring rains over parts of the country on Saturday, Nov. 7. In its 5 a.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that

• Maguindanao del Sur village councilman survives ambush (2026-11-07 06:01)

COTABATO CITY — An unidentified gunman tried, but failed, to kill a village councilman in Datu Piang, Maguindanao del Sur on Friday, Nov. 6, police said. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson of Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), identified the victim as Abdul Manab Guialodin, village councilor of Barangay Liong. Liong sustained several gunshot wounds from

• Civilians surrender guns to military in Tacurong City (2026-11-07 06:01)

COTABATO CITY — Twelve assorted firearms and other war materiel were voluntarily surrendered to the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion. The turnover was done during a ceremony held in Barangay Tina, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat on Friday, November 6. The action is part of the Army unit’s 27th founding anniversary rites. Lt. Col. Raul Escat, commanding

• Sara Duterte’s spox: Prosecution in impeach trial failed to prove its case (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte’s camp on Saturday accused the impeachment prosecution panel of relying on speculation and misleading public statements.

The allegation comes as the defense prepares to present its case when the Senateimpeachment trial resumes on Monday, Nov. 9. In a statement, lawyer Salvador Paolo PaneloJr., the vice president's

• Three-month sardines fishing ban in Tacloban's Sogod Bay starts Dec. 1 (2026-11-07 06:01)

TACLOBAN CITY— Sardine fishing in Sogod Bay in Southern Leyte will be suspended for three months beginning Dec. 1. The move is meant to allow fish stocks to replenish and reproduce, which is part of the government's annual conservation program, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said. The closed fishing season covers Fisheries

• In Photos: A glimpse of birdlife in Cabusao wetlands (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — From great egrets spreading their wings across the sky to collared kingfishers perched along muddy shores, the Cabusao Wetlands Critical Habitat in Camarines Sur is home to various bird species captured in photographs released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bicol. The photos feature great egrets, Javan pond herons,

• Baguio task force seizes 81 kilos of spoiled fish in supermarket inspection (2026-11-07 06:01)

BAGUIO CITY—A total of more than 81 kilograms of spoiled fish were confiscated by city authorities during an inspection of supermarkets in the city's central business district and along Magsaysay Avenue recently. In a statement on Friday (Nov. 6), the Baguio City Public Information Office said the Meat and Fishery Products Monitoring Task Force issued

• LTO suspends license of SUV driver linked to cellphone seller's death (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines—The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has placed a driver's license under preventive suspension and ordered the impounding of his sport utility vehicle (SUV). These actions come following an incident that left a cellphone seller dead along Edsa in Mandaluyong City on Nov. 1. While the investigation is ongoing, the LTO directed the driver to

• LTO suspends license of driver who hit rider with baseball bat (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines—The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has put under preventive suspension the license of a driver who was caught on video hitting a motorcycle rider with a baseball bat. This happed during a road rage on Mabini Bridge (Nagtahan) in Manila on Nov. 4. The video showed the driver striking the rider with a baseball

• Private operator takes over 2,100 CCTV cameras at Naia (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) public-private partnership concession agreement, the operational control of more than 2,100 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the country's main gateway was formally turned over to the New

Naia Infra Corp. (NNIC). The agreement between the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA),

• Deaf passenger wins discrimination case vs ex-AirAsia crew (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A court has convicted a former AirAsia senior cabin crew member of discriminating against three deaf passengers who were offloaded from a flight in 2017. The Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), Branch 1, in Puerto Princesa found Richie A. Rojas liable under Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for

• Supreme Court sets guidelines in quantifying child support (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has come up with guidelines in computing the amount of child support in cases where there is no written agreement or where adjustments are needed. The Guidelines on Fixing of Child Support, approved by the high court en banc on Nov. 6, complements the related rules under the Family

• DepEd issues guidelines for laptop turnover to public school teachers (2026-11-07 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued the guidelines for the distribution of more than 231,000 laptops to public school teachers ahead of its nationwide rollout on Monday, Nov. 9. “We want to ensure these laptops go to teachers who can maximize them most for teaching and learning, while keeping equity at

• DA warns Eastern Visayas farmers, fishers as El Niño worsens dry spell (2026-11-07 06:01)

TACLOBAN CITY — Farmers and fisherfolk in Eastern Visayas were urged by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to take precautions against extreme heat. The request comes as prolonged dry conditions due to the effects of the El Nino phenomenon threaten the agricultural production. Gandara town in Samar has declared a state of calamity through a

• PCG flags registration, clearance violations of 2 capsized boats (2026-11-07 06:01)

LUCENA CITY—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is telling boat owners and operators to comply with maritime safety regulations and secure the necessary permits and registration papers before sailing. The action comes following the capsizing of two unregistered vessels in the waters off northern Quezon on Nov. 3 and 4. “The PCG once again reminded all

• Ibagiw festival showcases Baguio’s evolving creative scene (2026-11-07 00:01)

BAGUIO CITY—Artists and craftsmen in this city opened the 2026 annual Ibagiw Creative Festival on Friday to showcase Baguio’s evolving art scene, on the run-up to its 10th anniversary in 2027 as the country’s pioneer “Creative City.” The city was declared a Creative City in 2017 for folk arts and crafts by the United Nations

• New BARMM education chief vows improved learning outcomes (2026-11-07 00:01)

COTABATO CITY—The newly appointed education minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) vowed to improve learning outcomes in the region as part of its promise to effectively deliver the dividends of peace to the Bangsamoro people. Member of the Parliament Naguib Sinarimbo took his oath as head of the Ministry of Basic,

• Impeach court: COA docs for Article 1 can't be used for 2 (2026-11-07 00:01)

The Senate impeachment court has decided to reject the reuse of the evidence that was presented against Vice President Sara Duterte in the allegations against her that the House prosecution panel had dropped. According to a Nov. 5 order from the impeachment court made public on Friday, the impeachment court specifically excluded thousands of documents

• Cheers, jeers greet Zalameda appointment as SC chief (2026-11-07 00:01)

Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda on Friday took his oath as the 28th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with a promise to maintain judicial independence and integrity. In the oath administered by Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, Zalameda vowed to always be guided by the principle that "public office is a public trust." READ: Rodil

• SC upholds law extending barangay, SK officials' terms (2026-11-07 00:01)

The Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutionality of the law that amended the terms of office of barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (BSK) officials and deferred the elections to another two years. Then Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda wrote the Oct. 14 decision, one of his last ponencias before taking over the Supreme Court as Chief Justice.

• Palace wants probe on why Romualdez allowed aide (2026-11-07 00:01)

Malacañang on Friday called for a "deeper" investigation into why Martin Romualdez was allowed to have a personal aide assist him in the New Quezon City Jail—where the former Speaker and President Marcos' cousin is detained for plunder. Palace press officer Claire Castro said this special treatment, if proven, would constitute "extravagance." READ: Palace wants

• Legarda seeks inquiry on dumping of pet remains (2026-11-07 00:01)

Sen. Loren Legarda on Friday filed Senate Resolution No. 759 calling for an investigation into the alleged dumping of remains of dogs and cats in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. "Our pets are cherished members of our families. READ: Legarda seeks probe into 'unconscionable' dumping of pet remains Entrusting their remains to a cremation service

• Marcos, MILF to sign exit agreement before 2028 (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) committed to signing exit agreement before 2028, marking the completion of the Bangsamoro peace process, Palace press officer Claire Castro said on Friday. The commitment was discussed during Marcos' meeting with MILF Chairman Ahod "Al Haj Murad" Ebrahim

in Malacañang on Thursday.

• Impeachment court insists docs not in complaints vs VP can be subpoenaed (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate Impeachment Court has shot down the recurring claim made by Vice President Sara Duterte's legal team about the prosecution using evidence not part of the original complaints against her, saying that documents can be the subject of subpoenas. In its order dated November 5 and released to the media on

• Bulacan couple, helper charged over dumped pets in cremation scandal (2026-11-06 18:01)

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, Bulacan — A couple operating a pet crematorium and their worker have been charged before the City of San Jose del Monte Prosecutor's Office over the dumping of 25 dead pets in the city last week. The three suspects were identified following an investigation by the San Jose del

• Legarda: Cheap water for poor, regulated business use for El Niño (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — To offset the effects of El Niño, the government should ensure more affordable water rates for low-income families and stronger measures to curb excessive commercial water consumption, Sen. Loren Legarda urged in a statement issued on Friday. She stressed that this is the second priority under a 10-Point Policy Action Plan that

• Group urges passage of bill institutionalizing standard nutrition care (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The nutrition and dietetics (ND) regulatory board and several other health organizations called on Congress to push for institutionalized nutrition care in public and private hospitals nationwide. The group emphasized the need for a standardized Nutrition Care Process (NCP) in hospital management in hospitals across the country through the passage of House

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 6: ₱489.85M jackpot not won (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱489.85 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot or the ₱15 million Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026. According to the PCSO results, the Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw produced the winning combination 09-26-10-04-02-47, with a jackpot prize of ₱489.85 million. No

• Cops seize P3.1M in contraband cigarettes in Cotabato town (2026-11-06 18:01)

COTABATO CITY -– A police checkpoint operation on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5, in Midsayap, Cotabato led to the foiled entry of over P3.1 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in the province. Colonel Ramel Hojilla, Cotabato police provincial director, said that upon discovery of the goods, the cargo truck driver, identified as alias "Lau," was unable to

• BARMM chief names Islamic adviser to boost moral governance drive (2026-11-06 18:01)

COTABATO CITY – Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua has created the Office of the Senior Adviser to the Chief Minister (OSACM) to provide expert advice and recommendation to the government on matters concerning religious and interfaith affairs, moral governance, policy, and administration. Macacua issued Executive Order No. 10 on Friday creating the the OSACM which

• Missing man from Lipa City found dead in Taal Lake area (2026-11-06 18:01)

LUCENA CITY—Search teams recovered the body of a 32-year-old man who had been reported missing near Taal Lake in Lipa City, Batangas, on Oct. 31. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Batangas Station said in a report released late Friday afternoon (Nov. 6) that the man’s body was found floating near Barangay Saimsim in the municipality of

• Power fluctuations in Ilocos Norte traced to NGCP’s low voltage supply (2026-11-06 18:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative Inc. (INEC) has traced reports of fluctuating electricity supply in the province to low voltage delivery from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). In an advisory Friday (Nov. 6), INEC stated that its investigation of power lines and electrical systems found the fluctuations

• Police, DepEd ink school safety pact in Zamboanga Sibugay province (2026-11-06 18:01)

IPIL, Zamboanga Sibugay — In a pioneering move to safeguard schools against rising safety threats and digital risks, the Zamboanga Sibugay Police Provincial Office (ZSBPPO) and the Department of Education (DepEd) Zamboanga Sibugay Division signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5, launching “Project AKLAT.” Short for Project Alalay ang Kapulisan para sa

• Baguio creates task force to monitor sale of imported agricultural crops (2026-11-06 18:01)

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Benjamin Magalong created a city task force to monitor the sale of imported agricultural crops in Baguio and ensure compliance with national importation, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. In a statement on Friday, Nov. 6, the Baguio Public Information Office said Magalong issued Executive Order No. 177, series of 2026, on Wednesday,

• Romblon logs 793 dengue cases, 7 deaths in 10 months (2026-11-06 18:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Health authorities in Romblon urged residents to strengthen preventive measures against infectious diseases after the province recorded 793 dengue cases, including seven deaths, from January to October 2026. Data from the Romblon Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU), covering morbidity weeks 1 to 44, showed that 786 dengue patients recovered

• Baguio promotes recycled materials in Ibag-iw, Christmas festivities (2026-11-06 18:01)

BAGUIO CITY—The city government is incorporatig its circular economy program into major public celebrations, including the ongping Ibag-iw Creative Festival and Christmas events, to reduce waste and promote the reuse of materials. According to Mayor Benjamin Magalong, the initiative is part of the city’s “Pansa-nopen Tayo” program, which promotes responsible resource use by treating discarded

• Culiat Bridge II to open to buses starting Saturday (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said that Culiat Bridge II along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City will be open to buses on Saturday, Nov. 7. Newly appointed Public Works and Highways Secretary Giovanni Lopez ordered the reopening of the bridge starting at 6 a.m. on Saturday. READ: Culiat Bridge

• Baguio robbery cases jump 78.6% as index crimes slightly rise (2026-11-06 18:01)

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) recorded a 2.1-percent increase in index crimes from January 1 to October 25, 2026, with robbery and motorcycle carnapping among the offenses that increased compared with the same period last year. In a report on Wednesday, Nov. 4, BCPO City Director Police Col. Nixon Laoyan said 243 index

• Kapunan: Defense’s ‘I don’t know’ alibi makes VP Duterte look ‘dumb’ (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Should the defense panel for the impeachment trial insist that Vice President Sara Duterte was unaware of the documents bearing her signature, it would only prove that the country’s second-highest official is dumb, lawyer Lorna Kapunan said on Friday. Kapunan, one of the private lawyers assisting the prosecution panel, said at a

• LTFRB approves permits for 20 buses to augment LRT-2 services (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has approved special permits for 20 buses to serve two routes between Antipolo City, Rizal, and Metro Manila as part of efforts to ease congestion among Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) commuters. The buses will serve the Antipolo-Legarda route in Manila and the

• Fire hits mall in Makati City Friday evening (2026-11-06 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A fire broke out at a commercial establishment inside the Makati Central Square along Chino Roces Avenue in Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City, on Friday evening, Nov. 6. The blaze was first reported at around 6:06 p.m. READ: Fire breaks out in Makati City residential area According to the Bureau of

• Remulla to BJMP: Report on Romualdez’s personal aide within 48 hours (2026-11-06 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday directed the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to submit a comprehensive report regarding the

authorization of former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez's personal helper within48 hours. His directive follows BJMP's admission before the Sandiganbayan Third Division thatit allowed Romualdez's staff to attend

• Estate Water desalination to boost supply in vulnerable areas (2026-11-06 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Estate Water, a Non-East Zone operating unit of Manila Water, is expanding its portfolio of innovative water solutions through the investment and operation of a seawater desalination facility at Ayala Land's Lio Tourism Estate in Palawan. The initiative reinforces its capability to deliver a reliable and sustainable water supply even in areas with

• Keep Christmas parties simple as peak of Super El Niño looms – Palace (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday encouraged the public to keep the upcoming holiday celebrations simple as the country braces for the peak of Super El Niño. At a briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said government agencies concerned are preparing for the effects of Super El Niño, which include drought and possible water supply interruptions.

• Budget watchdog welcomes Dy's transparency commitment (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A leading member of the People's Budget Coalition (PBC) welcomed Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III's commitment to greater transparency and accountability in the national budget process and to working with civil society groups to achieve those goals. In a Facebook post, Kenneth Isaiah Ibasco Abante, a PBC member, thanked Dy for meeting

• VP Duterte defense withdraws Dean Sarmiento as witness (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The defense panel in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial has withdrawn its subpoena request for former law dean Ralph Sarmiento. In a manifestation submitted to the impeachment court on Thursday, Nov. 5, the defense panel requested that the court either cancel or recall the subpoena for Sarmiento. "Respondent-Accused, by counsel, respectfully

• Air Force retires iconic Huey helicopters as Black Hawks take over (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has retired its last six operational UH-1H helicopters after newer Black Hawks took over most of their transport and disaster-response missions. PAF spokesperson Col. Alvin Jay Capinguian said on Friday that all six helicopters were still operational before their formal decommissioning on Thursday at Brig. Gen. Benito

• Palace wants probe into Romualdez's 24/7 QC jail aide (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday called for a deeper investigation into why former Speaker Martin Romualdez was allowed to have a personal staff member to assist him inside the city jail. New Quezon City Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion told the Sandiganbayan Third Division that Romualdez had a 24/7 assistant based on "humanitarian grounds," adding

• Remulla to sue sources of fake news on his health, Romualdez's case (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla announced on Friday that he will file complaints against vloggers and Facebook pages spreading false information on his health and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez's case at the Sandiganbayan. He said the Office of the Ombudsman will file complaints with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

• Legarda files resolution probing pet remains scam in Bulacan (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda on Friday filed a legislative resolution seeking to investigate the alleged dumping of remains of dogs and cats in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Legarda, through Senate Resolution No. 759, aims to open a Senate probe into reports involving Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, which

• Ombudsman to inspect Payatas jail over reported Romualdez escort (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – The Office of the Ombudsman will conduct unannounced inspections at the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas following reports that detained former House Speaker Martin Romualdez was escorted out of his dormitory by a jail warden. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla announced the planned inspections on Friday, Nov. 6, warning that Bureau of

• Anti-narcotics agents seize P714,000 worth of shabu in CDO sting (2026-11-06 12:01)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Anti-narcotics operatives seized P714,000 worth of suspected shabu and arrested an alleged "high-value" drug personality in a late-night sting in Barangay 35 here on Thursday. The suspect, identified only by the alias "Atang," 42, was arrested at around 10:35 p.m. during a joint buy-bust operation, the Police Regional Office-10 (PRO-10)

• PCSO, NBI bust Caloocan lotto outlet fronting for illegal numbers game; teller nabbed (2026-11-06 12:01)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), raided an authorized lotto outlet on Wednesday, Nov. 4, after undercover operatives caught the establishment using its government license as a cover to run an illegal numbers racket. Operatives from the PCSO and the NBI Fraud and Financial Crimes Division

• LOOK: Rodil Zalameda takes oath as new chief justice (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Rodil Zalameda on Friday took his oath as the country's 28th chief justice, a day after Malacañang announced his appointment. All 15 members of the Supreme Court en banc, including outgoing Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo who was on his last day in office, were present in the oathtaking ceremony. READ: Who is

• Alleged drug trafficker caught with P5M in marijuana in Benguet (2026-11-06 12:01)

BAGUIO CITY — A 21-year-old construction worker was arrested on Thursday night when police caught him with about 43 kilograms of marijuana at Puguis in the Benguet capital town of La

Trinidad. Police officers from the La Trinidad Municipal Police Station were conducting patroloperations in the area when they spotted two parked vehicles and

• Pangasinan-owned college granted Institutional Recognition by CHED (2026-11-06 12:01)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan – The Pangasinan Polytechnic College (PPC) has received Institutional Recognition (IR) from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), less than three years after its inception. PPC President Emeritus Raymundo Rovillos said the IR was the “formal stamp that established PPC as a full-fledged higher education institution, and makes the college eligible for government

• DPWH: Phase 2 of Edsa rehabilitation works to resume Friday evening (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Friday advised motorists to take alternative routes as it continues road reblocking and rehabilitation work along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa). In an advisory, the DPWH said that Phase 2 of the Edsa rehabilitation project will resume on Friday, at around 10

• Ombudsman: 4 more lawmakers face flood control preliminary probe (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Friday disclosed that there are four more congressmen under preliminary investigation in connection with the anomalous flood control projects. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said that there are at least 79 cases linked to the alleged irregularities of flood control government projects in the country, with 25

• UPLB official defends stray animal memo, cites student safety (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) defended a directive issued by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs prohibiting security guards from feeding or sheltering stray animals, particularly dogs, and from allowing them to roam or stay inside or near university

• LTFRB extends TNVS drivers’ regularization deadline by 30 days (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Drivers of Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) units operating under the so-called “tempo” status have been given an additional 30 days to apply for regularization, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said Friday, November 6. The extension gives TNVS drivers more time to secure authorization for their vehicles, which transport

• Pampanga pet crematorium closed for lack of business permit (2026-11-06 12:01)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — The City of San Fernando’s Inter-Agency Lawful Business Operations Coordination Task Force (IALBOCTF) shut down an animal crematorium in Barangay Panipuan for lack of a business permit. In a statement on Thursday evening, the San Fernando City Hall said its IALBOCTF inspected the Holistic Animal Doctor Crematorium on November 3. While

• SC affirms 5-year term for barangay, SK execs; next polls in Nov. 2028 (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines–The Supreme Court (SC) has upheld the constitutionality of Republic Act No. (RA) 12326, affirming the extension of terms of office for barangay officials and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) members to five years and scheduling the next Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) for November 2028. In a decision written by now Chief Justice Rodil

• Kapunan: VP Duterte defense has no reason to avoid tackling evidence (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte has no reason to avoid addressing the prosecution's evidence already submitted to the Senate impeachment court when the trial resumes on Nov. 9. In a statement on Friday, private prosecutor Lorna Kapuna pointed out that the court had already affirmed the admissibility of key evidence

• 8-hour power interruption set in parts of Ilocos Sur on Nov. 12 (2026-11-06 12:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO,, Ilocos Sur — Several areas in Vigan City and in five nearby municipalities of Ilocos Sur will experience a power interruption on Nov. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. due to upgrading, maintenance and clearing of electrical lines, according to the Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative Inc. (ISECO). In Vigan City, the affected

• OSG urges SC: Define which flagged projects could continue (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Government lawyers have asked the Supreme Court to clarify which projects in the unprogrammed appropriations under the 2024 and 2025 national budgets may continue despite the Court declaring such funding unconstitutional. The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) filed an 85-page motion for clarification and partial reconsideration on Nov. 4 to the

• Rescue group slams UPLB memo on stray animals (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — An animal rescue group called for "systemic change" as it expressed concern over a directive issued by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) prohibiting security guards from feeding or sheltering stray animals. "Stray animals will not simply disappear because we stop feeding them or drive them away," the Philippine Animal

• La Union prepares for worst of El Niño (2026-11-06 12:01)

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union — The La Union provincial government is distributing drought-resilient crop seeds and farm inputs, installing solar-powered irrigation systems, rehabilitating water impounding structures and expanding rainwater harvesting facilities as it prepares for the anticipated effects of a Super El Niño. These interventions aim to sustain agricultural production, protect farmers' livelihoods and

• Palace tells Filipinos to upskill as 'AI era' sets in (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday urged Filipino workers to acquire artificial intelligence (AI)-related skills to keep pace with changing labor market demands as the country navigates the “AI era.” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said that while AI may lead to job losses in some sectors, it could also create new employment opportunities, including higher-paying jobs.

• Verbal spat to ‘power hug’: Castro, Magalong strike a friendlier note (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — From verbal exchanges to a “power hug,” Palace press officer Claire Castro and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong appear to have put their past differences behind them. At a briefing on Friday, Castro said she interacted with Magalong during the ceremonial turnover of Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program (DRRAP) funds to local

• DepEd saves ₱1.4B in landmark procurement of laptops via open bidding (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines— The Department of Education (DepEd) saved at least P1.4 billion in procuring more than 231,000 laptops for public school teachers through an open and competitive bidding instead of through a negotiated procurement, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement on Friday. The procurement covers 169,008 Mac-based and 62,717 Windows-based laptops for teachers. The

• Kapunan: VP Duterte will be worst witness in her impeachment trial (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — While she hopes that Vice President Sara Duterte will still show up for her impeachment trial, counsel for the prosecution Lorna Kapunan does not expect this to happen since the country’s second-highest official will be the worst witness in her own case. Kapunan, in a press briefing on Friday at the Batasang

• 3 areas under dangerous level heat index on Saturday — Pagasa (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Three areas are forecast to continue to experience dangerous levels of heat on Saturday, Nov. 7, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 p.m. heat index forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the heat index in San Jose in Occidental Mindoro and La Granda, La

• INQToday: Palace wants probe into Romualdez’s 24/7 QC jail aide (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday’s top stories on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026, as of 6 p.m. Palace wants probe into Romualdez’s 24/7 QC jail aide Malacañang called for a deeper investigation on Friday into why former Speaker Martin Romualdez was allowed to have a personal staff member to assist him inside the city jail.

• Ridon happy with Senate order: Most of our evidence admitted (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the Senate Impeachment Court not admitting some audit reports as evidence for the unexplained wealth charge against Vice President Sara Duterte, public prosecutor and Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon considers it as a win since most of their presentations were considered. In a video statement on Friday, Ridon thanked the Senate

• Pagasa: Amihan, easterlies to bring rains in PH Saturday (2026-11-06 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon and the easterlies will continue to bring isolated rains over parts of the country on Saturday, Nov. 7, the state weather said. In its 4 p.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the northeast monsoon, or amihan, will bring cloudy skies with

• Leni Robredo urged to decide on 2028 presidential bid by January (2026-11-06 06:01)

LEGAZPI CITY — Former Vice President and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo should decide by January 2027 whether to run for president in 2028 to give herself enough time to prepare for the campaign. This is what Naga City Vice Mayor Gaby Bordado said in a phone interview on Thursday (November 5). Bordado said

• Zalameda asked to restore people’s trust in the justice system (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan challenged on Friday newly-appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda to bring back Filipinos’ trust in the justice system. Zalameda was appointed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to take the place of Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who is set to retire on Friday. “Leading the reform in the

• Marbled monitor lizard rescued, released into wild in Batanes (2026-11-06 06:01)

SANTA ANA, Cagayan — A marbled monitor lizard found inside a resident’s stockroom in Basco, Batanes, was rescued and returned to its natural habitat on Thursday, Nov. 5. The resident voluntarily surrendered the reptile to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Batanes to ensure its safe handling. The lizard, scientifically known as

• Oriental Mindoro rolls out El Niño plan for water, food security (2026-11-06 06:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Governor Humerlito Dolor has laid out the provincial action plan for water and food security amid the effects of the El Niño. The local official made the plan through Executive Order No. 29, Series of 2026, which he posted on his social media page on November 3. The provincial government is lining up alternative water sources, drought tolerant seeds, food

• EcoWaste seeks crackdown on unsafe, unauthorized squishy toys (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The EcoWaste Coalition has called for a government crackdown on unauthorized and counterfeit squishy toys, urging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to

work with customs, police and local government units to stop their sale ahead of the Christmasshopping season. The environmental and health watchdog group said squishy toys lackingmarket

• Marcos swears in 10 Cabinet members; calls them ‘best team ever’ (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday swore in several Cabinet officials who received ad-interim appointments in a ceremony at Malacañang. Following are the names of the officials: In a candid moment before administering their oaths of office, Marcos praised the 10 officials and described them as the best group ever formed since the

• UE tells alumnus Zalameda: Always defend Constitution (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines—The University of the East (UE) on Friday expressed hope that its alumnus – newly-appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda – will go on upholding the Constitution and fairness in the judiciary. Zalameda earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from UE Manila. “The UE community wishes Chief Justice Zalameda continued courage to

• Help needed to find wallet with P100,000 taken at Bohol cathedral (2026-11-06 06:01)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Police are seeking the public’s assistance in identifying a man caught on a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera taking a wallet containing an estimated P100,000 cash inside St. Joseph the Worker Cathedral-Shrine in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Bohol Police Provincial Director Col. Patricio Degay Jr. on Thursday ordered a swift investigation into the incident

• 15-year-old charged with parricide over mother’s killing in Bohol (2026-11-06 06:01)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A 15-year-old child in conflict with the law (CICL) was formally charged with parricide for the killing of the minor’s 46-year-old mother in Panglao, Bohol, police said. Police Capt. Kentbel Ceasar Parcon, chief of the Panglao Municipal Police Station, said authorities filed the parricide charge, noting that they handled the case in

• Mariveles investigates oil spill report (2026-11-06 06:01)

MARIVELES, Bataan – Mariveles’ agriculture office is investigating an oil spill reported by fishermen in waters off the sub-village of Naswe in Barangay Ipag. Guillermo Mangayao, a staff member of the Mariveles Municipal Agriculture Office, said they have not yet determined where the oil slick originated. Fishermen spotted about 25 liters of crude or used

• Impeach court junks plea to admit COA docs as proof in ‘unexplained wealth’ (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has denied the prosecution’s request to admit the Commission on Audit (COA) documents as evidence in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial. The prosecution hoped to corroborate the COA documents for Article II, or Duterte’s alleged unexplained wealth, despite presenting the exhibits in Article I,

or the vice

• Groups flag wage gap, seek wage hike as inflation hits 7.8% (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Research group IBON Foundation and labor group Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO) have called for higher wages and stronger government intervention as inflation accelerated to 7.8% in October, saying rising prices of basic goods and services continued to erode workers' purchasing power. In separate statements on Thursday, the two

• UPLB stray animal policy draws criticism (2026-11-06 06:01)

LUCENA CITY – The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) has barred security guards from feeding or sheltering stray animals, particularly dogs, and from allowing them to roam or stay inside and around university buildings. "Internal Security Guards are assigned to ensure the security and safety of buildings, not to allow the premises under

• Municipal employee shot dead in Bukidnon; manhunt on for suspects (2026-11-06 06:01)

QUEZON, Bukidnon — Colleagues and peers are in profound shock following the killing of a 37-year-old municipal government employee who was gunned down while riding home at dawn on Friday. The incident happened around 2:30 a.m. in Purok 4, Barangay Libertad here. According to the initial investigation by Quezon Police Station, led by Lt. Col.

• Impeachment court reinstates sub judice rule on all VP articles (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has ruled that the sub judice rule will apply to all impeachment articles against Vice President Sara Duterte, including those withdrawn by the prosecution. In an order dated Nov. 5, the court reversed the earlier ruling of presiding officer Francis "Chiz" Escudero, which lifted the restriction on public

• Bus engine cover turns deadly for Quezon traveler (2026-11-06 06:01)

LUCENA CITY – A 20-year-old man was killed after the engine hood cover of a passing passenger bus detached and struck him while he was waiting for a ride in Atimonan, Quezon, early Thursday, police said. The victim was reportedly waiting along the roadside for a Manila-bound passenger bus at 12:20 a.m. in Barangay Tagbakin

• Sara Duterte to use personal funds for HK trip on Nov. 6-8 (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte will travel to Hong Kong from Nov. 6 to 8 for various engagements, with all expenses to be shouldered by her personally, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) said Friday. In a statement, the OVP said Duterte would attend engagements and participate in various activities, including an

• LRT-1 to offer 2-hour free rides twice a day on Nov 9, 11, 13 amid Asean preps (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Free rides will be offered at the Light Rail Transit 1 (LRT-1) on November 9 (Monday), 11 (Wednesday) and 13 (Friday). This comes amid road closures for the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit. According to the Department of Tourism (DOT), commuters may avail of the free rides next week

• INQToday: ICC protection sought for 55 witnesses in Duterte trial (2026-11-06 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's top stories this afternoon: The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecution is seeking protective and special measures for 55 witnesses who are set to testify in the crimes against humanity cases against former President Rodrigo Duterte. Meanwhile, the outcome of the US midterm elections could lead to a drop of

• Group vows to watch IP consent process (2026-11-06 00:02)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Indigenous peoples' (IP) rights activists, scholars and local policymakers are pushing back against what they described as the "weakening" of the free and prior informed consent (FPIC) process for tribal communities potentially hosting development projects. The civil society group FPIC Watch was launched here on Thursday, aiming to monitor and shield

• In Albay, Mayon evacuees get aid as volcanic unrest persists (2026-11-06 00:02)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Hundreds of families displaced by Mayon's unrest are receiving P5,005 each under the government's cash-for-work program as the volcano remains under alert level 3. In the town of Camalig, about 600 evacuees from five barangays received the assistance after completing 11 days of community work, including cleanup drives, debris removal,

• BARMM chief forms Cabinet (2026-11-06 00:02)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Six days after being elected to lead the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Thursday announced the composition of his Cabinet that he expects will sustain the moral governance agenda put in place upon the establishment of the regional government in 2019. The 19

• Zalameda is new Chief Justice (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — With the promise of stamping out corruption in the judiciary and keeping it capable and independent, Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is taking the helm of the Supreme Court as its 28th Chief Justice. President Marcos appointed Zalameda to take over from Alexander Gesmundo, who is retiring, Communications Secretary Lino Cayetano announced on

• First of 25 witnesses for Sara Duterte defense backs out (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Former University of St. La Salle law dean Ralph Sarmiento has declined to testify for the defense of Vice President Sara Duterte in her impeachment trial, withdrawing shortly after being announced as the first of the 25 witnesses lined up by her lawyers to challenge allegations of unexplained wealth. Sarmiento, who earlier

• Malampaya milestone: Gas flows from Phase 4 wells (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos on Thursday led the ceremonial activation of the first gas flow from new Malampaya wells that are seen to help cushion the country from fluctuating global oil prices, especially amid the unresolved Middle East crisis. The Malampaya Phase 4 project at the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant in Tabangao Ambulong, Batangas

• Comelec says Barangay residency certificate, cedula not valid IDs (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will not accept a barangay certificate of residency and cedula (community tax certificate) as proof of identity for voter registration. In an interview on Thursday, Comelec Chair George Erwin Garcia said the poll body had uncovered cases in which barangay officials issued certificates to individuals who were

• Remulla: No truth to ‘chismis’ Romualdez can freely leave jail (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday described as “chismis” (gossip) a retired columnist’s allegation that Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez could freely go in and out of the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas where he is detained on a plunder charge. “That’s just gossip. I would like all of you to

• SC adopts ‘child-friendly’ rules for court testimony (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Children, whether victims of crimes or those accused of committing an offense, now have the option to skip in-person testimony in court to alleviate any trauma from experiences related to a case, the Supreme Court has ruled. It approved the revised rule on the examination of child witnesses to establish the use

• Easterlies to bring rains to most parts of PH on Friday (2026-11-06 00:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The easterlies will bring scattered to isolated rains to most parts of the country on Friday, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 a.m. forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies are affecting all areas, except Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan Valley. These

• Luistro praises ex-law dean’s reason for declining to be VP witness (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Gerville Luistro praised former law dean Ralph Sarmiento on Thursday for his reason for declining to be a defense witness in Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s impeachment trial. In an interview on ANC’s “Headstart” with Karen Davila, Luistro, the lead House prosecutor, said she appreciated Sarmiento’s explanation that he

would like to

• Watchdog: Speaker Dy to convene House budget panel to discuss reforms (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III pledged to convene the House Appropriations Committee to discuss potential reforms aimed at boosting budgeting transparency, a watchdog representative said on Thursday. Speaking at a media briefing after a meeting with lawmakers, People’s Budget Coalition co-convener Kenneth Abante said he met with Dy on Wednesday evening

• INQToday: Rodil Zalameda is new SC chief justice (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday’s top stories for Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, as of 6 p.m. Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is new SC chief justice President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda to serve as the next chief justice of the Supreme Court, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino

• Michelin-starred Manila restaurant eyes Samar delicacies for 2027 menu (2026-11-05 18:01)

TACLOBAN CITY — From shrimp-filled lumpia and smoked fish to seaweed salad, traditional salt, heirloom coffee and native rice cakes, the culinary treasures of Samar Island may soon find their way onto the tables of one of the Philippines’ most acclaimed restaurants. Hapag MNL, a one-Michelin-star Filipino fine-dining restaurant in Makati City, has explored communities

• 6 hurt as fire destroys 21 houses in Tacloban village (2026-11-05 18:01)

TACLOBAN CITY – At least 21 houses, mostly made of light materials, burned in a fire that hit one of this city’s villages on Thursday morning, Nov. 5. The fire that hit Batangas 42-A in Quarry district started at about 10:10 a.m. READ: Fire engulfs 25 houses in Tacloban village Based on the initial report from

• Romualdez camp: False claim of jailbreak shows danger of unverified info (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — False claim by columnist Ramon Tulfo that Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez could get in and out of jail highlights the danger of publicizing unverified information, as the detained lawmaker’s legal counsel noted that the damage had already been done before the remarks were retracted. In a statement on Thursday, Romualdez’s lawyer, Ade

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 5: No winners for ₱87.84-M jackpot (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines—No ticket holder won the ₱87.84-million Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot or the ₱10 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, draws, according to results from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The Super Lotto 6/49 draw produced the

winning combination 10-46-40-39-04-16, with a jackpot prize of ₱87.84 million. No bettormatched

• Comelec targets 3M additional voters for 2028 polls (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is targeting an additional three million registered voters ahead of the May 2028 national and local elections as it prepares to open a nine-month voter registration period. Registration will run from Nov. 10, 2026, to July 30, 2027. However, registration in Naga City and Batanes will begin

• Agusan del Sur logs 20 dengue deaths as infections keep rising (2026-11-05 18:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Some 20 people have died from mosquito-borne dengue infection in Agusan del Sur province in the last 10 months, with the number of cases continuing to rise in the past five weeks. The last two deaths happened between Tuesday and Wednesday this week. From only 14 deaths as

• Entire SK council in Sarangani resigns over canceled polls (2026-11-05 18:01)

KORONADAL CITY, SOUTH COTABATO, Philippines — An entire 10-member Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) council in Malungon, Sarangani province has resigned altogether—declining two more years in office as a result of the postponement of the Barangay and SK Elections (BSKE)—saying they can’ t keep postponing their personal and career plans. Last September, President Marcos signed Republic Act No.

• Manila Archbishop orders prayers for rain amid El Niño threat (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula has ordered all parishes and communities in the Archdiocese of Manila to pray for rain amid the threat of a strong El Niño that could bring prolonged drought and water scarcity. In a circular released on Thursday, Advincula directed churches to include the Oratio Imperata ad Petendam

• Balanga’ s mangroves natural shield vs floods, lifeline for fisherfolks (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — For years, coastal communities in Balanga City lived with a growing sense of uncertainty. Floodwaters regularly threatened homes and fishponds during high tide, especially when accompanied by strong winds and storms. At the same time, fish catches declined as mangrove forests that once protected the coastline were cut down and degraded, making

• P900,000 in properties damaged, 2 killed in Iligan City fire (2026-11-05 18:01)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) has estimated that up to P900,000 in properties were damaged in a fire that gutted an eight-door apartment and an adjacent house in Barangay Pala-o here early Thursday, Nov. 5, killing two women. FO2 Ruel Pairat, arson investigator of BFP-Iligan, said the estimate followed a post-blaze assessment they did

• 1 killed, another wounded as firecracker ‘factory’ in Iligan explodes (2026-11-05 18:01)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — A 34-year-old man was killed while a woman was injured in an explosion allegedly involving chemicals used in firecracker manufacturing in Barangay Upper Tominobo here on Thursday afternoon, November 5, police said. In a spot report, the Iligan City Police Office (ICPO) said personnel of Police Station 2 responded to the

• Who is Rodil Zalameda, the new chief justice? (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Newly-appointed chief justice Rodil Zalameda, 63, is a longtime public servant, having served as city prosecutor and associate justice of the Court of Appeals (CA) and the Supreme Court (SC). Under a scholarship grant, Zalameda obtained his law degree from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1987. As a law student, he

• Massive fire guts large part of Subic Freeport factory (2026-11-05 12:01)

OLONGAPO CITY -The fire that broke out at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on Wednesday night gutted a large part of Jinboway Technology Ltd. Corporation inside the Subic Gateway Park, the Inquirer learned. The fire, which was the biggest in recent years inside the Freeport, started at 10:45 pm on Wednesday and lasted past 6

• Solon: Ex-dean’s withdrawal right; Duterte’s camp must address numbers (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A former law school dean’s decision to beg off from his presentation as a witness in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial is correct, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said. He explains that this is because what should be addressed are numbers concerning the unexplained wealth issue, and not legalities. Ridon in

• Speaker Dy defends congressional budget tweaks amid public scrutiny (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III on Thursday said congressional amendments to the P7.2-trillion proposed budget for next year should not be automatically presumed to involve corruption and wrongdoing as the chamber faces heightened scrutiny over its spending bill. “Not all changes made by Congress to the budget are wrong,” Dy said

• 30 ex-NPA rebels undergo debriefing in Agusan del Sur (2026-11-05 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Thirty former New People’s Army (NPA) rebels in Agusan del Sur took another step toward full reintegration into civilian life after completing a six-day deradicalization and values formation workshop, a social welfare official said. Razel Montemor, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office Chief, said the former communist guerrillas attended

• DepEd eyes data-driven approach to class suspensions under new EO (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines— The Department of Education (DepEd) is moving away from blanket class cancellations to a more data-driven approach under Executive Order (EO) No. 130, which was issued recently by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. According to its statement on Thursday, DepEd is finalizing a comprehensive joint memorandum circular (JMC) with partner agencies to set

• Zambo Army general backs press freedom, urges media responsibility (2026-11-05 12:01)

IPIL, Zamboanga Sibugay – In an exchange between the military and local press, an Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) general vowed to uphold press freedom while emphasizing the vital need for accuracy and ethical responsibility in journalism. Speaking at the opening of the Presidential Task Force on Media Security's (PTFoMS) two-day Media Safety and

• Barbers: No BIR record proving Mans Carpio sold Cale88 shares (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has no tax clearance to prove that lawyer Manases "Mans" Carpio, Vice President Sara Z. Duterte's husband, had actually transferred his alleged shares in Cale88 Foods Corp. Former Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, House impeachment adviser and spokesperson, pointed this out in a press briefing on Wednesday,

• LTO revokes licenses of 2 drivers involved in 'gas-and-run' (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Thursday said it revoked the driver's licenses of two taxi drivers involved in a gas-and-run incident after failure to provide sufficient explanation after being summoned. According to the LTO, a taxi driver ran away without paying for his gas at a gasoline station. The LTO then

• Legarda seeks probe into 'unconscionable' dumping of pet remains (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Loren Legarda has joined her colleagues in the Senate in pushing for a thorough and impartial investigation into the reported dumping of dog and cat remains in Bulacan, describing the incident as "deeply disturbing" and "unconscionable." "I strongly condemn the reported dumping of deceased dogs and cats in San Jose del

• GenCorp's P520-M sales surge raises questions over VP Duterte ties (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — How can GenCorp Industries Inc., a company linked to Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, allegedly increase its annual sales from P28 million to more than P520 million in four years despite having only P1.25 million in paid-in capital? Former Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, House prosecution adviser and spokesperson, posed this question during

• League of Provinces reaffirms support for BARMM (2026-11-05 12:01)

KORONADAL CITY — The League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), headed by South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr., reaffirmed its support for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Tamayo assured the LPP's support for the BARMM during his visit to Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Wednesday to personally congratulate

him. Tamayo, who

• House adds clause to correct budget bill’s tech errors, wrong project details (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia said on Thursday that the House of Representatives incorporated a provision into the P7.2-trillion budget bill authorizing corrections to clerical errors in blueprint details. Garcia, the senior vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said a special provision was added into the budget of the Department of Public

• BARMM’s Macacua congratulates new SC Chief Justice Zalameda (2026-11-05 12:01)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua congratulated Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda on his appointment as the country’s 28th Chief Justice. In a statement issued by the Bangsamoro government on Thursday, Macacua extended his “warmest congratulations” to Zalameda on behalf of the regional government and the people of the Bangsamoro

• Macacua names new BARMM Cabinet members (2026-11-05 12:01)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Thursday afternoon named the Cabinet members of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The Cabinet included nine members of the Bangsamoro Parliament, along with officials who will head the region’s ministries and key offices under BARMM’s first elected government. READ: 50 applicants vie for

• Pagasa: Amihan, easterlies to affect parts of PH on Friday (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon may continue to affect Northern Luzon, while the easterlies may prevail over the rest of the country on Friday, Nov. 6, the state weather bureau said. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the northeast monsoon, or amihan, may

• Puno: Lawmakers back Senate move to scrap projects lacking documents (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said Thursday that lawmakers support the Senate’s push to strip projects lacking proper documentation from the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for next year. On Tuesday, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said the Senate would remove about 295 infrastructure projects worth P8.8 billion from the budget bill, citing the lack

• Inquirer Volunteers Batch ’26 gets first taste of newsroom work (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Aspiring young journalists received their first introduction to newsroom work as Inquirer.net welcomed a new batch of volunteers through an orientation program in Makati City on Friday, Oct. 30. Held at work.able, Robinsons Summit Center, the session covered the fundamentals of news gathering, reporting and storytelling, as well as the responsible use

• 7 missing crewmen found safe after Quezon boat mishap (2026-11-05 12:01)

LUCENA CITY – The seven crewmen reported missing after their cargo boat capsized off Jomalig town in Quezon early Wednesday (Nov. 4), were rescued at 1 p.m. on the same day, police said in an updated report. READ: 7 men missing after cargo boat capsizes off Jomalig, Quezon The men were located 10 hours after

• Leadership dispute grips Univ. of Cagayan Valley (2026-11-05 12:01)

TUGUEGARAO CITY – University of Cagayan Valley, Inc. (UCV), one of the Cagayan Valley ‘s oldest educational institutions has been rocked by a leadership dispute among the stockholders. University officials, however, said they remain “committed to institutional integrity, peace and stability within its academic community” and will ensure “continued delivery” of quality education. UCV President Esther

• Fatalities in Pangasinan fireworks blast increase to five (2026-11-05 12:01)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The number of fatalities in the explosion and fire that gutted a suspected illegal fireworks factory in the Pangasinan town of Malasiqui rose to five. The increase in number happened after authorities retrieved the body of another victim at the blast site. The newly-discovered remains join two minors and two adults who

• Upgraded ALECO substation unveiled in Ligao City, Albay (2026-11-05 12:01)

LIGAO CITY — Households and businesses in parts of Albay’ s third district are expected to experience fewer power outages and benefit from the upgrading of the Albay Electric Cooperative Inc. (ALECO) substation in this city. The upgraded facility in Barangay Dunao was unveiled on Wednesday, with a doubled installed capacity of 40 megavolt-amperes (MVA) from

• Mansalay town now fossil fuel-free, pushes shift to renewable power (2026-11-05 12:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Green energy advocates have welcomed Mansalay town’ s declaration as a fossil fuel-free and renewable energy municipality, calling it a significant step toward reducing Mindoro’ s dependence on oil-based power and expanding access to clean energy. Through Resolution No. 429-2026, the Mansalay municipal government committed to integrate renewable energy into its local

• Laguna de Bay water level drops to 11.84 meters amid El Niño (2026-11-05 12:01)

LUCENA CITY — The water level of Laguna de Bay continued to decline, reaching 11.84 meters on Thursday (Nov. 5) under El Niño conditions, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) reported. The lake’ s water level dropped from 11.87 meters which was recorded on

Wednesday (Nov. 4). Based on its latest monitoring, the agency said the

• Walang Pasok: Class suspensions on Friday (Nov. 6) due to high heat index (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — In-person classes were cancelled in Albay on Friday (Nov. 6) due to the expected extreme heat and scheduled power interruption. Bicol Region READ: Walang Pasok: High heat index prompts class suspensions on Nov. 3 The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration earlier reported that the heat index in Coron, Palawan, Dumangas,

• Bacoor City eyeing waste-to-energy technology amid garbage problem (2026-11-05 12:01)

LUCENA CITY – With more than half a million kilograms of waste generated daily, Bacoor City is eyeing waste-to-energy (WTE) technology as a potential long-term solution to its garbage management problem. Mayor Strike Revilla said in a Facebook post on Thursday that the city generates about 533,622.98 kilograms of waste every day. “In response to

• Pet crematorium issue exposes gaps in animal welfare laws – analyst (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Cases of animal neglect that have recently drawn public attention — from the abandonment of pet remains entrusted to crematoriums to recurring incidents of animal abuse — underscore the need to strengthen the country’s animal welfare mechanisms. This was the assessment of Dr. Alicor Panao, an Inquirer data scientist and associate professor

• NBI prepares 6 complaints against people behind dumping of pet remains (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Thursday it is preparing to file six complaints against individuals allegedly involved in dumping pet remains, which were supposedly intended for cremation, inside sacks and plastic bags at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. NBI Director Melvin Matibag made the statement after

• 3 arrested for transporting fish allegedly caught via explosives (2026-11-05 12:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Three individuals were arrested for transporting fish allegedly caught using explosives after authorities intercepted a vehicle carrying 47 boxes of assorted fish at a checkpoint in Brooke’s Point, Palawan, on Wednesday. The suspects were apprehended along the National Highway in Barangay Maasin by the Philippine National Police Maritime Group’s 2nd

• Bacoor City eyeing city-owned pet crematorium (2026-11-05 12:01)

LUCENA CITY — Bacoor City in Cavite is planning to put up a city-owned pet crematorium amid the controversy over a private facility that has been accused of mishandling the remains of animals entrusted to it. “Our goal is also to establish a city-owned pet crematorium to provide

proper, reliable and affordable services for our

• Robredo: No room for unauthorized budget insertions in Naga City (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo said Thursday that there is no room for unauthorized budget insertions in the city's budget. In a media interview following the ceremonial turnover of Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program (DRRAP) funds to local government units (LGUs) at Malacañan Palace, Robredo discussed Naga City's budget preparation process. READ:

• Marcos warns LGUs against corruption in P8.6-B disaster funds (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday warned local government units (LGUs) against corruption in the use of P8.6 billion in disaster funds, saying those who profit from the suffering of their fellow Filipinos would face legal consequences. Marcos issued the warning during the ceremonial turnover of Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program

• Montenegro Shipping cancels Odiongan-Batangas trips on Nov. 6 (2026-11-05 12:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Montenegro Shipping Lines Inc. has temporarily suspended its ferry trips from Odiongan town in Romblon, to Batangas on Friday (Nov. 6), according to a travel advisory. The advisory did not specify the reason for the suspension. READ: More int'l shipping lines calling on Batangas port Affected passengers were advised to

• Valencia City joins nationwide magnitude 8.5 mega-quake drill (2026-11-05 12:01)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon – Ten-year-old Ray Mark woke up early with one thing in mind: survival. Located 15 kilometers from Valencia City's economic hub, the Tongan Tongan Elementary School student joined thousands of "terrified yet prepared citizens across the nation." They dove under desks for the life-saving "duck, cover, and hold" routine as the Fourth

• Butuan readies Mt. Mayapay View Deck for sustainable, regulated tourism (2026-11-05 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Butuan City is moving to balance tourism development and environmental protection as it prepares the popular Mayapay View Site / Mt. MayapayView Deck for broader public access and sustainable eco-tourism. The Butuan City Public Information Office (PIO) reported that a comprehensive evaluation is underway to upgrade safety protocols, establish

• Luistro: No 'fishing expedition' in wealth case vs VP Duterte (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial did not go on a "fishing expedition" as its evidence came from her own records, along with those of her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, and their alleged companies.

Rep. Gerville Luistro, the lead prosecutor, made this denial on Wednesday in an

• PTFoMS backs decriminalizing libel (2026-11-05 12:01)

IPIL, Zamboanga Sibugay – The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) expressed support to the moves of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and other media groups to decriminalize libel. Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr., PTFOMS executive director, said it is still necessary to have a libel law for the protection of citizens.

• Dangerous heat index expected in 3 areas on Friday – Pagasa (2026-11-05 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A dangerous heat index is forecast on Friday in Coron, Palawan, as well as in Dipolog City and Butuan City. In its latest heat index forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that Coron, Palawan may experience a heat index of 43 °C while Dipolog and Butuan may

• Duterte impeachment: Ex-law school dean declines to testify for defense (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• 2 dead as fire razes apartment in Iligan City (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Heat index forecast to reach 43°C in Coron, Dipolog – Pagasa (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• P6M in ‘smuggled’ cigarettes seized in Zamboanga del Sur (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Modern jeepney rides free in parts of NCR from Nov. 5-14 (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• 50 applicants vie for Cabinet, top BARMM positions (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Sara Duterte's lawyers: We respect Sarmiento's refusal to testify (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Marcos, MILF leaders meet in Malacañang (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• BJMP allows Romualdez's staff to attend to his needs, court told (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• OVP suffers alleged data leak – cybersecurity group (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Ramon Tulfo admits error in Romualdez exposé (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Stroke could cost Philippines ₱416.5B over 15 years (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Fire engulfs factory inside Subic Freeport (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Luistro asks: Did defense fail to consult witness before seeking subpoena? (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• South Cotabato gov: P1,000 budget 'enough' for simple Noche Buena (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Joseph Sy skips Senate citizenship inquiry after ER visit (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Serving sovereignty: How local food is taking center stage in Bulacan (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Defense in impeachment trial lists 25 witnesses for 'unexplained wealth' (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Group formed to assert IP rights in development projects (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Remulla dismisses claims Romualdez left jail as 'chismis' (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Road crash causes congestion in part of NLEx's Marilao exit (northbound) (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Speaker Dy backs calls for greater budget transparency, public scrutiny (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Defense asks impeach court to keep sub judice rule on dropped cases (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• 7 men missing after cargo boat capsizes off Jomalig, Quezon (2026-11-05 06:01)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Authorities launched a search-and-rescue operation for seven men who went missing after their cargo boat capsized in the waters off Jomalig, Quezon, on Wednesday.

In a report on Thursday, Quezon police said the wife of the 62-year-old boat captain notified thepolice station that the motorized vessel, identified as MV AC,

• Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is new Supreme Court chief justice (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Tacloban university suspends uniform use amid extreme heat (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Marcos leads Malampaya Phase 4 ceremonial first gas flow (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Petition on voting rule fatally premature, says impeachment court (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Unexpected chill brings frost to Benguet flowers despite El Niño (2026-11-05 06:01)

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

• Classes in Negros, Tacloban shift online due to heat (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• Ilocos region needs P660M to address drought impact (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• 250 pet owners file raps vs Bacoor crematory (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• PH 'Carving Capital' cries foul over TV horror special (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• Distribute Move It's excess riders to other platforms – advocacy groups (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• Court to BJMP: Did you let Romualdez out? (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• OSG: Senate didn't amend Charter in revised impeach rule (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• Rainy Thursday in parts of PH due to amihan, easterlies (2026-11-05 00:02)

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

• VP Duterte camp taps legal academic to counter unexplained wealth charge (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Arms cache unearthed in Isabela (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• WALANG PASOK: Class suspensions on Thursday due to high heat index (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Man in Zamboanga del Sur nabbed for P5.78-M smuggled cigarettes (2026-11-04 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) arrested a 38-year-old man in Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday in connection with the suspected P5.78 million worth of smuggled cigarettes. According to the PNP, the suspect, identified as Romnick Fuentes, was captured at around 1:25 a.m. during its anti-smuggling operation in Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur. Authorities

• INQToday: No power outage or Romualdez exit from QC jail – BJMP (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Mark Villar calls for stronger food security measures for El Niño (2026-11-04 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines —Sen. Mark Villar called for stronger and more coordinated measures to safeguard the country's food security amid the looming threat of Super El Niño, warning that

prolonged dry conditions could disrupt food production and distribution, drive up prices, andput vulnerable Filipino households at risk. In a statement, Villar cited a report from

• Negros remembers Typhoon Tino that left 106 dead, 34 still missing (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Manila Water repair works to affect NCR, Rizal areas (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Nov. 4 PCSO lotto results: P333.42M jackpot not won (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• DSWD pours P884.7M in aid to sugarcane farmers, laborers in Negros (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• NTF-Elcac: Nearly 1,500 CTG members neutralized in 2026 (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Police set to file parricide raps vs 15-year-old boy over ma’s killing (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

documents needed

• Groups seek transfer of 55,000 excess Move It riders to other platforms (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Negros Occidental to honor 2 national artists, top taxpayers (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Dangerous heat index to persist in Iloilo in next 2 days, Pagasa says (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Manila archdiocese orders safety checks on churches, schools (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Cops seize illegal diesel in Bacolod City (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Four dead, 1 missing as firecracker factory caught fire in Pangasinan (2026-11-04 18:01)

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

• Palace to jail authorities: Uphold law amid Romualdez ‘jailbreak’ row (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Lacson: Upon arrest, dela Rosa must be brought to local court before ICC (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Boholanos celebrate Carlos P. Garcia’s 130th birth anniversary (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• House to agencies: Ensure P6.2-B El Niño aid reaches farmers, fisherfolk (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• ‘Very strong’ El Niño now active in tropical Pacific, says Pagasa (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Agusan people’s summit adopts grassroots proposals into policies (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Legarda calls for gov’t accountability as carbon market takes shape (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• DOTr will soon bid out LRT-2 under public-private partnership (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Monsoon rains give Pangasinan El Niño water buffer (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• 250 pet owners file raps vs crematorium over dumped remains in Bulacan (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• 8 DPWH execs suspended over flagged Surigao Norte flood control project (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Sandiganbayan summons BJMP execs over claims Romualdez left jail (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Bulacan gov’t construction sites enforce El Niño health breaks (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• SC dismisses Romualdez petition vs Ombudsman’s prelim probe (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Farm-to-market road errors ‘blown out of proportion’ – House rep (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Marcos confers Order of Lakandula on outgoing Chief Justice Gesmundo (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Bangsamoro Parliament sets 100-day legislative agenda (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Man shot dead in broad daylight on Zamboanga City street (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Farmer killed by neighbor over goat grazing dispute in Bohol town (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Turtle nests found in La Union beach towns (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Angara cites progress in learning recovery, tech upgrades (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Jonvic Remulla: Supply drop drives up shabu prices in PH (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• OSG counters Go, Padilla challenge to Senate impeach vote: No grave abuse (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Pagasa forecasts cloudy Thursday, rain showers due to ‘amihan’, easterlies (2026-11-04 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Light rains and overcast skies are expected in parts of the country on Thursday, Nov. 5, due to the persistence of the northeast monsoon or “amihan” and the easterlies, according to the state weather bureau. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that

• Butuan experiences scorching 42-45°C heat index for second straight day (2026-11-04 12:01)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — A scorching heat index of 42 to 45 degrees Celsius was recorded in Butuan City since Tuesday, Nov. 3, triggering health advisories from local officials

and widespread calls online for in-person class suspensions. Data released by the PhilippineAtmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Regional ServicesDivision indicated

• ACT slams Marcos' class suspension policy as 'band-aid solution' (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Teacher dies in Northern Samar highway crash (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Cases of flu-like illnesses rise by 31% in two weeks – DOH (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Brian Poe plans to file bill to regulate pet crematoriums (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• AFP, PNP personnel cited for securing BARMM parliament inaugural session (2026-11-04 12:01)

COTABATO CITY – The Philippine Army's 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division and Joint Task Force Central (JTFC) on Wednesday recognized soldiers and police officers who spearheaded security operations during the historic opening of the first elected Bangsamoro parliament and the election of the region's first chief minister. The event was graced by President Ferdinand R. Marcos

• Manila Water maximizes 6 water treatment plants for El Niño (2026-11-04 12:01)

MANILA, Philippines —Manila Water is strengthening its El Niño preparedness by maximizing its six active water treatment plants, which have a combined capacity of 1,980 million liters per day (MLD), and advancing two more major water treatment facilities that will further boost 24/7

service for customers in Metro Manila and Rizal. Under the Angat-Ipo-La Mesa

• VP Duterte urged to show proof of business divestment (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Solon backs call to scrap limits on motorcycle taxis (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Sara Duterte camp: Prosecution evidence ‘inadmissible’ in Senate trial (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Zamboanga del Sur fisherfolk receive 11,000 kg of seaweed propagules (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Can Filipino MSMEs keep up with growing digital economy? (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Naga steps up water conservation drive ahead of ‘super’ El Niño (2026-11-04 12:01)

LEGAZPI CITY — The city government of Naga has intensified its water conservation campaign in preparation for a potentially prolonged dry spell brought by the Super El Niño. The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) urged residents to conserve water early,

warning that occasional rains may not sufficiently replenish underground water reserves. The

• Tigson named new PTV general manager (2026-11-04 12:01)

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

• Junk shop workers find suspected explosive in Sultan Kudarat (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• 77 scabies, chickenpox cases logged in 4 Bukidnon villages (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• QC gov't revokes class suspension memo to align with DepEd order (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Minimum wage in Soccsksargen to reach P501 daily on January 1 (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Behind the robes: Getting to know the Chief Justice contenders (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• 73 wanted persons arrested in Soccsksargen in one week (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Free MRT-3, LRT-2 rides for minors on Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Bukidnon sugar planters reject US export quota (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Sara Duterte, Leni Robredo gap narrows in Octa presidential survey (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Quezon vice gov urges youth to emulate Hermano Puli's patriotism (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• PNP welcomes Palace challenge, vows no special treatment for dela Rosa (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Taal Volcano logs 30 quakes in past 24 hours (2026-11-04 06:01)

LUCENA CITY — Volcanic earthquakes continue to shake Taal Volcano in Batangas province, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in a bulletin on Wednesday morning. The volcano registered 30 volcanic earthquakes over the past 24 hours. Phivolcs recorded 28 quakes on Nov. 3, 22 on Nov. 2, and only three on Nov.

- `High-value' trafficker with P1.4M in shabu busted in Calamba City (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

- Paete council seeks correction from 'KMJS' over woodcarver feature (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

- Police hunt 2 suspects who escaped Bacoor shootouts (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

- Dizon: Buses with discounted fares augment LRT-2 service starting Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

- Authorities seize P1-M 'illegal' mineral ores in Zamboanga del Sur (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

- BJMP: No power outage or Romualdez exit from QC jail (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

irregularities. “Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recordedpower or

• Fish prices up in parts of Northern Mindanao (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Lacson warns ‘kapalmuks’ testing public patience anew over 2027 budget (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Sotto wants clear rules on prolonged unauthorized absences of senators (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• 2 dead in creek after suspected Ilocos Norte motorcycle crash (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• 17 areas in Negros Occidental suspend classes due to extreme heat (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Vince Dizon says he is recruiting MMDA’s Gabriel Go to join DOTr (2026-11-04 06:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said on Wednesday that he is recruiting Gabriel Go of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to join the Department of Transportation (DOTr). He announced it more than a week after returning to the

DOTr as its secretary. Go heads the MMDA's Special Operations Group-Task Force for Road

• Gatchalian pushes OK of bill barring public execs' kin from gov't deals (2026-11-04 06:01)

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

• Urdaneta City bids farewell to fallen pilot who inspired his village (2026-11-04 00:01)

URDANETA CITY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — He dreamed of bringing his family together under one roof and inspiring young people in his village. But Capt. Raymart Cabangcala came home not to fulfill those dreams, but to be laid to rest. A helicopter carrying the remains of the 30-year-old Philippine Air Force (PAF) pilot landed at Urdaneta

• Western Visayas, Soccsksargen workers to get wage hikes by Nov. 19 (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Minimum wage earners in Western Visayas and Soccsksargen will receive higher pay starting Nov. 19, following the approval of new wage orders granting increases of up to P45 a day. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced on Tuesday that the National Wages and Productivity Commission had approved the wage adjustments following consultations between

• BARMM chief minister speeds up Cabinet formation (2026-11-04 00:01)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof "Sammy Gambar" Macacua has given the selection committee for top positions in the Bangsamoro government until 5 p.m. today to submit the possible appointees to his Cabinet. The positions to be filled include at least 15 ministers and deputy ministers, and a number of heads of

• Biz group to DOTr: Don't open busway to private cars (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) is pushing back against the Department of Transportation's (DOTr) decision to temporarily allow private cars on the Edsa Busway, saying this would defeat the project's very purpose. "Dedicated bus roadway and only regulated buses with high-volume capacity are the design imperatives for the Busway," the

• Palace: Budget red flags can lead again to Marcos veto (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos will not hesitate to exercise his veto power to remove questionable allocations from the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for 2027, Malacañang said on Tuesday, after civil society watchdogs flagged more than P1 trillion in allegedly irregular spending and pork-barrel items in the House-approved version of the measure. Palace press

officer

• LTFRB fines Move It P555.75M over excess rider-partners (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has imposed a P555.75-million penalty on motorcycle taxi platform Move It for exceeding its authorized number of rider-partners. Move It was authorized to operate only 17,746 rider-partners across Metro Manila, Cebu City, and Cagayan de Oro, but it exceeded this limit by 55,575 riders,

• Palace to police chief: Get Dela Rosa despite PNP past (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday challenged the leadership of the Philippine National Police to ensure that Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s past position as PNP chief during the Duterte administration would not stand in the way of operations to serve him the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Palace press officer

• Latest DPWH stink: P491-M ‘right-of-way scam’; 6 face graft raps (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges in the Sandiganbayan against six former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials over their alleged involvement in the irregular acquisition of road right-of-way (ROW), worth at least P491 million, in General Santos City. The Ombudsman said it found

• Dole launches 24/7 hotline for El Niño-related work concerns (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) has launched a new hotline called 15/30, as part of preparations for the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to intensify this month until March next year. The nationwide hotline serves as a 24/7 help desk through which workers and their employers may raise job-related

• COA: P17-B infra works have ‘visible defects’ (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Audit (COA) found 300 infrastructure projects across the country worth P17.3 billion to be riddled with “visible defects” as it advised the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to adopt “corrective measures.” In its 2025 audit report, the agency flagged 71 projects costing P4.33 billion in the first

• DepEd: Over 172,000 teachers, staff to get Apple laptops (2026-11-04 00:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has secured 172,654 Apple MacBook Neo laptops worth over P7.4 billion for public school teachers and administrative personnel, with a five-year warranty and a unit price lower than the devices’ suggested retail price (SRP). The procurement forms part of the government’s effort to equip educators with digital

• Marcos’ order gives schools more say in class suspensions (2026-11-04 00:01)

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

- St. Luke’s Medical Center reports personal data breach (2026-11-04 00:01)

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

- Amihan, easterlies to bring rain to parts of Luzon on Nov. 4 (2026-11-04 00:01)

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

Source: Rappler

- Spain demands that TikTok suspend operations until child sexual abuse material gone (2026-11-11 04:55)

Spain's Youth Minister Sira Rego appeals to prosecutors and the Data Protection Agency to take action against the social media company

- Who is Tristan Domingo, the Davao official behind contracts awarded to Duterte’s company? (2026-11-11 04:27)

Domingo has long been serving Davao City in various capacities under the Duterte political dynasty

- Ex-OFW turns Laguna footwear into thriving community business (2026-11-11 04:23)

Elizabeth Francisco Consebido's enterprise in Liliw, Laguna, supports local artisans and preserves the town's rich slipper-making tradition

- [In This Economy] The Philippines has entered stagflation territory (2026-11-11 03:39)

There’s a lot of lost growth to catch up on, especially since many if not most of our neighbors are performing well in terms of growth

- DOJ starts process to extradite Apollo Quiboloy, others to US (2026-11-11 02:38)

Quiboloy and two others have been on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted list since 2022

• Abando returns to Gilas as debuting Boatwright banners new FIBA roster (2026-11-11 02:08)

High-flyer Rhenz Abando returns to Gilas Pilipinas for the first time in three years as Kai Sotto and debuting naturalized player Bennie Boatwright lead the national team roster in the 2027 FIBA World Cup Asian qualifiers' fifth window

• Oil dependence is bad for the climate and the economy, UN chief tells COP31 (2026-11-11 01:37)

The discourse on November 10, the second day of COP31 in Turkey, highlights a tension at the heart of the climate debate: fossil fuels underpin the global economy, but also hurt it through costly climate damage and often-volatile energy prices

• SPECIAL COVERAGE: Impeachment trial of Sara Duterte (2026-11-11 01:02)

Rappler brings live updates, analysis, and commentary from reporters and experts as the historic impeachment trial unfolds

• [OPINION] Beyond the clinic: The fight against TB begins in the village (2026-11-11 01:00)

Imagine a rural barangay where a patient develops pulmonary tuberculosis (TB). The clinician sees cavitary disease; the community sees a

• Cebu Pacific's new 'Dreamer Plane,' a flying tribute to its roots (2026-11-10 23:45)

The special livery aircraft, designed by Cebu-based artist duo Happy Garaje, has won over aviation enthusiasts and planespotters from Hamburg to Manila

• How Sara Duterte witness is linked to auditor of Mans Carpio's firms (2026-11-10 14:20)

'So, para sa akin...parang may koneksiyon sa inyo itong external auditing firm,' Senator Sherwin Gatchalian tells Davao City accountant Vingelin Bajan

• Davao city accountant frustrates senator-judges | The wRap (2026-11-10 14:00)

Today's headlines: Sara Duterte trial, Martin Romualdez, Alex Eala

• Esperon, 4 other Duterte officials improperly spent P1.96M for ASEAN 2017 (2026-11-10 12:57)

Auditors earlier found that part of the funds meant for security and emergency preparedness and response went instead to the purchase of two vehicles, worth P980,000 each, reportedly used to transport personnel during ASEAN-related activities

• Davao accountant can’t confirm own signature, tests senator-judges’ patience (2026-11-10 11:00)

The soft-spoken Vingelin Bajan elicits warnings of contempt as she evades questions on her former affiliation with the auditing firm that has among its clients Sara Duterte-linked companies, the Vice President, and husband Mans Carpio

• [Local Vote] Voter registration for 2028: Answers to your common questions (2026-11-10 10:57)

The registration will run until July 30, 2027, Tuesdays to Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm

• Sandiganbayan suspends Martin Romualdez over plunder case (2026-11-10 10:07)

'The court issued a resolution ordering the suspension pendente lite of former speaker Ferdinand Martin Gomez Romualdez for a period of 90 days from receipt of the resolution,' says the Sandiganbayan 3rd Division

• [Kasalikasan] Here we go again: Climate talks kick off in Turkey (2026-11-10 10:00)

'The world has been addressing climate change together for over three decades, yet the numbers are still alarming'

• Parañaque clears Baclaran roads of street vendors for ASEAN Summit (2026-11-10 09:46)

The Parañaque City government clarifies that vendors will be allowed to return after the summit, provided they maintain an orderly setup

• Pulling the trigger: Caidic praises UE as Warriors fight for lost culture, pride (2026-11-10 09:33)

UE team consultant Allan Caidic, the Philippine basketball legend nicknamed the ‘Triggerman,’ hopes the Red Warriors will ‘erase all doubts’ after their breakthrough win

• COP31: What the Philippines wants for the ocean (2026-11-10 08:21)

Among the Philippine delegation's calls at COP31 is 'stopping further offshore fossil fuel expansion'

• The Maharlika fund that Joel Consing leaves behind (2026-11-10 08:17)

After three years at the helm, Joel Consing leaves Maharlika with a handful of investments, more than P53 billion in undeployed cash, and an ambitious list of plans for his successor to carry forward

• Trump’s close ties to Nvidia’s Huang scrutinized after foreign intelligence concerns (2026-11-10 06:51)

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is one of Donald Trump's closest allies in Silicon Valley, and the relationship between the two dates to at least 2025

• LIVE UPDATES: Impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte (2026-11-10 05:50)

Bookmark this page for Rappler's comprehensive coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial at the Senate

• After Typhoon Samuel’s exit, Philippines likely storm-free in coming days (2026-11-10 05:45)

The northeast monsoon is affecting Luzon on Tuesday, November 10, while the easterlies are affecting the rest of the country

• Meycauayan suffers knee-deep floods despite billions in funds (2026-11-10 05:30)

BULACAN, Philippines – During the habagat season, floodwaters rose to waist level in Barangay Bayugo in Meycauayan City, Bulacan. Residents

• Pax Silica signing eyed by year-end, not during ASEAN Summit – DTI (2026-11-10 05:17)

'We would like to give the project its own dedicated moment, so if there will be a signing, it would be on its own,' DTI Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolo says

• FACT CHECK: Marcos quote on P21 food threshold is fake (2026-11-10 05:00)

Marcos never said P21 per meal is sufficient for a family, contrary to the claim

• DOJ orders filing of cyber libel case vs Topacio, 5 others over Hontiveros complaint (2026-11-10 04:53)

The charge stems from Senator Risa Hontiveros' complaint against personalities who amplified the allegations of former Senate witness Michael Murillo against her

• RESULTS: November 2026 Veterinarians Computer-Based Licensure Examination (2026-11-10 04:30)

PRESS RELEASE: The Professional Regulation Commission announces that 1,083 out of 1,503 passed the Veterinarians Computer-Based Licensure Examination

• [Vantage Point] Can BPI earn back its premium? (2026-11-10 04:00)

For shareholders, true confidence will come from dependable, cash-backed profits after all credit costs are absorbed, not from the fleeting euphoria of a one-day market rally

• FACT CHECK: Post falsely claims ICC junked Duterte case over ‘fabricated’ evidence (2026-11-10 03:50)

The ICC confirmed all charges in April, with the trial set to begin on November 30

• [Rear View] What part of ‘I’m not running’ don’t you understand? (2026-11-10 03:30)

A real coalition should answer a question the pinks have rarely asked themselves: who can actually win? If the honest answer lies outside the tent, the tent needs to get bigger.

- [Just Saying] Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda and the question of respectability (2026-11-09 23:15)

The legal burden of proof heavily rests entirely on Chief Justice Zalameda to demonstrate independence through every decision, vote, and dissent

- Amnesia? Witness ‘evasive’ response draws ire of senator-judges (2026-11-09 14:26)

Senator-judge Erwin Tulfo reminds Adalin he could be cited in contempt for lying under oath

- Davao assessor hit over ‘inconsistent’ testimony at Sara Duterte impeachment trial (2026-11-09 14:20)

Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin has initially said Mans Carpio's Davao property matched the ' residential lot' declared in Vice President Sara Duterte's 2024 Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth

- Sara Duterte’s defense witness hit over ‘inconsistencies’ | The wRap (2026-11-09 14:00)

Today’s headlines: Sara Duterte trial, Leni Robredo, COP31

- House pushes thousands more multi-purpose buildings. Are they really needed? (2026-11-09 13:38)

House appropriations panel senior vice chairperson Albert Garcia says multi-purpose buildings can be used for Zumba, basketball games, and even as evacuation centers

- Ateneo coach Louie Alas slapped with 2-game ban (2026-11-09 13:34)

The suspension of Ateneo head coach Louie Alas comes at a critical juncture as the fifth-running Blue Eagles chase a UAAP Final Four spot

- Lights go out at Russia’s Novaya Gazeta, after years of defiant reporting (2026-11-09 12:16)

'We are currently at a point where the section of the Russian constitution that guarantees political and civil rights has effectively ceased to function,' says Novaya Gazeta co-founder Dmitry Muratov, a co-winner of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize

- Alex Eala records new career-high world No. 15, lands as Asia’s 2nd best (2026-11-09 12:12)

Filipina tennis superstar Alex Eala trades places with Japan's Naomi Osaka as the new world No. 15 after a solid runner-up finish in her season-ending 2026 Hong Kong Open run

• Senators urge Marcos to declare state of calamity in Super El Niño-hit areas (2026-11-09 11:39)

The Senate resolution notes that despite over 100 cities and towns declaring a state of calamity as of October 2026, only one in five farmers has received aid

• Rodil Zalameda as chief justice: What to expect (2026-11-09 10:54)

Get to know the new Supreme Court chief justice more in this report by Rappler’s Jairo Bolledo

• Less time perfecting the shot, more time living in the moment: Putting the vivo V80 to the test (2026-11-09 10:51)

Editor’s note: This content is sponsored by vivo and was handled by BrandRap, the sales and marketing arm of Rappler.

Source: The Manila Times

• Sara Duterte has ‘loose investment’ in Jollibee Times Square branch, GenCorp counsel testifies (2026-11-11 04:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte had a “loose investment” in a Jollibee branch in Davao City operated by GenCorp Industries, Inc., but no ownership stake in the corporation itself, the company's legal counsel testified during the impeachment trial on Wednesday.Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp and Metro City Chow Foods Corp., said Duterte's investment was limited to the Jollibee Times Square branch and stemmed from an earlier investment in Davao Bounty Times Foods Corp. in 2007, which previously operated the outlet."It is an investment in the specific branch only, meaning it is only in Times Square branch and not the whole corporation,” Balucanag-Punay told the Senate impeachment court.She disclosed that Duterte received a total of P2.14 million in payments from GenCorp between 2022 and 2025, disputing a prosecution forensic report that attributed P55.7 million in alleged undeclared income from the company to the Vice President in 2023.Defense counsel Justin Nicol Gular presented a portion of the report prepared by prosecution forensic financial analyst Alexander Cabrera, which placed Duterte's alleged undeclared income from GenCorp at P55,714,292 for 2023.Balucanag-Punay rejected the computation, saying Duterte received only P555,750 from GenCorp that year as a return of capital, based on a transaction summary prepared by the company's accountant.She said Duterte received P337,500 from GenCorp in 2022, P555,750 in 2023, P612,419.14 in 2024, and P636,700 in2025.The total amounted to P2,142,369.14.Earlier in her testimony, Balucanag-Punay told the impeachment court that Duterte had no shareholdings or corporate position in GenCorp from 2022 to 2025.

• MMDA suspends number coding on Nov. 16-18 (2026-11-11 03:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will suspend the implementation of the Expanded Number Coding Scheme in Metro Manila from November 16 to 18 in connection with the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit and Related Summits.In an advisory on Wednesday, the MMDA said that the three dates have been declared special non-working days in the National Capital Region.The MMDA reminded motorists to plan their trips, follow traffic rules and drive carefully to avoid road disruptions.

- Majority of Filipinos find Sara's alleged SALN omissions unacceptable — survey (2026-11-11 03:51)

MANILA, Philippines — More than half of Filipino adults consider it unacceptable for Vice President Sara Duterte to have allegedly omitted assets and cash from her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN), a survey by Momentum Research released Wednesday showed.The October 2026 National Momentum Survey found that 55 percent of respondents considered the alleged non-declaration of assets unacceptable, while 57 percent said the same about undeclared cash on hand and in bank accounts.Only 25 percent considered the alleged asset omissions acceptable, while 27 percent said it was acceptable not to declare cash despite financial records supposedly showing that Duterte held such funds.The non-commissioned survey, conducted from Oct. 16 to 19, asked respondents whether it was acceptable for Duterte to omit assets and profits from her SALN and whether she should have declared cash despite financial records indicating that she possessed such funds.The findings showed a marked regional divide, with majorities in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon and Visayas rejecting the alleged asset omissions.In Metro Manila, 66 percent considered the omissions unacceptable, followed by 65 percent in the rest of Luzon and 50 percent in the Visayas.Mindanao, Duterte's political stronghold, showed a different pattern. While 37 percent considered the alleged omissions acceptable, 31 percent said they were unacceptable and 32 percent were unsure.On the alleged non-declaration of cash, 66 percent in Metro Manila, 64 percent in the rest of Luzon and 54 percent in Visayas said it was unacceptable.In Mindanao, 40 percent rejected the non-declaration of cash, while 33 percent considered it acceptable.

- Palace unfazed by Marcos' all-time low trust, performance ratings (2026-11-11 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Wednesday said public sentiment polls do not fully capture the impact of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s administration on the lives of ordinary Filipinos.It issued the statement following the result of OCTA Research survey showing that the President’s trust ratings fell to an all-time low of 45 percent, while his performance rating also declined to 44 percent in the third quarter of the year.In a statement, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said that while the administration acknowledges survey data, the figures serve merely as reminders rather than definitive measures of Marcos’ performance."Survey results are figures that serve as reminders, but they do not reflect the actual work the President is doing for our fellow countrymen," Castro said in Filipino. “People who have been reached by government programs—such as farmers or patients who benefited from zero-balance billing in hospitals—may not have been included in the surveys, which is why the figures vary across

different surveys," she added.

• Counsel of Duterte-linked firm testifies in impeachment trial (2026-11-11 02:53)

MANILA, Philippines – Lawyer Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel for GenCorp Industries, Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp., took the witness stand in the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday.The two companies are among the business interests being scrutinized in connection with Duterte's Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) and allegations of unexplained wealth.Balucanag-Punay was initially scheduled to take the witness stand earlier, but her testimony was postponed due to an MRI appointment last Monday.The defense intends to question Balucanag-Punay about the companies' corporate records, Duterte's business interests, her declared assets, and other financial documents relevant to the allegations.During the prosecution's presentation of evidence, it submitted records from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) indicating that Duterte retained business interests in Metro City Chow after assuming office in 2022.Prosecutors argued that these business interests violated constitutional restrictions prohibiting public officials from holding financial interests in businesses that could create conflicts of interest.The corporate records of GenCorp and Metro City Chow are expected to provide further details on Duterte's reported business interests and their connection to the issues raised in the impeachment proceedings.Balucanag-Punay is among the 24 witnesses listed by the defense as the trial resumes following a break of more than three weeks.

• VP Sara's trust, satisfaction ratings the same — survey (2026-11-11 02:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's ratings barely moved in OCTA Research's four-year survey series, with 48 percent of those polled expressing trust in her and 46 percent satisfied with her performance.OCTA's Tugon ng Masa survey held from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 showed that Duterte's trust and satisfaction ratings each increased by one percentage point from July, when they stood at 47 percent and 45 percent, respectively.OCTA said the slight improvements were within the survey's margin of error and did not constitute a recovery from her earlier declines.Duterte's trust rating remained seven points below its March 2026 level of 55 percent, while her performance satisfaction rating was eight points lower than the 54 percent recorded in December 2025.The vice president continued to enjoy overwhelming support in Mindanao, where 94 percent of respondents expressed trust in her and 88 percent were satisfied with her performance.Her ratings were also at majority levels in Visayas, with 66 percent trust and 60 percent satisfaction.In contrast, only 40 percent of respondents in NCR trusted Duterte, while 24 percent were satisfied with her performance. In Balance Luzon, both ratings stood at 25 percent.The non-commissioned nationwide survey interviewed 1,200 adults aged 18 and above. It has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

• DLSU earns top honors at National Model United Nations D.C. conference (2026-11-11 02:21)

MANILA, Philippines — De La Salle University received top honors at the National Model United Nations (NMUN) D.C. 2026 conference held last Nov. 6 to 8 in Washington, D.C. All the university's 11 members of the delegation received distinctions during the event.Representing India, DLSU secured a Distinguished Delegation Award and two Outstanding Delegate Awards.Head delegate Julia Marie Ignacio and Sophia Marie Liong in UN Women were both recognized as Outstanding Delegates, while Luis James Pamerol in the Economic and Social Council also earned the distinction of Outstanding Delegate.La Salle's other delegates were Ralph Gabriel Del Rosario and Anthony Luna in the International Organization for Migration; Miguel Luis Borromeo and Carmel Grace Montenegro in the General Assembly First Committee; Karol Miel Vigo and Annika Danielle Villaz in the Human Rights Council; and Reign Ranger Blue Neron and Alex Joesha Abonita in the United Nations Environment Assembly.Around 800 delegates and faculty members from universities worldwide participated in the event, including prominent institutions in the US.The team was supported by Training Director Mark Imperial and core trainers Eryca Mei Sulian, Julianne Aspilliaga and Prince Ramos. Allen Surla of the Department of Political Science and Development Studies served as mentor and adviser.The university said the latest achievement” marks DLSU's 18th participation in NMUN since 2014, further demonstrating its continuing commitment to international engagement, diplomacy, and global affairs.”

- Marcos ratings hit lowest levels in OCTA survey (2026-11-11 02:19)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s trust and performance ratings fell to their lowest levels in OCTA Research's four-year survey series, with his trust rating dropping to 45 percent and satisfaction with his performance declining to 44 percent in the third quarter of 2026.The latest Tugon ng Masa (TNM) survey, conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos, showed Marcos losing four percentage points in trust and three points in performance satisfaction from the previous quarter.His trust rating fell from 49 percent in July to 45 percent in September, while distrust increased from 32 percent to 36 percent.Satisfaction with his performance likewise declined from 47 percent to 44 percent, while dissatisfaction rose from 33 percent to 36 percent.The latest figures marked the second consecutive quarterly decline in both measures, extending a downward trend that OCTA said had brought the President's national ratings to their lowest levels since the survey series began in October 2022.Since July 2025, Marcos has lost 19 percentage points in trust, from 64 percent, and 18 points in performance satisfaction, from 62 percent.The decline was particularly evident in Balance Luzon, traditionally the President's strongest area, where his trust rating dropped nine points, from 63 percent in July to 54 percent in September.Balance Luzon was the only major geographic area where Marcos retained majority trust and satisfaction, with the latter standing at 55 percent.His trust rating was 45 percent in the National Capital Region (NCR), 43 percent in the Visayas and 28 percent in Mindanao.By socioeconomic class, Marcos recorded his highest trust rating among Class E respondents at 59 percent, while Class ABC and Class D both gave him 43 percent

• ICC victims' lawyers seek use of recorded testimony to spare witness from reliving trauma (2026-11-11 02:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyers representing victims in the International Criminal Court (ICC) trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte have asked judges to admit a witness' previously recorded testimony, saying this would spare her from repeatedly recounting traumatic experiences while preserving the defense's right to question her.In a filing dated Nov. 10, the Common Legal Representatives of the Victims (CLRV) supported the prosecution's request to introduce the prior recorded testimonies of three witnesses, identified as P-0008, P-1164 and P-1303, under Rule 68(3) of the ICC Rules of Procedure and Evidence.The victims' lawyers focused their submission on witness P-1303, whose experience involving a murder victim in the case and the circumstances surrounding the death had caused her significant emotional distress.They said admitting her previous statement would reduce the time she would need to spend giving oral testimony and spare her from repeatedly recounting the violent events she experienced.The lawyers said P-1303 had explained in detail the circumstances surrounding the incident and provided context for the documents associated with her statement.They argued that requiring her to recall and relive the events in court could cause severe psychological distress, making it important to minimize the emotional burden of her testimony.Under Rule 68(3), the ICC Trial Chamber may allow previously recorded testimony to be introduced as evidence if the witness appears before the chamber and does not object. The prosecution, defense and judges must also have the opportunity to examine the witness during the proceedings.The victims' lawyers stressed that admitting the recorded statement would not deprive Duterte's defense team of its right to question P-1303, who would still be available for examination.They said the arrangement would avoid unnecessary repetition of her traumatic experiences while ensuring the accused's right to a fair trial.Article 68(1) of the Rome Statute requires the ICC to take appropriate measures to protect the safety, physical and psychological well-being, dignity and privacy of victims and witnesses.The filing also cited Article 64(2), which requires the trial chamber to ensure that proceedings are fair and expeditious.The victims' representatives said the witness' recorded statement and related materials had already been disclosed to the parties and participants. They also anticipated that P-1303 would consent to their admission when she appears before the chamber.

• AFP supports Sara’s non-confrontational stance, defends actions in West Philippine Sea (2026-11-10 21:13)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed agreement to Vice President Sara Duterte on her stance that the Philippines should not be picking fights with other countries including China to avoid complications in diplomatic relations. The military however maintained that actions in the country’s maritime entitlements, particularly the West Philippine Sea (WPS) are rightful and lawful. “Yes, I support that statement na hindi tayo dapat nakikipag-away (we should not be picking fights),” RAdm Roy Vincent Trinidad (Ret.) said in a press briefing at Camp Aguinaldo on Tuesday. Trinidad said keeping the peace has always been what the government and all concerned agencies are precisely doing. Being a defensive country,

the Philippines is only standing up to its sovereignty and sovereign rights, he said. “By merely standing up for what is rightfully and legally ours, we are not fighting any other country. Ito ay tinatayuan natin sapagkat ito ay mandato ng inyong DND (Department of National Defense) at AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines). And we would like to ensure that the next generation of Filipinos will inherit a country na buo at malaya (whole and free). And all those maritime entitlements within the EEZ (exclusive economic zone) will be for them to benefit,” Trinidad said. Speaking at a gathering with Overseas Filipino Workers in Hong Kong on Sunday, Duterte suggested that resolving issues, such as the maritime dispute between China and the Philippines, is better handled through diplomatic talks rather than heated exchanges online.Over the past months, heated social media exchanges and a public "war of words" between the Chinese Embassy in Manila and Philippine defense, coast guard, and security officials have escalated tensions over maritime conflicts and even law enforcement operations. Instead of heated, public exchanges, the vice president suggested forming a team of diplomats and sending them wherever they need to negotiate and that they should be the ones talking.Duterte said that in relations with other countries, national interest must always be the priority. She also pointed out that failing to maintain good relations with China could adversely affect the livelihoods of many Filipinos.Might is not material Duterte also questioned the Philippines’ military might compared to China and even used a firearm analogy to illustrate the power disparity between the two nations. She asked, “Gaano ba kalaki ang baril ko? Gaano ba kalaki ang baril ng kalaban?” (How big is my gun? How big is the enemy's gun?) illustrating that a smaller weapon is outmatched. “Totoong mayroon tayong girian sa West Philippine Sea, pero dapat iniisip ng pamahalaan: gaano ba kalaki ang baril ko? Gaano ba kalaki ang baril ng kalaban? Ulo pa lang pinupukpok na ‘yang maliit mo na baril. Kaya kailangan binabalanse lagi ‘yan,” Duterte said. (It is true that we have a standoff in the West Philippine Sea, but the government should ask itself: How big is my gun? How big is the enemy’s gun? That small gun of yours gets pounded right away. That is why it always has to be balanced.) The statement, many noticed, echoed the claim of Chinese Ambassador Jing Quan that China can easily win if it wants to use force - a remark heavily condemned by officials as “provocative and unacceptable.” The statement also drew lawmakers to file resolutions declaring him persona non-grata or recall him back to China. As for the AFP, might is out of the question in standing up for a country’s maritime rights. “Hindi pinag-uusapan ‘yung lakas ng sandatahan. We have what we have. We are improving our capabilities. Given what we have, we are good. Given more, we could perform even better. But, it will not stop the AFP from fighting, for standing up, for supporting all our government officials who stand up for our rights in the West Philippine Sea,” Trinidad said. He said regardless of such statements, Filipinos should appreciate one fact, that the Philippines is not taking what is not hers. “It is but incumbent upon every Filipino to support the stand of government and the stand of the country to protect our maritime entitlements, our sovereignty, and our sovereign rights in the West Philippine Sea. and for that matter, all over the country,” Trinidad said.

- Quiboloy extradition case filed in Makati Court; US seeks his surrender (2026-11-10 17:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The United States has formally moved to bring Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) founder Apollo Quiboloy to American courts, with the Department of Justice (DOJ) confirming that an extradition petition against the fugitive preacher and two co-respondents was filed before a Makati Regional Trial Court (RTC)..The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Tuesday said the U.S. government's extradition request against Quiboloy, Teresita Tolibas Dandan and Helen Panilag was filed on November 9, 2026, before the Makati RTC and raffled to Branch 145, presided over by Judge Karen Matti Sy.The petition seeks their extradition to the United States to face prosecution for alleged international human trafficking, sex trafficking, conspiracy and bulk cash smuggling.The DOJ said arrest warrants issued by a U.S. court against the three respondents remain valid and enforceable.The filing brings the U.S. government's effort to prosecute Quiboloy and his co-respondents into a formal extradition proceeding in the Philippines.Under the new Rules on Extradition Proceedings, the extradition court is to issue a warrant of arrest against the persons sought for extradition, while the clerk of court is to issue the corresponding summons.The issuance of an extradition petition does not automatically mean Quiboloy will be sent to the United States. The Philippine court must still determine whether the legal requirements for extradition have been met.His ongoing Philippine cases also raise questions about the timing of any possible surrender. Under the applicable extradition rules, temporary surrender may be considered even while local criminal proceedings remain pending.Quiboloy, founder of the KOJC, was indicted by a U.S. federal grand jury in November 2021 over an alleged sex-trafficking operation that prosecutors said ran from 2002 to 2018.According to the U.S. indictment, female church members, some as young as 12, were recruited to serve as Quiboloy's personal assistants, known as pastorals. They were allegedly required to perform household duties and provide sexual services during what the victims described as "night duty."Prosecutors also accused Quiboloy and his associates of running a labor-trafficking scheme in which church members were allegedly brought to the United States using fraudulent visas and forced to solicit donations. The money was supposedly intended for charitable work but allegedly diverted to finance KOJC operations and the lavish lifestyles of its leaders.The U.S. indictment also included allegations of conspiracy, visa fraud and bulk cash smuggling. Quiboloy was placed on the FBI's wanted list, with a federal arrest warrant issued on November 10, 2021

- Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo among winners in WomenBizPH's Babae Awards (2026-11-10 17:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo is among the awardees in the 2nd Babae Awards of Women's Business Council Philippines (WomenBizPH).The awarding ceremony was held on Tuesday in Parañaque."To the women in business here tonight, you know what it takes to build something from the ground up. You also know what it means when someone gives you your first chance, whether you mentor a young woman, hire her, or back her idea. You can be that person for someone else," Diaz said."And to every Filipina wondering what she can do with what she can become, give yourself permission to dream big...We can do it, women," she said.Diaz thanked all those behind the award "for this honor and for continuing to recognize my work in weightlifting and Philippine sports."She also congratulated her fellow

awardees.The gold medal that Diaz won when she competed in weightlifting at the 2020 Olympics held in Tokyo is the Philippines' first Olympic gold."I came from humble beginnings. When I first started weightlifting, I never imagined that I will become an Olympic champion...," she said.Diaz said that winning the Philippines' first Olympic gold medal in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic "gave us a moment of hope...We can do it.""That win also made me realize the responsibilty that comes with being someone young Filipinos look up to. I want to use that influence to give them a real chance to show what they can do," she said.The recipient introduction said Diaz is an educator and a part of the Philippine Air Force.She expressed pride in helping bring weightlifting to the Palarong Pambansa, adding that she hopes to see it among the competitions of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines and of the National Collegiate Athletic Association someday.Also among the awardees is Cristina Lim-Yuson, Museo Pambata founder and president of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines from 2021 to 2024. The recipient introduction mentioned her act of dedicating her life to education, the welfare of children, and the empowerment of young girls.Lawyer Lorna Kapunan won the Champion of Justice and Women's Rights Award.The Retail Icon and Business Leadership Award went to Robina Gokongwei-Pe.The Cultural Legacy Award went to National Artist for Fashion Design Patis Tesoro who is known as the "Grand Dame of Philippine Fashion."Also among the awardees is Vietnam's Madame Nguyen Thi Tuyet Minh founder of WeLead—a network of trailblazing women leaders—and founder of the Asean Women Entrepreneurs Network.

- Defense witnesses struggle at hearing (2026-11-10 16:19)

CONFLICTING property records, including a reference to a barangay that does not exist, have cast doubt on the defense’s claim that a 751-square-meter lot registered to Vice President Sara Duterte’s husband, Manases Carpio, was declared in her statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALN).During cross-examination at Duterte’s impeachment trial on Tuesday, Island Garden City of Samal Assessor John Kenneth Enumerables admitted that he could not definitively establish whether the lot covered by a 2019 transfer certificate of title was the same property listed in Duterte’s SALN.The discrepancies involved both the property’s location and its acquisition date. Duterte’s SALN listed the property as acquired in 2013, while a deed of absolute sale presented during the proceedings was dated March 15, 2018. “I’m not certain, sir,” Enumerables told private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. when asked whether Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. 142-2019-013134, covering the 751-square-meter lot in the upscale Kembali Coast residential development, referred to the same property declared in Duterte’s SALN.Enumerables said he could not make a definitive identification “because the title number and tax declaration number are not indicated” in the SALN.The admission weakened the defense’s attempt to use local tax records to establish that the property, which prosecutors questioned over its alleged nondisclosure, had been included in Duterte’s asset declarations.During direct examination, defense lawyer Lindon Bacquel presented Duterte’s 2019 SALN and asked Enumerables to identify properties whose assessed and market values matched those in the tax declarations issued by his office.Enumerables confirmed that the figures corresponded, prompting Senate Presiding Officer Francis Escudero to ask whether the

property covered by the assessor’s documents was the same one declared in the SALN.However, the documents contained conflicting location details. Duterte’s SALN and the TCT identified the property as being in Barangay Matanos, Kaputian District, Samal, while the city assessor’s tax declarations and field appraisal records placed it in Barangay San Isidro.Enumerables confirmed that there was no Barangay Matanos in the Island Garden City of Samal and that the local assessment records identified the property as being in Barangay San Isidro.Escudero questioned how a land title could identify a barangay that did not exist within the city’s jurisdiction.The discrepancy became more pronounced when the court noted that the March 15, 2018 Deed of Absolute Sale identified the property as being in Barangay San Isidro, while the current title and the canceled Filinvest mother title described it as being in Barangay Matanos.Senator-Judge Risa Hontiveros sought clarification on whether the two barangay names referred to the same location, while Senator-Judge Erwin Tulfo questioned how Enumerables could remain uncertain about the existence of a barangay within his jurisdiction.Tulfo sharply criticized the assessor for failing to flag the conflicting information and coordinate with the Registry of Deeds. “How did you become an assessor if you don’t even know the area?” Tulfo asked, warning that discrepancies between government records could expose unsuspecting property buyers to potentially fraudulent land titles.He said the assessor’s office should exercise due diligence and alert the Registry of Deeds whenever it encounters questionable or inconsistent property documents.Questions were also raised about when Duterte actually acquired the property.The prosecution pointed out that the deed of absolute sale presented by Enumerables was executed on March 15, 2018, while Duterte’s SALN repeatedly indicated that she had acquired the property in 2013.Escudero observed that the mode of acquisition in Duterte’s earlier filings was listed as “installment” in 2015 before being changed to “sale” five years later. Tolosa noted that neither the title nor the deed contained installment terms or any reference to an earlier contract to sell.Senator-Judge Joel Villanueva pressed Enumerables on whether his office had documents establishing that the property had already been acquired in 2013 and that it was the same parcel covered by the 2018 deed.Enumerables admitted that he could not verify this because he did not have access to additional documents concerning the transaction.The deed also placed the property’s purchase price at P3,453,849, lower than the P4,041,000 acquisition cost reflected in Duterte’s SALN.The property’s physical condition also came under scrutiny.Senator-Judge Francis Pangilinan questioned Enumerables about the 751-square-meter lot, particularly whether any structures or improvements had been recorded for real property tax assessment purposes.Enumerables said the assessor’s records showed no improvements on the property. He explained that his office relied on available tax records, satellite imagery from Google Maps and Google Earth, and the property’s tax mapping control roll.He added that personnel could not physically enter the property without the owner’s permission and admitted that his office had no photographs documenting its actual condition.Pangilinan questioned the absence of recorded improvements, recalling earlier testimony concerning whether a fine-dining restaurant might be operating on the premises.Enumerables also presented a 2023 tax declaration covering a property registered under Carpio’s name in Barangay San Isidro, Kaputian District. The document reflected an assessed value of P346,960 and a market value of

P4.95 million.The Samal property is among the Duterte-linked assets scrutinized under Article II of the Articles of Impeachment, which accuses the vice president of amassing unexplained wealth and failing to truthfully disclose her assets.Prying deeper into potential financial inconsistencies within the vice president's asset declarations, Senator-Judge Sherwin Gatchalian cited a notable discrepancy between the actual purchase price and the declared acquisition cost of a luxury resort property in Davao del Norte.The questioning focused on the 750-square-meter lot situated within the high-end Kembali Coast resort development.Official transaction records produced before the Senate impeachment court revealed that the property's absolute deed of sale listed a purchase price of P3.4 million. However, the vice president's official SALN recorded the asset's historical acquisition cost at P4 million — leaving a P600,000 margin unaccounted for in the base pricing.Forensic accountant Alexander Cabrera, a lawyer and former chairman of PwC Philippines, previously testified that Duterte and Carpio accumulated about P817.87 million in allegedly undeclared assets and income from 2022 to 2025. Under less conservative assumptions, he said the amount could approach P1.5 billion.Cabrera's computations included a P143.50-million property subtotal covering real estate, insurance premiums, investments, and business interests.Duterte's declared year-end 2025 net worth was P98.66 million.Davao accountant grilledThe next witness presented by the defense to counter allegations of double compensation faced mounting scrutiny after admitting she was once a partner in an accounting firm that audited companies linked to Duterte and her husband, while repeatedly claiming she could no longer remember key details of her professional history.Davao City Accountant Vingelin Bajan acknowledged that she was a partner at Ampil, Elises, Ciudadano and Co., CPAs, when the firm was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2003.Corporate records presented by the prosecution before the Senate impeachment court showed that the firm amended its Articles of Partnership in September 2015 and changed its name to Elises and Ciudadano. The firm subsequently served as external auditor for several companies linked to Duterte and Carpio, including GenCorp Industries Inc., Metro City Chow Foods Corp., Town Times Square B, City Hall King Chow Foods Corp., and Great Jolly Times Food Corp.The connection between Bajan, the accounting firm, and the corporations linked to Carpio became more apparent during questioning by Senator-Judge Pangilinan, who first asked whether she recognized the firm's former office address. "Ma'am, are you familiar with the address Unit 6, Dakudao Building, Governor Duterte Street, Davao City?" Pangilinan asked. "I used to be at the Ciudadano Accounting Firm. I also interned there," Bajan replied, confirming her familiarity with the building. "Do you know that GenCorp's auditing firm, or independent auditor, was your former company, Ampil, Elises and Ciudadano?" Pangilinan pressed. "I'm not familiar with that anymore because it's been a long time. I'm no longer familiar with the updated information, Your Honor," Bajan responded.Pangilinan pointed out that the auditing firm listed for both GenCorp and Metro City Chow operated from the same office suite where Bajan had previously worked. "Well, just to put it on record, the auditing firm for both GenCorp and Metro Chow also had its address at Unit 6, Dakudao Building, Governor Duterte Street, Davao City. So it's the same. It was your former office address," he said. "Previously, yes," Bajan acknowledged.Pangilinan also raised questions about a possible overlap between Bajan's

private business interests and her government employment.Bajan became a regular employee of the Davao City Accounting Office in 2004 but remained a partner in the private accounting firm until August 2015, when she became the city's chief accountant. The timeline raised questions about whether she had properly disclosed her partnership as a business interest in her SALN. "Did you declare that in your SALN beginning in 2004? You were a partner, correct? Did you disclose it? Did you include it as part of your business interests?" Pangilinan asked. "I would have to check because it was a long time ago," Bajan replied.During the proceedings, Divinagracia also confronted Bajan with SEC records identifying Elises and Ciudadano as the external auditor of companies linked to Duterte and Carpio. However, the city accountant again claimed she could no longer remember the firm's clients.Toward the end of the session, Senator-Judge Lito Lapid expressed sympathy for Bajan, over her difficulty answering questions, suggesting that maybe she was "being used" in the proceedings.During his interjection, Lapid urged Bajan to speak truthfully, saying her repeated inability to answer questions — including verifying if it was her signature on a document — had frustrated both the senator-judges and members of the public following the hearing. "We are thinking that you may have come here only to be used because you are Davao City's accountant, yet you seem to know nothing. I hope you will tell the truth," Lapid told Bajan in Filipino.He pointed out that Bajan had struggled to respond to questions throughout the nearly daylong hearing, frustrating both the senator-judges and the public. "Throughout this nearly daylong hearing, you have barely answered the questions asked by the senator-judges. Our fellow citizens listening to the proceedings get annoyed when you cannot answer. We do, too," he said.Lapid also recalled Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo's earlier warning that Bajan could be cited for contempt because of her responses. "As Senator Tulfo said, you might even be cited for contempt. I feel even sorrier for you. We are thinking that you may have come here only to be used. You are Davao City's accountant, yet you seem to know nothing. I hope you will speak the truth. All my colleagues here are asking for is the truth," Lapid said. "Are you being used?" Lapid asked. "No, sir," Bajan replied.Bajan was presented by Duterte's defense team to counter allegations that the vice president received double compensation.Her testimony, however, has drawn scrutiny after she repeatedly claimed she could no longer recall details of her professional history, including her former partnership in an accounting firm that served as external auditor for companies linked to Duterte and her husband.

- Over 300 domestic flights affected by Asean Summit (2026-11-10 16:18)

MORE than 300 domestic flights are expected to be canceled or rescheduled starting Nov. 14 as the government implements security and operational measures for next week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said Tuesday.Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon assured affected passengers they would be entitled to free rebooking, a full refund or travel credits without additional charges as the country prepares to host leaders of major economies in Metro Manila.Speaking at a joint press conference with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) and representatives of Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific and AirAsia, the DOTr chief said

the adjustments were necessary to accommodate the arrival and departure of heads of state and government.He said the flight disruptions would begin on Nov. 14, when the first batch of foreign leaders is expected to arrive, and continue until all summit delegates have departed. “More than 300 flights would be affected but these would not all be cancellations, as some flights would only be rescheduled,” he said.The DOTr, CAAP and CAB will publish the list of affected flights on their respective websites and provide copies to media organizations to inform the traveling public.Passengers whose flights are affected may choose among three options: rebooking without penalties or fees, a full refund of the ticket price, or travel credits that can be used for future trips, according to the Transportation Department.He urged passengers to check the published list and coordinate directly with their respective airlines to arrange their preferred option.The top DOTr official also advised travelers to arrive at airports earlier than usual and regularly check airline websites for updates on flight schedules.Passengers taking international flights were advised to allow at least three hours before departure, while domestic travelers were also encouraged to provide additional time for airport procedures.He said the government would deploy health and assistance desks at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminals 1, 2 and 3, as well as at Clark International Airport and Mactan-Cebu International Airport.Dizon said the impact on international carriers would be minimal, stressing that there would be no cancellations of international flights, although some delays could occur.He also assured the public that preparations for airport and road operations were in place, including measures to manage traffic along routes that would be used by visiting delegations.Asked about possible security threats, Dizon declined to discuss specific assessments, saying these were matters for law enforcement agencies, but maintained that the government was prepared. “We’re ready. The entire government is ready,” he said, adding that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had given final instructions to concerned agencies.Dizon said the government was working to minimize inconvenience to commuters and travelers while ensuring the safe and orderly conduct of the international gathering.

- Comelec opens voter registration for 2028 (2026-11-10 16:17)

THE Commission on Elections (Comelec) opened voter registration on Tuesday for Filipinos seeking to register, transfer, reactivate or update their voter records ahead of the 2028 national and local elections.The registration period will run until July 30, 2027, with applications accepted from Tuesdays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays and scheduled holidays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.Applicants may file their applications at their respective Offices of the Election Officer, designated satellite registration sites, or through the Register Anywhere Program.Comelec also announced special registration sites, including Mabini Hall at Rizal Park in Manila, which will accept applications from Nov. 10 to 12, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.The special registration site is open to the public.Meanwhile, Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia announced that voter registration in Naga City would be suspended until Dec. 1 to give way to preparations for the city’s Nov. 21 plebiscite on its proposed conversion into a highly urbanized city.Garcia said registration in Naga would resume on Dec. 1 and continue until July 30, 2027.He said the registration period covers first-time applicants, those seeking to reactivate

their records, transfer their registration or correct their voter information.Garcia also explained the reason for setting the registration deadline, saying the Comelec needs time to prepare and clean up the voters' list ahead of the 2028 elections. "We will definitely not extend our voter registration," the poll chief said in Filipino and English.Garcia said that the poll body expects to begin printing ballots as early as December 2027.He made the announcement during the Final Coordinating Conference and Memorandum of Agreement Signing for the Nov. 21, 2026 Naga City Plebiscite in Barangay Balatas, Naga City.

- Angelina Jolie arrives for regional assembly (2026-11-10 16:16)

HOLLYWOOD actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie arrived in Manila on Tuesday, welcomed by supporters and security personnel at Ninoy Aquino International Airport ahead of the Asean Inclusive Growth Summit.Her arrival marks her first public appearance in Manila, where she is scheduled to join regional leaders, business executives and other advocates at the 2026 Asean Inclusive Growth Summit on Wednesday, Nov. 11.Multiple videos of Jolie's arrival surfaced on social media, showing the Oscar-winning actress making her way through the airport accompanied by security personnel. She was also seen acknowledging people who had gathered to catch a glimpse of her.Jolie kept her airport look understated, wearing a long brown coat over a white blouse, paired with loose-fitting gray trousers and dark shoes. She carried a cream-colored tote bag and a mustard-yellow wide-brimmed hat.The summit is organized by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth in partnership with the Asean Business Advisory Council Philippines. It will bring together leaders from business, government, civil society and philanthropy to discuss ways to strengthen economic opportunities and promote inclusive growth across Southeast Asia.According to the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, Jolie will join Cambodian filmmaker, writer and producer Rithy Panh for a session titled "From Memory to Possibility: Cambodia, Courage and the Power of Staying." The discussion will be moderated by Shamina Singh, founder and president of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth.The session will explore Cambodia's recovery from decades of conflict and the role of long-term partnerships, trust and community involvement in rebuilding communities. It will also highlight how lasting development requires working alongside local communities and allowing them to lead solutions to their own challenges.Mastercard's announcement highlighted Jolie's humanitarian work, particularly her advocacy for refugees, displaced populations and the protection of women and children.Jolie's connection to Cambodia began in 2000 when she filmed "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" in the country. The experience developed into a lasting commitment to Cambodia and its communities.In 2003, she established the Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation, named after her eldest son, to support environmental conservation, healthcare, education and community development in the country.Her relationship with Cambodian filmmaker Panh also developed through their work on the 2017 film "First They Killed My Father," which Jolie directed and produced. Based on the memoir of Cambodian human rights activist Loung Ung, the film tells the story of a young girl's experience during the murderous Khmer Rouge regime under Pol Pot.Panh, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge period, has devoted much of his filmmaking career to documenting Cambodia's history and preserving the stories

of its people. Their collaboration is among the examples of long-term partnerships that will be discussed during the Manila summit.Jolie is also known for her performances in “Girl, Interrupted,” for which she won the Academy Award for best supporting actress, as well as “Mr. & Mrs. Smith,” “Wanted,” “Salt” and Disney’s “Maleficent.” Beyond her film career, she has spent more than two decades working on humanitarian causes. She served as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees beginning in 2001 before becoming a special envoy in 2012. She undertook more than 60 field missions during her tenure and ended her formal association with the agency in 2022.Joining Jolie among the summit’s featured speakers is Filipino Broadway star Lea Salonga, alongside business leaders, policymakers and advocates from across the region.

- Leonen warns lawyers vs blind reliance on AI (2026-11-10 16:15)

SUPREME Court Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen said lawyers should not allow artificial intelligence (AI) to undermine independent judgment, stressing that technology must never replace human scrutiny in the pursuit of justice.Leonen added that AI-generated information can be dangerously misleading, particularly when fabricated legal citations and inaccurate statements are presented in ways that make them appear credible.“These tools will never sit on the bench. They should never sign your reports,” Leonen said in his keynote address at the recent 4th Investigating Commissioners’ Summit of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Commission on Bar Discipline.He urged investigating commissioners to examine original case records rather than rely solely on AI-generated summaries, verify every legal citation against its original source, write their findings in their own words, and disclose whenever they use AI tools.Leonen cited the Supreme Court’s Governance Framework on the Use of Human-Centered Augmented Intelligence in the Judiciary, which prohibits AI-generated output from serving as the sole basis for judicial rulings.The framework requires disclosure of AI use and prohibits the entry of confidential information into AI tools without proper authority.He warned that social media poses another threat to fair proceedings, as accusations and incomplete accounts can spread rapidly, often stripped of context and presented as established facts.The senior magistrate stressed that integrity in the administration of justice requires fairness not only to complainants seeking redress but also to lawyers facing disciplinary complaints.He described investigating commissioners as the Court’s “eye on the facts,” emphasizing that their findings directly influence the Supreme Court’s decisions on disciplinary cases against members of the legal profession.“A court can be no more independent than the facts placed before it,” he said.Leonen cautioned that threats to judicial independence do not always come through bribery or outright corruption. They can arise from personal relationships, professional loyalties, and pressure to maintain harmony with influential colleagues.He cited situations involving senior law firm partners, former classmates, fraternity brothers, and politicians as possible sources of subtle pressure that could compromise impartiality.“Deference feels like courtesy. Going along feels like collegiality. The status quo never demands that we do wrong. It asks only that we do nothing,” he said.He reminded commissioners that remaining silent or refusing to challenge questionable practices

can be just as damaging to the administration of justice as deliberate wrongdoing.Leonen further underscored that impartial investigations and independent courts are particularly important to poor Filipinos, who often have no other resources to secure justice. “For those without resources, the independence of the courts is the only resource they have,” he said.

- Zero tariff on agri exports to Japan pushed (2026-11-10 16:14)

SEN. Francis Pangilinan said zero tariffs on Philippine agricultural exports to Japan could create more opportunities for Filipino farmers.Pangilinan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, joined Sen. Erwin Tulfo in advancing the proposal.It was raised during the Philippine Senate delegation’s official visit to Japan, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of Philippine-Japan friendship.During the visit, Pangilinan said that the country should not focus solely on domestic food production but also work toward opening larger international markets for Filipino farmers and fisherfolk. “We cannot focus all our resources on being food producers alone. We also need to pour in all our efforts into opening bigger markets for our farmers so they can have better and bigger opportunities to improve their livelihoods, increase their incomes, and secure their and the country’s future,” he said.Pangilinan said greater access to Japan could encourage investments in local agricultural production, processing and value-adding activities, generating economic opportunities for farmers, workers and small businesses throughout the agricultural supply chain.He underscored the global competitiveness of Philippine agricultural products, citing bananas, mangoes, pineapples and coffee as among the commodities with strong export potential. “With the quality and abundance of our agricultural products, our farmers and fisherfolk should not be limited to supplying food within the country. They should also become participants in the global food supply chain because our products, such as bananas, mangoes, pineapples, coffee and many others, are world-class,” he said.However, the senator emphasized that making the Philippines a stronger exporter would require sustained government assistance and trade policies that allow local products to compete more effectively in international markets.The proposed tariff exemptions seek to cover certain agricultural commodities under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which provides for the reduction or elimination of tariffs on more than 90 percent of goods traded between the two countries.Pangilinan said expanding export opportunities must go hand in hand with policies that enable Filipino farmers and fisherfolk to benefit directly from international trade.The Philippine Senate delegation, led by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, met with Japanese government and parliamentary officials, including Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, former prime minister Fumio Kishida and Japanese Senate President Masakazu Sekiguchi.The delegation held engagements with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League, the Japan-Asean Inter-Parliamentary Exchange Group and other institutions to explore ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.Japan is a major destination for Philippine agricultural exports, particularly bananas. In 2024, the Philippines shipped approximately $635 million worth of bananas to Japan, accounting for more than 1.1 million metric tons and maintaining its position as the country’s leading banana supplier. The existing trade relationship underscores the

potential for expanding shipments of other Philippine agricultural products, including mangoes, pineapples, coffee and other high-value commodities.However, despite the JPEPA, which took effect in 2008, certain agricultural products continue to face tariffs and other market restrictions. The agreement provides preferential trading arrangements, including tariff reductions and exemptions, but concessions vary depending on the commodity. Fresh bananas, for example, have continued to face import duties in Japan, prompting Philippine agriculture officials to seek their removal.In October 2025, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. raised the issue with Japanese officials, seeking the elimination of tariffs on fresh Philippine bananas and improved market access for pomelo. He noted that banana tariffs could reach 18 percent, potentially affecting the competitiveness of Philippine shipments against suppliers from other countries.Apart from tariff barriers, Philippine agricultural exporters must also comply with Japan’s stringent food safety, phytosanitary and quarantine requirements. This makes investments in modern farming practices, postharvest facilities, cold-chain infrastructure, processing and product certification essential to ensuring that more Filipino farmers can participate in the export market.The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that agricultural exports reached $9.25 billion in 2025, a 19.3-percent increase from the previous year’s $7.75 billion. However, the country continued to record an agricultural trade deficit of $11.12 billion, underscoring the need to strengthen domestic production while expanding opportunities for locally produced commodities in international markets.

- Internet, Facebook top political news sources – survey (2026-11-10 16:13)

INTERNET browsing and Facebook have edged out television as the leading sources of political news and current events among Filipino registered voters, reflecting the growing influence of digital platforms in shaping public access to information, a Pahayag survey showed.The Oct. 1 to 4 survey found that 58 percent of respondents usually accessed political news and current events through internet browsing, followed by 53 percent who relied on Facebook and 52 percent who watched television.Information shared through personal networks also remained significant, with 28 percent getting news from friends, acquaintances, co-workers or neighbors, while 24 percent relied on relatives.The findings point to the growing dominance of digital channels in political news consumption, although traditional media and interpersonal communication continue to play important roles in how Filipinos receive information.Facebook and YouTube were the most widely used social media platforms, with usage rates of 77 percent and 69 percent, respectively. TikTok followed at 57 percent and Instagram at 41 percent.Facebook Messenger also dominated messaging applications, with 76 percent of respondents reporting its use, substantially higher than other messaging platforms included in the survey.Despite the growing reach of digital media, television remained a major source of political information. The survey found that 34 percent watched television for news daily, while 55 percent used the medium but did not access news on a daily basis.Streaming platforms also figured prominently in respondents’ media habits, with 31 percent reporting daily news consumption through these services and 59 percent using them for purposes other than daily news.Daily news consumption through television and streaming platforms was more

concentrated in the National Capital Region than in other parts of the country, the survey found.Print newspapers and tabloids, AM and FM radio, cable television and X, formerly Twitter, were also identified as sources of political news, although their daily audiences were smaller compared with digital and video-based platforms.The survey further found differences in media consumption across geographic areas and demographic groups, with internet browsing, Facebook and television widely used but varying in reach depending on respondents' regions, ages and household income levels.The Pahayag Public Opinion Quarterly 3 (PQ3) 2026 survey was conducted nationwide from Oct. 1 to 4 among 1,581 registered Filipino voters selected from the PureSpectrum market research panel.It was an independent, non-commissioned survey using purposive sampling. Pahayag reported a national margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.Pahayag is the public opinion research initiative of Publicus Asia Inc., which has tracked key public opinion indicators since 2017. Vox Opinion Research has served as its commissioned research arm since 2013.

- Robredo-Tulfo leads Duterte-Padilla in poll (2026-11-10 16:12)

A HYPOTHETICAL presidential and vice presidential tandem of former vice president and now Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo and Sen. Raffy Tulfo led the pairing of Davao City Mayor Sebastian "Baste" Duterte and Sen. Robin Padilla, 43 percent to 39 percent, in the first OCTA Research survey testing the two combinations for the 2028 elections.The 4-percentage-point advantage, however, masks a sharp regional divide, with Robredo and Tulfo enjoying a commanding lead in Luzon while Duterte and Padilla overwhelmingly dominate in Mindanao, according to OCTA's third-quarter 2026 Tugon ng Masa survey released on Tuesday.The Robredo-Tulfo tandem led by 61 percent to 19 percent in Balance Luzon and 49 percent to 32 percent in Metro Manila.In contrast, the Duterte-Padilla pairing had 81 percent in Mindanao, against just 4 percent for its rivals.There was a close contest in Visayas, with Duterte and Padilla receiving 43 percent and Robredo and Tulfo 41 percent.The survey also found a pronounced ethnolinguistic divide. Robredo and Tulfo lead among Tagalog or Filipino respondents, 54 percent to 24 percent, and Ilocanos, 80 percent to 8 percent.Duterte and Padilla, meanwhile, enjoy a commanding 75 percent preference among Cebuano or Bisaya respondents, compared with 10 percent for Robredo and Tulfo.OCTA said the national lead appears to reflect two large but opposing regional and ethnolinguistic advantages rather than a broad-based advantage for either tandem.Despite the national lead, neither pairing commands majority support, with 18 percent of respondents saying they would vote for neither tandem or were undecided.The results were based on face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult Filipinos conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2026.OCTA reported a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.The survey is the research firm's first measurement of the hypothetical Robredo-Tulfo and Duterte-Padilla matchup and serves as a baseline for future surveys.Robredo, on Nov. 9, said that she would not seek the presidency in 2028, as she intends to run for reelection.OCTA noted that the survey was conducted more than a month before her latest statement and therefore did not capture any public reaction to it.Duterte has not declared a presidential bid.The survey also found that the two tandems draw support from

different demographic groups.Robredo and Tulfo led among women, 47 percent to 36 percent, while Duterte and Padilla had an advantage among men, 43 percent to 39 percent.The Robredo-Tulfo tandem also led among urban residents, 48 percent to 36 percent, and voters aged 45 and above.Duterte and Padilla, meanwhile, were more popular among rural respondents, 43 percent to 36 percent, and voters aged 25 to 44.By socioeconomic class, Robredo and Tulfo led in Classes ABC, 53 percent to 29 percent, and E, 48 percent to 37 percent.Class D, which accounts for about four in five Filipino adults, is evenly divided, with both tandems getting 41 percent.OCTA said the 18-percent uncommitted group is concentrated in South Luzon, where 28 percent chose neither tandem or did not know whom to support. The figure rises to 36 percent among rural respondents in South Luzon.The survey was conducted while the Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte was ongoing. Her brother, Baste, testified before the impeachment court on Sept. 29.OCTA said it was not drawing any conclusions about the impact of the impeachment proceedings on voter preferences.The survey results also do not reflect subsequent developments in the trial, which resumed on Nov. 9 with the defense beginning its presentation of evidence.OCTA cautioned that the results should be treated as an early snapshot of public sentiment, not a prediction of the May 2028 election outcome.The research firm said voter preferences could still change as presidential candidacies and political alliances take shape and as major political developments, including the outcome of the impeachment trial, unfold.

- ‘Sea code completion one of Marcos’ key goals’ (2026-11-10 16:11)

THE completion of the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea is one of the key goals of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to maintain peace and progress in the region, Malacañang said on Tuesday.The finalization of the COC between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China is one of the expected highlights of the Philippines’ chairmanship of Asean this year.Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Vietnam. “We know that this is one of the things the president wants to be finalized [under his Asean chairmanship],” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in a briefing. “Because what the president wants is to have good relations with all countries, and whatever agreement can be made for the peace of the region, that is what the president wants,” Castro said in Filipino.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro earlier said that Asean and China are “heavily invested” in the finalization in 2026 of the COC, which has dragged on for the past 17 years over some contentious issues.Lazaro also said the COC “should be within the ambit of the principles of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.The negotiation for a COC stemmed from the need to address mounting tension in the 1990s amid the overlapping claims in the contested Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

- Appeal won’t stop takeover of foreclosed property (2026-11-10 16:10)

BORROWERS who lose their properties through extrajudicial foreclosure cannot prevent the new owners from taking possession simply by filing an appeal, the Supreme Court ruled.The

tribunal clarified that neither an appeal questioning the issuance of a writ of possession nor a separate lawsuit challenging the mortgage or foreclosure automatically suspends the enforcement of the court order allowing the purchaser to occupy the property.In a decision written by Associate Justice Maria Filomena Singh, the Supreme Court Third Division rejected the petition of spouses Anthony and Ma. Fatima An and upheld the writ of possession issued in favor of the Philippine National Bank (PNB).The case stemmed from a P2-million loan the couple obtained from Allied Banking Corp., using their property as collateral. PNB later acquired Allied Bank through a merger.After the spouses defaulted on their loan, PNB foreclosed the mortgage and bought the property at a public auction as the highest bidder.The couple failed to redeem the property within the one-year period provided by law, prompting PNB to seek a writ of possession from the Regional Trial Court after the spouses refused to vacate the premises.The spouses opposed the bank’s petition, claiming they had regularly paid their loan and were not notified of the foreclosure sale.They also attempted to redeem the property, but PNB rejected their move, saying they had already waived their redemption rights.The RTC granted PNB’s request for a writ of possession but temporarily suspended its implementation after the spouses appealed.The Court of Appeals (CA) subsequently upheld the writ but reversed the RTC’s decision to suspend its enforcement, prompting the spouses to elevate the case to the Supreme Court.The high court sustained the CA, ruling that once the redemption period expires and ownership is consolidated in the purchaser’s name, the buyer becomes the absolute owner and is entitled to possession.The Supreme Court stressed that the RTC has a ministerial duty to issue the writ of possession in favor of the purchaser, meaning the court has no discretion to withhold it once the legal requirements are satisfied.It also clarified that the general rule that an appeal suspends execution of a judgment does not apply to writs of possession issued under Section 7 of Act 3135, the law governing extrajudicial foreclosure of real estate mortgages.The Supreme Court outlined the remedies available to borrowers who want to contest a foreclosure, depending on the stage of the proceedings.During the redemption period, borrowers may petition the RTC to question the writ of possession on grounds that they did not default on their loan or that the foreclosure sale violated the procedural requirements of the law.However, filing such a petition or appealing a ruling sustaining the writ will not stop its implementation.After the redemption period expires and ownership is consolidated in the purchaser’s name, borrowers may appeal the order granting the writ or file a separate case seeking the annulment of the mortgage and foreclosure sale.But neither remedy automatically prevents the purchaser from obtaining possession of the property, the Supreme Court said.

- Hontiveros welcomes indictment of Topacio (2026-11-10 16:08)

SEN. Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday welcomed a Department of Justice (DOJ) resolution recommending the filing of cyberlibel charges against six individuals accused of spreading false claims that she bribed and coached witnesses in the Senate investigation into alleged sexual abuse and human trafficking involving Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) leader Apollo Quiboloy.The six respondents are lawyer Ferdinand Topacio; vloggers Byron Cristobal (Banat

By) and Jeffrey Celiz; broadcaster Jay Sonza; Krizette Chu; and Alex Destor (Tio Moreno).The latest resolution follows the earlier indictment of former Senate witness Michael Maurillo, who had accused Hontiveros of bribing and coaching witnesses to testify against Quiboloy, allegations the senator has denied.In a statement, Hontiveros said the spread of false information against witnesses who came forward to testify about abuses linked to Quiboloy should not go unchallenged. “We have said this from the beginning: dangerous lies against witnesses who testified about the abuses committed by Apollo Quiboloy should not be allowed to go unchecked,” she said.Hontiveros said that while she fully supports freedom of expression and press freedom, these constitutional rights should not be confused with the deliberate and systematic spread of false information. “We will always defend and support free speech and the press. But this is different from the systematic and deliberate spread of fake news against the Senate, our staff, and the courageous witnesses who testified in the investigation into widespread sexual abuse and human trafficking,” she said.The senator said those named in the DOJ resolution would now have to answer for their actions under the law.The controversy stemmed from online posts and videos alleging that Hontiveros and her staff bribed or coached witnesses who testified before the Senate investigation into alleged abuses involving Quiboloy and the KOJC.Hontiveros chaired the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, which conducted hearings into allegations of sexual abuse, human trafficking, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation involving the religious organization.The senator has maintained that spreading such allegations not only damaged the Senate’s reputation and that of its personnel but also undermined the credibility of witnesses who came forward to expose alleged abuses.The DOJ’s latest resolution comes amid continuing legal and political developments surrounding the Senate investigation into the KOJC.The hearings brought forward testimonies from former members who accused the religious organization and its leadership of various forms of exploitation, prompting investigations by Philippine authorities.Allegations that Hontiveros and her staff paid or coached witnesses emerged as a parallel controversy, shifting public attention to the credibility of the Senate inquiry.The senator has repeatedly denied the accusations, describing the spread of such claims as an attempt to discredit both the investigation and the individuals who testified.Under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, libel committed through online platforms may be prosecuted as cyberlibel.

- Natl Museum deepens ties with Spain's Museo del Prado (2026-11-10 16:07)

THE National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) and Spain's Museo Nacional del Prado signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen their ties.The NMP said they are " strengthening their institutional partnership through" the MOU, "paving the way for expanded collaboration in exhibitions and the promotion of shared cultural heritage."The NMP said on Facebook on Tuesday that it welcomed a senior delegation from the Prado on Nov. 3 to sign the document.The NMP said the MOU will pave the way for expanded collaboration in exhibitions and the promotion of shared cultural heritage."The agreement outlines key areas of cooperation, including artwork loans as well as opportunities for joint scholarly exchange

between both national institutions," the NMP said."Grounded in the deep historical and artistic connections between Spain and the Philippines, the collaboration will also enhance collection documentation and bibliographic resources related to Philippine art," the NMP said.It added that both museums "will work together on the joint development and promotion of these exhibitions, with the shared goal of giving access to Philippine audiences.""The National Museum of the Philippines, on behalf of the Filipino people, looks forward to this historic partnership with the Museo Nacional del Prado, which promises to deepen scholarly and cultural exchanges, broaden access to significant works of Philippine art, and further strengthen the longstanding cultural ties between the Philippines and Spain," it said.Director Miguel Falomir led the delegation, along with Francisco Tardió, head of international and institutional relations, and Carlos Navarro, chief curator.NMP Chairman Andoni Aboitiz, Director General Jeremy Barns, Deputy Director General for Museums Arvin Manuel Villalon, and National Museum of Fine Arts Director Rica Estrada Uson welcomed the delegation.Representatives from the Spanish Embassy in Manila and the Philippine Embassy in Madrid, as well as officials from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, National Archives of the Philippines, National Historical Commission of the Philippines, and National Library of the Philippines, were present " to convey their full support," the NMP said.

- Malabon releases 4th tranche of financial aid for 93,574 households (2026-11-10 16:06)

MALABON City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval on Tuesday announced the release of the fourth tranche of the regular financial aid for 2026, benefiting more than 93,574 Malabueño households, as her administration reaffirmed its commitment to public service and sustained support for families in need."For us, true public service is not measured solely by the number of programs implemented, but by how we respond to the needs of our fellow citizens. We aim to implement our programs fairly to ensure that every Malabueño has access to our services," Sandoval told The Manila Times via a Viber interview. "We believe that no one should be left behind in the delivery of public service. That is why we continue to strive to bring the Malabon Ahon 'Ayuda' (assistance) to over 93,000 beneficiaries so that our families can feel that the city government is always ready to support them," she stressed.This marks the 18th tranche of quarterly assistance released since the program was launched in December 2022, according to City Administrator Alex Rosete.The city's Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Office (MEAL) said beneficiaries may claim the cash aid on Dec. 9, 2026, through any Bancnet-powered ATM (automated teller machine) or United Storefront Services Corp. (USSC) branch nationwide.Beneficiaries will receive a text message from USSC once their assistance becomes available. They may also check the list of qualified recipients through the official Malabon Ahon Blue Card Facebook page, the city government said.Residents may also use their Malabon Ahon Blue Card (MABC) as a debit card at participating establishments equipped with point-of-sale (POS) terminals, it added."The continuous implementation of this program demonstrates our commitment to making government services more accessible and within reach. Under the leadership of Mayor Jeannie Sandoval, we strive to ensure that every program launched has a clear purpose and genuinely helps in the daily lives of our fellow citizens,"

Rosete told this newspaper.Through the program's implementation, the city government remains committed to strengthening social protection initiatives and ensuring public assistance translates into meaningful support for Malabueño families, Rosete pointed out.

- Go asks barangay execs: Keep doors open for the poor (2026-11-10 16:05)

SEN. Bong Go called on local leaders nationwide to keep their offices accessible at all times, especially to less fortunate Filipinos, highlighting the critical role of barangay officials as frontliners of public service.Speaking before the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas during its year-end and Christmas Celebration on Nov. 6, Go commended local leaders for their dedication to their communities. “I know that your work as barangay officials is not easy. You are the first ones our fellow citizens turn to when they have a problem. Sometimes, even outside of regular hours, you are still the ones they call,” Go said. “To our barangay officials, I want you to know that I fully support you. I only ask that our office always remain open — especially for our less fortunate fellow citizens,” he emphasized.Led by Liga National President Maria Katrina Jessica Dy, the gathering brought together about 80 chapter presidents from across the country for a day of fellowship and recognition.Drawing on his years of executive service with former president Rodrigo Duterte in Davao City, Go recalled that local officials regularly raised grassroots concerns about health care, public safety, community disputes, and family assistance.To match these expanding responsibilities with institutional support, Go reiterated his commitment to passing key legislative measures benefiting local governance.He supported Republic Act (RA) 12232 — later amended by RA 12326 — which fixed five-year terms for barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials, setting the next elections for November 2028.He highlighted Senate Bill (SB) 178, or the Magna Carta for Barangays, which he refiled in the 20th Congress to provide better compensation and benefits for barangay personnel.He also renewed his push for SB 412, the Magna Carta of Barangay Health Workers, seeking security of tenure and enhanced compensation.Go recalled his ongoing Senate inquiries, ensuring the timely release of delayed health emergency allowances to health care workers.Go urged barangay leaders to champion youth sports competitions to keep young Filipinos engaged in productive activities.Acknowledging Dy's leadership and the contributions of all chapter presidents, Go thanked the organization for its steadfast collaboration in local governance.

- QC backs national unified PWD ID System (2026-11-10 16:04)

QUEZON CITY Mayor Joy Belmonte said on Tuesday that the local government, through its Persons with Disability Affairs Office (QC PDAO), fully supports implementing the country’s Unified Persons with Disabilities Identification System (UPWDIS).Belmonte said that PDAO and the city’s information technology department were already working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to link its records with the national system. “The initiative aims to expedite the verification of PWD IDs and maximize the use of records already held by PDAO, sparing residents already registered with the city government from having to re-register or resubmit their information,” the mayor said.QC was among the first cities to adopt a unified digital ID system when it launched the QCitizenID in January 2021, she

said.PWDs can now register online to obtain a QCID, and the city submits their records to the Philippine Registry of Persons with Disabilities, according to PDAO. “PWDs may use their physical QCID or its digital version on the QCitizen app to access services and participate in city programs. The city government continues to remind businesses and establishments in the city to accept the QCID of PWDs as a valid ID for their benefits and discounts,” the mayor said.PDAO said the national system would integrate the systems already used by local and national governments, making it easier for PWDs to access the services and benefits intended for them.

• Group welcomes acquittal of arrested protesters (2026-11-10 16:03)

THE National Union of People’s Lawyers (NUPL) on Tuesday welcomed the acquittal of two protesters arrested during an anti-corruption rally on Sept. 21, 2025.In a statement, the lawyers’ group said the protesters were clients of its National Capital Region chapter and the Adamson University College of Law.The NUPL, which did not name the protesters, said their acquittal is a “hard-won victory,” but it cannot “undo the injustice” surrounding their arrest and detention. “This marks the fifth acquittal involving clients assisted by NUPL, NUPL-NCR, and Adamson University College of Law, following the arrest of more than 50 individuals amid reports of physical assault, torture, and detention for days in cramped cells, as well as one bystander casualty,” the group said. “The case demonstrates that suspicion, accusations, and fabricated charges cannot substitute for proof beyond reasonable doubt. Criminal convictions must rest on evidence establishing guilt beyond reasonable doubt, not on conjecture or unsubstantiated allegations,” it added.The lawyers’ union said the arrests made on Sept. 21, 2025, affected “not only protesters but also bystanders and those who had merely expressed solidarity with the cause.” “These arrests raise serious concerns about the indiscriminate exercise of police powers, where even individuals who have committed no offense may be subjected to arrest and detention,” the NUPL stated. “Such practices undermine the right to peaceably assemble, stifle dissent, and instill fear among those who speak out against injustice. Far from being isolated abuses, they reflect the continuing use of police powers to suppress protest and discourage collective action,” it added.The lawyers’ union also called for those who committed abuses during the day of the rallies to be held to account.

• BOC seizes P524M in agriculture products in Valenzuela (2026-11-10 16:02)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized P524.27 million worth of agricultural products from a Valenzuela City warehouse, including nearly 100,000 sacks of red onions valued at P372.3 million, as part of an investigation into suspected agricultural smuggling.The seizure covers 99,289 sacks of red onions valued at P372.3 million, raising concerns over possible agricultural smuggling and violations of import regulations.The BOC, working with the National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Agriculture, and Philippine Coast Guard, issued a Warrant of Seizure and Detention on Nov. 9 after finding discrepancies between the warehouse inventory and import documents submitted by its representatives.Initial investigation showed that the warehouse representatives failed to produce sufficient documents establishing the legal

importation of the goods, payment of duties and taxes, and compliance with DA import permitrequirements.A 100-percent physical inventory also uncovered 20,886 sacks of beans andlegumes worth P103.7 million and 18,016 boxes of ginger and carrots valued at P26million.Other seized items included peanut products, textured vegetable protein, laundry bluingpowder, packaging materials, and four forklifts, bringing the total estimated market value of theseized commodities to P524,274,355.Packaging markings indicated that some productsoriginated from China, Argentina, Australia, Indonesia, India, Myanmar, and Egypt.However,investigators have yet to establish the origin of the red onions and several othercommodities.BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said the investigation would go beyonddetermining whether import documents were presented, stressing the need to establish theactual origin of the products and verify whether they were legally imported and the correctduties and taxes paid."Simply presenting documents is not enough. We must establish wherethe products came from, whether they were legally brought into the country, and whether thecorrect taxes were paid," Nepomuceno said.He warned that those found responsible would beheld accountable, saying the government would not allow Filipino farmers to suffer lossesbecause of agricultural smuggling.The operation is part of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'sdirective to intensify the campaign against agricultural smuggling and protect local farmersfrom unfair competition.The BOC said it would step up intelligence operations, warehouseinspections, and coordination with other government agencies to identify illegal agriculturalimports and prosecute those behind them.

- PH's no-vote on pro-Cuba resolution questioned (2026-11-10 16:01)

ADVOCATES of Philippine-Cuban relations are questioning why the Philippines has not supported a United Nations resolution seeking an end to the United States trade embargo against Cuba.On Oct. 28, 2026, the UN General Assembly adopted its 34th annual nonbinding resolution calling for an end to the US economic embargo against Cuba by a vote of 130–17, with 25 abstentions. This result reflects a notable drop in international support compared to the 2025 resolution (165–7, with 12 abstentions), though the measure remains symbolic as only the US Congress has the authority to repeal the laws enforcing the restrictions.In a press conference, Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association coordinator Gina dela Cruz and Partido Manggagawa representative Wilson Fortaleza urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to explain the Philippine government's position on the issue.This comes as the Philippines and Cuba mark the 80th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.The two said that the Philippines had traditionally voted in favor of the annual Cuban-sponsored resolution.Meanwhile, Virginia Lacsa Suarez, of Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya at Kaisaka, and Luke Espiritu, president of Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, said the embargo had severely affected Cuba's trade relations, and its procurement of raw materials, as well as medicines.Despite the restrictions, they said Cuba was able to continue its own research on biotechnology, medicine, agriculture, and disaster response. The country, they added, even managed sending medical personnel to poorer countries.Fortaleza said the Philippines' withdrawal of its support for the resolution may be largely due to US pressure over the

proposed Pax Silica deal.Espiritu criticized the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for what he described as excessive dependence on the US, noting the Philippines' action reflected a broader disregard for national sovereignty and an independent foreign policy.The groups urged the Philippine government to reconsider its position in future UN deliberations and promote constructive dialogues for peaceful relations between the US and Cuba.

• Gale warning up in north Luzon's northern, eastern, western seaboards (2026-11-10 13:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) hoisted a gale warning over the northern Luzon's northern, eastern, and western seaboards."In the next 12 hours, we have a gale warning or a warning against dangerous waves. That is still because of the strong northeast monsoon," Estareja said in Filipino and English in the 5 p.m. weather update on Tuesday.Based on the forecasts and what Estareja said, wave heights could reach 5.5 meters.In the gale warning, which it issued at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Pagasa said that strong to gale-force winds "are prevailing or expected to affect" the areas mentioned in the warning:- Mainland Cagayan's northern and eastern coasts (Santa Ana, Gonzaga, Lal-lo, Gattaran, Baggao, and Peñablanca); Batanes; the Babuyan Islands; and Ilocos Norte's northern coast (Burgos, Bangui, and Pagudpud); and Isabela- Ilocos Norte's western coast (Pasuquin, Bacarra, Laoag City, Paoay, Currimao, Pinili, and Badoc); Ilocos Sur; and Pangasinan's western coast (Bolinao and Bani).

• PCSO hailed as global model for responsible gaming, charity (2026-11-10 12:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has received international recognition for its commitment to channeling lottery revenues into public welfare and charitable causes, with the World Lottery Association (WLA) citing Philippine lotteries as a global model for responsible gaming.WLA President Andreas Kötter described Philippine lotteries as an outstanding example of responsible gaming and fundraising for good causes during the ongoing World Lottery Summit (WLS) 2026 in Sydney, Australia."First of all, the Philippine lotteries are a perfect example of doing good, raising money for good causes, and having a profile as a lottery which is outstanding," Kötter said.PCSO General Manager Melquiades Robles said the recognition affirms the agency's fulfillment of its mandate to generate funds for medical assistance, healthcare programs, and other charitable services benefiting Filipinos nationwide.Through its lottery operations, the agency channels gaming revenues into programs that provide financial assistance to individuals and communities in need, Robles said.Elected vice chairman of the Asia Pacific Lottery Association in September 2026, Robles welcomed the recognition, saying it reflects the agency's continuing commitment to ensuring that lottery operations serve a greater public purpose."For PCSO, the true measure of success is not simply how much revenue we generate, but how many Filipinos we are able to help," Robles said."Every peso that goes toward our charitable programs represents an opportunity to provide medical assistance, support communities, and make a meaningful difference in people's lives," he added.Kötter also praised the strong Philippine participation in the summit, saying it demonstrated the country's commitment to the international lottery

community.The World Lottery Summit, being held at the International Convention Centre Sydney from November 9 to 12, brings together lottery leaders and stakeholders from around the world to discuss responsible gaming, industry innovation, and the role of lotteries in supporting society, the PCSO said in a statement.

- Inclusivity tackled in Asean Women Economic Summit 2026 (2026-11-10 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Women Economic Summit (AWES) 2026 was held in Parañaque on Tuesday, with inclusivity among the topics discussed.The theme of the women economic summit was "Weaving the Asean Future: Women Driving Innovation, Integration and Inclusion.""Our theme, Weaving the Future, brings us to a beautiful Filipino word: Habi," Rosemarie Bosch-Ong, president of the Women's Business Council Philippines (WomenBizPH) and chairman of the AWES 2026 ways and means committee.Habi means weave."In weaving, every thread has its own strength, color, and purpose. But when these threads come together, they create something stronger, more beautiful, and more enduring," Ong said."The same is true of women across Asean. Our countries may have different strengths, cultures, and experiences, but when we bring them together, we can build a more innovative, inclusive, competitive, and resilient region," she said.Rhoda Castro-Caliwara, chairman of WomenBizPH overall chairman of the AWES 2026 summit management committee, spoke of the impact when women succeed in business."When businesses grow, jobs are created. When women succeed in business, the benefits extend far beyond the individual woman," Caliwara said."They reach her family, her community, and ultimately, our economies," she said."That is the future I hope we can help build through this summit," she said."A future where women's economic participation is not simply encouraged, but made possible through real opportunities," Caliwara said.The Asean Summit and Related Summits will be held from Nov. 15 to 17, 2026.The Philippines holds the chairmanship of the Asean for this year.

- DOLE to employers: Release employees’ 13th month pay before Christmas (2026-11-10 11:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Tuesday reminded employers in the private sectors to release the 13th month pay of qualified workers on or before Dec. 24, 2026.In Labor Advisory No. 21, Series of 2026, DOLE outlined the guidelines for the payment of 13th month benefits, including the minimum amount workers are entitled to receive.All rank-and-file employees who have worked for at least one month during the calendar year are entitled to the benefit, regardless of their employment status or method of wage payment.Workers who resigned or were terminated before the end of the year are also entitled to a proportionate 13th month pay

- US sends two Devil Rays to PH Air Force (2026-11-10 11:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The United States has provided two Devil Ray T38 unmanned surface vessels (USVs), valued at over $8 million, to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP),

demonstrating America’s commitment to its oldest security treaty ally in Asia.The US Embassy on Tuesday said the American-made vessels support the Philippines’ capability to "safeguard its sovereign rights; and enhancing maritime domain awareness as part of the two countries’ shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific." “These American-made systems show the incredible strength of our Alliance," US Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton said during the turnover of the USVs to the Philippine Marines (PM).Lipton delivered the vessels to PM Corps Deputy Commandant Brig. Gen. Bayani Curaming on November 4 during a ceremony at the newly opened Maritime Tactical Systems, Inc. Unmanned Center of Excellence in Subic Bay, Zambales. “This year, we mark 80 years of diplomatic relations and 75 years of the Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines,” the ambassador said. “We are proud of the role that American technology and industry play in helping modernize the AFP and strengthening the Philippines’ maritime capabilities,” Lipton said.Colonel Daniel Oh, chief of the Joint US Military Assistance Group-Philippines, said these vessels "can conduct extended surveillance and reconnaissance patrols, deliver supplies, and allow AFP personnel to direct missions from a safe distance."They will strengthen the AFP’s "growing autonomous fleet, expanding its ability to monitor wider areas of Philippine waters for longer periods at a lower cost than crewed vessels,” Oh said.Curaming said the turnover of the USVs reflected the "growing importance of emerging technologies in addressing the evolving demands of maritime security." “This undertaking reflects a longstanding partnership based on mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a common commitment to maritime security,” he added.

- Quiboloy extradition case filed in Makati Court; US seeks his surrender (2026-11-10 11:16)

The United States has moved to bring Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) founder Apollo Quiboloy before American courts, with the Department of Justice (DOJ) confirming that an extradition petition against the fugitive preacher and two co-respondents has been filed before a Makati Regional Trial Court.The DOJ said the US government's extradition request against Quiboloy, Teresita Tolibas Dandan and Helen Panilag was filed on November 9, 2026 before the Makati RTC and raffled to Branch 145, presided over by Judge Karen Matti Sy.The petition seeks their extradition to the US to face prosecution for alleged international human trafficking, sex trafficking, conspiracy and bulk cash smuggling.The DOJ said arrest warrants issued by a US court against the three respondents remain valid and enforceable.

- Growth, capital allocation, returns: Ayala Land outlines roadmap (2026-11-10 11:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) has mapped out its strategic agenda for 2027, rolling out a plan built around selective expansion, active capital recycling, and a tightly managed balance sheet.The property developer's president and CEO, Anna Ma. Margarita Dy, presented the outlook, framing the company's 2027 priorities around three pillars: growth, capital allocation, and returns."Our focus is on making deliberate choices about where we grow, how we deploy capital, and how we deliver value to our shareholders," Dy said. "These choices will help us build a more resilient business and sustain earnings growth over the long term.” Double-digit expansion in commercial leasing, led by the company's shopping mall

business, sits at the core of Ayala Land's growth strategy. ALI said the push builds on close to 200,000 square meters of new gross leasable area that opened in late 2026, among them The Exchange at TriNoma.Another 50,000 square meters is due for completion in 2027 across Arca South, Parklinks, and Park Central Plaza. The ALI chief executive said the company was likewise taking a measured tack in property development, anchoring its pipeline on P30 billion in planned project launches.The residential strategy places priority on developments outside Metro Manila priced below P20 million, with 13,000 units scheduled for delivery across key projects such as Gardencourt Residences and Parklinks North Tower, Dy said.Riding on commercial leasing momentum, ALI said it is targeting earnings growth at twice the pace of national gross domestic product. Moreover, it said that commercial leasing is projected to generate more than 60 percent of the company's total earnings before interest, depreciation and amortization taxes, reinforcing recurring income as its main earnings driver.On capital allocation, Dy said ALI plans to undertake P30 billion to P40 billion in capital recycling through AREIT infusions, receivable sales, and strategic asset monetization. The company is simultaneously holding firm on balance sheet safeguards, with a base case of keeping total debt flat and steering any excess capital recycling proceeds toward debt reduction, she said."By aligning capital deployment with high-return opportunities and expanding our recurring asset base, we are positioning Ayala Land to deliver sustainable value across market cycles," Dy added.

- Palace blasts VP Sara for ‘belittling’ Filipinos (2026-11-10 11:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday called out Vice President Sara Duterte for " belittling" the capability of the Filipino people in defending the country against external threat.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro deplored Duterte's recent statement which insinuated that the Philippines has limited military capability compared to China."Even if we are a small nation, if every Filipino stands united, nothing can defeat the courage and valor of a true Filipino," Castro said in Filipino.The Palace press officer said a " leader should never surrender.""As the President said, we only have one country, and it is this single nation that we must protect," she added."We may have differing opinions on other matters, but love for our country should never be divided," Castro stressed."So let us remember, there may already be many Manchurian candidates surrounding our nation. Let us be careful," she added without elaborating.According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a Manchurian candidate is a "politically influential person, especially a politician, who is secretly working for or controlled by an unfriendly power, such as an enemy nation or rival party.During her meeting with Filipinos in Hong Kong, Duterte, in Filipino said, "It is true that we have a dispute in the West Philippine Sea. But the government must consider this: just how big is my gun?" She then raised her pinky finger.'"[Then] How big is the enemy's gun?" the vice president said, raising her fist to stress her point.

- Duterte’s alleged P817.8M undeclared assets 40 times her estimated salaries, Hontiveros says (2026-11-10 11:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros questioned how Vice President Sara Duterte could have allegedly accumulated P817.87 million in undeclared assets when her estimated combined salaries as Davao City mayor and vice president from 2016 to 2025 amounted to only P26.81 million to P27.65 million.During her interpellation on the 41st day of the impeachment trial on Tuesday, Hontiveros calculated Duterte's estimated compensation from 2016 to 2025 using monthly salary figures provided by Davao City Accountant Vingelin Bajan and salary schedules for the vice presidency.Hontiveros first asked Bajan about Duterte's monthly salary as Davao City mayor from 2016, when Bajan was appointed city accountant, until 2022.Although Bajan initially said she did not have the exact figures, she referred to her notes, which listed the following estimated monthly salaries: 2016, P96,000; 2017, P117,000; 2018, P143,000; 2019, P175,000; 2020, P181,000; 2021, P185,000; and 2022, P188,726.Using these figures, Hontiveros estimated Duterte's total salary as mayor from 2016 to 2022 at approximately P12,950,964.The senator then turned to Duterte's compensation as vice president from 2022 to 2025, citing salary schedules that placed the vice president's monthly salary at approximately P330,000 to P350,000.Based on this range, Hontiveros estimated that Duterte received between P13.86 million and P14.7 million in compensation during the period.Combining the two estimates, Hontiveros said Duterte's total compensation as Davao City mayor and vice president from 2016 to 2025 amounted to approximately P26.81 million to P27.65 million.However, Hontiveros cited a forensic report indicating that Duterte allegedly had total undeclared assets amounting to P817,874,867.She said that the alleged undeclared assets were substantially higher than Duterte's estimated combined compensation from her government positions. "An alleged total of P817 million in undeclared assets compared with just P26 million to P27 million in salaries alone.That's roughly 40 times more," Hontiveros said.She said she found it difficult to understand how Duterte could have allegedly acquired such substantial wealth compared with her estimated earnings from public office. "That is why, as I connect this with the earlier testimonies and hearings, I find it difficult to understand how such a large amount of wealth—allegedly P817 million—could have been accumulated compared with just over P20 million insalaries alone," Hontiveros said.The senator acknowledged that the comparison could also involve income earned by Duterte and her husband, rather than Duterte's government salaries alone.Hontiveros raised the figures for the record, linking her questions to previous testimonies and proceedings in the impeachment case.

- Sandiganbayan issues new 90-day suspension order vs Romualdez (2026-11-10 10:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division has issued a new 90-day preventive suspension order against former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez in connection with his P7.44-billion plunder case.Under the resolution promulgated Tuesday, November 10, the court ordered Romualdez to cease and desist from performing the functions of his office or any other office for 90 days from receipt of the order. "The court issued a resolution ordering the suspension pendente lite of former Speaker Ferdinand Martin Gomez Romualdez for a period of 90 days from receipt of the resolution," Sandiganbayan Clerk of Court Dennis Pulma said in a

recorded voice statement.The Sandiganbayan directed its Clerk of Court to furnish a copy of the resolution to the Speaker of the House of Representatives through the Office of the Secretary General. The House must also inform the court of any action taken within five days of receiving the order.

- Grab rolls out service in Puerto Princesa (2026-11-10 09:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Grab Philippines has rolled out its complete service lineup in Puerto Princesa—including GrabCar, GrabFood, GrabMart, GrabExpress, and digital payments—through a partnership with the city government and its tourism office.RJ Cabaluna, Grab Philippines' vice president for cities, said in a statement that the expansion was expected to fuel the next phase of tourism and economic development in the Palawan capital, giving travelers a single platform for rides, homegrown restaurants and businesses, and the city's culinary and cultural offerings.Citing platform data which indicates strong early adoption among both visitor and resident segments, Cabaluna said that since services began rolling out in 2026, travelers have accounted for nearly one in three unique Grab users in Puerto Princesa, with local and long-term residents making up more than two-thirds.These trips are powered by Puerto Princesa's own: driver-partners ferrying residents and visitors across the city, and merchants bringing local cuisine to both the people who live there and those who come to visit, the company said.Through Grab, these partners gain another channel to reach and engage the community, it stressed. Moreover, Cabaluna said that usage trends since the initial pilot earlier this year reinforce this dual role. Hotels, travel destinations, restaurants, shops, residential areas, and local attractions rank among the top GrabCar drop-off points, while GrabFood orders lean toward comfort fare—chicken dishes, burgers, and home-cooked meals, he said.At Grab, he said, they always believed that progress is not measured by the size of an economy alone, but by how many people it lifts up, the firm's vice president said."That is what brings us to Puerto Princesa. By bringing together transport and delivery professionals, local MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) travelers, and residents in one vibrant marketplace, we are creating not just a more seamless experience for everyone, but a community that, through every interaction, lifts one another up," he said."That is the kind of growth we want to unlock here: growth that is shared by everyone who makes this city thrive," he added. "Together with the City Government, we look forward to ushering in a new chapter of growth for Puerto Princesa, powered by technology, by shared experiences, and by the community itself," he added.The partnership with Grab Philippines was a meaningful step in the city's tourism and digital modernization efforts, City Tourism Officer Toto Alvior said."As our city grows, so does the need for transportation and services that are safe, reliable, and accessible to everyone," Alvior said, emphasizing the city's commitment to balancing progress with preservation."We see Grab's arrival as an opportunity for our people, our commuters, and visitors to have more convenient and dependable ways to get around. For our drivers and delivery partners, it means new opportunities to earn and provide for their families," Alvior said.For local merchants and small businesses, it means a wider market and a stronger place in the digital economy, he said.Grab and the local tourism office created a locally curated 5-Star Travel Guide designed to

help visitors discover the city's lesser-known attractions, dining spots, and under-the-radar experiences. The guide is paired with Grab 5-Star Eats, which showcases local merchants lauded for their food and service based on millions of genuine Grab user ratings. Featured Puerto Princesa favorites include Capheinated, Pit Stop Shawarma, Haim Chicken, and Chef Abduo Halal Food.

- Lapid to defense witness: Are you being used? (2026-11-10 09:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator-Judge Lito Lapid expressed sympathy for defense witness Vingelin Bajan over her difficulty answering questions during the impeachment trial on Tuesday, suggesting she might simply be “being used” in the proceedings.During his interjection, Lapid urged Bajan to speak truthfully, saying her repeated inability to answer questions frustrated both the senator-judges and the public following the hearing.“We are thinking that you may have come here only to be used because you are Davao City's accountant, yet you seem to know nothing. I hope you will tell the truth,” Lapid told Bajan.The senator-judge said he felt sorry for Bajan, adding that Senator-Judge Panfilo “Ping” Lacson also wanted to question her but was reluctant to do so.“He wants to ask questions, but says he might cry if he does,” Lapid said.“Throughout this nearly daylong hearing, you have barely answered the questions asked by the senator-judges. Our fellow citizens listening to the proceedings get annoyed when you cannot answer. We do, too,” he said.Lapid also recalled Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo's earlier warning that Bajan could be cited for contempt because of her responses.“As Senator Tulfo said, you might even be cited for contempt. I feel even sorrier for you. We are thinking that you may have come here only to be used. You are Davao City's accountant, yet you seem to know nothing. I hope you will speak the truth. All my colleagues here are asking for the truth,” Lapid said.He then directly asked Bajan whether she was being used in the proceedings.“Are you being used?” Lapid asked.“No, sir,” Bajan replied.Bajan was presented by the defense team to counter allegations that Vice President Sara Duterte received double compensation when she was an official of Davao City.Her testimony, however, has drawn scrutiny after she repeatedly claimed she could no longer recall details of her professional history, including her former partnership in an accounting firm that served as external auditor for companies linked to Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio.

- Filipino shoppers pivot to content creators for 11.11 (2026-11-10 09:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Content creators and affiliate marketers are increasingly driving sales for the 11.11 online shopping event as Filipino consumers prioritize product quality, authenticity and seller credibility over price discounts alone. A 2026 report by research firm Cube Asia showed 36 percent of Filipino online shoppers are classified as "Savvy Shoppers," the highest proportion among six Southeast Asian markets surveyed, while another 22 percent fall under the "Near-Savvy" category. Lazada Philippines Head of General Operations and Business Development Janet Siasoco told The Manila Times that shoppers are taking more time to compare prices and check authenticity. She noted that Lazada's previous 11.11 campaign recorded a 50 percent increase in average order value.Lazada reported that 88 percent of

Filipino consumers make purchasing decisions based on influencer recommendations.The company backs its LazAffiliate Program with an annual $100 million regional investment and has partnered with Meta to allow creators to tag products on Facebook for commissions. Shopee meanwhile reported that affiliate-driven traffic and sales grew over 1.5 times.In 2026, the platform organized more than 30 KOLLAB events connecting over 100 brands with more than 500 creators, with plans to expand beyond Metro Manila into provincial areas. TikTok Shop reported local sellers recorded a sales increase of more than 200 percent in 2025 through livestreaming and creator partnerships. Its Unlad Lokal initiative has trained more than 25,000 micro, small, and medium enterprises nationwide in digital tools. Ahead of 11.11, the Securities and Exchange Commission urged shoppers to exercise caution by verifying online sellers, reading buyer reviews, and applying its "Check, Protect, Report" guidelines. Siasoco said that Lazada enforces seller verification, brand partnerships, listing rules, and return mechanisms to ensure safer transactions.

- US judge orders psychiatric exam for Meghan Markle's father (2026-11-10 09:01)

MIAMI — A US judge has ordered a psychiatric examination for Thomas Markle, the estranged father of Prince Harry's wife, Meghan Markle, after his arrest for alleged possession of images of child sexual abuse.Thomas Markle, 82, is charged with one count of "possession of child pornography" and made an initial court appearance in Tampa in Florida on Friday.Judge Lindsay Griffin cited Markle's "health condition," "advanced age" and "lack of recall" in the order issued on Friday, without providing further details.Markle was taken into custody by FBI agents earlier that day at the retirement home where he lives in Lakeland, Florida.The Justice Department said he allegedly "kept child sexual abuse material (CSAM), including sexually explicit photographs of himself with prepubescent girls, in two Los Angeles-area storage units he rented for nearly two decades."Pictures of child sex abuse have also allegedly been found at Markle's former home in the Philippines and at a storage unit he rented in Mexico.The judge said she found "reasonable cause to believe" that Markle was suffering from a condition "rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense."She instructed a psychiatrist to provide a report on Markle's mental state by November 20.Markle had been living in Cebu in the Philippines until reportedly returning to the United States this year.Meghan Markle said last month that she was "deeply distressed" by accusations that her father possessed images of child sexual abuse.He could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

- Comelec opens voter registration for 2028 elections (2026-11-10 07:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Tuesday opened voter registration for Filipinos seeking to register, transfer, reactivate or update their records ahead of the 2028 national and local elections.The registration period will run until July 30, 2027, with applications accepted from Tuesdays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays and scheduled holidays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.Applicants may file their applications at their respective Offices of the Election Officer, designated satellite registration sites, or through the Register Anywhere

Program.The Comelec also announced special registration sites, including Mabini Hall at Rizal Park in Manila, which will accept applications from November 10 to 12, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.The special registration site is open to the public.

- ‘Do you not remember?’ Escudero presses Davao City accountant; Tulfo warns of contempt (2026-11-10 07:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Presiding Officer Francis Escudero demanded direct answers from a Davao City accountant during Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial on Tuesday, while Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo warned that her evasive responses could lead to a contempt citation.The confrontation centered on Davao City accountant Vingelin Bajan’s hesitation to identify a signature and acknowledge her previous association with accounting firm Ampil, Elises, Ciudadano & Co.Escudero expressed frustration after Bajan said she could not recall or was unfamiliar with a document bearing her name in the firm's records. “This is the first time you’ve seen that document. Please answer: yes or no?” Escudero pressed, demanding a straightforward response.He later said his patience was wearing thin as Bajan struggled to confirm whether she had previously been a partner of the accounting firm.Bajan eventually acknowledged that she had been part of the firm.Tulfo likewise criticized the witness for taking several minutes to examine documents before identifying a signature presented to her. “You know, I’m worried about you. The question is very simple, yet you’re being very evasive and cannot seem to answer it. All I’m asking is whether that is your signature or not. You can’t answer such a simple question. How much more when we get to the harder questions later? I’m sure there will be many,” Tulfo said.He warned that her failure to answer directly could expose her to contempt proceedings. “You could be cited for contempt, and I hope that doesn’t happen. We’re getting frustrated. You’ve been very evasive over a very simple question. You keep looking through the pages when your signature is right there in front of you,” he added.Bajan apologized, explaining that she was merely trying to refresh her memory because the documents were old.Tulfo also questioned whether the impeachment court could cite witnesses for contempt over conduct he considered disrespectful to the proceedings. “From what I can see, they have no respect for the impeachment court. They disregard the fact that we can take action against them, even as they pretend not to know anything and laugh about it,” he said.Private prosecutor Mae Divinagracia separately raised concerns about Bajan's conduct, asking the court to remind her not to look toward defense lawyers while answering questions.Bajan was presented by defense lawyer Lindon Bacquel as the third defense witness for Article II of the Articles of Impeachment, which concerns allegations of unexplained wealth.

- PH fifth in Asean illicit trade index — report (2026-11-10 06:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines ranked fifth among Asean countries in the Illicit Trade Index, according to a report released on Tuesday.The country scored 51.1 out of 100, above the Asean average of 49.7.It performed best in taxation and economic environment (65.6) and worst in sectoral Indicators of illicit trade (31.2).The report said the score is supported by

relatively strong regulatory institutions and some established customs tools.Meanwhile, the main pressures come from criminal activity, supply chain control gaps, and the continued growth of illicit markets in several sectors.

• Over 300 flights to be canceled, rescheduled for Asean Summit (2026-11-10 04:53)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 300 domestic flights are expected to be canceled or rescheduled starting November 14 as the government implements security and operational measures for next week's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said Tuesday.Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon assured affected passengers they would be entitled to free rebooking, a full refund or travel credits without additional charges as the country prepares to host leaders of major economies in Metro Manila.Speaking at a joint press conference with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) and representatives of Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific and AirAsia, the DOTr chief said the adjustments were necessary to accommodate the arrival and departure of heads of state and government.He said the flight disruptions would begin on November 14, when the first batch of foreign leaders is expected to arrive, and continue until all summit delegates have departed."More than 300 flights would be affected but these would not all be cancellations, as some flights would only be rescheduled," Dizon said.The DOTr, CAAP and CAB will publish the list of affected flights on their respective websites and provide copies to media organizations to inform the traveling public.Passengers whose flights are affected may choose among three options: rebooking without penalties or fees, a full refund of the ticket price or travel credits that can be used for future trips.

• Robredo-Tulfo leads Duterte-Padilla in OCTA's first tandem poll (2026-11-10 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — A hypothetical presidential and vice presidential tandem of former vice president and now Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo and Sen. Raffy Tulfo leads a pairing of Davao City Mayor Sebastian "Baste" Duterte and Sen. Robin Padilla, 43 percent to 39 percent, in the first OCTA Research survey testing the two combinations for the 2028 elections.The four-percentage-point advantage, however, masks a sharp regional divide, with Robredo and Tulfo enjoying a commanding lead in Luzon while Duterte and Padilla overwhelmingly dominate in Mindanao, according to OCTA's third-quarter 2026 Tugon ng Masa survey released on Tuesday.The Robredo-Tulfo tandem leads 61 percent to 19 percent in Balance Luzon and 49 percent to 32 percent in Metro Manila. In contrast, the Duterte-Padilla pairing commands 81 percent in Mindanao, against 4 percent for its rivals.A close contest was seen in Visayas, with Duterte and Padilla receiving 43 percent and Robredo and Tulfo 41 percent.The survey also found a pronounced ethnolinguistic divide. Robredo and Tulfo lead among Tagalog or Filipino respondents, 54 percent to 24 percent, and Ilocanos, 80 percent to 8 percent.Duterte and Padilla, meanwhile, enjoy a commanding 75-percent preference among Cebuano or Bisaya respondents, compared with 10 percent for Robredo and Tulfo.OCTA said the national lead appears to reflect two large but opposing regional and ethnolinguistic advantages rather than a broad-based advantage for either tandem.Despite the national lead, neither pairing commands

majority support, with 18 percent of respondents saying they would vote for neither tandem or were undecided.The results are based on face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult Filipinos conducted from September 28 to October 4, 2026. OCTA reported a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.The poll is the research firm's first measurement of the hypothetical Robredo-Tulfo and Duterte-Padilla matchup and serves as a baseline for future surveys.The findings come despite Robredo reiterating on November 9 that she would not seek the presidency in 2028, saying she intended to run for reelection as Naga City mayor instead.

• Samal assessor: Barangay listed in Duterte SALN does not exist (2026-11-10 03:53)

MANILA, Philippines — A property declared in Vice President Sara Duterte's Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) carries an address in a barangay that does not exist in the city where it is supposedly located, the Samal city assessor told the Senate Impeachment Court on Tuesday.John Kenneth Enumerables, city assessor of the Island Garden City of Samal, testified that the property's assessed and market values in local tax records matched those reflected in Duterte's SALN. However, he said local records placed the property in Barangay San Isidro, Kaputian District, while the SALN identified its location as Barangay Matanos.Enumerables confirmed that there was no Barangay Matanos in the Island Garden City of Samal.During direct examination, defense lawyer Lindon Bacquel asked Enumerables to identify the registered owner of the property. "The registered owner is Manases Reyes Carpio," Enumerables replied, referring to Duterte's husband.Asked about the property's location, the assessor identified it as Barangay San Isidro, Kaputian District, Island Garden City of Samal, Davao del Norte.

• Escudero warns: Witnesses who lie face perjury charges (2026-11-10 02:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Witnesses who lie under oath before the impeachment court could face contempt sanctions and perjury charges, Senate Officer Francis Escudero warned Tuesday, reminding both the prosecution and defense that false testimony carries legal consequences.Escudero issued the warning after Senator-judge Vicente "Tito" Sotto III asked the court to remind witnesses and lawyers of the penalties for lying during the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. "Is it not we have penalties and sanctions against those who lie before the impeachment court?" Sotto asked, seeking to refresh the court's and the participants' understanding of the rules.Escudero said witnesses could be cited for contempt and face separate perjury cases before the appropriate prosecutorial offices or courts. "Because the statements given by any witness are under oath and are therefore covered by our laws on perjury as well," Escudero said.Senator-judge Panfilo Lacson reinforced the warning, citing Rule 5 of Senate Resolution No. 39, adopted by the Senate Impeachment Court in March 2011, which expressly grants the tribunal the power to cite anyone for contempt.Lacson's remarks followed his criticism of Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin, the first defense witness, over his behavior during Monday's hearing. "Yesterday was not a good day for the impeachment court simply because we had a witness who smirked, who

laughed, almost made a mockery of the impeachment trial," Lacson said.

• Escudero hopes VP Sara impeachment trial will end in December (2026-11-10 02:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Presiding Officer Francis Escudero on Tuesday expressed hope that the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte will be concluded before Christmas or the New Year.Speaking to reporters, Escudero said he has long favored resolving the proceedings within the year so the country can move forward and focus on new challenges in 2027. "If you ask me, ideally, in a perfect world, I hope the impeachment proceedings will be concluded before Christmas or before the New Year, regardless of who wins or loses," Escudero said. "Whichever side prevails, I hope we can overcome this and bring it to an end within this year so that we can face new challenges and problems in the coming year," he added.Escudero however clarified that the Senate has no fixed timeline for the trial. "We are not following any timeline. We release the schedule every month, if you notice. The schedule I officially released was only until November. I released the November schedule in October. We do not yet have a schedule for December. That will depend on what happens this month," he said.

• Belmonte, Sandoval, Sotto lead NCR mayors in trust survey (2026-11-10 02:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, Malabon Mayor Jeannie Sandoval and Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto emerged as Metro Manila's most trusted and top-performing local chief executives, an independent governance survey showed.The three mayors led a group of seven local chief executives who shared the top ranking in the latest survey conducted by RPMD Foundation Inc. in partnership with iSTORYA! News and 1News.Ph from November 2 to 7.Belmonte topped the rankings with 90.62 percent, followed by Sandoval with 89.76 percent and Sotto with 89.65 percent.Also in the top tier were Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco (89.44 percent), Caloocan Mayor Along Malapitan (89.21 percent), Valenzuela Mayor Wes Gatchalian (89.09 percent) and Pasay Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano (89.01 percent).The second-ranked group included Manila Mayor Isko Moreno (88.06 percent), Makati Mayor Nancy Binay (87.96 percent), Parañaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez (87.70 percent), Mandaluyong Mayor Menchie Abalos (87.62 percent) and Muntinlupa Mayor Ruffy Biazon (87.04 percent).Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano placed third with 86 percent, followed by San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora with 82.74 percent and Marikina Mayor Maan Teodoro with 78.45 percent.Las Piñas Mayor April Aguilar-Nery (76.44 percent) and Pateros Mayor Gerald German (75.24 percent) shared sixth place.RPMD Executive Director Dr. Paul Martinez said the results reflected generally positive public sentiment toward local leadership across the National Capital Region."All NCR mayors and congressional representatives surpassed RPMD's 55 percent passing benchmark, indicating that constituents are generally satisfied with their leadership and performance," Martinez said.He described the results as a strong indication that public service efforts are being recognized and appreciated by residents.

• Flu cases rise, experts urge vaccination (2026-11-10 02:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Health experts urged Filipinos to get vaccinated against influenza ahead of the holiday season as cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) continue to rise.The Department of Health earlier said ILI cases rose by 31 percent from October 1 to 14. Western Visayas, Mimaropa and Central Visayas had the most number of cases.Dr. Maria Liela Peñalosa, medical head of Sanofi Vaccines, warned that influenza could lead to serious complications, particularly among children, senior citizens, pregnant women and people with existing medical conditions. “Flu is not just a simple cold; it can lead to serious complications, especially for high-risk age groups,” Peñalosa said in a statement on Monday.She encouraged Filipinos to consult their doctors and schedule their flu vaccinations before holiday gatherings and travel, noting that the body needs time to build protection after vaccination.The start of the northeast monsoon or amihan and the expected increase in gatherings and travel during the holidays could also raise the risk of virus transmission.

- SEC probes data breach (2026-11-10 02:08)

MANILA, Philippines — The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is conducting an investigation and system-wide audit of its digital platforms following a data security incident detected on November 6, 2026.It assured the public that no company records were affected.In a statement late Monday, the SEC said initial findings showed that no passwords were leaked and no data had been modified or altered. It said its internal database infrastructure and system integrity remain intact.However, the commission acknowledged that individual profile information may have been exposed, although it is still verifying the origin, scope and validity of the potentially affected records.

- Filipino nurse in Guam wins US national health equity award (2026-11-10 01:42)

GUAM — A 37-year-old Filipino nurse from Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, has received a national nursing award in the United States for his contributions to improving healthcare access and helping vulnerable patients avoid unnecessary hospitalizations.Job Marconi Mascardo, a nurse quality improvement specialist at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, received the 2026 DAISY Award for Nurses Advancing Health Equity on Oct. 15 in Las Vegas, Nevada.Presented by the American Association for Men in Nursing (AAMN) in partnership with the DAISY Foundation, the award recognizes nurses whose work addresses healthcare disparities and improves access to quality care, particularly among vulnerable populations. “This recognition is particularly meaningful because it reflects my commitment to improving healthcare access, patient experiences, and outcomes,” Mascardo told The Manila Times. “More than the award itself, I value the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the community I serve.” According to The Global Filipino Magazine, Mascardo spent three years as a telephonic care manager nurse at Humana, supporting nearly 3,000 members enrolled in Dual Eligible and Chronic Special Needs Plans across several US states.His work involved identifying barriers to healthcare, helping patients understand their medical needs, and coordinating services to prevent avoidable hospitalizations.Now based in Guam, Mascardo focuses on improving healthcare processes, patient safety, and clinical outcomes at the island's government hospital.Among his

priorities is the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program, which emphasizes proper discharge planning and continuity of care to help patients recover safely at home and reduce hospital readmissions.Mascardo's accomplishments earned him another distinction on Oct. 24, when he was among nine Filipino nurses recognized for nursing leadership at the 2026 Outstanding Filipino Awards (TOFA) in Jacksonville, Florida.His two awards capped a 14-year nursing career that began in the Philippines and eventually took him to several US states before Guam.Born in Dipolog City, Mascardo spent his teenage years in Dumaguete City, where he attended Silliman University high school and earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.He obtained a Master of Arts in Nursing, specializing in Nursing Administration, from Wesleyan University-Philippines.Interestingly, Mascardo admitted that nursing was not initially his passion. “I pursued nursing primarily because my father encouraged me to consider the opportunities it could offer, particularly working abroad,” he recalled. “Although I was not the strongest student academically, I gradually developed a genuine passion for nursing and caring for others, especially through community health rotation.” After graduating, Mascardo said he encountered the difficult realities facing many nurses in the Philippines, including unpaid work, exploitative volunteer arrangements, low wages, workplace bullying, and limited job security.He trained and volunteered with the Philippine Red Cross Cebu Chapter, responding to health emergencies and disasters.He credited that experience with instilling the humanitarian principles that continue to guide his nursing career.Mascardo eventually pursued opportunities in the US, including frontline nursing work in Montana during the Covid-19 pandemic and care management in Texas.He was working as a care manager nurse in Houston when he decided to relocate to Guam, attracted by its proximity to the Philippines and the opportunity to continue his US nursing career.

- Malabon releases 4th tranche of financial aid for 93,574 households (2026-11-10 00:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Malabon City Mayor Jeannie Sandoval on Tuesday announced the release of the fourth tranche of the regular financial aid for 93,574 households as her administration reaffirmed its commitment to responsive public service and sustained support for families in need."For us, true public service is not measured solely by the number of programs implemented, but by how we respond to the needs of our fellow citizens. We aim to implement our programs fairly to ensure that every Malabueño has access to our services,” Sandoval told The Manila Times via Viber interview. “We believe that no one should be left behind in the delivery of public service. That is why we continue to strive to bring the Malabon Ahon ‘Ayuda’ (assistance) to over 93,000 beneficiaries, so that our families can feel that the city government is always ready to support them,” she stressed. This marks the 18th tranche of quarterly assistance released since the program was launched in December 2022, City Administrator Alex Rosete said.

- Brazil’s president to visit PH (2026-11-10 00:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will be in the Philippines on November 14 to 15, the first time a sitting Brazilian President will visit the country.The

Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Tuesday said the Brazilian leader was invited by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to celebrate the 80th anniversary of bilateral relations between the two countries. “The State Visit is historic: it will be the first visit to the Philippines by a sitting Brazilian President, and it coincides with the 80th anniversary of Philippines-Brazil diplomatic relations in 2026,” the Palace said in a statement. “The two countries seek to expand collaboration in trade and investment, agriculture, energy, science and technology, defense, and technical cooperation,” it added.

- Defense witness can’t recall China trip details (2026-11-09 20:36)

DAVAO City Assessor Jaime Adalin confirmed traveling to China on Jan. 25, 2026, as senator-judges questioned his frequent overseas trips, including an alleged visit sponsored by the Chinese Consulate, and how he could afford such travel on a monthly salary of about P120,000.During the 40th day of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo questioned Adalin about his reported travels to China, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Australia dating back to 2018. “Where did you travel on Jan. 25, 2026?” Tulfo asked.Adalin said he had asked his office to verify the information and confirmed that he had indeed traveled to China.Tulfo also asked about Adalin’s alleged trip to China on Nov. 12, 2018. However, the witness said he could not recall having any record of that particular trip.Tulfo said he could present CCTV footage showing Adalin allegedly boarding flight PR356 to China on that date. He also pointed out that the witness reportedly stayed in the country for only two days.The senator-judge further cited Adalin’s reported trips to Hong Kong, Thailand, and Australia, questioning how the city government official could frequently travel abroad on his salary. “I’m not belittling you, but how much do you earn that you are always able to travel abroad?” Tulfo asked.Adalin replied that a department head in the city government earns about P120,000 a month.Earlier in the proceedings, prosecution counsel Benjamin Tolosa Jr. questioned Adalin about his alleged participation in an all-expenses-paid trip to China reportedly sponsored by the Chinese Consulate in November 2025.Asked whether he was among the Davao City officials who joined the trip, Adalin replied, “I think that is irrelevant.” Pressed further on whether he had traveled to China around that period, Adalin responded, “maybe,” indicating uncertainty.He later said he had no record of the trip and could not remember all the travels being mentioned. He also laughed during the exchange.Tolosa explained that he was asking about the alleged trip to assess Adalin’s credibility, citing what he described as the witness’s evasiveness in answering questions.Senator-Judge Erwin Tulfo then reminded Adalin that he was testifying under oath and could face contempt proceedings. “Mr. Presiding Officer, this witness is making fools of us. Sir, may I remind you, you’re under oath,” Tulfo said.Tulfo warned the witness against treating the proceedings as a joke. “You’re making a joke of your testimony, and that’s not allowed. We can cite you in contempt. Just to remind you, sir. We’re serious here,” the senator-judge said.Tulfo added that Adalin had yet to provide a clear answer about the alleged China trip, reminding him that giving false testimony under oath carries legal consequences.Senator-Judge Risa Hontiveros also questioned Adalin about his January 2026 trip to China, asking him to identify the places he

visited and the people who accompanied him.Adalin reiterated that he traveled to China around Jan. 25 with other Davao City government department heads and individuals. However, he said he could no longer remember the specific places they visited.When Hontiveros asked him to name at least three destinations, Adalin apologized and maintained that he could not recall them.Asked whether he had visited Beijing, he replied, "I think we may have gone there." Hontiveros expressed disbelief over his inability to remember the places he had visited and admonished him for laughing during the exchange.She later asked who had arranged their visit to Beijing and who had accompanied them on their return from Shanghai.Adalin said he was certain he had traveled to China but could no longer remember who facilitated or guided the trip. He maintained that it was a personal visit.Hontiveros questioned how Adalin could have arrived in Beijing and returned to Manila from Shanghai without remembering the details of his itinerary. "Sir, if our travel authorities know that you arrived in Beijing and then returned to Manila from Shanghai, you must have [been there]. Unless you have a doppelganger here in the Philippines who traveled all the way to China," she said.The senator-judge also asked whether Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte had accompanied Adalin and other city officials, including the heads of the engineering and treasury departments, during their January trip to Beijing and Shanghai.Adalin denied that the mayor had joined them.

• Tinio hits Marcos over alleged 'hide the poor' tactic for ASEAN Summit (2026-11-09 18:52)

MANILA, Philippines — ACT Teachers party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio on Monday accused the Marcos administration of reviving the former first lady Imelda Marcos' practice of concealing urban poverty from foreign visitors, citing the clearing of vendors, street dwellers and small businesses along routes for the ASEAN Summit.Tinio, also a deputy minority leader, said the displacement of urban poor communities in Pasay and Parañaque to present a "sanitized" Metro Manila to more than 10,000 foreign delegates echoed beautification campaigns during the Marcos dictatorship. "Five decades after Imelda Marcos whitewashed Manila's slums for the Miss Universe pageant, the IMF-World Bank meeting, and the papal visit, her son is staging the exact same production," Tinio said. "From the 'City of Man' to today's art-wrapped barriers along J.W. Diokno Boulevard, the script has not changed: hide the poor, polish the pavement, and deceive the world," he added.Among those affected were vendors near Baclaran Church and beneath LRT Line 1 in Pasay, as well as workers at small businesses such as Diwata Pares, whose employees reportedly earn P500 a day.Tinio also cited reports that street dwellers near the Manila Film Center had been driven away ahead of the summit.He criticized the use of artworks, including those by National Artists, on barriers along summit routes, saying art was being used to conceal hunger and homelessness rather than expose social realities. "It is the height of irony that the works of Filipino artists — including our National Artists — are being weaponized to hide hunger and homelessness from visiting dignitaries," he said.Tinio said affected workers had received no financial assistance and had not been given a timeline for returning to their livelihoods.He also recalled that the same road stretch was littered with garbage when President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. personally inspected it in

August, arguing that the problem stemmed from government neglect rather than aesthetics. “Poverty is not an eyesore to be fenced off from view. It is the direct result of decades of anti-people policies,” Tinio said.He urged the administration to prioritize in-city housing, livelihood security and basic services over beautification projects, and called on the ASEAN National Organizing Council and the local governments of Pasay and Parañaque to compensate affected vendors and workers and guarantee their return to their livelihoods after the summit. “If the Marcoses truly want to impress the world, they should not hide the poor — they should lift them up,” Tinio said. “But after five decades, from Imelda to Bongbong, wala pa ring nagbago: the poor remain hidden, and the powerful remain committed only to appearances.”

• Sandiganbayan inspects Romualdez detention facility (2026-11-09 18:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Third Division on Monday conducted an ocular inspection of the Quezon City Male Dormitory, where former Speaker Martin Romualdez is detained over a P7.44-billion plunder case.Associate Justices Karl B. Miranda and Fritz Bryn Anthony Makasiar Delos Santos inspected the facility to verify compliance with the court’s commitment order issued Sept. 10 and determine whether established procedures were being followed.In a statement sent to The Manila Times by Third Division Clerk of Court lawyer Dennis Pulma before the inspection, the court said the activity “should not be interpreted as a finding that any irregularity has occurred,” stressing that it had reached no conclusion concerning the allegations or the conduct of any person. “The Court's responsibility is to ascertain the facts, uphold the law, and ensure that its orders are respected,” it said.

• Defense witness fails to match lot to SALN (2026-11-09 16:17)

THE first defense witness in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial admitted on Monday that he could not verify whether a 379-square-meter property in Matina Crossing, Davao City, acquired by her husband, Manases Carpio, was the same residential lot declared in her 2024 statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN), despite earlier testifying that the properties matched city tax records.Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin made the admission under questioning by Senator-Judge Bam Aquino during the 40th day of the impeachment trial, acknowledging that he had not checked all properties registered under Duterte and Carpio’s names in Barangay 74-A and could not establish how many properties the couple owned in the area.Adalin said he examined only the property covered by a Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) ending in 0775 because it was the specific title identified in the subpoena issued by the impeachment court. “Did you check all of Vice President Sara’s properties in Barangay 74-A? Or did you only check this particular lot? Did you check how many properties she actually has in Barangay 74-A?” Aquino asked. “I did not check them anymore because the subpoena already specified the particular title ending in 0775,” Adalin replied.Aquino pointed out that without examining the other properties in the barangay, Adalin could not establish whether the lot covered by the title was the couple’s only property in the area. “So you cannot say that? Because if you had checked, you could have said that she owns only one property in Barangay

74-A. You cannot say that now?” Aquino asked. “No, I cannot,” Adalin admitted.Asked again whether he had checked how many properties were registered under Carpio and Duterte’s names in Barangay 74-A, the assessor replied, “I did not check.” Adalin said the Electronic Certificate Authorizing Registration (eCAR) and the previous tax declaration could be used as references in determining whether the property was reflected in Duterte’s SALN.The admission followed a lengthy cross-examination by House private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr., who questioned whether the defense had sufficiently established that the property covered by the TCT was the same residential lot declared in Duterte’s SALN.Tolosa presented an eCAR dated July 24, 2024, covering a property in Huna Subdivision, Matina Crossing, Talomo, Davao City. The document indicated that Carpio purchased the 379-square-meter lot, including its existing improvements, for P6 million.The prosecutor compared the transaction with Duterte’s 2024 SALN, in which she declared a residential lot valued at P10 million.Tolosa questioned the absence of specific property identifiers in the SALN, including block and lot numbers, street names, and land coordinates.When asked whether these details appeared in the document, Adalin acknowledged, “That is not indicated there.” The prosecution also challenged Adalin’s identification of the property after presenting a street-view photograph and asking whether it showed the same property covered by the TCT. “I’m not quite sure, sir,” Adalin replied.When Tolosa clarified that the photograph, taken in July 2025, showed the establishment now known as Davao’s Prime Bistro, Adalin again expressed uncertainty. “I’m not sure,” he said.Tolosa also called attention to Adalin’s repeated use of the word “probably” when explaining the relationship between the tax declarations and the eCAR. “You’re quite fond of using the word probably, but again, we don’t have to venture into probabilities. Let’s talk about facts,” Tolosa told the witness.At another point, Tolosa pressed Adalin to directly answer whether Duterte’s SALN included the tax declarations that could help establish the actual locations of the properties. “Sir, this is very simple. Let’s not beat around the bush. My question is very straightforward,” Tolosa said.Defense lawyer Lindon Bacquel interjected, saying the question had already been answered, but Presiding Officer Francis Escudero disagreed. “Not yet answered, attorney Lindon,” Escudero said.The prosecution’s questioning contrasted with Adalin’s earlier testimony during the defense’s direct examination, when he confirmed that properties listed in Duterte’s SALN corresponded to tax declarations maintained by his office.Defense counsel Bacquel presented Duterte’s SALN as of Dec. 31, 2025, and asked Adalin to verify the declared properties against the assessor’s records.Adalin confirmed that the residential lot in Barangay 74-A, with an assessed value of P82,046, and a commercial building in the same barangay corresponded to the tax declarations on file with his office.Escudero also asked whether the residential property, with a market value of P2,051,150 and an assessed value of P82,046, was the same property being presented by the defense. “Yes, it is the same property, Your Honor,” Adalin said, based on the tax declaration.Adalin subsequently confirmed that the property in Matina Crossing was the same property declared in Duterte’s SALN, explaining that Matina Crossing and Barangay 74-A referred to the same location.However, when Bacquel asked whether his confirmation meant there was no basis for the prosecution’s claim that the property had not been properly identified in the SALN, Tolosa objected, arguing that the question called for an opinion.Escudero

sustained the objection.The proceedings also revisited the discrepancy between the P6-million purchase price indicated in the deed of sale and the P10-million amount declared in Duterte's 2024 SALN.Asked to explain the difference, Adalin said he did not know.Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian also questioned how Adalin established that the property in Barangay 74-A was the same one declared in Duterte's SALN, noting that the disclosure document did not contain a title number or tax declaration number.Adalin said he based his identification partly on the property's assessed value of P82,046, its market value, and an electronic record showing the previous tax declaration.Gatchalian also questioned the property's classification, emphasizing that actual use, rather than zoning designation alone, should determine whether a property should be classified as residential or commercial.He pointed out that the establishment shown during the proceedings was being used as a dining business.Adalin confirmed that the building belonged to Carpio and stood on the property covered by the TCT ending in 0775. However, he clarified that he had not personally inspected the establishment and had instead instructed technical personnel from his office to verify the property.Gatchalian further noted that several lots in the subdivision appeared to have similar shapes and dimensions, raising the possibility that other properties could have comparable assessed and market values.Adalin agreed that this was possible.Senator-Judge Joel Villanueva, meanwhile, sought to distinguish the property's assessed value, market value, and actual acquisition cost.Adalin explained that his office determines assessed values based on the approved schedule of market values and the applicable ordinance but does not independently verify the actual purchase price paid by buyers.Villanueva also confirmed with the witness that the property's assessed value of P82,046 had been carried over from the previous owner's tax declaration when the property was transferred to Carpio.Senator-Judge Francis Pangilinan subsequently challenged Adalin over his changing statements about whether photographs shown during the proceedings depicted the same property identified in Duterte's SALN and the deed of sale.Pangilinan said Adalin had initially expressed uncertainty about a photograph showing Prime Dining but later became certain about the property's identity after consulting personnel from his office.Adalin explained that he was certain about a separate photograph without the business sign because it matched the images submitted by the city's appraisers. "The picture shown earlier without the business name — that is the one I am certain about. That is indeed the property," Adalin said.Pangilinan nevertheless questioned the consistency of the witness's testimony. "Clearly, there are inconsistencies in your testimonies. Forgive me, engineer, but you say one thing and then you say another. So, we are wondering: What is really true in what you are saying?" he said.Senator-Judge Imee Marcos also examined the discrepancy between the P6-million consideration in the deed of sale and the P10-million acquisition cost declared in Duterte's SALN, raising questions about whether additional transaction expenses could account for the difference.Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo, meanwhile, suggested that the impeachment court compare the property titles side by side to determine whether the lot declared in Duterte's SALN was identical to the property covered by the title presented during the proceedings.The Matina Crossing property is among the assets examined under Article II of the Articles of Impeachment, which concerns allegations of unexplained and undeclared wealth against Duterte.Records presented during the trial showed that Carpio

acquired the 379-square-meter property on July 2, 2024, for P6 million. The couple subsequently mortgaged it to Philippine Savings Bank for P8 million on Aug. 27, 2024.The Davao City Register of Deeds had earlier reported finding no matching entry in Duterte's 2025 SALN based on the property's price, location, and mode of acquisition.The defense, meanwhile, has maintained that Matina Crossing and Barangay 74-A refer to the same location.Adalin, who has served as Davao City assessor since his appointment by then-mayor Sara Duterte in 2017, was presented by the defense to testify on the city's tax declarations, property records, and tax maps concerning the disputed property.Forensic accountant Alexander Cabrera, former chairman of PwC Philippines, earlier estimated that Duterte and Carpio accumulated P817.87 million in allegedly undeclared assets and income between 2022 and 2025. He testified that the figure could approach P1.5 billion under less conservative assumptions.Cabrera's property subtotal alone reached P143.50 million, covering real estate, insurance, investments, firearms, and corporate equity.Duterte declared a net worth of P98.66 million at year-end 2025, an increase of P26.99 million from 2022.Although Cabrera referenced the Matina Crossing transaction, noting that the couple declared P10 million in the SALN and P16.5 million in a bank loan application, he excluded the property's value from his final undeclared-wealth estimate pending clear identification. 'Weakness' for defenseHouse prosecutors said Adalin was more of a liability than an asset to the defense. "He's not a witness but a weakness," Manila 3rd District Rep. Joel Chua said in a briefing on Day 40 of the proceedings, pointing to what he tagged as "very glaring" inconsistencies in Adalin's statements. "We all saw the defense's first witness — and what a liar he turned out to be. Right from the start, it was clear how he tried to defend his claims," he added in Filipino.This was echoed by prosecution spokesman and Lanao del Sur 1st District Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong who said Adalin "failed miserably" to weaken the prosecution's case. "He wants to save the vice president by making up stories. He's not only biased but he is also very incompetent," Adiong said. "The statement of the witness of the defense did not hurt the prosecution. It strengthened the case of the prosecution," he added.Adiong asserted that Adalin was trying to protect Duterte rather than resolve the disputed details.Davao City's published description of the assessor's office lists tax mapping, property appraisal and maintenance of assessment records among its functions.Chua said Adalin should have answered directly from the records. "The sad part is, instead of responding based on facts, he had to resort to making excuses and lying," he said.

- Bato's lawyer urges SC to act before arrest (2026-11-09 16:16)

THE lawyer of fugitive Sen. Ronald dela Rosa has urged the Supreme Court to act immediately on his petition challenging the government's cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), warning that his possible arrest and transfer to The Hague could render the court's eventual intervention ineffective.Lawyer Israelito Torreon told The Manila Times that the petition remains pending before the Supreme Court en banc, which has yet to resolve the constitutional questions surrounding the enforcement of the ICC arrest warrant against the senator.Torreon said the legal situation had become more urgent following what he described as an escalation in the government's efforts to locate and arrest dela Rosa, including a

P50-million bounty on his capture and his designation as “armed and dangerous.” In a 15-page manifestation filed on Oct. 27, Torreon asked the high court to resolve the pending motion for reconsideration of its May 20 denial of the senator’s request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) and a status quo ante order.The Supreme Court denied the request by a 9-5-1 vote. Torreon said the denial did not resolve the main constitutional issues raised in the petition.He said the circumstances considered by the court in May had since changed, particularly following the Palace’s confirmation on Aug. 6 of a standing presidential order to arrest dela Rosa and its Oct. 24 announcement of a directive for faster and more aggressive police action.The senator is wanted by the ICC for crimes against humanity in relation to the Duterte administration’s bloody war on drugs, which dela Rosa headed at the time as the chief of the Philippine National Police.Torreon also cited the Oct. 23 statements by the Department of the Interior and Local Government secretary and the Philippine National Police chief declaring dela Rosa armed and dangerous and offering P50 million for his capture.He argued that the bounty could encourage private individuals to take the law into their own hands, noting that private citizens have no authority to arrest the senator in the absence of a Philippine warrant. “The right to life is now directly at stake, and a right does not get clearer than that,” Torreon said.He also said the Philippine National Police had activated tracker teams in every region following the Oct. 30 deadline set in connection with the intensified manhunt.Torreon said the Supreme Court’s denial of the TRO did not authorize the government to enforce the ICC warrant or surrender dela Rosa to the international tribunal. “Denying a TRO is not a warrant of arrest. It is not a finding that the ICC warrant can be enforced here, and it is not a surrender order,” he said.He maintained that the executive branch had treated the court’s denial of interim relief as authority to proceed with the arrest and surrender of the senator, even though the main petition remained unresolved.Among the questions Torreon said the court must settle is whether an arrest warrant issued by an international tribunal can be enforced in the Philippines without a Philippine court first determining probable cause.More than 500 tipsPNP chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Monday said they have received not less than 500 information on the whereabouts and location of dela Rosa, including some islands he has never heard of before.These include different areas in Mindanao, Visayas, Bicol, Southern Tagalog, Northern and Central Luzon, he said, and some places where one had “to cross 11 rivers” to get to.Apart from the Unified 911 Emergency hotline, the PNP has established hotline numbers specifically dedicated to information leading to the arrest of dela Rosa who currently is the country’s top most wanted with his P50-million bounty.Law enforcement agencies are now all out on the hunt for dela Rosa after the one-week surrender ultimatum ended Oct. 30.Bolstered by fresh intelligence, National Bureau of Investigation Director Melvin Matibag said they are looking to arrest the senator before the year ends.Nartatez echoed the view and assured the public that police are working round the clock to account not only the fugitive senator, but all subjects of arrest warrants throughout the country.

- High prices, hidden charges erode trust (2026-11-09 16:15)

HIGH prices, unclear pricing and hidden charges are the leading reasons Filipinos distrust businesses, with no industry earning a high level of public confidence in the country's first Philippine Business Trust Index.The 2026 Philippine Business Trust Index, developed by the EON Group in partnership with Ateneo de Manila University, gave Philippine businesses an overall trust score of 72 out of 100, placing them in the study's conditional trust category.The nine sectors, ranked by trust index were Food and Agriculture (75.6); Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals (75.4); Commerce, E-Commerce, and Retail (75.0); Energy and Utilities (73.0); Manufacturing (70.9); Financial Technology (70.8); BPO, ICT, and Technology (68.6); Tourism and Travel (68.6); and Real Estate and Construction (67.7).None of the nine business sectors examined reached the Robust Trust category, indicating that public confidence in businesses remains limited despite their importance in Filipinos' daily lives.Among respondents who identified their least-trusted business sector, 19.7 percent cited prices they considered too high or unreasonable as a reason for distrust. Another 14.7 percent pointed to unclear prices or fees, while 11.7 percent cited hidden charges.By comparison, 18.6 percent of respondents identified value for money as a reason for trusting their most-trusted business sector.The findings suggest that consumers' confidence in businesses depends heavily on whether they believe the products and services they pay for are worth the price and whether companies are transparent about their charges.The study's findings come amid rising household expenses, although its survey fieldwork was conducted from May to August, before headline inflation reached 7.8 percent in October. "Are customers staying because they trust a business, or because they have no other choice?" EON Group President and Chief Operating Officer Malyn Molina said. "Filipinos should not have to keep absorbing the cost of poor value and unclear pricing. It is up to businesses to give people real reasons to choose them, and to keep choosing them," she added.The study also found that honesty was the most important attribute Filipinos associated with business trustworthiness, with 34.6 percent of respondents ranking it first among 16 attributes examined.Product and service quality, competence, social or interpersonal trust, genuine care, and accountability and transparency followed.Reputation, meanwhile, ranked last among the 16 attributes. Only 6.8 percent cited it as a reason for trusting their most-trusted business sector.The findings suggest that a company's reputation alone is insufficient to earn consumer confidence without consistent performance and honest dealings with customers. "The prominence of honesty in the findings is significant. It tells us that Filipinos place great importance on whether businesses can be trusted to deal with them truthfully," said Wilfred Luis Clamor of Ateneo's Department of Sociology and Anthropology.Across the nine sectors surveyed, food and agriculture, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, and commerce, e-commerce and retail formed the top tier, each scoring around 75.The study said the differences among the three sectors were too small to establish a meaningful ranking.At the lower end were business process outsourcing and information and communications technology, and tourism and travel, both with scores of 68.6. Real estate and construction scored 67.7.All three fell within the study's Fragile Trust category.FinTech received a score of 70.8, placing it near the boundary between the study's lower and higher trust-score bands.The survey also found little difference in public confidence between large enterprises and micro, small and medium enterprises.Large businesses scored 72.3, compared

with 71.7 for MSMEs. The 0.6-point difference was within the study's margin of error, indicating comparable levels of reported public confidence.Business representatives who participated in focus group discussions said companies with clean compliance records could benefit from regulatory incentives, including longer license validity periods and green-lane arrangements.They also observed that trusted brands may be better positioned to retain customers even when prices increase.The study combined a nationwide face-to-face survey of 800 Filipino adults across 160 villages in 84 cities and towns, with focus group discussions involving 82 participants and interviews with 18 business executives.It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for percentages.EON said the study was descriptive and exploratory, with survey results reflecting public perceptions rather than independently verified assessments of business conduct.The 2026 edition introduced the first Philippine Business Trust Index, establishing a baseline for measuring public confidence across nine major business sectors.EON has been conducting studies on public trust in the Philippines since 2011.

- Distribution of 231K laptops to teachers starts (2026-11-09 16:14)

THE first batch of the 231,725 laptops allocated for public school teachers were distributed during a ceremonial turnover in Dagupan City Monday.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the initial distribution of 209 laptops, and was joined first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and Education Secretary Sonny Angara.In his speech, the president stressed that modernizing the education system entails providing teachers the resources and the support they need to perform their duties effectively in the classroom. "These laptops will equip our school personnel with the tools that they need to carry out their duties more efficiently," Marcos said.Of the 231,725 laptops to be distributed, 169,008 are MacBook Neo units, and 62,717 run on Windows, with another 3,646 MacBook Neo devices assigned to administrative officers.Apple previously said the Philippine government's acquisition of the said laptop model was its "biggest education deal ever for Mac." Aside from providing the latest laptop models to teachers, Marcos highlighted that the Department of Education (DepEd) has drastically reduced the administrative workload for educators, cutting required forms from 174 down to 75, with only five requiring regular completion.The workload reduction gives teachers more dedicated time for lesson preparation and direct student instruction. "Long before the first bell rings, many of our teachers are already preparing for the day. When the last bell rings, there are still lessons to prepare, papers to check, and more importantly, young people who need someone to listen, to guide, and to encourage them," Marcos said.The president also highlighted progress under the Expanded Career Progression System, which has reclassified over 82,100 teachers and school heads nationwide, including more than 10,200 in Pangasinan province alone.Simultaneous with the ceremonial rollout of the laptops was the oath-taking of the 5,211 promoted school personnel and heads in the province, and the hiring of 234 new School Counselor Associates (SCAs).

- Gas prices drop by P16.80, diesel by P4.10 (2026-11-09 16:13)

OIL companies imposed a big-time price rollback for gasoline on Tuesday.The per-liter price of gasoline went down by P16.80, diesel by as much as P4.10, and kerosene by as much as P3.70.Energy Secretary Sharon Garin attributed the big price rollback to the "decline in crude prices in the international market, due mostly to the easing of tensions between the US and Iran, as well as due to the results of the US midterm elections." "This substantial rollback is a welcome relief for Filipino motorists, public transport operators, and households. We will continue to closely monitor fuel price adjustments and engage oil industry stakeholders to help ensure that Filipino families benefit from favorable developments in the global oil market," Garin said.Last week, the price of gasoline went up by P3.50 per liter, diesel went down by P1 per liter, and kerosene dropped by P1.90 per liter.

- World entering 'age of climate extremes' – UN chief (2026-11-09 16:12)

THE world is entering a new reality where climate extremes are the norm, the United Nations chief Antonio Guterres warned Monday, urging leaders at the COP31 climate conference in Turkey to "get serious." "A supersized El Niño is colliding with a planet already superheated by manmade climate change," the UN secretary-general said in a statement. "We have entered a new age of climate extremes."As leaders gathered in Antalya for the UN climate summit, Guterres called on them to "get serious by cutting emissions faster, accelerating a just transition from fossil fuels, and delivering the finance and protection vulnerable countries need."His statement came as the UN's World Meteorological Organization released a report indicating that 2026 has continued a streak of exceptional global temperatures, melting ice and rising sea levels.Each of the past 12 years has been among the hottest 12 years on record, the agency said, with this year expected to be among the hottest ever. 'Off the charts' "What we are seeing gives new meaning to the phrase off the charts," WMO chief Celeste Saulo told reporters in Geneva, cautioning that the current exceptionally strong El Niño could unleash more heat and extreme weather well into next year. "We should prepare for another record-breaking year in 2027." The global average surface temperature between January and September this year was around 1.47 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average, the WMO said.And this year's El Niño — expected to be the strongest since 1950 at least — could push the figure higher by the end of the year.Preliminary data shows 2026 figuring among the four hottest years on record, WMO Climate Information Chief John Kennedy told reporters, adding though that "with the El Niño developing, we might see when the final numbers come in that we're close to the top."The naturally occurring weather phenomenon releases heat from the ocean, which this year has been the warmest ever measured, Saulo pointed out.El Niño is declared when the sea surface temperature is half a degree above average in the tropical Pacific, but from now through January, WMO forecasts "it may be 3.8 C above average," she said.The WMO also reported that the global sea level was the highest on record, freshwater was dwindling and glaciers were continuing a long-term retreat.In 2025, the annual mass loss of ice was enough to fill five Olympic pools every second that year, it said.At the same time, "we are supercharging our weather, and El Niño will be a risk multiplier," Saulo said, warning that "heat waves, tropical cyclones, and rainstorms are intensifying faster than our

historical baselines prepared us for.” On a positive note, the WMO hailed a significant increase of countries with essential multi-hazard early warning systems in place, from 55 in 2015 to 136 last year.It urged the COP31 to ensure more investment in the sustained global observations, data-gathering and forecasting needed for such systems to work. “We cannot afford to fly blind,” Saulo said.

- Duterte pull strong among young voters (2026-11-09 16:11)

THE political influence of the Duterte family remains strong among younger Filipino voters, particularly in Mindanao, with Davao City Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte emerging as the most preferred senatorial candidate among Generation Z respondents for the 2028 elections, a new survey showed.Baste Duterte was favored by 47 percent of Gen Z respondents, ahead of Sen. Robin Padilla (40 percent), Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto (33 percent) and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano (27 percent), based on the Oct. 16 to 19 National Momentum Survey conducted by Momentum Research.The findings also showed strong support for Duterte-aligned candidates in Mindanao, where 62 percent of respondents said they would vote for Baste Duterte as senator, followed by Padilla at 54 percent and Davao City 1st District Rep. Paolo “Pulong” Duterte at 45 percent.Cayetano ranked fourth in Mindanao with 44 percent.Nationally, Padilla topped the survey with 37 percent, narrowly ahead of Baste Duterte at 36 percent and Cayetano at 35 percent. Sen. Raffy Tulfo followed with 34 percent.Completing the national top 12 were Sotto (32 percent), former senator Grace Poe (29 percent), former senator Manny Pacquiao (26 percent), Sen. Francis Escudero (23 percent), Sen. Loren Legarda (23 percent), Pulong Duterte (21 percent), Makati City Mayor Nancy Binay (19 percent) and broadcaster Ben Tulfo (17 percent).The survey also found a sharp divide along political affiliations.Among respondents identified as pro-Duterte, 67 percent preferred Baste Duterte for senator, while 60 percent chose Padilla. Pulong Duterte received 43 percent, followed by Cayetano at 41 percent.Among pro-Marcos respondents, Tulfo led with 57 percent, followed by Sotto (39 percent), Cayetano (38 percent), Poe (37 percent), Pacquiao (34 percent) and Ben Tulfo (30 percent).Sotto, meanwhile, was the leading choice among opposition supporters at 49 percent, followed by Tulfo at 40 percent. Independents also favored Sotto (36 percent), narrowly ahead of Tulfo (35 percent), Padilla (33 percent), Cayetano (32 percent), and Poe (32 percent).The generational breakdown showed that Duterte-aligned candidates were particularly competitive among younger voters.Among millennials, Padilla led with 48 percent, followed by Cayetano (40 percent) and Baste Duterte (39 percent). Gen X respondents preferred Cayetano (44 percent), Tulfo (42 percent) and Poe (35 percent).Among baby boomers and the Silent Generation, Tulfo led with 42 percent, followed by Sotto (37 percent) and Poe (30 percent).Baste Duterte registered the biggest increase in support since Momentum Research's August survey, gaining 6 percentage points. Revilla gained four points, while Poe, Pacquiao and Mark Villar each increased by three points.The October non-commissioned survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults nationwide. Respondents could select up to 12 names from a list of 51 potential senatorial candidates.It had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.The survey also found regional differences in

senatorial preferences. In Metro Manila, Cayetano led with 48 percent, followed by Sotto (44 percent), Tulfo (38 percent), Poe (35 percent), Pacquiao (33 percent) and Baste Duterte (33 percent).In Visayas, Padilla led with 39 percent, followed by Cayetano (38 percent), Pacquiao and Tulfo (36 percent each), and Sotto (35 percent) and Poe (34 percent).In the rest of Luzon, Tulfo topped the preferences with 39 percent, followed by Sotto (38 percent), Poe (30 percent), Padilla (30 percent), Cayetano (25 percent) and Baste Duterte (25 percent).The non-commissioned survey measured respondents' voting intentions if the elections were held at the time of the interviews.

• Marcos to lead 21st East Asia Summit (2026-11-09 16:10)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will lead the 21st East Asia Summit (EAS), bringing together leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and eight dialogue partners.The EAS, to be held on Nov. 7, will serve as the “high-level culmination” of the Philippines’ 2026 Asean chairmanship.Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.The eight dialogue partners of Asean that will participate in the EAS are China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Russia.The EAS is the premier leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern in the region, the Asean 2026 PH said on Sunday.EAS participating countries (EPCs) pursue practical cooperation through the EAS Plan of Action (2024–2028) in areas such as peace and security, energy, disaster management, health, connectivity, maritime cooperation, education, and economic cooperation.At the 21st EAS, the Philippines will steer discussions on current EAS collaboration and the future direction of cooperation.There are two Philippine-proposed outcomes: the EAS Declaration on Navigating Our Future, Together: Stability and Renewal and the EAS Leaders’ Statement on Strengthening Cooperation Against Cyber-Enabled Fraud and Related Offenses.The EAS declaration is aimed at strengthening regional stability, resilience, cooperation, and the future direction of the EAS in an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving regional environment.The EAS statement seeks to strengthen coordination, prevention, information-sharing, capacity-building, cross-border cooperation and victim protection against increasingly transnational online scams and fraud. “These Philippine initiatives continue concrete regional action across the region and beyond — strengthening the conditions for peace, trade, investment and economic growth while advancing practical cooperation against threats that directly affect Filipinos and other EPCs, including online scams and other cyber-related transnational crimes,” the Asean 2026 PH said.

• El Niño response should safeguard children, Senate president says (2026-11-09 16:09)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday called on local government units (LGUs) and concerned government agencies to prioritize children’s safety, health and welfare in the country’s response to a strong El Niño, stressing their vulnerability to its adverse effects.In line with the observance of National Children’s Month this November, Gatchalian underscored the need for stronger protective measures against El Niño-related health risks, including

heat-related illnesses, dehydration, waterborne diseases, and worsening malnutrition.Children are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather conditions because prolonged exposure to excessive heat, limited access to safe drinking water, and disruptions in food supply can adversely affect their health, nutrition and overall development.These conditions may also pose additional challenges to families and communities already dealing with limited resources.To address these threats, Gatchalian urged LGUs to strengthen coordination with the Department of Health, Department of Education, and water utilities to ensure a continuous supply of clean and safe drinking water, as well as adequate sanitation facilities in schools and communities.Gatchalian also called on local authorities to closely monitor heat-related illnesses and ensure sufficient supplies of oral rehydration solutions and essential medicines.Health monitoring and timely interventions, he said, are important in protecting children from the possible health consequences of extreme temperatures.Contingency measures should likewise be put in place to ensure the uninterrupted implementation of feeding programs, particularly for children vulnerable to malnutrition. “As we respond to the threat of El Niño, let us ensure that the safety, health, and welfare of children are protected, especially since they are among those most vulnerable to its adverse effects,” Gatchalian said.The Senate president also highlighted the need to balance students’ safety against the possible long-term effects of prolonged class disruptions.He previously warned that blanket class suspensions due to extreme heat could further aggravate learning loss among students, particularly those who have yet to recover from previous disruptions to classroom instruction.Instead of imposing widespread class suspensions, Gatchalian advocated localized and granular measures based on actual weather conditions and the circumstances of individual schools and communities.This approach would allow schools in areas experiencing dangerous heat conditions to suspend classes when necessary while enabling those in less affected areas to continue face-to-face instruction, thereby minimizing unnecessary disruptions to learning.Meanwhile, Sen. Loren Legarda sought stronger workplace protections for workers exposed to extreme heat, urging employers to adopt safer working hours and consider additional compensation for those who must continue working under hazardous conditions.The proposal forms the third component of Legarda’s 10-Point Policy Action Plan against El Niño, launched on Oct. 19, as the country prepares for prolonged dry spells and increasing heat-related risks. It prioritizes farmers, construction workers, fisherfolk, and others whose livelihoods require extended periods of outdoor work. “We cannot simply tell workers to avoid the heat. What about farmers who need to work in the fields? What about construction workers who need to earn a living to support their families? If we know that the heat has become dangerous, there must be clear measures to protect them without depriving them of their livelihoods,” Legarda said in a statement on Monday.

- Manila workers get bonuses on Nov 13 (2026-11-09 16:07)

MANILA city government employees will receive their salaries, year-end bonuses and P5,000 cash gifts simultaneously on Friday, Nov. 13, Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso announced Monday.Domagoso made the announcement during the flag-raising ceremony at

Manila City Hall, saying the payments would be released ahead of schedule.The city government allocated P817.31 million for the 2026 year-end bonuses and cash gifts of its employees, consisting of P762.46 million for year-end bonuses and P54.85 million for cash gifts.The advance release comes ahead of the four-day holiday from Nov. 16 to 18 declared by Malacañang.Domagoso also assured Contract of Service and Job Order workers they would not be left behind, citing the city’s commitment to its non-regular employees.The city government is also preparing to distribute Christmas provisions to 700,000 families in Manila, as well as holiday packages for senior citizens.The mayor urged employees to set aside part of their early bonuses, reminding them that Christmas is still weeks away.

- EDSA Busway off-limits to private vehicles (2026-11-09 16:06)

PRIVATE vehicles remain barred from using the EDSA Busway, with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) reiterating that the lane is exclusively for buses following the reopening of road sections affected by weekend repairs.The DPWH issued the reminder Monday as several northbound portions of EDSA that underwent reblocking over the weekend were reopened to traffic at 5 a.m.These include sections along EDSA-Ortigas, the EDSA-White Plains Avenue intersection, and the stretch in front of SM Megamall.The asphalt overlay works along the southbound portion of EDSA in Caloocan City have also been completed.The agency assured motorists that traffic management along EDSA is being coordinated with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to minimize congestion and inconvenience.Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said the reopening of the repaired sections and traffic management measures are in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure that road rehabilitation works cause as little disruption as possible to commuters and motorists.Lopez's clarification follows the Nov. 2 announcement by Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon that private vehicles would temporarily be allowed to use portions of the southbound EDSA Busway, from Nepa Q-Mart in Cubao to the Boni Avenue area, while rehabilitation and asphalt-overlay works were ongoing.The temporary arrangement was initially announced to last about two weeks, or until the roadworks were completed.However, the DPWH subsequently clarified that the busway itself would remain exclusive to buses.Private vehicles were allowed to use the regular southbound lanes, particularly Lanes 1 to 4, along the affected stretch from Nepa Q-Mart to Guadalupe.The clarification came amid public concern over the possible impact of opening the dedicated bus lane to private vehicles, with the Management Association of the Philippines opposing the move and calling for stronger support for public transportation.The EDSA rehabilitation program aims to improve road quality and traffic safety along the capital’s main transport artery.Phase 2 is expected to complete the remaining stretch of the highway, with the DPWH under pressure to ensure that the upgraded pavement, drainage and sidewalks withstand heavy traffic and severe weather.Phase 1 was completed on April 6, nearly two months ahead of its original May 31 deadline. The work covered the section from Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City to Orense Street in Makati City.The second phase will cover a longer stretch of the highway from Orense to Monumento in Caloocan City, traversing some of the busiest commercial and residential districts in Metro

Manila.Stretching 23.8 kilometers, EDSA remains the metropolis' longest and busiest highway, cutting across six cities — Caloocan, Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati and Pasay.

• DSWD aids vendors to offset income loss during Asean Summit (2026-11-09 16:05)

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office for the National Capital Region provided assistance to 30 vendors to offset income loss amid tighter security for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit.The summit and related events will be held in Pasay City from Nov. 15 to 17.The DSWD said on Facebook that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the department were aware of the tightened security. Last Sunday, the field office distributed family food packs (FFPs) for them.They also received P10,000 each from DSWD to recover from the income that will be lost.Director Victor Nuñez of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) Traffic and Enforcement Group said there would be no road closures during the summit."We only have Security Exclusion Zones" on roads "within the perimeter" of the Philippine International Convention Center, Nuñez said in a video shared on Facebook by the MMDA on Monday.The video can also be seen on both the Asean 2026 PH and Presidential Communications Office Facebook pages.However, he said, "only the vehicles carrying the delegates will be allowed access" from Nov. 9 to 18.Even government vehicles " cannot access easily unless they have the appropriate Asean sticker," he said.The public was advised to take alternate routes. Northbound vehicles could traverse Seaside Boulevard, turn right to Macapagal Boulevard, turn left to EDSA, and turn left to Roxas Boulevard.Southbound vehicles going to Diokno Boulevard and Macapagal Boulevard from Roxas Boulevard can turn right to EDSA to Diokno Boulevard or Macapagal Boulevard.

• DPWH fires 4 more erring officials (2026-11-09 16:03)

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has dismissed four more district engineering officials over alleged corruption, extortion and questionable project certifications.Fired were Tarlac 1st District Engineering Office District Engineer Hermon Ines; Cotabato 3rd District Engineering Office Engineer Saidale Mitmug; Apayao 2nd District Engineering Office OIC District Engineer Clifton Valencerina; and Lanao del Norte 2nd District Engineering Office District Engineer Amron Mitmug.The latest dismissals stemmed from allegations of corruption against Ines and Saidale Mitmug; alleged collection of so-called SOP or kickbacks from infrastructure projects involving Valencerina; and the certification of supposedly unimplementable projects by Amron Mitmug.Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said the department will continue the one-strike policy introduced by his predecessor, now Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, under which officials and employees found involved in questionable activities face immediate investigation and removal.Lopez stressed that the DPWH will spare no one in its campaign to rid the agency of corruption, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to crack down on dishonest officials and employees.During Dizon's tenure, several department officials were relieved over alleged negligence and failure to enforce safety requirements in government infrastructure projects.Among them were Pampanga 3rd District OIC District Engineer Aser Mallari and OIC Assistant District Engineer

Augustin Dagsaan Jr., following a fatal road accident in Angeles City on Aug. 28.They were held accountable for failing to implement road-safety measures.Earlier, Dizon ordered the immediate relief of Camarines Sur 1st District Engineer Ramon Anselmo Calagos following a road accident in Del Gallego that was linked to inadequate warning signs and traffic-safety devices.The maintenance chief of the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa District Engineering Office was also removed over alleged neglect of duties and slow response during a disaster.The dismissals underscored Dizon’s push to make DPWH officials accountable not only for corruption but also for negligence, poor project implementation and failures that put public safety at risk.The department under Lopez faces renewed pressure to ensure that public funds are protected, infrastructure projects are properly implemented, and officials entrusted with government resources are held accountable.

- Bulacan police step up patrols amid dead pet dumping (2026-11-09 16:03)

THE Bulacan Police Provincial Office (PPO) has increased visibility and mobile patrols amid the dumping of remains of deceased pets in San Jose del Monte City the previous weeks. “The Bulacan PPO is intensifying police monitoring, tightening of checkpoints and mobile patrols in strategic areas to assist in preventing similar incidents and facilitate the identification of individuals involved,” Col. Jay Baybayan, acting provincial director of Bulacan PPO, said in a statement.Baybayan said the police will coordinate with local government units and appropriate authorities “to support the investigation and ensure that those responsible are held accountable under applicable laws.” Three suspects are facing four criminal charges after authorities uncovered a massive animal dumping racket involving 84 dead pets in San Jose del Monte.On Oct. 30 residents of Barangay Minuyan Proper first reported a foul odor near a bridge. Since then, 84 animal remains have been recovered in several areas: 33 in Minuyan IV, 25 in Minuyan Proper, 14 in Minuyan V, nine in Gaya-Gaya, and three in Muzon East.

- Poll watchdog warns vs further deferring barangay, SK elections (2026-11-09 16:02)

THE National Citizens’ Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) on Monday urged Congress to avoid further postponing the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections (BSKE), following the Supreme Court's decision upholding the constitutionality of Republic Act (RA) 12326.Namfrel said it respected the ruling but maintained that extending the terms of incumbent officials raised concerns over voters' right to choose their representatives.RA 12326 fixes the terms of barangay and SK officials at five years and moves the next BSKE from Nov. 2, 2026, to November 2028."Our concern is not the length of the term. It is how the term was lengthened. Congress may set a term, but only the voters can grant a mandate," Namfrel said in a statement.It noted that the Supreme Court decision was not unanimous, citing objections by several justices over the extension of the terms of officials already in office.It cited the opinion of Justice Marvic Leonen, joined by Associate Justices Ramon Paul Hernando and Ricardo Rosario, who argued that officials hold office by right only for the term granted by voters, while the additional years are held "by the statute alone." Namfrel cited Leonen's warning that successive extensions could defer elections in a way that violates the Constitution. The

magistrate also pointed out that young Filipinos who age out of SK eligibility before 2028 would permanently lose their chance to vote for SK officials.Namfrel cited the opinion of Associate Justice Kho, joined by Associate Justice Caguioa, which said Congress could have adopted the new term while proceeding with the 2026 elections as scheduled.Namfrel said that the majority decision did not fully address these objections, adding that upholding Congress' authority to set terms was different from addressing the impact of the extension on voters.It urged Congress to apply any future changes to barangay and SK terms only to officials elected after the changes take effect, rather than extending the tenure of those already in office.It also called on Congress to maintain the November 2028 election schedule and prevent another postponement."Congress may set a term. Only the voters can grant a mandate," Namfrel said.Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal also warned against further postponing the BSKE, and said he is preparing to ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its ruling.In a strongly worded statement Monday, Macalintal described the majority ruling as an assault on the people's right of suffrage, echoing the concerns raised by five justices who dissented from the decision.He argued that allowing Congress to postpone elections and extend the tenure of incumbent officials could encourage lawmakers to repeatedly move election dates under the guise of their constitutional authority to set the terms of elective officials.Macalintal warned that the ruling could have consequences beyond barangay elections, since it might embolden Congress to interfere with the scheduled May 2028 presidential elections by invoking its authority to determine the terms of elective officials."If this ruling remains uncorrected... RA 12326 will not stop at the barangay level," he said.Macalintal drew encouragement from the dissenting opinions of Leonen, Caguioa and Kho.He questioned the constitutionality of the law, saying the postponement lacked the important, substantial or compelling reasons required under the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in an earlier case involving the postponement of barangay elections.The government, through the Office of the Solicitor General, defended the measure, maintaining that it was primarily a term-setting law rather than an election-postponement law.The Supreme Court majority agreed, ruling that Congress has the authority to determine the terms of barangay officials and that the new five-year election cycle was reasonable.

- Science, innovation deemed crucial for PH survival amid climate crisis (2026-11-09 16:01)

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) stressed that science, research, and innovation are vital for the Philippines to thrive amid the climate emergency.In a statement on Monday, the CCC said it joins the observance of World Science Day for Peace and Development, underscoring its commitment to grounding the nation’s policy decisions in rigorous data to ensure an efficient climate action plan. “Science tells us what must be done. Policy shows us how. But duty ensures it is done,” said CCC Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.The CCC noted that science remains at the core of its work, using key global and local climate reports to guide the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).The NAP targets transformative resilience and sustainable economic development by 2050, while the NDC places research, technology, and innovation at the core of the country’s mitigation strategy to protect livelihoods, ecosystems, and infrastructure.The CCC also

emphasized that disaster preparedness must shift toward prevention from simple recovery."To build right at first sight is to make resilience deliberate, not accidental — the discipline of foresight that saves lives, livelihoods, and resources," Borje said.The commission urged government agencies, researchers, the private sector, and local communities to unite behind science-based solutions that shield vulnerable populations from climate risks."Let us open that window wider to let in science, collaboration, and accountability. Let us expand the space not only for discussion, but for decision and delivery," Borje said.

- Ejercito to sponsor Senate's 2027 national budget on Nov. 23 (2026-11-09 15:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito is set to sponsor the Senate's version of the proposed 2027 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) before the plenary on Nov. 23, following the submission of the committee report a few days earlier.In a media interview, Ejercito said he expects to file the committee report on Nov. 18 or 19, after which he will proceed with the sponsorship of the proposed national budget on Nov. 23.Plenary debates are expected to begin immediately after the sponsorship to allow senators to proceed with the budget discussions without further delay. “I was supposed to file the committee report today, Nov. 11, but it looks like we won't be able to finish it. We are looking at Nov. 18 or 19 instead. The sponsorship will be on November 23, and we will proceed directly to the plenary debates,” Ejercito said.He said that the Senate's budget review requires a detailed, line-by-line examination of approximately 20,000 projects, making it difficult for the committee to complete its work within just a few days.The senator said that the Department of Public Works and Highways budget alone involves thousands of projects, while the number of projects under the House General Appropriations Bill reportedly increased from more than 2,000 to around 5,000.Ejercito said the committee has hired additional personnel to help expedite the review, with eight additional staff members assigned to his office and another eight to the Office of the Senate President.He said that the volume of projects requires sufficient time for scrutiny to ensure that each budget item is properly examined.The senator also said that the Nov. 23 sponsorship schedule remains unchanged, with no further adjustments planned.Once the sponsorship is completed, the Senate will immediately proceed with plenary debates on the proposed 2027 national budget.The proposed 2027 national budget amounts to P7.2 trillion, representing a 6-percent increase from the P6.793-trillion 2026 national budget.The House of Representatives approved its version of the proposed 2027 GAB, under House Bill No. 10858, on third and final reading on Oct. 12, 2026, before transmitting the measure to the Senate for consideration.Following the Senate's review and plenary deliberations, both chambers are expected to reconcile their respective versions through a bicameral conference committee before submitting the final budget measure to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for approval.

- Pope names Apigo Davao archbishop (2026-11-09 13:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Pope Leo XIV has named Abel Apigo Davao archbishop.The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) News reported that the Pope accepted the resignation of Romulo Valles as archbishop and appointed Apigo, Mati bishop, to the post.Valles

held the archbishop post for about 14 years before turning 75, bishops' age of retirement, in July, CBCP News said.

• Gale warning up in north Luzon's northern, western seaboards (2026-11-09 12:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) hoisted a gale warning over the northern and western seaboards of northern Luzon.The warning, issued at 5 p.m. on Monday, covered Batanes, the northern coast of mainland Cagayan (Santa Ana), the Babuyan Islands, the northern coast of Ilocos Norte (Burgos, Bangui, and Pagudpud), and the western coast of Ilocos Norte (Pasuquin, Bacarra, Laoag City, Paoay, Currimao, Pinili, and Badoc).Pagasa Weather Specialist Charmagne Varilla said in a briefing that "we are advising all seagoing vessels to postpone sailing here if possible because wave heights are dangerous."Meanwhile, Varilla cautioned those who will go out today to the remaining seaboards of northern Luzon as well as to the eastern seaboards of central and southern Luzon against slight to moderate seas.

• 20 senators urge Marcos to declare El Niño calamity (2026-11-09 11:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Crossing political divides, 20 senators on Monday urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to declare a state of calamity in areas affected or threatened by El Niño, calling for the immediate mobilization of government funds to address mounting agricultural losses and gaps in assistance to affected communities.The senators pressed for urgent government intervention to protect farmers and fisherfolk, as worsening drought conditions threaten rural livelihoods, food production, and the country's water security.Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente “Tito” Sotto III, and Senators Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, Imee Marcos, Robin Padilla, Juan Miguel Zubiri, Bam Aquino, Risa Hontiveros, JV Ejercito, Lito Lapid, Joel Villanueva, Erwin Tulfo, Raffy Tulfo, Panfilo “Ping” Lacson, Francis “Chiz” Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Pia Cayetano, Bong Go, Camille Villar, and Mark Villar signed Proposed Senate Resolution (PSR) 765. “It is currently the planting season in our rice fields, and water is essential. We also need to implement remedial measures, such as imposing price ceilings and cracking down on overpricing, profiteering, and hoarding,” Pangilinan said.Under Republic Act 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, a declaration of a state of calamity allows the government to implement remedial measures, including the programming or reprogramming of funds for the repair and upgrading of public infrastructure and facilities, as well as the granting of no-interest loans to the most affected sectors, subject to applicable laws.PSR 765 urges the President, upon the recommendation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, to declare a state of calamity or a state of imminent disaster, as warranted under Republic Act 10121 and Republic Act 12287, or the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act.The resolution cited a report from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration indicating that a strong to very strong El Niño was present in the Tropical Pacific, with the phenomenon potentially peaking before the end of 2026 and continuing to affect the Philippines through the first half of 2027.It also highlighted the scale of

agricultural damage, citing approximately P6.87 billion in losses across 249,028 hectares as of Sept. 26, 2026. This figure is already equivalent to 43 percent of the agricultural losses recorded during the entire 2023–2024 El Niño episode.As of Oct. 6, 106 cities and municipalities in Cagayan Valley, Caraga, Bicol, Calabarzon, and Soccsksargen had declared local states of calamity, affecting approximately 388,375 people, according to figures cited in the resolution.

• Typhoon Samuel exits PAR (2026-11-09 09:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Samuel has exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Monday.Pagasa said the typhoon was about 1,415 kilometers east northeast of extreme northern Luzon as of 4 p.m.It was moving east northeastward at 10 kilometers per hour (km/h) with maximum sustained winds of 130 km/h near the center and gustiness reaching 160 km/h.

• Millions of Globe subscribers get free access to multiple AI tools (2026-11-09 09:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Millions of Globe Telecom subscribers will get free access to multiple artificial intelligence (AI) models and creative tools this holiday season, allowing them to generate images and videos, prepare presentations and build websites without paying additional fees during the promotional period.The offer, available through Globe's AI Fiesta platform, will give customers access to several AI models, including Claude, Gemini and ByteDance, through a single platform.Globe Circle and Globe Platinum customers can use the platform for free from Nov. 15, 2026, to Jan. 16, 2027, while Globe Prepaid, Postpaid, Broadband and TM subscribers will receive complimentary access from Dec. 1 to 31.The initiative was announced during the Holiday Edition of The Blueprint by Globe as part of the company's Christmas campaign, "Make Your Magic Happen."AI Fiesta brings together different AI models and digital content creation tools, allowing users to explore various applications without having to access separate platforms.It features Super Fiesta, which selects an appropriate AI model based on a user's query, and Consensus, which combines responses from multiple AI models to provide different perspectives.Globe President and Chief Executive Officer Carl Cruz said the initiative aims to make AI more accessible and help customers use the technology for learning, work and innovation."Technology makes the greatest impact when people know how to use it for their inherent benefits and advantages," Cruz said.He said Globe wants to extend the benefits of AI to more Filipinos, building on the role of internet access in changing how people communicate, learn and innovate.Globe Chief Commercial Officer Darius Delgado said consolidating multiple AI tools into one platform would make the technology easier to explore and incorporate into everyday activities."AI should be accessible, easy to use, and meaningful to everyday life," Delgado said.

• Defense witness confirms China trip (2026-11-09 08:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin on Monday confirmed that he traveled to China on Jan. 25, 2026, as senator-judges questioned his frequent overseas trips and how he could afford them on a reported monthly salary of approximately P120,000.During the 40th day

of the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, Senator-Judge Raffy Tulfo questioned Adalin about his reported travels to China, Hong Kong, Thailand and Australia dating back to 2018. “Where did you travel on January 25, 2026?” Tulfo asked.Adalin said he checked with his office and confirmed that he had indeed traveled to China. “I asked our office to verify it, and indeed, we traveled to China,” the assessor said.Tulfo also asked Adalin about an alleged trip on Nov. 12, 2018. However, the witness said he could not recall having any record of that particular trip.Tulfo said he could provide CCTV footage showing Adalin's alleged trip to China on Nov. 12, 2018, aboard flight PR356. He pointed out that the witness stayed in China for only two days.The senator-judge also cited Adalin's reported trips to Hong Kong, Thailand and Australia, questioning how the department head could frequently travel abroad.Meanwhile, Senator-Judge Risa Hontiveros pressed Adalin for more details about his January 2026 trip to China, including the places he visited and the people who accompanied him.Adalin reiterated that he traveled to China with other Davao City government department heads. However, he said he could no longer remember the specific places they visited.When Hontiveros asked him to name at least three places in China that he had visited, Adalin apologized and maintained that he could not recall them.Asked whether he had visited Beijing, he replied, “I think we may have gone there.

- SJDM police draw fire from angry pet owners (2026-11-09 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Animal advocates and online commentators criticized the San Jose del Monte police for casting suspicion on the animal advocacy group Luna and Furry Siblings and its founder, Chris Taylor, for their exposing the dumping of pets that were meant to be cremated.Across social media platforms like Facebook, X, and Reddit pet owners criticized the police for turning their suspicion toward Luna and Furry Siblings —the very group that exposed the scandal—instead of focusing their energy on holding the negligent pet crematorium and local dumping culprits accountable.Comments across social media platforms argued that the police were attempting to shift blame away from their own operational lapses."The police are turning their suspicion toward the rescue group that actually exposed the scandal instead of tracking down the actual culprits who dumped the animals. Typical deflection,” one online user said.Another defended the role of volunteer groups such as Luna and Furry Siblings."If the police and local barangay officials had done their jobs and searched thoroughly in the first place, civilians wouldn't have had to do independent tracking operations,” the commentator said.Earlier, the SJDM police chief expressed skepticism over why Taylor has repeatedly been the first person to locate and film the dumped pet remains across multiple sites in the area before media or barangay officials arrive. “Out of all the animals found, why is Chris Taylor always the first one there? And the first to record a video. Then when the media and barangay arrive, he leaves. He hasn’t been cooperating or coordinating with us on this,” Lt. Col.Nelson Sardin said.Police suggested the repeated, publicized discoveries could be an attempt to deliberately tarnish the reputation of San Jose del Monte.But this claim, too, was ridiculed "The police chief is worried about SJDM's reputation being tarnished by vlogs? The reputation was ruined by the massive illegal dumping itself and the authorities failing to catch it,” one online

commentator said.One pet owner who tried to file a report with the local law enforcement described callous treatment by officers. “One officer even had the audacity to joke, 'What do you want to know? Whether the ashes you received were actually your pets' remains... or a dinosaur?' The other police officers present laughed along with him,” the pet owner said.Pet owners also argued that the police only paid attention to the issue after it blew up online, making their recent skepticism toward the rescuers hypocritical.

- Lawmaker urges safeguards to keep homeownership affordable amid rising borrowing costs (2026-11-09 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Galing Sa Puso Party-list Rep. JP Padiernos on Monday called for stronger safeguards and targeted housing finance programs to keep homeownership within reach of Filipino families, warning that rising borrowing costs and persistent inflation could further weaken housing affordability.Padiernos, a member of the House Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) recent 50-basis-point increase in its benchmark interest rate to 5.50% could add pressure to an already struggling residential property market, particularly as economic growth slows and stagflation risks mount.S&P Global Ratings recently flagged the country’s worsening economic outlook, citing a slowdown in the first half of 2026’s gross domestic product growth to 2.6 percent and October inflation climbing to a nearly four-year high of 7.8 percent. It projects full-year economic growth of 2.9 percent and average annual inflation of 5.5 percent.High oil prices and a strong El Niño pattern are also expected to push food costs higher, further weakening consumer spending and squeezing household budgets through the first half of 2027. S&P expects the BSP to maintain elevated interest rates for longer to contain inflation. “For families planning to buy a house or condominium through a bank loan, the BSP’s rate decision raises serious concerns about affordability, particularly as stagflationary pressures, rising food, electricity, fuel, and transportation costs, continue to erode household purchasing power,” Padiernos said.He noted that while changes in the BSP’s benchmark rate do not automatically translate into equivalent increases in commercial housing loan rates, they influence banks’ lending costs and loan repricing schedules. “The BSP has an important role in maintaining price stability, which is essential to protecting the purchasing power of Filipino families. At the same time, we must examine complementary measures to ensure that higher borrowing costs do not further limit access to affordable housing,” Padiernos said. “When mortgage rates escalate precisely as basic necessities consume a larger share of disposable income, homeownership becomes vastly more difficult to achieve,” he added.Housing market data point to mounting affordability pressures even before the latest monetary tightening. Colliers Philippines reported that net take-up of Metro Manila condominiums fell to 500 units in the second quarter of 2026, down 60 percent from the previous quarter and marking its lowest quarterly level in five quarters.The property consultancy also reported a shift toward more affordable units. Condominiums priced between ₱1.8 million and ₱3.6 million accounted for 67 percent of total net take-up in the first half of 2026, up from 33 percent in the same period last year.Colliers has urged developers to reassess their selling strategies and offer more flexible, extended payment

arrangements, particularly for residential properties priced between ₱2.5 million and ₱12 million.“For Filipino families, the central question is whether financing and housing options will remain attainable as monetary policy stays tight to combat inflation. For policymakers and the property sector, the immediate challenge is maintaining financial stability without completely closing the door on affordable homeownership,” he said.Padiernos called on financial institutions and government policymakers to develop targeted and accessible housing finance programs for middle- and lower-income first-time buyers to cushion the impact of prolonged monetary tightening.These measures, he said, should reflect the actual financing capacity of prospective homebuyers, with transparent loan terms and safeguards to ensure monthly amortizations remain manageable and sustainable.

• Defense witness unsure if Matina property matches VP’s SALN declaration (2026-11-09 06:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin, a defense witness in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial, on Monday admitted he could not establish whether a 379-square-meter property in Matina Crossing acquired by her husband, lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, was the same residential lot declared in her 2024 Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN).Under questioning by Senator-judge Bam Aquino during the 40th day of the impeachment trial, Adalin acknowledged that he had not checked all the properties registered under Duterte and Carpio’s names in Barangay 74-A, Davao City, and could not determine how many properties the couple owned in the area.Aquino asked whether the city assessor’s office inspected all the properties allegedly belonging to the couple in Barangay 74-A or had only checked the particular lot covered by the Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) ending in 0775.“Did you check all of Vice President Sara’s properties in Barangay 74-A? Or did you only check this particular lot? Did you check how many properties she actually has in Barangay 74-A?” Aquino asked.Adalin replied: “I did not check them anymore because the subpoena [issued by the impeachment court] already specified the particular title ending in 0775.” Aquino pointed out that without checking the assessor’s records for the entire barangay, Adalin could not establish whether the property covered by the subpoena was the couple’s only property in the area.“So you cannot say that? Because if you had checked, you could have said that she owns only one propertyin Barangay 74-A. You cannot say that now?” Aquino asked.“No, I cannot," Adalin admitted.

• Typhoon Cempaka enters PAR (2026-11-09 06:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Cempaka has entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) but it is not expected to have any direct effect on any part of the country, the weather bureau said Monday.Th typhoon, named Samuel, “will remain along the edge of PAR," weather specialist Charmagne Varilla said.“Samuel” could exit PAR tonight or early Tuesday morning, Varilla said."It is also expected that while moving away from our Philippine Area of Responsibility, its movement will be faster by Tuesday and it is possible that it will weaken while moving northeastward away from our country," she said.The typhoon was 1,370 kilometers east

northeast of extreme northern Luzon.It was moving north northwestward at 20 kilometers per hour (km/h) with maximum sustained winds of 120 km/h near the center and gustiness reaching 150 km/h.The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that "Samuel" will turn north northeastward slowly within the next 12 hours and exit PAR tonight or early morning Tuesday.

- Davao assessor confirms VP Sara SALN properties match tax declarations (2026-11-09 05:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin on Monday confirmed that properties declared by Vice President Sara Duterte in her Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs) match tax declarations maintained by his office, including a residential lot and commercial building in Barangay 74-A, Davao City.Adalin made the confirmation during the 40th day of the impeachment trial. Defense counsel Lindon Bacquel presented Duterte’s SALN and asked the witness to verify the declared properties against the city assessor’s records.Looking at Duterte’s SALN as of Dec. 31, 2025, Adalin confirmed that the residential lot in Barangay 74-A, with an assessed value of P82,046, and the commercial building in the same barangay corresponded to the tax declarations on file with his office.Presiding Officer Francis Escudero asked Adalin whether the residential property listed in Duterte’s SALN, with an assessed value of P82,046 and a market value of P2,051,150, was the same property Bacquel was referring to. “Yes, it is the same property, Your Honor,” Adalin said.

- Gasoline prices to go down by P16.80 per liter (2026-11-09 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy on Monday said that the price of gasoline will go down by up to P16.80 per liter.Diesel prices will decline by up to P4.10 per liter and kerosene by up to P3.70 per liter.The price adjustments will be implemented on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026.

- Manila employees to get year-end bonus, P5,000 cash gift on Nov. 13 (2026-11-09 03:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila city government employees will receive their salaries, year-end bonus and P5,000 cash gift on Friday, Nov. 13, Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso announced on Monday."I am happy to announce that there is salary this Friday! And there is the 13th month [pay]! And the 5,000 bonus! You will receive them early and all at once," Isko said in Filipino and English during the flag-raising ceremony.The city government allocated P817.31 million for the year-end bonus and cash gifts of its employees, consisting of P762.46 million for year-end bonuses and P54.85 million for cash gifts.The mayor assured Contract of Service and Job Order workers that they would not be left behind, citing the city's commitment to its non-regular employees.Meanwhile, the city government is preparing to distribute Christmas provisions to 700,000 families in Manila, as well as holiday packages for senior citizens.

- Police receive hundreds of tips on Bato’s whereabouts (2026-11-09 03:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Monday said they have received no less than 500 information on the whereabouts of Senator

Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.Some of the information alleged that dela Rosa is hiding in islands that Nartatez said he has not heard of before.The fugitive senator is being hunted based on an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.The government has offered a P50 million bounty for information leading to his arrest.

- Lawyer prods SC: Act now on Bato’s petition (2026-11-09 03:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The lawyer of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa has urged the Supreme Court (SC) to act immediately on his petition challenging the Philippine government's cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), warning that his possible arrest and transfer to The Hague could render the high tribunal's intervention ineffective.Israelito Torreon told The Manila Times that the petition remains pending before the Supreme Court en banc, which has yet to resolve the constitutional questions surrounding the enforcement of the ICC arrest warrant against the senator.Torreon said the legal situation had become more urgent following what he described as an escalation in the government's efforts to locate and arrest Dela Rosa, including the offer of a P50 million bounty on his capture and his designation as "armed and dangerous."In a 15-page manifestation filed on Oct. 27, Torreon informed the court of these developments and asked it to resolve urgently the pending motion for reconsideration of its May 20 denial of the senator's request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) and a status quo ante order.The Supreme Court denied the request by a 9-5-1 vote. Torreon said the denial did not resolve the main constitutional issues raised in the petition.He said the circumstances considered by the Court in May had since changed, particularly following the intensified manhunt for the senator.Torreon also cited the Oct. 23 statements by the Department of the Interior and Local Government secretary and the Philippine National Police chief declaring Dela Rosa armed and dangerous and the offer of a P50 million reward for information that would lead to his arrest.He argued that the bounty could encourage private individuals to take the law into their own hands."The right to life is now directly at stake, and a right does not get clearer than that," Torreon said in explaining why the Supreme Court should reconsider its earlier denial of interim relief.He stressed that the Supreme Court's denial of the TRO did not authorize Philippine authorities to enforce the ICC warrant or surrender Dela Rosa to the international tribunal."Denying a TRO is not a warrant of arrest. It is not a finding that the ICC warrant can be enforced here, and it is not a surrender order," he said.Among the questions Torreon said the SC must settle is whether an arrest warrant issued by an international tribunal can be enforced in the Philippines without a Philippine court first determining probable cause.

- PH growth slows to 2.1% in Q3 (2026-11-09 02:34)

The Philippines posted an economic growth of 2.1 percent in the third quarter of the year, the weakest quarterly growth since 2009 excluding the pandemic years, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported on MondayIt is lower than the 2.4-percent revised growth three months earlier and the 4.0 posted a year earlier. It is also well below the government’s downwardly revised 3.5- to 4.5-percent target for the year.Services posted a year-on-year growth of 3.7 percent in the third quarter of 2026.However, agriculture, forestry, and fishing and industry

declined at 4.8 percent and 0.003 percent, respectively.

• VP Sara’s impeachment trial resumes (2026-11-09 02:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court resumed the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, with the defense team expected to begin presenting its evidence and witnesses to challenge the remaining impeachment charge.The proceedings will focus on Article II, which involves allegations of unexplained wealth, incomplete declarations of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) and undisclosed business interests.The House prosecution panel earlier withdrew three articles of impeachment, leaving Article II as the sole remaining charge.Duterte’s defense counsel, Michael Poa, said the first witness would be Jaime Adalin, an officer from the Davao City Assessor’s Office.Meanwhile, Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp., will be unable to attend Monday’s hearing due to a previously scheduled medical procedure.House lead prosecutor Rep. Gerville Luistro confirmed Punay’s absence, saying she is scheduled to undergo a magnetic resonance imaging examination.Senate impeachment court spokesman Reginald Tongol over the weekend said the court served 22 of the 24 subpoenas requested by the defense panel ahead of its presentation of evidence.

• 62 OFWs from Riyadh back in Manila (2026-11-09 01:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Sixty-two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, returned to the Philippines on Sunday amid continuing repatriation operations in the Middle East, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.The OFWs arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR928.OWWA personnel, along with representatives from the Department of Migrant Workers and the Manila International Airport Authority medical team, assisted them.The agency provided food, financial and transportation assistance, as well as temporary accommodation for those who needed it.OWWA said that the repatriation was part of the government's UPLIFT Assistance Program.

• Duterte influence remains strong among young voters — survey (2026-11-09 01:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The political influence of the Duterte family remains strong among younger Filipino voters, particularly in Mindanao, with Davao City Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte emerging as the most preferred senatorial candidate among Generation Z respondents for the 2028 elections, a new survey showed.Baste Duterte was favored by 47 percent of Gen Z respondents, ahead of Sen. Robin Padilla (40 percent), Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto (33 percent) and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano (27 percent), based on the October 16 to 19 National Momentum Survey conducted by Momentum Research.The findings also showed strong support for Duterte-aligned candidates in Mindanao, where 62 percent of respondents said they would vote for Baste Duterte as senator, followed by Padilla at 54 percent and Davao City First District Rep. Paolo “Pulong” Duterte at 45 percent.Cayetano ranked fourth in Mindanao with 44 percent.Nationally, Padilla topped the survey with 37 percent, narrowly ahead of Baste Duterte at 36 percent and Cayetano at 35 percent. Sen. Raffy Tulfo followed with 34 percent.Completing

the national top 12 were Sotto (32 percent), former Sen. Grace Poe (29 percent), former Sen. Manny Pacquiao (26 percent), Sen. Francis Escudero (23 percent), Sen. Loren Legarda (23 percent), Pulong Duterte (21 percent), Makati City Mayor Nancy Binay (19 percent) and broadcaster Ben Tulfo (17 percent).The survey also found a sharp divide along political affiliations.Among respondents identified as pro-Duterte, 67 percent preferred Baste Duterte for senator, while 60 percent chose Padilla. Pulong Duterte received 43 percent, followed by Cayetano at 41 percent.Among pro-Marcos respondents, Tulfo led with 57 percent, followed by Sotto (39 percent), Cayetano (38 percent), Poe (37 percent), Pacquiao (34 percent) and Ben Tulfo (30 percent).Sotto, meanwhile, was the leading choice among opposition supporters at 49 percent, followed by Tulfo at 40 percent. Independents also favored Sotto (36 percent), narrowly ahead of Tulfo (35 percent), Padilla (33 percent), Cayetano (32 percent) and Poe (32 percent).The generational breakdown showed that Duterte-aligned candidates were particularly competitive among younger voters.Among millennials, Padilla led with 48 percent, followed by Cayetano (40 percent) and Baste Duterte (39 percent). Gen X respondents preferred Cayetano (44 percent), Tulfo (42 percent) and Poe (35 percent).Among baby boomers and the Silent Generation, Tulfo led with 42 percent, followed by Sotto (37 percent) and Poe (30 percent).Baste Duterte registered the biggest increase in support since Momentum Research's August survey, gaining six percentage points. Revilla gained four points, while Poe, Pacquiao and Mark Villar each increased by three points.The non-commissioned survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults nationwide. Respondents could select up to 12 names from a list of 51 potential senatorial candidates.It had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

- Pagasa forecasts rain in most parts of Luzon (2026-11-09 00:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon will bring rain in most parts of Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Monday.Pagasa weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said these areas include Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Aurora and Quezon.Aurelio said Bicol will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms because of the easterlies."In the rest of Luzon including Metro Manila, the weather will be good and fair. The skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy except for isolated rain showers," he said in Filipino and English."Because of the northeast monsoon, we will feel the cool breeze in northern Luzon, in central Luzon, also here in Metro Manila, and Calabarzon," he added.Davao Oriental and Davao Occidental as well as Caraga will also have cloudy skies and scattered rain showers and thunderstorms because of the easterlies."Meanwhile, the rest of Mindanao as well as the entire Visayas will have good and fair weather except for localized thunderstorms," he said.No gale warning was issued but Aurelio urged those who will go out to sea in northern Luzon to exercise caution against moderate to rough seas.

- Legarda seeks stronger heritage protection (2026-11-08 23:35)

SEN. Loren Legarda called for stronger efforts to preserve the country's documentary heritage after Unesco included three Philippine historical and cultural collections in its Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia and the Pacific.Legarda welcomed the international recognition, describing it as a significant milestone in safeguarding the Philippines' history, cultural identity, and traditions for future generations.The Laguna Copperplate Inscription, the Baybayin Documents in the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas, and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group Audiovisual Archive were inscribed during the 11th General Meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MoWCAP) in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Thursday."These treasures tell the story of who we are as Filipinos. They preserve our history, our writing traditions, and the cultural knowledge passed down through generations," Legarda said."I congratulate the institutions, scholars, and cultural workers whose dedication has helped bring these important collections greater international recognition," she added.The Laguna Copperplate Inscription, dated 900 CE, is the earliest known historical document from the Philippines. Preserved at the National Museum of the Philippines, it provides valuable evidence of early social, political, and economic relations in the region.The Baybayin Documents, housed at the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas (UST Archives) in Manila, offer important insights into precolonial Filipino writing traditions, land transactions, and social relations during the Spanish colonial period.Meanwhile, the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group Audiovisual Archive, maintained by the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Foundation Inc., documents Philippine traditional dances, rituals, music, and other cultural practices through its extensive audiovisual collection.Legarda, chairman of the Senate Committee on Culture and the Arts, said that international recognition must be matched by sustained efforts to protect documentary heritage and ensure its accessibility for education, research, and public appreciation."Recognition is an important achievement, but our work does not end here. We must carefully preserve, study, and share these records so more Filipinos can understand the richness of our history. We must also support the institutions and cultural workers who have devoted their lives to safeguarding them," she said.A longtime advocate of cultural preservation, Legarda authored and co-sponsored Republic Act (RA) 10066, or the National Cultural Heritage Act, which protects and conserves the country's cultural heritage.She also authored and principally sponsored RA 11961, or the Cultural Mapping Law, which strengthens heritage conservation through comprehensive cultural mapping and an enhanced cultural heritage education program.Legarda, who has been on leave for weeks, said the Unesco recognition presents an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among cultural institutions, archives, researchers, and government agencies in protecting and promoting the country's documentary heritage."Our history deserves to be known and understood by our own people. By protecting these treasures and making their stories accessible, we keep our cultural heritage alive and meaningful in the lives of Filipinos," she said.

- Lacson: Senate to step up budget transparency push (2026-11-08 23:34)

TO expand its budget transparency efforts, the Senate will push not only for continuous livestreaming of bicameral conference committee proceedings on the proposed 2027 national

budget but also for transcripts of the discussions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Sunday.Lacson said the transcripts would help lawmakers and the public identify who initiated amendments to the budget bill and track who pushed for realignments of its items."In the bicam, the minutes of the proceedings should be recorded through a transcript. The budget bill is the only measure whose bicameral proceedings do not have a transcript, so we cannot trace who made what amendment. Now there should be a transcript because for the longest time, it had none," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio."There should be a transcript containing the minutes so it will be clear who initiated amendments and who pushed for realignments," he said.The measure seeks to address a longstanding transparency gap in the congressional budget process, particularly during the bicameral conference committee stage, when the House of Representatives and the Senate reconcile differences between their versions of the national budget.Unlike ordinary legislative proceedings, where committee discussions and amendments are generally documented, bicameral budget negotiation transcripts are not accessible to the public, raising concerns over the traceability of budget insertions, realignments and other adjustments made during the final stages of budget approval.The bicam is particularly significant because its reconciled version becomes the final congressional version of the appropriations bill submitted to the president for approval.Changes made during the reconciliation process can substantially affect the distribution of public funds.Lacson said the Senate intends to build on transparency measures introduced during deliberations on the 2026 national budget, which included identifying senators who proposed amendments to the budget bill and posting bicameral proceedings on the Senate website for public scrutiny.For the 2027 budget deliberations, Lacson said the Senate also plans to invite budget advocacy organizations, including the People's Budget Coalition, to participate in or observe bicameral proceedings to strengthen independent oversight."I told the groups that vigilance is not enough and that they should resort to shaming against lawmakers who sneak in questionable realignments," he said.Lacson also raised concerns about the practice of introducing project insertions at different stages of the budget process, which he described as "double kill."The National Expenditure Program (NEP), prepared by the executive branch through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), serves as the president's proposed spending plan and is submitted to Congress for deliberation.It contains the proposed appropriations for government agencies, programs and projects for the succeeding fiscal year.Congress then examines the proposal and may introduce amendments, subject to constitutional restrictions and the legislative appropriations process.Lacson said some lawmakers allegedly make project insertions during the preparation of the NEP and introduce additional changes after the spending proposal reaches Congress."Some lawmakers made insertions in the NEP, and then again when the NEP was transmitted to the House and Senate. It's double kill," he added.Lacson's call for greater scrutiny also followed concerns raised by budget advocacy groups over questionable geographical coordinates assigned to infrastructure projects in the proposed 2027 national budget.On Thursday, he questioned the coordinates of a project flagged by the People's Budget Coalition, which reportedly pointed to the Celebes Sea instead of an identifiable project site in Leyte."I thought Leyte was already far enough, until the People's Budget Coalition flagged a project whose coordinates pointed to the Celebes Sea. So this is not a mere typo error because

the projects are geotagged and should be pinpointed. That's what geotagging is for — to make it easy to locate and inspect a project so its quality can be checked and verified," he said."This is not an oversight. It is almost obvious that this is deliberate," he added.Geotagging aims to provide the precise geographical location of government-funded infrastructure projects, allowing authorities, auditors and the public to verify whether projects exist at their declared locations and monitor their implementation.Incorrect or questionable coordinates could complicate inspections and raise concerns about the accuracy and reliability of project information submitted as part of the budget proposal.Lacson said he and his fellow senators will rely on the guidelines and requirements set by Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez for the funding of projects — including program of works, feasibility study, and geotagging.He added that the Unified Account Code Structure (UACS) must be retained "all the way" throughout the budget process to ensure easier tracking of projects for implementation."The UACS provides codes that help track projects. The problem is that as the budget measure passes through the House and Senate, the UACS is lost," he said.

- Take witness stand, Luistro dares VP Sara (2026-11-08 17:32)

HOUSE lead prosecutor and Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro challenged Vice President Sara Duterte to take the witness stand in her impeachment trial, insisting she is the best person who could explain the financial records and property documents presented by the prosecution.Luistro said Duterte should account for her audited financial statements, income tax returns, statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), Anti-Money Laundering Council reports, property registrations, and business interests in GenCorp.Forensic financial analyst Alexander Cabrera, a prosecution witness, previously estimated Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, had approximately P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth from 2022 to 2025 under a conservative computation, potentially reaching P1.5 billion under a broader calculation. Duterte declared a net worth of P98.66 million in her 2025 SALN. “We can’t think of anyone else. The only person who can truly explain what happened is none other than the vice president,” Luistro said in Filipino in a radio interview on Sunday.She echoed Lorna Kapunan’s earlier remarks and dared the vice president to face the Senate impeachment court to prove her innocence. “And as we’ve said, if the defense truly maintains that she is innocent — that she committed no violation — why not come out into the open? Take the witness stand and defend yourself, right?” Luistro said. “The testimony provided by the prosecution’s witnesses will remain unrebutted. Still, let’s give them the benefit of the doubt; after all, it’s only the first week, and we’ve only seen the first list, right?” she added.Duterte’s defense team is scheduled to begin presenting evidence when proceedings resume on Monday, Nov. 9.Kristina Maralit

- VP’s defense team tackles wealth raps (2026-11-08 16:20)

VICE President Sara Duterte’s defense team will begin presenting evidence to counter allegations of unexplained wealth on Monday, opening a crucial phase of her impeachment trial with corporate, property and financial records, and 22 witnesses already served with

subpoenas.The defense will open its case with a corporate lawyer who will testify on company records covering 2022 to 2025, followed by property assessors, an accountant, a barangay official and bank representatives in hearings that could run almost daily in the coming weeks. “We will hit the ground running on Monday and in the weeks ahead,” Senate impeachment court spokesman Reginald Tongol said in a radio interview on Saturday.Tongol said the court had largely cleared administrative matters ahead of the resumption, allowing the defense to proceed with its evidence on the remaining article of impeachment concerning Duterte’s alleged unexplained wealth.The defense is expected to call Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries and Metro City Chow Foods Corporation, as its first witness.She is expected to testify on the companies’ general information sheets and audited financial statements covering 2022 to 2025.After Balucanag-Punay, Tongol said the defense is expected to call next representatives from the city assessor’s offices of Davao City and the Island Garden City of Samal, an accountant from Davao City, and the barangay chairman of Matina Crossing in succeeding hearings.Tongol said the impeachment court had served subpoenas on 22 of the 24 witnesses for the defense.Former law school dean Rene Sarmiento was not issued a subpoena after the defense removed his name from its witness list.Tongol said the court acted on the defense’s formal manifestation, not Sarmiento’s earlier public statements declining the offer to testify.The impeachment court is preparing for an intensive hearing schedule, with proceedings potentially running almost daily from 10 a.m. until around 6 p.m., depending on developments.Tongol said Monday’s proceedings will continue despite an afternoon break for the Senate’s legislative session.The Nov. 11 schedule may also be affected by the plenary session, while hearings on Nov. 12 and 13 are expected to run for the entire day.He expressed confidence that the defense could accommodate all its proposed witnesses within the scheduled hearing days, citing the relatively brief testimonies of bank representatives during the prosecution’s presentation.The court is aiming for a December conclusion, consistent with the timeline previously identified by Senate Presiding Officer Francis Escudero.But Tongol said that the target is not fixed and would depend on how the defense presentation unfolds. “This is not set in stone. It is a moving target,” he said. “If additional hearing days are needed to ensure the respondent’s due process and allow the defense to fully present its case-in-chief, then more days will be scheduled.” Conversely, proceedings could end earlier if the defense drops witnesses or completes its presentation ahead of schedule.Tongol described the defense presentation as a crucial stage of the impeachment proceedings, as it will give senator-judges and the public a chance to hear Duterte’s response to the prosecution’s allegations. “What we saw during the prosecution’s presentation was simply its effort to build its case. We have seen only one side so far. We have yet to hear the answer,” he said.With the defense preparing to present its own documentary and testimonial evidence, Tongol said the senator-judges and the public would begin to get a clearer picture of Duterte’s position.Tongol also said the defense has yet to inform the court whether Duterte will take the witness stand. “It is entirely the defense’s prerogative whether to put the respondent on the witness stand,” Tongol said.If the court requires Duterte to testify, Tongol said, it could trigger a major legal debate over the constitutional right against self-incrimination.He outlined two opposing legal interpretations.

One is that impeachment proceedings are not criminal proceedings and that the right against self-incrimination may be invoked on a question-by-question basis.Under this interpretation, Duterte could be called to testify but could refuse to answer questions that might incriminate her.The other view treats impeachment as akin to a criminal proceeding because of its potentially severe consequences, including removal from office and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.Under this interpretation, the right against self-incrimination could be invoked more broadly to prevent the respondent from being compelled to testify against herself.Tongol also defended the court's decision to admit financial records involving Duterte and her husband, including documents obtained from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), banks, and other institutions.The defense had objected to the documents, arguing that they were not attached to the articles of impeachment and that their submission amounted to a fishing expedition by the prosecution.Tongol said the court rejected the objection because articles of impeachment need only state the general or ultimate facts underlying the allegations, not every specific evidentiary detail.He said Escudero and his legal team have been conducting scenario planning and mock trials in preparation for the resumption of proceedings. "For every possible scenario, there are skeletal rulings prepared," Tongol said, adding that Escudero has three to four draft rulings ready.If the arguments raised during a hearing match a scenario already anticipated by the legal team, the presiding officer may read the prepared ruling.If new issues arise, the legal team incorporates additional instructions before the ruling is issued.Tongol said this explains the short breaks sometimes taken by the court before announcing decisions.He also explained the court's decision to restore the sub judice restriction on Articles 1, 3 and 4, which had been dropped by the House prosecution panel.Escudero initially lifted the restriction on Oct. 13. However, defense lead counsel Sheila Sison told the court that lifting it would serve little purpose for the defense, particularly regarding Article 4, which involves grave-threat allegations and is also the subject of a pending case before the Metropolitan Trial Court of Quezon City.Senator-judge Francis Pangilinan sought reconsideration of Escudero's ruling, with Senator-judge Bam Aquino seconding the appeal.The defense was given an opportunity to consult Duterte on whether she wanted the restriction lifted. After the defense did not pursue the lifting, Escudero restored the restriction.Another senator-judge, Risa Hontiveros, on Sunday said the case against Duterte must be decided on the strength of the evidence, not public opinion or speculation about how many senator-judges are prepared to convict or acquit her.Hontiveros cautioned against prematurely counting votes, stressing that the impeachment court must hear the defense's side and consider the entire case before reaching a verdict. "It is premature for me or anyone to say that there are already numbers for conviction or acquittal," Hontiveros said in an interview with DZBB radio. "We have only heard half of the sides. The defense presentation will begin tomorrow. We are obligated to listen to everything," she said.Hontiveros said the actual vote count would only be known on the day of the decision.She also rejected speculation that senators have already made their decision, describing their deliberations as an ongoing process. "All of the senator-judges are involved, not just the majority. In an impeachment trial, there are no majority or minority blocs," Hontiveros said.She acknowledged that the personalities involved naturally attract public attention because they are frequently seen in the

news, but stressed that popularity is not the issue before the impeachment court.Hontiveros stressed that senator-judges would not be voting based on popularity. “For us, that is outside the issue of the impeachment trial because we will not be voting on popularity. We will look at accountability,” she said. “That is what we will weigh — all the witnesses and evidence that we have studied for our final decision or vote,” she said.Asked if she expected Duterte to personally appear before the Senate impeachment court, Hontiveros said it was the defense’s call. “If the vice president is included, I will listen and ask clarificatory questions,” Hontiveros said.She said she expected Duterte to attend the Senate deliberations on the Office of the Vice President’s (OVP) proposed 2027 budget.Hontiveros recalled that Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian had emphasized during the committee hearing that the head of the agency was expected to attend.Asked what would happen if Duterte again failed to attend, Hontiveros said senators would take notice “because that is not proper conduct for any head of an agency, even if that official is the vice president.”

- Filipino sailor dies in tanker blast (2026-11-08 16:15)

A FILIPINO sailor died in an explosion aboard an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) reported on Saturday.Twenty-one other Filipino crew members of the MT Velos Sapphire "were reported unharmed," the department said.The explosion occurred in the early hours of Nov. 5, while the Marshall Islands-flagged vessel was sailing to Sitrah, Bahrain.Initial reports "suggested a possible drone attack," the department said, although the cause of the explosion "remains unverified." The DMW condoled with the family of the seaman, whose name it has withheld."We will provide all the support and guidance the bereaved family needs during this difficult time. As the president has consistently reminded us, we must always take care of the families of our Filipino seafarers," Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said.The licensed manning agency, "which received the shipowner's report of the death, has informed the family and is providing assistance and guidance. The shipowner has likewise conveyed its condolences and assured the family of its support," the DMW said.The department also said that no pollution or environmental damage was reported after the incident.Meanwhile, two oil tankers caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after hitting mines, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Sunday, according to state news agency IRNA.Since the outbreak of the Iran war in late February, Tehran has severely restricted traffic through the strategic waterway, insisting vessels use routes authorized by the Islamic republic.The United States has, in response, imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and helped tankers travel the strait, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil consumption."Two oil tankers violating regulations — one in the eastern part of the Strait of Hormuz and the other within the strait — caught fire and are currently engulfed in intense flames after striking naval mines while attempting to cross through unauthorized routes," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said in a statement."The two tankers had reportedly committed multiple violations, including switching off their navigation and positioning systems, as they attempted to transit through an unauthorized route," the statement added.The Guards did not specify the name or nationality of the tankers.

• UN chief warns world leaders: Moment of truth (2026-11-08 16:14)

UNITED NATIONS — As United Nations talks kick off in Turkey on Monday, Secretary-General António Guterres has an urgent message for world leaders: “This is a moment of truth.” He’s delivered variations of this ominous warning about change, caused by the burning of fossil fuels like oil and gas, in the past decade, often with increasingly hyperbolic language. Three years ago, he even said, “the era of global boiling has arrived,” referring to rising temperatures and increasing extreme weather, both results of change.But this time, it will be his last global warming sermon as head of the United Nations, as his second and last term expires at the end of the year. And the sense of urgency is palpable in a world with worsening killer heat waves, storms, floods and droughts amid ever-higher temperatures and, on top of all of it, El Niño, a naturally occurring pattern that scrambles weather systems around the globe. “This is a moment of truth. We can no longer wait; we can no longer have endless discussions in which everybody tries to push the responsibility to someone else. Everybody must do more; everybody must do more now,” Guterres said he will tell leaders of the UN conference, known as COP31, scheduled from Nov. 9 to 20.The “moment of truth” message weighs so heavily that the secretary-general used the phrase three times in 20 minutes during a recent exclusive interview with The Associated Press from his 38th-floor conference room at UN headquarters.He discussed his one last push in the fight against change and a ten-year tenure where he became one of the most visible advocates urging often recalcitrant countries to do more to reduce their emissions of heat-trapping gases.The gravity of global warming reality also weighs heavily as he recalled his personal moment of truth. It was, he said, “one of the most difficult days of my life.” It came last year when he consulted with scientists before a major speech. As he had for nine years, Guterres was going to insist that the 2015 Paris Agreement’s main goal — limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times — was still alive.He was going to say the world needs to do far more to keep below that threshold, and that it was doable. “Scientists told me you cannot say that because that’s no longer true,” said Guterres, an engineer before his political career. Too much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, the result of burning fossil fuels, had been released into the atmosphere. “That was an enormous shock for me,” he said. Now the UN is trying to limit how much past that threshold the world heads.It felt like a failure, Guterres said. “But it’s not the world that’s failed; it’s the political leadership that’s failed,” Guterres said.Protecting the planet, he said, requires a long-term strategic view.Yet in many political systems “there is no strategic view. And policies change frequently, not allowing the kind of constant determined investment that is necessary,” Guterres said.He pointed to his tenure as Portugal’s prime minister in the late 1990s to show it’s possible to invest long-term in a greener future.He added that a worldwide boom in wind and solar power as cheaper alternatives to fossil fuels gives him hope.With wars raging in Ukraine and Iran and worries about artificial intelligence — which he also tried to rally world leaders around — there are a lot of threats out there, Guterres said. “The problem is that all these things are getting combined,” Guterres said, noting the huge electricity and water consumption and carbon emissions of AI.War-related energy shocks show that relying on fossil fuels is a fundamental

security problem, he said.Three years ago, Guterres toured the highest peaks of Nepal, warning of a future with swollen glacier-fed lakes bursting and devastating floods and landslides. “I am here today to cry out from the rooftop of the world: Stop the madness,” Guterres said in 2023. “The glaciers are retreating, but we cannot,” he said. “We must end the fossil fuel age.” AP “Unfortunately, they came sooner than what I expected,” he recalled in the interview.Floods in August killed more than 1,400 people with another 5,600 missing. Scientists said change played a role in the disasters.Guterres said someone needs to pay to help the victims of change, who often didn’t cause the problem. “Fossil fuel companies are making huge profits and obviously those windfall profits should be taxed and those taxes should be applied in supporting the countries that are having the more dramatic impacts of change,” Guterres said.Talking earlier this month with a science team on a drifting platform in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, Guterres mentioned that his trip to Mount Everest and chats with researchers changed him.He said the conversations created “a sense of fury in relation to those who go on, if not denying, at least refusing to take the measures that are necessary to stop this madness.” “António Guterres has consistently been eloquent, forceful and right on target in all of his many statements and initiatives to address the crisis,” former US Vice President Al Gore said. “He’s been so active on this issue because he understands clearly that it is the greatest challenge facing humanity.”European Foundation CEO Laurence Tubiana, who presided over the negotiations that resulted in the Paris Agreement, said Guterres “has done what he could, even pushing the ball much, much farther than any other SG, to the point that he may have been represented in a very adversarial context.”Because nations don’t have to do what the UN or its leaders ask and superpowers have veto authority, Guterres said his position as secretary-general “has no real power. We have not much money you know. But there is one thing we have: A voice.”That’s why he simply has three words of advice to whoever succeeds him: “Tell the truth.” The UN Security Council is still deciding on who will be the next secretary-general.The one message Guterres said he wants the public to remember on change: “Take it seriously because it is an existential threat. And the first thing we need to fight is for our own lives.”

- Lopez to inspect Bulacan flood control project (2026-11-08 16:13)

NEWLY appointed Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez will inspect on Monday a flood mitigation structure in Calumpit, Bulacan.The inspection comes as the Marcos administration moves to ensure the uninterrupted implementation of critical flood control, drainage and road infrastructure projects despite the change in leadership at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).Calumpit is among the flood-prone areas in Bulacan where the government has been pushing flood mitigation interventions, including the construction of a replacement flood wall or revetment to better protect riverbanks and vulnerable communities. The new structure is nearly 1.5 meters higher than the previous one.Other flood control projects in Bulacan include the replacement of a defective dike in Barangay Calizon, where an earlier inspection revealed hollow sections and inadequate steel reinforcement.The replacement involves 15-meter sheet piles intended to protect around 3,000 residents.The DPWH is pursuing

similar projects in neighboring Hagonoy, including the dredging of Iba-Wawa Creek, improvements to drainage channels leading to Labangan Channel and the Angat River, and the deployment of a mobile pump at the Iba Pumping Station.In Pampanga, the government plans the dredging and widening of the Pampanga River and its tributaries, particularly around Macabebe and Masantol, and building pumping stations, flood walls and dikes.These projects form part of the administration's broader Oplan Kontra Baha, which seeks to address flooding by improving waterways, drainage systems, pumping facilities and protective structures.Lopez is expected to sustain major road rehabilitation projects initiated under former Public Works secretary Vince Dizon.These include the second phase of the EDSA rehabilitation, covering the stretch from Orense Street in Makati City to Monumento in Caloocan City.The project involves asphalt overlay, concrete reblocking, road milling, drainage improvements and wider sidewalks, with completion targeted in 2027.The government has also ordered the rehabilitation of C5 Road, from Kalayaan Interchange in Taguig City to Capitol Hills Drive along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, with work expected to begin before the end of the year.

- Hontiveros pushes El Niño-ready budget (2026-11-08 16:12)

SEN. Risa Hontiveros is pushing for a super El Niño-ready and responsive 2027 national budget, calling on government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to strengthen measures to protect the public from extreme heat, water shortages and threats to public health.In an interview with DZBB radio on Sunday, Hontiveros said her proposal for LGUs to establish public cooling spaces and provide free drinking water in crowded areas was part of preparations for the expected effects of El Niño.She said that public cooling spaces could include shopping malls where people could seek temporary relief from extreme heat without being required to buy anything.She also called for free drinking water stations in crowded areas, particularly transport terminals, noting that access to water could sometimes mean the difference between life and death.As vice chairman of the Senate budget panel handling the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Hontiveros said she was pushing for additional funding for programs addressing water conservation, environmental protection and livelihood development.She specifically cited the DENR's Lawa at Binhi initiatives, which she said should receive stronger support as the country prepares for the climate phenomenon.On water security, Hontiveros said the government must identify, develop, protect and rationalize the use of available water sources.CATHERINE VALENTEShe also underscored the need for closer coordination between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA), particularly in ensuring adequate water supplies for agricultural irrigation. "We have to make sure that our farmers really have a source of water," she said.Hontiveros also vowed to actively participate in the budget deliberations of the Department of Health (DoH) to ensure the implementation of Universal Health Care (UHC), with particular attention to public health preparedness and protection during El Niño.She added that the Department of Labor and Employment should closely coordinate with the DENR and DSWD in generating jobs and livelihood opportunities as part of the government's response.Hontiveros said that the government had repeatedly discussed the creation of a Super

El Niño task force, stressing the importance of a whole-of-government approach to preparations.She said the Senate will also exercise tighter oversight over government spending as it reviews the proposed 2027 national budget, drawing lessons from its investigation into flood control projects.Hontiveros said that Congress must ensure that government agencies properly use their allocations, citing its constitutional authority over the national budget.On possible sources of funding for priority programs, Hontiveros cited the commitment of Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian to continue budget reforms.She also pointed to Gatchalian's announcement that more than P7 billion in items lacking sufficient justification would be removed from the proposed budget.The initiative was part of efforts to make budget deliberations more transparent and participatory, particularly through the increased involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs).She said she would pursue proactive budget interventions in light of the flood control controversy and the need to prepare for El Niño.Asked whether allocations for flood control projects or farm-to-market roads could be reduced to finance climate preparedness measures, Hontiveros said: "We will look at the big picture in the Senate and determine how we can come up with a Super El Niño-responsive budget within the rules."

- Lawmaker seeks higher salaries for social workers (2026-11-08 16:11)

NUEVA Vizcaya Rep. Timothy Joseph Cayton has filed a bill seeking higher salaries, more benefits, and stronger legal protection for social workers nationwide.Cayton introduced the proposed Social Workers' Welfare and Protection Act, a measure pushing for the upgrade of the entry-level position of Social Welfare Officer I from Salary Grade 11 to Salary Grade 15, matching the starting salary of other licensed government professionals.Higher positions would also receive corresponding salary grade adjustments.Social workers "quietly bear the saddest and most dangerous stories of our society without complaint. Gratitude alone is not enough; our social workers need fair wages and legal protection," Cayton said over the weekend.The proposed law also seeks to provide social workers with hazard pay equivalent to at least 20 percent of their monthly basic salary. Job Order and Contract of Service workers would also be covered.The bill proposes P500,000 in financial assistance for the families of social workers who die in the line of duty, and P250,000 for those who suffer permanent disabilities.It would also recognize social workers as persons in authority, imposing heavier penalties on individuals who assault or harass them while performing their duties.

- 'PH to continue trade with China' (2026-11-08 16:10)

SHANGHAI — The Philippines will continue to engage with China in trade, tourism and people to people exchanges despite their maritime disputes, Ambassador Jaime FlorCruz said Sunday, noting that the two countries' maritime issues are not the "sum total" of their relations.Speaking to The Manila Times at the sidelines of the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) held at the National Convention and Exhibition Center, FlorCruz said that Manila will continue to engage with Beijing amid their differences. "We differ when we have to, but we engage, we cooperate while we can, and trade and investment, commercial relations are exactly

the kind of relations that we need to keep pushing," he said. "Our maritime issues are not the sum total of our relations, so that means we have to keep on pushing on other fields of our relations," he added.The Philippines launched on Friday its largest pavilion in the CIIE, comprising over 30 export companies showcasing the country's food exports, such as coconut products, bananas, durian, and other products.FlorCruz said that trade and investment, alongside tourism and people to people exchanges, are an "important component" of its relations to China. "What we want [is that] the Chinese to succeed in the Philippines in breaking into our market and bringing the best of their products and services. We want them to show that good Philippine-China relations is beneficial to our people, to our markets," FlorCruz said.Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) welcomed the joint statement of 20 business, labor, industry and civil society organizations supporting diplomacy and dialogue between the Philippines and China.In a statement Saturday evening, the DFA said it "is grateful for the appreciation of these sectors regarding the challenges of diplomatic work." The DFA said "candor, composure, principled conduct, sound judgment, and measured engagement are vital in the conduct of foreign relations, even as we firmly assert and uphold the Philippines' rights and entitlements." The groups earlier commended DFA Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro for her recent "constructive engagement" with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and her call for sustained dialogue and cooperation between the Philippines and China.Lazaro on Tuesday received a telephone call from Wang during which they discussed the state of bilateral ties between Manila and Beijing. "We recognize the DFA's pragmatic and statesmanlike approach in protecting the country's national interests, particularly its economic development, trade and exports, tourism, overseas Filipino workers, and other vital bilateral agreements with China, the Philippines' largest trading partner," the groups said. "Amid global uncertainty and intensifying economic competition, our Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) neighbors are deepening their trade, investment, technology, infrastructure, and tourism partnerships with China," they said.The groups said the Philippines "must likewise pursue mutually beneficial economic opportunities through constructive engagement, while firmly upholding its sovereignty and national interests." In a separate interview with The Manila Times, China Global Television Network digital anchor Shen Shiwei stressed the importance of CIIE for markets such as the Philippines. He said that Philippine companies must remain competitive amid tight competition from Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Shen said that maritime dispute between Manila and Beijing should not affect negatively on trade relations.

- Pangilinan pushes reforms in judiciary (2026-11-08 16:06)

SEN. Francis Pangilinan called for increased judiciary funding, faster court proceedings, stronger prosecution of corruption cases, and tougher measures against judicial corruption as part of a four-point reform agenda following the Philippines' 97th-place ranking in the 2026 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index.Pangilinan said the country's ranking highlights the need for "massive, painstaking, and consistent reform" to address persistent problems in law enforcement and the administration of justice, which directly affect the daily lives and livelihoods of ordinary Filipinos. "We need reform that ordinary Filipinos experience, not the

impunity we see in the enforcement of laws and the disposition of cases — from traffic to online scams to corruption," Pangilinan said in a statement. "To improve the Philippine justice system is to improve Filipino lives and livelihoods," he added.The senator said an effective justice system is essential to protecting citizens' rights, holding offenders accountable, resolving disputes fairly, and creating an environment where businesses and communities can thrive.He cited the WJP's key rule-of-law indicators, which include accountable government, freedom from corruption, transparency, protection of fundamental rights, public safety, fair enforcement of laws, and effective civil and criminal justice systems.Pangilinan said that addressing these challenges requires leadership from government, with the business sector, academe, civil society, and basic sectors working together to pursue long-term institutional reforms.The senator called for adequate and sustained funding for the judiciary, emphasizing that its budget must translate into measurable improvements in the delivery of justice.He proposed setting clear and measurable targets for the next three years to shorten case resolution times, reduce workloads in congested courts, establish and operationalize additional courts where necessary, and bring judicial vacancies down from approximately 20 percent to single digits.Pangilinan said reducing court congestion would require more than appointing additional judges. The effort must also include adequate court personnel, legal aid services, digital systems, and fully functioning courthouses.Also, Pangilinan called for stronger investigations, more capable prosecution, and timely trials to improve conviction rates, particularly in corruption cases. "Justice means holding the guilty accountable while protecting the innocent. Improve conviction rates, especially of corruption cases, through stronger investigations, capable prosecution, and timely trials. Justice means due process is followed, not sacrificed," he said.Pangilinan also called for the convening of the Judiciary Executive Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council to coordinate sustained funding commitments and institutional reforms while safeguarding judicial independence.

- Marcos' foreign policy should be followed - DFA (2026-11-08 16:05)

ALL government officials are expected to follow the foreign policy directions of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Sunday. "Under the Constitution, the President is the chief architect of Philippine foreign policy," the DFA said in a statement. "Individual officials, agencies or sectors do not independently determine the direction of our international relations," it added.The DFA issued the statement amid the opposing views of some government officials on how the administration should handle maritime disputes with China. "In high-stakes diplomacy, a disciplined and coherent national voice remains essential to advancing our national interests," the Foreign Affairs department said. "Public statements that undermine the government's diplomatic approach do more than complicate the work of our diplomats," it stressed.Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and Philippine Coast Guard Rear Admiral Jay Tarriela in recent weeks had a word war with Chinese Embassy officials over the maritime issues between Manila and Beijing.The DFA reaffirmed its official account of the telephone call by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro on November 3.The "exchange formed part of a deliberate effort

on both sides to maintain stable and predictable bilateral relations, manage differences responsibly, and secure a conducive regional environment — before, during and beyond the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Conference) Summits," it said. "While the national security establishment and the uniformed services provide indispensable operational assessments and document developments on the ground, civilian authority directs the country's international relations. Professional advice belongs in appropriate internal channels," the DFA said. "It is therefore regrettable that recent public commentary made by certain government officials have incorrectly merged three distinct elements: documentary evidence, public rhetoric and official diplomatic messaging."
"Whatever personal convictions public officials may hold, their public platforms carry institutional responsibilities. They may not pursue preferred approaches toward China, or any other international partner, without regard for the consequences on the government's overall policy," it said. "They risk eroding the country's credibility in international affairs and project an image of internal division that external parties can exploit. Such actions can ultimately weaken the Philippines' negotiating position," it added.The Philippines' efforts to document and publicize incidents in the West Philippine Sea have established facts, countered disinformation and built international awareness, the agency said. "Yet transparency cannot substitute for statecraft. Releasing footage or shaping an online narrative does not, by itself, act as a physical deterrent at sea or a legal strategy," the DFA said. "Government statecraft requires clear distinctions among these instruments. Transparency is a tool, not a strategy in itself."

- Bill protecting workers from layoffs filed (2026-11-08 16:04)

SEN. Erwin Tulfo has filed a measure seeking to protect Filipino workers from losing their jobs due to the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation.Senate Bill 2563 seeks to introduce new provisions in the Labor Code of the Philippines governing employee termination resulting from the installation or implementation of AI technologies. "As companies adopt AI, employees whose jobs become redundant risk losing not only their employment but also their means of supporting their families," said Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development. "Technological progress is inevitable, but Filipino workers should not be left behind or made to bear its costs alone," he added.Tulfo's bill aims to add a new article into the Labor Code of the Philippines which specifies conditions on the termination of an employee due to installation or implementation of AI technologies.Among the conditions that must be met are the bona fide introduction or implementation of AI technologies or systems; good faith on the part of the employer in adopting such technologies; a valid and justifiable purpose, such as reducing costs, improving operational efficiency, or achieving other legitimate economic objectives; the absence of any reasonable alternative to implementing AI other than the consequent termination of affected employees; and the application of fair and reasonable criteria in determining which employees will be terminated.The measure likewise provides a safeguard for those who will be justifiably terminated by entitling them to a separation pay equivalent to at least two months pay or to at

least two months pay for every year of service, whichever is higher.Should there be intended termination, the Senate Bill mandates the employers to notify the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at least six months in advance. “There must be a proactive effort to keep workers away from termination just because AI comes in. We are not only talking about careers here, we are concerned with livelihood and lives of the employees’ families,” Tulfo said.

• Police to boost presence in former conflict areas (2026-11-08 16:02)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to intensify conflict-prevention measures in vulnerable localities after renewed efforts to support government peace mechanisms and reconciliation programs.PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. emphasized the importance of sustaining the government’s peace process gains as the police strengthened its coordination with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru). “Peace must be protected and sustained, not simply declared. Our strengthened coordination with OPAPRU allows us to address security concerns early, prevent isolated incidents from escalating, and ensure that the gains of the peace process translate into lasting safety for our communities,” Nartatez said in a statement on Sunday.The PNP’s renewed push for community-level security measures followed a meeting with Opapru officials led by Deputy Presidential Adviser Jonathan Ferdinand Miano last Nov. 5.The PNP’s role in the peace process includes maintaining public order, monitoring security developments, and protecting residents in areas where peace agreements are being implemented. Its coordination with Opapru is intended to complement these responsibilities and ensure that local police units remain engaged in preventing conflict.During the courtesy visit, both sides discussed the PNP’s accomplishments and ways to strengthen its support for government peace and reconciliation initiatives.Key concerns included monitoring hostilities involving Peace-Inclined Armed Groups. The discussions also covered implementing existing peace agreements and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, which coordinates security-related concerns that could affect the peace process.Another priority was the surrender and proper accounting of firearms under existing peace mechanisms. Documentation and monitoring of these weapons are important in preventing their unauthorized use and reducing the risk of renewed violence.Nartatez directed concerned police commanders to strengthen police visibility and patrol operations in former conflict areas, particularly in communities vulnerable to renewed armed hostilities.He also called for closer coordination with local government units, community leaders, and other stakeholders to improve early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms. “Our communities can count on the PNP to remain present, vigilant, and responsive. We will strengthen police visibility, intensify coordination with local leaders, and act promptly on threats to ensure that no community is left vulnerable to violence,” he said.

• PH can learn from Sweden’s low smoking rate – expert (2026-11-08 16:01)

SWEDEN’s achievement of having one of the world’s lowest smoking rates offers lessons for Filipino policymakers seeking to reduce the health risks associated with traditional cigarettes, a tobacco harm reduction expert said.Dr. Lorenzo Mata, president of Quit for Good and an

occupational health physician and tobacco harm reduction advocate with more than 40 years of medical experience, shared his insights at the 2nd National Summit on Nicotine and Harm Reduction, held under the theme “Choice, Evidence, and Access.” Mata said that about 5.4 percent of Swedes aged 16 to 84 reported smoking daily in 2024, one of the lowest rates worldwide.He attributed this partly to the widespread use of snus, a smokeless tobacco product used daily by 22 percent of men and 10 percent of women in the same age group.The expert said the figures challenge policymakers to move beyond arguments framed around “safe versus unsafe” and consider how strong tobacco control measures can coexist with the availability of non-combustible nicotine products. “The Philippines is not Sweden,” Mata said, pointing to differences in culture, smoking prevalence, the healthcare system and the regulatory environment.He said the key lesson is the willingness to use the best available evidence to determine how to reduce harm for the greatest number of people.This includes preventing tobacco use initiation, protecting young people, helping smokers quit, reducing exposure to combustion, ensuring product quality, providing consumers with accurate information and measuring public health outcomes, he said.The World Health Organization maintains that tobacco use remains a major global public health threat and advocates comprehensive tobacco control measures, including taxation, smoke-free policies, advertising restrictions, health warnings and access to cessation services.In the Philippines, Republic Act 11900, or the Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products Regulation Act, establishes a regulatory framework for vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products, including their manufacture, sale, distribution and use. The law includes provisions intended to regulate the industry and protect minors.Mumbai-based cardiologist Dr. Rohan Sequeira warned that annual tobacco-related deaths are projected to exceed 10 million by 2030 if governments fail to act. “That means we are adding two million people every year who are going to die because of harm reduction not being implemented by regional and national governments,” he said.Sequeira described cigarettes as the most dangerous form of nicotine delivery.Mata, meanwhile, said adult smokers need access to credible alternatives if they cannot or are unwilling to quit immediately.He said these alternatives should be scientifically evaluated and realistically accessible. “Harm reduction cannot mean ignoring young people, unrestricted promotion, poor quality products, or unsupported health claims,” he said.Professor Eric Castillo of CAPS and Partners Inc. said about 90 countries allow and regulate the sale of alternative nicotine products, including e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products and Swedish snus.He said the Philippines, through Republic Act 11900, has adopted a harm reduction framework in law, while the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada have also pursued public health approaches that encourage smokers to switch to alternatives.Anton Israel of the Nicotine Consumers Union of the Philippines said smoking rates have declined in Sweden, Britain, New Zealand and Japan alongside the availability of alternatives to conventional cigarettes. “All we ask is this: that policy be based on evidence and on the level of risk. The choice belongs to the Filipino consumer. Our duty is to make sure it is not lost, that they keep their access, their choice and their hope,” Israel said.Mata also addressed common misconceptions about nicotine and alternative products.He acknowledged that nicotine is addictive and biologically active but emphasized the distinction between nicotine dependence

and the toxic effects of cigarette smoke, which contains thousands of chemicals, including numerous carcinogens.Mata also rejected the notion that all nicotine products carry the same level of risk, citing differences in their composition, delivery methods and exposure to toxic substances. “Harm reduction does not mean zero risk. It means reducing risk compared with a more harmful behavior,” he said.

- ‘Cempaka’ intensifies into typhoon (2026-11-08 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka has intensified into a typhoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Sunday.It said that as of 2 p.m. Sunday, November 8, 2026, “Cempaka” intensified into a typhoon and was still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).The typhoon's center was about 1,600 kilometers east of extreme northern Luzon. It was moving west-northwest at 20 kilometers per hour (km/h), with maximum sustained winds of 120 km/h near the center and gusts up to 150 km/h.Pagasa said the typhoon will enter PAR Monday morning and will be called "Samuel."Weather specialist Grace Castañeda-Carpio said that the typhoon will exit PAR between Monday and Tuesday.Castañeda-Carpio said that light to moderate rains were possible in Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, as well as several parts of the Cordillera Administrative Region and other parts of Cagayan Valley due to the northeast monsoon or amihan.The easterlies could bring scattered rains in Quezon and Bicol on Monday, she said.The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, will be cloudy.Castañeda-Carpio said the chance of scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and the Davao Region is high.

- Tropical storm could enter PAR tonight or early Monday — Pagasa (2026-11-08 07:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka could enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) tonight or early Monday morning, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.Weather Specialist Obet Badrina said once inside PAR, the storm will be called "Samuel.""It will not directly affect our country, especially because it will just skirt the northeastern boundary of the PAR," Badrina said in Filipino and English.The storm will not make landfall.The northeast monsoon or amihan continues to affect the Philippines, particularly the north and central parts of Luzon, he said.The easterlies "will bring cloudy skies, particularly to a large part of Visayas" and to the eastern part of Mindanao, he said.

- Hontiveros wants cooling places, free water for public during super El Niño (2026-11-08 06:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros called on government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to strengthen measures to protect Filipinos from extreme heat, water shortages and threats to public health amid a strengthening El Niño.In an interview with DZBB radio on Sunday, Hontiveros said her proposal for LGUs to establish public cooling spaces and provide free drinking water in crowded areas was part of preparations for the expected effects of Super El Niño.She said that public cooling spaces could include shopping malls where people

could seek temporary relief from extreme heat without being required to buy anything. “Public cooling places, for example, could be malls, but people should not be obligated to buy anything,” she said.She also called for free drinking water stations in crowded areas, particularly transport terminals, noting that access to water could sometimes mean the difference between life and death.As vice chairman of the Senate budget panel handling the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Hontiveros said she was pushing for additional funding for programs addressing water conservation, environmental protection and livelihood development.She said the government must identify, develop, protect and rationalize the use of available water sources.She also underscored the need for closer coordination between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture, particularly in ensuring adequate water supplies for agricultural irrigation. “We have to make sure that our farmers really have a source of water,” she said.

• Bill protecting Filipino workers from AI-driven layoffs filed in Senate (2026-11-08 04:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo has filed a measure seeking to protect Filipino workers from losing their jobs due to the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation.Senate Bill 2563 seeks to introduce new provisions in the Labor Code of the Philippines governing employee termination resulting from the installation or implementation of AI technologies. “As companies adopt AI, employees whose jobs become redundant risk losing not only their employment but also their means of supporting their families,” said Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development. “Technological progress is inevitable, but Filipino workers should not be left behind or made to bear its costs alone,” he added. Tulfo’s bill aims to add a new article into the Labor Code of the Philippines which specifies conditions on the termination of an employee due to installation or implementation of AI technologies. Among the conditions that must be met are the bona fide introduction or implementation of AI technologies or systems; good faith on the part of the employer in adopting such technologies; a valid and justifiable purpose, such as reducing costs, improving operational efficiency, or achieving other legitimate economic objectives; the absence of any reasonable alternative to implementing AI other than the consequent termination of affected employees; and the application of fair and reasonable criteria in determining which employees will be terminated.The measure likewise provides a safeguard for those who will be justifiably terminated by entitling them to a separation pay equivalent to at least two months pay or to at least two months pay for every year of service, whichever is higher. Should there be intended termination, the Senate Bill mandates the employers to notify the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at least six months in advance. “There must be a proactive effort to keep workers away from termination just because AI comes in. We are not only talking about careers here, we are concerned with livelihood and lives of the employees’ families,” Tulfo said.

• Lacson: Senate to expand budget transparency push with bicam transcripts, livestreaming (2026-11-08 03:57)

MANILA, Philippines — To expand its budget transparency efforts this year, the Senate will push not only for continuous livestreaming of bicameral conference committee proceedings on the proposed 2027 national budget but also for transcripts of the discussions, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said Sunday.Lacson said the transcripts would help lawmakers and the public identify who initiated amendments to the budget bill, and track who pushed for realignments of its items."In the bicam, the minutes of the proceedings should be recorded through a transcript. The budget bill is the only measure whose bicameral proceedings do not have a transcript, so we cannot trace who made what amendment. Now there should be a transcript because for the longest time, it had none," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio."There should be a transcript containing the minutes so it will be clear who initiated amendments and who pushed for realignments," he added.Lacson said the Senate also plans to build on the transparency measures for the budget measure, aside from those it implemented in last year's proceedings for the 2026 budget.These included identifying senators who proposed amendments to the budget bill, and posting the proceedings on the Senate's website for the public to see.For this year's budget deliberations, Lacson said the Senate plans to invite budget advocacy groups like the People's Budget Coalition to the bicameral proceedings to better ensure transparency.

- Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite to have water interruptions this week (2026-11-08 03:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite will have water interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Sunday.Manila Water said that in Quezon City, some parts of Brgy. Bagumbuhay will have no water on November 10-11 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of interconnection works at Aurora Blvd. cor. Anonas.In Rizal, some sections of Brgy. San Juan in Cainta will have water interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of a line meter along Don Celso Tuazon cor. Ortigas Ave. Ext.Some parts of Brgy. San Juan in Cainta and some portions of Brgy. Sta. Ana and Brgy. San Juan in Taytay will have service interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the insertion of a valve in a water system along Eastbank Floodway.Some sections of Brgy. San Vicente and Sto. Nino in Angono, Rizal will have water service interruptions on November 11-12 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities at E. Rodriguez cor. M.L. Quezon Ave. to detect possible leaks.Meanwhile, Maynilad said some parts of Brgy. 176 will have no water on November 9-13 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to leak localization activities at Old Zabarte Road, Dutong Street and at Gen. Luis cor. Torres.Some portions of Brgy. 120 in Caloocan City will have water service interruptions on November 9-10 between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of pipe realignment works at Rizal Avenue near 2nd Street.Some sections of Brgy. 170 in Caloocan and some portions of Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon and Brgy. San Agustin in Quezon City will have water interruptions on November 10-11 between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. due to leak localization work.Some areas in Bagbag, San Bartolome, Sauyo and Talipapa in Quezon City will have service interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to leak localization work.Some places in Brgy. Manuyo Dos, Las Piñas City; some locations in the

villages of La Huerta, Moonwalk, San Dionisio, San Isidro and Sto. Niño in Parañaque City; and some sections of Brgy. 199 and Brgy. 200 in Pasay City will have no water on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. due to the realignment of a steel pipe.Several places in the villages of Almanza Uno, Pilar, Talon Uno, Talon Dos and Talon Singko in Las Piñas City will have service interruptions on November 12 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of maintenance works at the Poblacion water treatment plant.In Muntinlupa City, some areas in the villages of Alabang, Bayanan, Poblacion, Putatan and Tunasan will have no water on November 12 between 12:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. because of maintenance works at the Poblacion water treatment plant.Some locations in the villages of BF Homes, Marcelo Green, San Antonio and San Isidro in Parañaque City will have water interruptions on November 12 between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. due to maintenance works at the Poblacion water treatment plant.In Manila City, some sections in the villages of 51, 246, 348, 504, 512, 514, 586 to 625 and 587-A will have service interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to network maintenance activities at Road 2 cor. V. Mapa.Various places in the villages of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42 43, 45 to 112, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 123, 147 to 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 221 to 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275 276, 281 to 316, 324, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334 335, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348 349, 353 to 382, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 500, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654 655, 657, 658 and 666 in Manila will have no water on November 12-13 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of leak localization activities.In Cavite, various areas in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II- B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI in Imus City will have water service interruptions everyday on November 9-15 between 5 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. because of the network and facility limitations of the Patindig Araw pumping station.Several places in the villages of Anabu I-B, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II-B, Anabu II-C and Anabu II-D will have water service interruptions on November 9-14 between 6 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. daily due to facility maintenance works at Anabu Modular Treatment Plant.Some sections in the villages of Pasong Buaya I and Pasong Buaya II in Imus City and various locations in the villages of Molino I, Molino II, Molino III, Molino IV, Molino VI, Molino VII, Queens Row Central, Queens Row East, Queens Row West and San Nicolas III in Bacoor City will have no water on November 12 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of maintenance work.

- Pangilinan pushes court reforms, anti-corruption drive (2026-11-08 01:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan called for increased judiciary funding, faster court proceedings, stronger prosecution of corruption cases, and tougher measures against judicial corruption as part of a four-point reform agenda following the Philippines' 97th-place

ranking in the 2026 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index.Pangilinan said the country's ranking highlights the need for “massive, painstaking, and consistent reform” to address persistent problems in law enforcement and the administration of justice, which directly affect the daily lives and livelihoods of ordinary Filipinos. “We need reform that ordinary Filipinos experience, not the impunity we see in the enforcement of laws and the disposition of cases—from traffic to online scams to corruption,” Pangilinan said in a statement. “To improve the Philippine justice system is to improve Filipino lives and livelihoods," he added.The senator said an effective justice system is essential to protecting citizens' rights, holding offenders accountable, resolving disputes fairly, and creating an environment where businesses and communities can thrive.He cited the WJP's key rule-of-law indicators, which include accountable government, freedom from corruption, transparency, protection of fundamental rights, public safety, fair enforcement of laws, and effective civil and criminal justice systems.Pangilinan said that addressing these challenges requires leadership from government, with the business sector, academe, civil society, and basic sectors working together to pursue long-term institutional reforms.The senator called for adequate and sustained funding for the judiciary, emphasizing that its budget must translate into measurable improvements in the delivery of justice.He proposed setting clear and measurable targets for the next three years to shorten case resolution times, reduce workloads in congested courts, establish and operationalize additional courts where necessary, and bring judicial vacancies down from approximately 20 percent to single digits.Pangilinan said reducing court congestion would require more than appointing additional judges. The effort must also include adequate court personnel, legal aid services, digital systems, and fully functioning courthouses.Also, Pangilinan called for stronger investigations, more capable prosecution, and timely trials to improve conviction rates, particularly in corruption cases. “Justice means holding the guilty accountable while protecting the innocent. Improve conviction rates, especially of corruption cases, through stronger investigations, capable prosecution, and timely trials. Justice means due process is followed, not sacrificed," he said.Pangilinan also called for the convening of the Judiciary Executive Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council to coordinate sustained funding commitments and institutional reforms while safeguarding judicial independence.

- Some areas in Metro Manila, 3 provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works (2026-11-08 01:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal will have power interruptions this week due to maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday.In Muntinlupa City, some places in Ayala Alabang Village, Brgy. Ayala Alabang will have no electricity on November 10 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of line reconductoring work along Taysan St., Gamao St. and Batangas North St.Some parts of Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City will have power interruptions on November 11-12 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line reconductoring work along Republic Ave.In Pasig City, some areas in the villages of San Antonio and Ugong, and some portions of SM Megamall Building D and Mega Tower in Brgy. Wack-Wack Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City will have power service interruptions on November 11-12 between 10 p.m.

and 4 a.m. due to the installation and replacement of electricity facilities and line reconductoring works along Garden Way St., Saint Francis St. and Lourdes Drive in Brgy. Wack-Wack Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.Some locations in the villages of San Antonio and Ugong will have no power on November 12-13 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the installation and replacement of facilities and line reconductoring work along San Miguel Ave. and Julia Vargas Ave. in Ortigas Commercial Center.In Cavite province, several locations in the villages of Balsahan-Bisita, Binakayan–Kanluran, Congbalay–Legaspi, Gahak, Marulas, Pulvorista, and Tramo–Bantayan in Kawit, Cavite will have no electricity on November 13 between 12:01 a.m. and 2 a.m. because of line reconstruction works in the Meralco-Island Cove substation.In Laguna, the whole of K & D Mold-Tech Corp., Samsung Electro-Mechanics Philippines Corp. and Starworld Corp. in Calamba Premier Industrial Park, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City will have power interruptions on November 11 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of the reconstruction of electricity facilities in Calamba Premier Industrial Park.Several locations in the villages of Banlic and San Isidro in Cabuyao City will have power service interruptions on November 13-14 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the reconstruction of electricity facilities along Manila South Road in Brgy. Banlic.Some portions of Brgy. Cupang in Antipolo City, Rizal will have no electricity on November 10-11 between 11:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. because of line reconductoring works along Zone 8 in Purok 5, Brgy. Cupang.Some sections of Brgy. San Jose, in Rodriguez, Rizal will have no power on November 15 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. because of line reconductoring work and reconstruction of electricity facilities along Payatas Road in Brgy. San Jose.

- BI supports Dizon's push for wider e-gate access (2026-11-07 18:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has expressed support on Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon’s proposal to expand the use of electronic immigration gates (e-Gates) to all arriving and departing passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).The move was consistent with its own push to broaden automated passenger processing at the country's international gateways, BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said on Saturday.Viado said the initiative forms part of the bureau’s efforts to reduce queues, speed up passenger processing, strengthen border security, and advance its mandate to combat human trafficking and other cross-border crimes. “It also aligns with the bureau's modernization agenda and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to digitalize government services, streamline transactions, and improve public service delivery,” the BI chief said.Under the system, passengers who clear automated screening may proceed through the e-Gates without undergoing routine face-to-face immigration interviews. Those flagged by the system or requiring further assessment, however, will remain subject to examination by immigration officers, BI said."Technology should allow us to process legitimate travelers faster while enabling our officers to focus on passengers who require closer scrutiny,” the top BI official said. “Wider e-Gate access must go hand in hand with reliable biometric verification and effective security checks. Our objective is not only to reduce queues but also to make immigration screening faster, smarter, and more secure," he stressed.As part of its modernization program, Viado said the BI was also expanding and upgrading e-Gates at

international airports outside Metro Manila to improve passenger processing and strengthen border security.The first phase, covering key provincial gateways including Clark, Cebu, and Davao, has been completed, he said.The procurement includes an Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS), specialized software that enhances biometric identification and verification capabilities to detect multiple-nationality passport holders and other frauds.Its integration into the e-Gates will provide an additional layer of border security by helping immigration authorities identify individuals who may pose immigration or security risks while facilitating faster clearance for legitimate travelers, according to the immigration bureau.The second phase is currently undergoing procurement and will cover the further expansion of e-Gates to other international ports in the provinces, said Viado as he added that the agency would livestream the bidding process for this phase.

- Recto pushes full readiness for ASEAN Leaders' Summit (2026-11-07 17:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said the government is ensuring that all systems are in place for the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders' Summit scheduled on November 15 to 17.As chair of the ASEAN National Organizing Council (NOC), Recto inspected the ongoing preparations for the summit on Saturday by ensuring that directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. are carried out prior to the chief executive's inspection.Recto likewise urged the organizing committee to maintain that same dedication for the nearly 100 meetings left under the Philippines' chairmanship.

- Both sides gear up for trial resumption (2026-11-07 16:20)

THE defense and prosecution teams traded barbs over the weekend as both sides prepared for the resumption of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, which will mark its 40th day on Monday.The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday accused the House prosecution panel of peddling "half-truths and malicious speculation" in its efforts to build an impeachment case against her.In a statement, Duterte spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. accused prosecutors of disregarding due process and fairness, claiming they were trying to sway public opinion through press briefings and interviews. "We apparently live in two worlds. One where due process and fairness still reign — where an accused is not condemned before she is heard, and where allegations must be proven with clear and convincing evidence presented in court," Panelo said.He took aim at lead private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan and her colleagues, accusing them of relying on "asinine sound bites" to persuade the public. "The prosecution had its chance. It failed. On Monday, the vice president begins her defense," Panelo said.House prosecution panel member Rep. Terry Ridon, however, challenged the camp's assertion, questioning why the defense planned to present more than 20 witnesses if prosecutors had supposedly failed to prove their case. "Denial is the first stage of accepting defeat. If the prosecution truly failed, why does the defense need to stack more than 20 witnesses next week to stage its defense?" Ridon told The Manila Times. "If we failed, the defense should have outright moved for a decision solely on the basis of the prosecution's supposed evidence," he added, describing Panelo's statement as "a bit

deluded.” Duterte’s defense is scheduled to begin presenting its evidence before the Senate Impeachment Court on Monday, Nov. 9.Witnesses, not weaknesses, Ridon said House prosecutors will challenge the relevance of Vice President Duterte’s defense witnesses, particularly those who may be unable to address the allegations of unexplained wealth. “We need witnesses, not weaknesses, from those the defense will present in the coming days,” Ridon said at the Saturday News Forum in Quezon City ahead of the impeachment trial’s resumption on Monday, Nov. 9.The defense has listed 24 prospective witnesses, including bank officials, corporate representatives and local government personnel.Ridon questioned whether they could address the prosecution’s financial evidence point by point, particularly the alleged P800 million in unexplained wealth. “I don’t know if he knows anything about the P800 million,” he said of Quezon City Prosecutor Vimar Barcellano, whose inclusion in the list he questioned.House prosecution legal spokesman and private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. also questioned the purpose of some witnesses, saying the defense had not explained what they would testify about.Tolosa said he expected the Davao City treasurer to explain payments or compensation Duterte may have received from the local government during her vice presidency.Ridon questioned the need for bank officials to testify, arguing that their appearance would not change the balances reflected in official records. “What matters is — whether the person summoned is a bank manager, branch manager, bank official or bank lawyer — the contents of the bank account do not change,” he said.Tolosa said prosecutors were willing to stipulate on undisputed matters to avoid delays, particularly if bank representatives were called only to identify letters allegedly sent by Duterte or her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio. “We don’t see any need to belabor the point. We can just stipulate on those matters to speed things up,” he said.Ridon said prosecutors would give the defense sufficient latitude but would object to irrelevant testimony and cross-examine its witnesses. “If the defense is good at objecting to the prosecution’s direct testimony, the prosecution will also be good at objecting when it is the defense’s turn to present evidence,” he said.

- Asean Summit not venue for Pax Silica pact (2026-11-07 16:19)

US Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton clarified on Saturday the agreement on Pax Silica, a US-led diplomatic and industrial initiative to secure semiconductor supply chains and advance ethical AI infrastructure among allied nations, will not be signed during the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in Manila.The statement comes after it was confirmed that US President Donald Trump will attend the summit scheduled for Nov. 15 to 17.In a statement, Lipton said that the signing of the draft framework of the US-led initiative will be made in full consultation with the Philippine government at the appropriate time. “No such announcement on the Pax Silica Economic Security Zone was ever planned,” said Lipton. “As stated previously and as part of this process, we expect rigorous discussions on impacts to all stakeholders,” he added.The US envoy said they are looking forward to working with the Philippines for the initiative, which he claims is set to “secure supply chains and attract quality investment in support of economic growth and jobs at home for the Filipino people.” Pax Silica is a proposed 4,000-acre semiconductor and artificial intelligence (AI) hub set to be built in New

Clark City in Capas, Tarlac.The government said the proposed project will generate jobs; however, critics argued that the initiative may displace the Aeta community, as the land where the hub is set to rise is within the group's ancestral domains. "I cannot see how such a development will endanger local livelihood. I'm not sure I understand the question simply because this is quite big; this is projected to create tens of thousands of jobs," said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. previously during a press briefing.Malacañang said it is only awaiting the US' response, after the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) — which oversees the project locally — said they already submitted the proposal to Marcos. "The BCDA has met with the Office of the President — through the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) — regarding a memorandum submitted jointly with the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry). Guidance has been provided for the BCDA to follow during the negotiations and the finalization of the framework arrangement with the US counterpart," said Palace Press Officer Claire Castro in Filipino during a press briefing on Nov. 4, quoting the BCDA.Responding to criticisms of possible displacement, Castro said the government will ensure that if displacements occur, they will provide assistance. "Of course, financial assistance will certainly be provided should anyone actually end up being displaced," said Castro.The Palace press officer also clarified that out of the massive land area — spanning over 6,000 hectares of land — only a designated "buildable zone" of roughly 3,000-plus hectares constitutes the actual construction area. "If they (locals) are located within the buildable zone, they will not be left to fend for themselves or lose their place to live," Castro assured the locals.Preparations in full swingExecutive Secretary Ralph Recto said the government is ensuring that all systems are in place for the ongoing preparations for the upcoming Asean Leaders' Summit on Nov. 15 to 17.As chair of the Asean National Organizing Council (NOC), Recto inspected the preparations for the summit by ensuring that directives of President Marcos are carried out before the chief executive's inspection at the newly refurbished Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.With only nine days left before the big event, the country is expected to welcome more than 20 leaders, including US President Donald Trump. "With 20 heads of state in attendance, this is a meeting with a million moving parts, from convoys to conferences, from agenda to attractions to be visited, and from security to seat plans, so failure on our part is not an option," Recto said previously on a social media post.He added that with a long checklist of things that need to be accomplished, the government has ticked most of them, which includes the heightened security protocols within the vicinity of the venue.Previously, the government had directed the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to ensure that security measures are in place.Recto urged the organizing committee to maintain that same dedication for the remaining meetings left under the Philippines' chairmanship. "One measure of the success of our Asean hosting is the benefit it brings to our people," Recto said in Filipino.

- TMT's business reporter Arceo wins 2 EJAP awards (2026-11-07 16:18)

THE Manila Times business reporter Niña Myka Arceo won two awards on Friday at the 35th Economic Journalists' Association of the Philippines (EJAP)-Ayala Business Journalism Awards

at Fairmont Makati.Arceo won Banking Reporter of the Year and Macroeconomy Reporter of the Year during the awards night.In a Facebook post late on Friday, Arceo thanked the Times' editors and executives, as well as the country's economists for their support. "To all the economists, analysts and sources who have generously shared their time, knowledge and insights with me, thank you for helping me understand the stories behind the numbers and make sense of an ever-changing economy," she wrote.The event was also graced by Ayala Corp. Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, who delivered a keynote speech.Having started with The Manila Times since 2023, Arceo covers the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Economy, Planning and Development, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

• Meghan Markle dad busted for child abuse sex photos (2026-11-07 16:18)

MIAMI — Thomas Markle, the estranged father of Prince Harry's wife, Meghan Markle, was arrested in Florida on Friday (Saturday in Manila) over alleged possession of images of child sexual abuse, officials said.Markle, 82, is charged with one count of "possession of child pornography" and is to make an initial court appearance in Tampa on Friday, US Attorney Bill Essayli said in a statement. "Mr. Markle is accused of possessing child sexual abuse material, including photographs depicting himself with minor girls," Essayli said. "These allegations are extremely serious, and we will prosecute Mr. Markle to the fullest extent of federal law." Markle was taken into custody by FBI agents early Friday at the retirement home where he lives in Lakeland, Florida.The Justice Department said Markle allegedly "kept child sexual abuse material (CSAM), including sexually explicit photographs of himself with prepubescent girls, in two Los Angeles-area storage units he rented for nearly two decades." "Inside the units, agents seized approximately 78 items, including slides, film negatives, and books that contained suspected CSAM," it said.Markle could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of possession of child sex abuse material.Pictures of child sex abuse have also allegedly been found at Markle's former home in the Philippines and at a storage unit he rented in Mexico.The British tabloid The Sun reported last month that Markle's son, Thomas Markle Jr., had discovered the child sex abuse images while going through boxes found in his father's former home in the Philippines.Markle had been living in Cebu in the Philippines until reportedly returning to the United States earlier this year.Meghan Markle said last month that she was "deeply distressed" by accusations that her father possessed images of child sexual abuse.She said she had blocked contact between him and her children over previous "troubling and disturbing" allegations.Harry, the second son of King Charles III and estranged brother of heir to the throne Prince William, married Meghan, an American former actress, at Windsor Castle in May 2018.The couple left Britain and quit royal duties in 2020 but made an unexpected return with their two children to live in the United Kingdom in August.

• Bayo Manila Inc. adheres to circular fashion practices with 'Journey to Zero' approach (2026-11-07 16:17)

IN EVERY garment it creates, Bayo Manila Inc. stays equally mindful of its responsibility to the environment and the communities it serves.With more than 30 years in operations, Bayo Manila Inc. has pursued important facets of its circularity efforts: material repurposing, livelihood development, community support and meaningful partnerships.As a way of giving back, Weave for Peace, Bayo Manila Foundation’ s program, empowers communities to stay resilient through craftsmanship and learning opportunities.Under this program, 18 women from families of military personnel were given the opportunity to receive training in handloom weaving and basic sewing at the Harvest Creative Hub in Cagayan de Oro (CDO). The training session equipped participants with practical weaving and sewing skills by repurposing used military uniforms into new textile materials.The next step focuses on turning their newly acquired skills into practice, opening up livelihood opportunities and helping these women earn from their craft.In support of the program’ s further development, the Harvest Creative Hub at Camp Evangelista in CDO has been upgraded to a Creative Circular Hub.The Weave for Peace program continues to grow not just by the number of participant-beneficiaries but also in its network of partners and circular hubs.In conjunction with AFP Officers’ Ladies Club Inc., a new Harvest Circular Hub also opened at the Bahayani Child Development Center in Camp Aguinaldo. More than a space for learning, the hub offers families of AFP personnel an opportunity to explore the value of textile reuse and develop new skills that they can eventually capitalize on.AFP Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr. and spouse Melody have provided support to the program through the donation of retired military uniforms and garment-making equipment.As part of its learning campaign, Bayo has also joined hands with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to become the agency’ s industry partner. Backed by its expertise in product development, Bayo will impart technical know-how and practical skills in making, repairing, reusing and transforming materials to support participants’ future employment and entrepreneurial pursuits.Bayo advances its advocacy for sustainable textiles with the continuous exploration of new possibilities and partnerships.Bayo, alongside the Austrian Embassy Manila, recently facilitated a visit to Vienna with representatives from the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI) and Tesda. The visit explored avenues for knowledge and expertise exchange between Austria and the Philippines, specifically in textile research, design education and skills development on material recovery, waste reduction and livelihood generation.The diplomatic cultural partnership aims to further expand the reach of Bayo’ s Interwoven program, which seeks to bridge local weaving communities, farmers and consumers while preserving cultural heritage and integrating zero-waste in its operations.Bayo will also help connect research and learning into practical industry applications and community initiatives through its work with Harvest communities.Meanwhile, Harvest Creative Community Hub conducted a training session on Puni, a traditional craft that involves folding and weaving leaves, in partnership with Punique.The session welcomed 12 participants who learned Puni weaving and explored its potential use in contemporary product development.Still in line with its advocacy of livelihood creation and community skills development, Bayo Group supports such initiatives by helping participants turn their creations into marketable products and introduce their work to brands and retail markets.Moreover, Bayo continues to bring circular design into the spotlight through

its participation in trade shows and fairs, where it promotes textiles and products crafted locally by Harvest communities.At HKTDC Fashion InStyle, Harvest by Bayo featured how TexRev initiative with DOST-PTRI turns textile scraps and manufacturing waste into sustainable, high-quality yarns and fabrics.Meanwhile, at MaArte Karnabal 2026, Bayo's slow fashion brand, Bayo Atelier, presented ready-to-wear pieces made from handwoven textiles by Harvest communities through Products of Peace, under the Weave for Peace program.All aforementioned efforts are all aligned with the brand's primary goal of minimizing its carbon footprint through the Journey to Zero approach.Homegrown brand Bayo Manila Inc. believes that the future of fashion is circular. From turning discarded materials into repurposed fabric for quality wearable clothing, all these initiatives add up to the company's investment to a more sustainable future.Bayo is one of the 15 organizations vying for the Sustainability Champions Awards 2026, to be bestowed by The Manila Times. The sustainability champion will be awarded on Nov. 20. at the Marco Polo Hotel.

- National plan for climate loss, damage in the works (2026-11-07 16:16)

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC), along with the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Philippines, outlined a national plan for climate-related loss and damage.The plan aims to build a framework for long-term action for communities vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said as the Philippines takes on the role of host of the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), the country is strengthening its efforts to ensure concrete actions are in place that can help communities handle increasing climate impacts. "Recognizing these growing challenges, the Philippines is developing a national Climate-related Loss and Damage Framework and Strategy that will guide how government, development partners, and other stakeholders work together to support communities affected by climate impacts," Cuna said.The strategy seeks to strengthen coordination, improve access to financing, enhance knowledge and data systems, and ensure that assistance reaches disaster-stricken areas.The environment chief also said the impact of climate change can hamper years of development. "Where climate impacts exceed the limits of adaptation, they can erase years of development gains, deepen poverty and inequality, and cause non-economic losses, from cultural heritage and ecosystems to community ties, that are difficult to measure and impossible to fully recover," he said.UNDP Philippines is applying its global experience to help the country integrate loss and damage into national planning, finance systems and climate data.To lead this effort, the country launched the Development Partners Coordination Group on Climate-related Loss and Damage (L&D-DPCG).This new platform aligns international technical and financial support with national priorities, reduces duplication, and mobilizes resources for vulnerable communities.Co-chaired by the DENR, CCC, and UNDP Philippines, the group aims to reduce fragmentation, identify gaps, and mobilize resources for vulnerable communities. "Loss and damage is already a development reality for the Philippines. How the country addresses it will determine whether hard-won gains in poverty reduction and resilience can be protected, and engaging now places the Philippines in a position to shape global responses and access

emerging finance,” said UNDP Resident Representative in the Philippines Christophe Bahuet. “As lead of the development partners, a role entrusted by the government, UNDP will help bring partners together behind this agenda and help turn it into concrete support for the communities most affected,” he added.Meanwhile, CCC Assistant Secretary Rommel Cuenca emphasized the need to collectively address the issue by ensuring international support is aligned with local needs.To move from discussion to action, government agencies and international partners agreed to establish two main workstreams. Thematic workstreams, led by the International Organization for Migration, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the UNDP, will tackle specific climate damage issues, while systems workstreams, led by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme, will focus on strengthening local capacity and institutions.They will work with local government agencies to drive policies, funding and local solutions to boost the nation's climate response.

- DepEd to hire more school security guards (2026-11-07 16:15)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) is set to hire additional school security guards using P500 million included in the General Appropriations Bill, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said Saturday.Angara said the department will prioritize schools with higher risk profiles, particularly large schools in urban areas."An additional P500 million was added to the General Appropriations Bill for hiring security guards. That is the latest financial development," Angara said in an ambush interview on Friday.He said school safety drills are ongoing nationwide and are being repeated in schools.He said feedback from schools has been good, adding that schools were now more comfortable conducting the drills and would no longer be at a loss if incidents occurred.Class suspensions Angara also said schools can appeal to their local government units (LGUs) under a newly signed executive order concerning class suspensions.He said the order allows schools to initiate or resume classes when they determine that their areas are not affected by a weather disturbance.Under the previous executive order, schools were required to follow an LGU's suspension declaration.He said schools can now inform their LGUs after verifying that their areas are safe and request to resume classes.Angara referred to the arrangement as "granular resumption."Angara said efforts to address nihilistic violent extremism (NVE) should not be limited to schools.He called on barangay (villages), families and religious communities to work together in addressing the issue."It is not just the schools, because they are really poisoning the minds of our young people. I hope this will not involve schools alone. The entire barangay, all families and parishioners should come together to fight this," Angara said.He also said addressing the issue requires interventions beyond education, including social welfare and health services.Angara's remarks came as he attended the forum titled "Addressing School-Based Violence: A Forum on Preventing Nihilistic Violent Extremism," held at the University of Asia and the Pacific in Pasig City on Nov. 6.

- ICC faces test on balancing evidence, Duterte’s right to challenge testimony (2026-11-07 16:14)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) faces a legal battle ahead of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s trial over how to balance the prosecution’s need to present evidence efficiently with the right of the accused to challenge testimony.At issue is whether prosecutors can rely on previously recorded witness statements without requiring the witnesses to appear in court and face questioning by Duterte’s defense team.Duterte’s lead defense counsel, British King’s Counsel Peter Haynes, has opposed the prosecution’s attempt to introduce recorded statements from two witnesses, arguing that their allegations must be subjected to cross-examination.In an Oct. 26 filing before ICC Trial Chamber III, Haynes asked the judges to require witnesses identified as P-1393 and P-1416 to testify orally or, alternatively, be made available for questioning.The defense argued that their accounts concern disputed allegations central to the prosecution’s case and that admitting the recordings without further examination would prevent it from adequately testing the witnesses’ credibility, personal knowledge and the reliability of their statements.The prosecution, meanwhile, has sought to use the recorded testimonies, arguing that they are relevant, reliable and corroborate other evidence it intends to present during the trial.Lawyers representing victims supported the prosecution’s application, maintaining that the requirements for admitting the statements under Rule 68 of the ICC’s Rules of Procedure and Evidence have been met.Rule 68 allows the court, under specified circumstances, to admit previously recorded testimony in place of live testimony. Its use remains subject to safeguards intended to protect the rights of the accused and ensure the fairness of proceedings.One of the disputed witnesses, P-1393, reportedly gave an account of a killing in Bulacan involving alleged payments to police officers and supposed quotas for carrying out killings.Haynes questioned the reliability of the testimony, pointing out that the witness did not personally witness the killing or the events leading to it but relied on information allegedly obtained from neighbors who were unwilling to testify.The defense also cited inconsistencies in the witness’ account, arguing that questioning in court was necessary to establish the basis of the allegations. Franco Jose BaroñaThe other witness, P-1416, provided an account concerning a specific incident covered by the charges against Duterte. The defense questioned discrepancies between the witness’ account and that of another witness concerning the same incident.Haynes said these matters should be examined through cross-examination rather than resolved solely on the basis of recorded statements.The defense did not oppose the prosecution’s request to admit the recorded testimony of a third witness, P-1370.The evidentiary dispute has taken on added significance following a separate Nov. 5 application by Acting Prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang seeking the admission of preserved statements from P-0002, an alleged former member of the Davao Death Squad (DDS) and former Davao City police officer who is no longer available to testify.Prosecutors asked the chamber to admit 45 transcribed statements and 61 supporting materials from P-0002, including affidavits, handwritten notes, photographs, police service records and organizational charts of the alleged death squad.They said the materials could help establish the origins, structure and operations of the alleged DDS, as well as Duterte’s individual criminal responsibility and intent.The statements also concern an alleged 2013 incident in San Rafael, Davao City, in which prosecutors claim Duterte instructed police officers to kill three suspected drug pushers.P-0002 was interviewed by prosecutors from May 10 to 16, 2022, in a procedure

authorized by the court. A lawyer appointed to protect the interests of any future accused was present during the interview, along with the witness' own counsel.Prosecutors said they were informed in June 2024 that the witness was no longer available.The prosecution has asked the chamber to admit the materials under Article 69(4) of the Rome Statute, which provides for the assessment of evidence based on its probative value and any potential prejudice to a fair trial.The P-0002 application presents another question for the judges: whether statements preserved through an earlier judicially authorized procedure can be admitted despite the witness' subsequent unavailability, and whether the safeguards provided during the interview sufficiently protect the defense's rights.The chamber has yet to rule on the competing evidentiary applications.Duterte's trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30.

- Groups urge stronger economic ties with China (2026-11-07 16:13)

TWENTY business, labor, industry and civil society organizations have urged the Philippines to pursue stronger economic engagement with China, warning that the country could miss out on trade and investment opportunities as other Southeast Asian nations deepen their partnerships with Beijing.In a joint statement issued over the weekend, the groups backed the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) push for sustained dialogue and cooperation with China, saying constructive engagement was important to protecting Philippine economic interests while upholding the country's sovereignty.The organizations commended Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro for her recent engagement with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and her call for continued dialogue between Manila and Beijing.They described the DFA's approach as pragmatic and statesmanlike, particularly in protecting the country's interests in economic development, trade, exports, tourism and the welfare of overseas Filipino workers.China is the Philippines' largest trading partner, making bilateral economic relations important to the country's growth, the signatories said. "Amid global uncertainty and intensifying economic competition, our Asean neighbors are deepening their trade, investment, technology, infrastructure and tourism partnerships with China," they said. "The Philippines must likewise pursue mutually beneficial economic opportunities through constructive engagement, while firmly upholding its sovereignty and national interests," they added.The groups said they supported the DFA's pursuit of principled diplomacy and sustained dialogue rather than confrontation, arguing that a balanced and constructive relationship with Beijing was essential to Philippine economic security, national interests and sustainable development.The statement comes as the Philippines continues to face tensions with China over competing territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.Among the signatories were the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Free Workers, Federation of Philippine Industries, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation and Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines.Other signatories included the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization, Philippine Retailers Association, Philippine Franchise Association, Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines, Women's Business Council Philippines and OFW

Foundation.The Asian Association of Academic Administrators and Educators, GS1 Philippines, Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association, Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors, Philippine Association of Salt Industry Networks and Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association also signed the statement.

- PNP warns of fake Nartatez Facebook account (2026-11-07 16:10)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) has issued a warning against a bogus Facebook account using a photo of PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr.The PNP said the account bearing the name “Jose Melencio Corpus” and using the picture of Nartatez was neither an official PNP account nor affiliated with the Office of the Chief PNP.It added that any messages, instructions, requests or transactions made through the account should not be considered official police communications.The PNP urged the public not to engage with the account, accept its friend requests, respond to its messages, or comply with any requests made through it.Those who have received messages from the account were advised to take screenshots and submit them with a report to Facebook and the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group.The PNP said it would pursue legal action against those behind the bogus account.It said the public should only rely on the PNP’s verified social media accounts and official communication channels for information and announcements.

- Marcos leads Likhang Filipino Theater opening (2026-11-07 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led the inauguration of the Likhang Filipino Theater in Pasay City on Friday.The construction of the 279-seat theater was done under the Likhang Filipino (Filipino-made) initiative that aims to showcase local craftsmanship, design and innovation to domestic and global markets.” With the opening of the Likhang Filipino Theater, we now have another home for our artists and performers, where they can bring our stories to life and inspire a new generation of Filipino talent,” Marcos said in a social media post on Saturday.Also present during the opening rites were former first lady Imelda Marcos, National Artist for Dance Alice Reyes, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano and Education Secretary Sonny Angara.In his first State of the Nation Address, Marcos stressed the need to institutionalize the creative industry and advance the interests of its stakeholders.Marcos reaffirmed his belief in Filipino talents as the country hosts the Asean Summit this year.Established in January, one of the features of Likhang Filipino is the Creative Lab, a shared space for creative endeavors.Managed by the Department of Trade and Industry-Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, Likhang Filipino serves as a year-round showroom, marketplace and growth hub for products of Filipino creativity.

- CFO expands support in Czech Republic (2026-11-07 16:07)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic have forged a partnership to elevate support, engagement and welfare frameworks for nonresident Filipinos in the European country.CFO Secretary Dante Ang II met with Czech Ambassador Karel Hejč and Deputy Head of Mission Eva Tenzin to map out collaborative avenues on bilateral

diaspora engagement, critical migration data exchanges and cross-border delivery of government services.This comes as the Filipino diaspora in the Czech Republic displays rapid growth. As of mid-2024, an estimated 8,783 Filipinos reside in the country, driving key sectors such as manufacturing, information technology, health and automotive industries.Bilateral ties between Manila and Prague have experienced a strong upswing following high-profile state visits and agreements designed to boost mutual economic and labor cooperation.During the meeting, Ang detailed the CFO's flagship institutional mechanisms designed to safeguard and connect overseas Filipinos.These include the Linkapil sa Pag-unlad ng Pilipinas program, which facilitates diaspora-driven donations to local development projects; and BaLinkBayan, a digital portal integrating e-government services and business opportunities for overseas Filipinos.Ang also cited Youth Leaders in Diaspora, the 1343 Actionline against human trafficking, the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, and the agency's mandatory comprehensive predeparture programs.He noted that the agency has ramped up its research on Filipinos transitioning abroad through employment, education, family reunification, or marriage.Hejč, on the other hand, outlined the Czech Republic's local support frameworks, including digital emergency registration systems for foreign nationals and civic services available to Filipinos planning to relocate to the European nation.

- MMDA celebrates 51st anniversary (2026-11-07 16:06)

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) celebrated its 51st anniversary on Saturday with the theme "51 Years in Motion." In a statement, the agency said it was committed to remaining as a "pillar of order, cleanliness and safety in Metro Manila" after more than five decades of service.Chairman Don Artes recognized the service and dedication of thousands of MMDA employees, describing them as the faces of discipline, cleanliness and order in the National Capital Region.The MMDA thanked the public for its support.The agency's mandate includes traffic management, street cleaning and disaster response.

- FUGITIVE ARRESTED SLEEPING AT NAIA (2026-11-07 16:05)

A FUGITIVE with an outstanding warrant of arrest for theft was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on Friday.The 25-year-old man reportedly became hostile when authorities confronted him for sleeping in the hallway beside an airline ticketing office on the third-level departure area.The incident prompted the Aviation Security Group to seek assistance from NAIA Police Station 3.Upon verification, the police discovered that the man had an outstanding warrant of arrest for theft issued on Oct. 19 by the Municipal Trial Court in Lipa City, Batangas, with bail set at P10,000.The suspect is now in the custody of the Manila Police District.

- NAIA security cameras now under NNIC control (2026-11-07 16:04)

THE Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) on Friday turned over the operational control of more than 2,100 closed-circuit television cameras at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC).In a statement on Saturday, the MIAA's Media

Affairs Division said that the move was in accordance with the provisions of the NAIA Public-Private Partnership concession agreement.The turnover was witnessed by Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, MIAA Senior Assistant General Manager Ma. Lourdes Reyes, and NNIC Executive Assistant to the President and CEO Cesar Chiong.The transfer of operational control forms part of the transition of NAIA's operations and maintenance responsibilities to NNIC as the private concessionaire, pursuant to the concession agreement.The MIAA will continue to perform its regulatory and oversight duties.

- UHC integration sites reach 114 nationwide (2026-11-07 16:03)

THE number of provinces and cities participating in the government's Universal Health Care (UHC) integration program has increased to 114 in 2026 from 58 in 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) said.The DOH said that the figure represents 95 percent of the country's provinces, highly urbanized cities and independent component cities.UHC integration sites are areas working to establish province-wide or city-wide health systems to coordinate health care services across facilities, from health centers to hospitals.Health Secretary Edwin Mercado said the success of the program should be measured by how effectively resources are used to provide accessible, affordable and quality health services. "The success of Universal Health Care is not measured solely by the number of integration sites or the amount of funds pooled in the SHF, but by how effectively these resources are transformed into accessible, equitable and quality health services for every Filipino," Mercado said.He also emphasized the need to strengthen primary health care, establish functional referral networks and improve health facility management.The DOH, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) and local government leaders gathered for the 2026 UHC Summit and Strategic Health Partners Dialogue on Nov. 5 and 6 to discuss challenges in local health systems.Discussions covered primary health care, health financing, health care provider networks and the implementation of the Special Health Fund (SHF), which pools resources from national and local government allocations to fund priority health programs and support essential health services.Ahead of the summit, health profiles for the country's 82 provinces were developed to help identify local health concerns, gaps and priorities.World Health Organization Representative to the Philippines Dr. Eunyoung Ko said the provincial profiles would help local governments identify investment gaps and determine priorities for improving health services.The Health Department said the meetings also highlighted the need for stronger coordination among national agencies, local governments and health partners to improve health care delivery.

- DFA warns of communication curbs in India (2026-11-07 16:02)

THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) warned Filipinos visiting or transiting through India that carrying unauthorized satellite phones and satellite-enabled navigation equipment could result in heavy fines and potential prison time.It said that under Indian maritime and telecommunications regulations, the possession and use of satellite phones — including popular networks such as Thuraya and Iridium — as well as specialized GPS devices without prior permission from Indian authorities are strictly forbidden.The DFA said that travelers

carrying satellite communication gear must declare the devices immediately upon arrival at Indian ports of entry.Customs authorities will only release satellite devices if the owner presents a valid license issued by India’s Department of Telecommunications. Without proper authorization, importation or transit of these electronics is illegal.India maintains strict security controls over satellite equipment to prevent unauthorized radio transmissions within its national borders and territorial waters, a policy enforced rigorously across international airports and maritime ports.The DFA said violators could face imprisonment of up to three years and fines up to 20 million Indian rupees (approximately P13.35 million).The DFA said Filipinos who need assistance in India should communicate through the following hotlines and email addresses: New Delhi (Calls/WhatsApp/Viber) +91 9910797014Email: newdelhipe.atn@dfa.gov.ph Mumbai +91 33228 08846Email: mumbai.pc.ah@dfa.gov.ph Kolkata +91 33228 08846Email: kolkata.pc.ah@dfa.gov.ph Chennai +91 44223 54063Email: chennai.pc.ah@dfa.gov.ph

- Go pushes sports to combat obesity (2026-11-07 16:01)

SEN. Bong Go urged the country's youth to pivot toward sports and physical fitness to fight heart disease and obesity. “Get into sports, stay away from drugs to keep us healthy and fit,” Go said.This comes after the publication of a World Health Organization study in The Lancet Global Health on Nov. 4, showing that four in 10 Filipino adolescents lack sufficient physical activity.The study found that 40.3 percent of Filipinos aged 11 to 17 failed to achieve even 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity on any day of the previous week.This figure tracks significantly higher than the global average of 25 percent, placing the Philippines among the most sedentary countries for teens. “If we want to keep our youth away from violence, vices and bad influences, let’s bring them closer to sports. Instead of being hooked on social media, choose sports instead,” Go said.The WHO study highlighted a gender gap, showing Filipino girls are less active than boys, with 42.7 percent reporting zero active days compared to 38 percent of boys.Health experts warn that these behaviors mirror a burgeoning local health crisis.According to the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute’s 2025 Updating Survey, the combined prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescents aged 10 to 19 surged from 12.5 percent in 2023 to 15.6 percent in 2025 — meaning one in six teens is now affected.As vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Go warned that sedentary routines leave youth vulnerable to preventable conditions like Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular illnesses.Adult populations are seeing similar spikes, with obesity tracking up from 39.8 percent to 44.5 percent over the same two-year period.Go urged collaborative action among schools, local government units, and families to address the issue, emphasizing the necessity of public parks, playgrounds and walking spaces, particularly in low-income communities.

- Pope Leo XIV accepts resignation of Bangued bishop (2026-11-07 12:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Pope Leo XIV has accepted the resignation of Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian as head of the Diocese of Bangued.The Holy See announced the decision on Saturday, Nov. 7,

citing Paragraph 2 of Canon 401 of the Code of Canon Law, which covers bishops unable to fulfill their duties because of ill health or other grave reason.In a Facebook post, CBCP News said that Jaucian, 66, was appointed bishop of Bangued on Jan. 5, 2007, received episcopal ordination on March 26 of that year and was installed on March 31.He led the diocese for nearly 19 years.

- Guam delegate-elect praises Filipinos (2026-11-07 11:05)

GUAM — Guam delegate-elect Alicia Garrido Limtiaco clarified that she is CHamoru and not Filipino, but stressed that Filipinos hold a special place in her heart and in Guam, where generations of Filipino families helped shape the island's history, economy, and culture.She said she intends to strengthen Guam's relationship with the Philippines.Her clarification came after several social media posts suggested that she was of Filipino heritage.The former Guam attorney general said she takes pride in her Indigenous heritage while recognizing the contributions of the Filipino community to the US territory."I would like to respectfully clarify that I am CHamoru, an Indigenous daughter of Guam," Limtiaco said. "My heritage is rooted in the Mariana Islands, and I am proud of the history, culture, language, and traditions of our CHamoru people.""While I am not Filipina, I have tremendous respect and appreciation for the Filipino community," she added.Limtiaco, a Democrat, defeated incumbent Republican delegate James Moylan in Guam's Nov. 3 general election. She received 15,645 votes against Moylan's 14,983, putting her on track to become the first CHamoru woman elected to represent Guam in the US Congress.Despite their different ethnic backgrounds, Limtiaco said CHamorus and Filipinos share many of the same values, including respect for elders, strong family ties, education, faith, hard work, and community responsibility.She said Filipino contributions extend to nearly every sector of Guam's economy, particularly healthcare, education, construction, business, hospitality, and public service."The Filipino community is part of Guam’s family, and its voices deserve to be heard in the decisions that shape our island’s future," she said.Limtiaco also acknowledged the support her campaign received from residents of different backgrounds, saying her responsibility as Guam's next delegate would be to represent everyone regardless of ancestry, nationality, or political affiliation.Limtiaco said she intends to strengthen Guam's relationship with the Philippines, particularly in tourism, trade, labor, and cultural exchanges.One of her priorities is to seek a federal review of whether eligible Philippine visitors could be included in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which could make travel to the two US territories easier for Filipino tourists."On tourism, I would fight for a federal review of whether eligible Philippine visitors could be included in the Guam–CNMI Visa Waiver Program, with appropriate screening and safeguards," she said.She also intends to work with tourism officials, airlines, and businesses to identify ways to improve travel and commercial ties between Guam and the Philippines.On labor issues, Limtiaco acknowledged the challenges confronting foreign workers, including recruitment practices, workplace safety, and reporting mistreatment.She said she would work with federal agencies, employers, and worker representatives to address these concerns while helping Guam businesses meet legitimate staffing needs.Housing affordability, healthcare, and job stability are also among her priorities,

particularly for families struggling with high living costs and limited medical services.Limtiaco said she would seek fairer Medicaid funding, federal housing policies that reflect Guam's construction costs, and employment training opportunities for island residents.Other priorities include compensation under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, extending Supplemental Security Income benefits to Guam, and securing federal investments in water, power, and road infrastructure.She thanked Filipinos for their contributions and pledged to ensure their concerns are heard in Washington."To Guam’s Filipino community, thank you for all the ways you serve our island and for taking the time to tell me what matters to you and your families," she said.

- SC sets formula for child support, puts value on caregiving (2026-11-07 10:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has come out with new guidelines establishing a uniform formula for determining child support, including assigning monetary value to the time parents devote to caring for and supervising their children.Approved by the high court’s en banc on Nov. 4, the guidelines sought to address inconsistencies in how courts compute child support by providing judges with a uniform, objective and evidence-based approach.Under the new rules, the amount of child support will be determined not only by considering the financial capacity of the parent or other person obliged to provide support and the child's basic needs, but also the time devoted to the child's care and supervision.The time spent on caregiving will be assigned a quantified value to help ensure that financial responsibilities are distributed proportionately to the level of care provided by each party.The guidelines were intended to complement the Family Code and existing Court rules governing actions for support and the recognition and enforcement of foreign decisions or judgments on support.They will apply when there is no written and valid agreement on child support, or when changes in the circumstances of the parties or the child warrant an adjustment in the amount being provided.The high tribunal stressed that the guidelines also identify persons legally obliged to provide support apart from the child's parents, in accordance with the Family Code.They likewise recognize that several individuals may be entitled to receive support on behalf of a child, including situations in which multiple recipients are involved.The guidelines were proposed by the high court’s Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns led by its co-chairmen - Associate Justices Amy Lazaro-Javier and Jhosep Lopez.The measure seeks to preserve judges' discretion in determining the appropriate amount of support while promoting the best interests of the child, the high tribunal said.It also forms part of its Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022-2027, which seeks to improve judicial efficiency, innovation and access to justice.

- American wanted for 7 VAWC counts arrested in Cebu (2026-11-07 09:57)

MANILA, Philippines — A 39-year-old American facing seven counts of alleged violations of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act was arrested by police in Argao, Cebu, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.The suspect was arrested on November 5 in Barangay Poblacion after personnel of the Argao Municipal Police Station, under the Cebu Police

Provincial Office, served a warrant issued by the court.He faces seven counts under Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, with bail recommended at P366,000.PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said police are obligated to enforce court-issued arrest warrants regardless of the nationality of the person being sought. “When the courts issue a warrant, we have the responsibility to implement it, whether the person involved is a Filipino or a foreign national. At the same time, we make sure that the rights of the accused are respected throughout the process,” Nartatez said.

- LRT-1 offers free rides during Asean Summit (2026-11-07 09:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The management of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) announced on Saturday that it would offer free rides on three separate days in connection with the holding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean Summit.It said that the free rides will be on Nov. 9, Monday; Nov. 11, Wednesday; and Nov. 13, Friday. It will be available during two rush-hour time slots from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.The initiative comes in the wake of road closures in affected areas for the 49th Asean Summit.The Department of Tourism said that free jeepney rides will also be available until Nov. 14 with routes from SM Fairview in Novaliches, Quezon City to Buendia, Makati City and from Sucat to Baclaran, both in Parañaque City.

- SSS releases P63.74B in death benefits (2026-11-07 07:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Social Security System (SSS) has released P63.74 billion in death benefits in the first three quarters of 2026, a 10.4 percent increase from P57.74 billion in the same period last year, its top official said.The state pension fund paid an average of P7.08 billion in death benefits each month from January to September, providing timely support to families who lost loved ones, SSS president and CEO Victor Alfonso Limlingan said. “The rise in death benefit disbursements shows that SSS is delivering on its mandate to protect Filipino workers and their families, especially during the most difficult moments of their lives,” Limlingan said Friday.The largest quarterly increase occurred in the third quarter of 2026, when death benefit payouts rose by nearly 5 percent from the second quarter. Growth between the first and second quarters was below 1 percent.Limlingan attributed the third-quarter acceleration to the early implementation of the second tranche of the Pension Reform Program in June 2026, which raised the monthly pension of surviving spouses or death pensioners by 5 percent.The number of death benefit beneficiaries climbed 5.7 percent to 1.4 million in the first nine months of 2026 from 1.3 million in the same period last year while surviving spouses or death pensioners accounted for about 89.8 percent of beneficiaries, the SSS chief executive reported.As of September 2026, the average monthly death pension was P4,568. The minimum monthly pension stood at P2,000 while the highest was P23,422.The death benefit is a cash benefit paid either as a monthly pension or a one-time lump sum to the beneficiaries of a deceased SSS member. A monthly pension is granted to the primary beneficiaries of a deceased member who paid at least 36 monthly contributions before the semester of death.Members with fewer than 36 contributions leave their primary beneficiaries entitled to a one-time lump

sum benefit.In the absence of primary beneficiaries, secondary beneficiaries may receive the lump sum benefit. Meanwhile, Limlingan said funeral benefit disbursements also increased by 5 percent to P3.25 billion in the first nine months of 2026 from P3.09 billion in the same period of 2025, averaging P360.98 million in funeral benefits released every month.The SSS said that from January to September, the number of funeral benefit beneficiaries rose 3.5 percent to 151,844 from 146,666 in the same period last year. On average, 16,872 beneficiaries received funeral benefits each month."Funeral benefits may be smaller than other SSS benefits, but they provide meaningful and immediate assistance to families dealing with the loss of a loved one," Limlingan said.The funeral benefit is a cash grant intended to help cover funeral expenses upon the death of an SSS member. Claimants of deceased members with 36 or more monthly contributions may receive a variable funeral benefit ranging from P20,000 to P60,000, depending on the member's number of paid contributions and average monthly salary credit.Both death and funeral benefit claims may be filed online through the member-claimant's My.SSS account. Non-member claimants may file their applications at any SSS branch office.

- Alliance Global bridges sustainability to people, planet, prosperity (2026-11-07 05:19)

In 2025, the company strengthened its sustainability efforts to meet stakeholder and business needs, as well as contributing to the long-term benefits of the society. Its framework — coined “SustainAgility” — provides the three main pillars of its programs: people, prosperity and planet.The people pillar pertains to building an inclusive, capable and well-supported workforce while creating genuine relationships and empowering each person.The company has enacted annual health, education and livelihood programs for various communities in the country. Through this, they helped more than 110,000 beneficiaries. The company has also supported 1,100 scholars annually.The planet pillar addresses not just the carbon footprint reduction but also mindful use of resources, ensuring these processes do not harm the environment.Currently, Alliance Global holds the most number of LEED-certified properties in the country, with 42 Green Building certifications. One of its pioneer initiatives is the MEGreen program. Under this program, the company aims to shift all Megaworld-owned offices and malls to 100-percent renewable energy. The company is also aiming to have its facilities in the United Kingdom, Spain and Mexico to shift to renewable energy.Sustainability, the company said, is also about transforming the hospitality experience. At the Newport World Resorts (NWR), the company is aiming to shift the entire complex to renewable energy. Currently, NWR is also recognized by the EarthCheck with a silver certification for the 4th consecutive time — a testament to the effectiveness of its environmental management programs.Aside from this, the company also initiated reforestation and biodiversity conservation programs, which resulted in 520,000 trees planted. Along the Angat-Ipo Dam Watershed, their initiative resulted in 5,000 seedlines planted, which not only preserves the biodiversity of the ecosystem but also supports the livelihoods of the people in the community.The company has also recycled 500,000 kilograms of plastic waste through cleanup drives and river rehabilitation projects, substantially reducing the nonbiodegradable waste it produces.Lastly, the prosperity pillar deals with

economic growth and governance that creates a lasting impact for the business, stakeholders and the people they serve.One company showing this is Emperador Inc., which advances sustainability through innovation and stewardship. At the Invergordon Distillery in Scotland, they captured 580 tons of carbon dioxide in 2025.Alliance Global also believes in investing in infrastructure that drives change. They have invested in Whyte & Mackay's full carbon neutrality target by 2030.Overall, Alliance Global has shown great initiatives in the year of 2025, especially in environment-inclined initiatives. Its massive scale of renewable energy shifts across its properties and facilities makes a huge difference in green power and carbon footprint reduction. What makes its sustainability initiative unique is its focus on people and the community. Not only does its initiatives also focus on environment and innovation but it also ensures communities are cared for.Alliance Global is one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines. It was founded on Oct. 12, 1993, and began operations in 1994 as a glass container manufacturer. Currently, it holds interest across food and beverage, real estate, tourism-entertainment and gaming. Its main business include MegaWorld, Travellers International and Emperador Inc.It is one of the 15 organizations vying for the Sustainability Champions Awards 2026, to be bestowed by The Manila Times. The sustainability champion will be awarded on Nov. 20.

• Duterte camp accuses House prosecutors of peddling 'half-truths' (2026-11-07 04:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday accused the House prosecution panel of peddling "half-truths and malicious speculation" in its efforts to build an impeachment case against her.In a statement, Duterte spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. said prosecutors were disregarding due process and fairness by trying to sway public opinion through press briefings and interviews. "We apparently live in two worlds. One where due process and fairness still reign — where an accused is not condemned before she is heard, and where allegations must be proven with clear and convincing evidence presented in court," Panelo said. "One world seeks the truth. The other desperately tries to persuade an increasingly skeptical public with asinine sound bites built on half-truths and malicious speculation," he said.He claimed the prosecution had failed to prove its allegations against the Vice President, criticizing lead private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan and her colleagues for what he described as "asinine sound bites." "The prosecution had its chance. It failed. On Monday, the Vice President begins her defense," Panelo said.The impeachment trial will resume on Monday, Nov. 9.

• Fire-damaged Culiat Bridge II in QC reopens to buses (2026-11-07 03:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Buses can once again pass through Culiat Bridge II in Quezon City starting Saturday, Nov. 7, after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completed repairs on damage caused by a fire on July 11, 2026.Announcing the reopening to buses, DPWH Secretary Giovanni Lopez ordered the removal of the gantry that held the 'Open to light vehicles' signage positioned on the bridge. "Based on testing and analytical road rating, buses are now permitted to cross following the bridge's reopening to light vehicles on

July 27,” Lopez said. “Trucks, however, remain prohibited while the public works department conducts further assessment to ensure the bridge's integrity can withstand their weight,” he said.For safe travel, the public was urged to follow DPWH advisories as the agency continues its evaluation of the bridge’s structure, he said. This came following the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure that major roads and bridges are sturdy and in good condition.Former DPWH secretary Vince Dizon inspected the bridge located along Congressional Avenue with Mayor Joy Belmonte after it was damaged by fire that destroyed 46 houses underneath the bridge.

- Duterte-aligned bets lead governor, mayor preferences — survey (2026-11-07 02:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Candidates aligned with the Duterte family lead Filipino adults' voting preferences for governor and mayor in the 2028 elections, although independent candidates remain competitive and are preferred in the rest of Luzon, a survey by Momentum Research showed.The October 16 to 19 National Momentum Survey found that 36 percent of respondents preferred Duterte-aligned candidates for both governor and mayor.Independent candidates ranked second, with 25 percent preferring them for governor and 28 percent for mayor, while opposition-aligned candidates received 16 percent and 14 percent, respectively.Candidates aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. garnered the lowest preference among the major political groupings, at 12 percent for governor and 13 percent for mayor.The findings indicate a regional divide in political preferences, with Duterte-aligned candidates drawing particularly strong support in Mindanao, while independent candidates were preferred in the rest of Luzon.In Mindanao, 65 percent of respondents said they would vote for Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates, while 64 percent preferred Duterte-aligned mayoral candidates.The corresponding figures in Metro Manila were 37 percent for mayoral candidates, while in Visayas, 35 percent preferred Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates and 33 percent mayoral candidates.In the rest of Luzon, independent candidates led with 36 percent for governor and 41 percent for mayor.The October survey further showed that political preferences varied across generations, with Millennials recording the strongest inclination toward Duterte-aligned candidates.Half of Millennial respondents, or 50 percent, preferred Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates, followed by Gen Z at 33 percent and Gen X at 28 percent.For mayoral candidates, 46 percent of Millennials and 33 percent of Gen X respondents favored Duterte allies. Gen Z respondents were almost evenly divided between independent candidates (36 percent) and Duterte-aligned candidates (34.6 percent).The survey also found that only 25 percent of Baby Boomers and members of the Silent Generation preferred Marcos-aligned gubernatorial candidates. For mayoral races, support for Marcos-aligned candidates among these older respondents stood at 27 percent.

- Bicam approves expanded school feeding program (2026-11-07 02:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Millions of Filipino public school children are a step closer to receiving free daily meals after the bicameral conference committee approved the final version of the National Children’s Nutrition Program Act, also known as the Libreng Pagkain sa Paaralan bill.

The consolidated measure aims to combat stunting, malnutrition, and the learning crisis by integrating a comprehensive feeding program into the basic education system. All enrolled students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 in public elementary schools will receive free, nutritious meals daily. The program extends coverage to nutritionally deficient, undernourished, or stunted students in Grades 4 through 6 based on regular health assessments. Unlike previous feeding initiatives limited to 120 days, the feeding timeline will cover all 180 to 200 school days of the academic year. Senator Bam Aquino, principal sponsor of the bill and chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, highlighted the direct link between child nutrition and classroom performance. "This is considered the most important measure we can pass regarding education. It is a major step toward addressing malnutrition and the education crisis. Our children learn more easily when their stomachs are full and they receive proper nutrition while studying," Aquino said. Data from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) and the National Nutrition Council reveal that nearly 1 in 3 Filipino children under five years old suffers from stunting, a condition linked directly to lower academic retention and cognitive development.Aquino said that educational reform cannot succeed without solving learning poverty at its foundational root.

- 2 Filipinos face loss of US citizenship in Trump crackdown (2026-11-07 01:13)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two Philippine-born naturalized Americans are among 40 individuals facing possible revocation of their US citizenship as the Trump administration intensifies its crackdown on immigration fraud and other offenses allegedly concealed during the naturalization process.The US Department of Justice identified the two as Arnel Dacumos Tabafunda, 47, and Ramon Navarro, 68, both facing separate denaturalization proceedings in federal courts in California.Tabafunda faces the possible loss of his citizenship over alleged child sexual abuse offenses committed before and after his naturalization, while Navarro was accused of entering into a fraudulent marriage to obtain immigration benefits and eventually US citizenship.In a statement issued Oct. 5, the Justice Department said it filed denaturalization complaints against 40 individuals between Aug. 21 and Oct. 2, 2026, representing the largest number of such cases filed within a single period under the Trump administration.The department said the cases involved individuals accused of concealing criminal activity, misrepresenting personal information, or otherwise obtaining citizenship unlawfully.According to the Justice Department, a denaturalization complaint against Tabafunda was filed Sept. 15 in the US District Court for the Central District of California.Federal authorities said Tabafunda began sexually abusing a child younger than 13 before becoming a naturalized American citizen in September 2005.He was subsequently convicted by a jury of two counts of committing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child younger than 14 under California law and sentenced to eight years in prison.The abuse occurred between February and November 2005, during which Tabafunda occupied a position of trust with the victim, the department said.Federal prosecutors contended that Tabafunda concealed his criminal conduct during his naturalization proceedings despite being required to disclose information relevant to his eligibility for citizenship. This disqualified him from meeting the good moral character requirement for

naturalization.Meanwhile, Navarro faces a separate denaturalization complaint filed Oct. 2 in the US District Court for the Eastern District of California.According to the Justice Department, Navarro allegedly entered into a fraudulent marriage to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.Federal authorities alleged that he subsequently relied on that immigration status and made false representations to immigration officials to secure US citizenship.The complaint contains four counts relating to the alleged fraudulent marriage and misrepresentations that prosecutors say rendered him ineligible for naturalization.The two Filipinos are among individuals from several countries targeted in the administration's expanded denaturalization campaign.Other cases involve allegations of espionage, immigration fraud, sexual offenses, identity deception, and concealment of criminal histories.Attorney General Todd Blanche described the initiative as an unprecedented effort to revoke citizenship obtained through deception. “Today’s announcement marks the largest denaturalization effort in modern history,” Blanche said. “From an individual convicted of espionage to others convicted of sexual offenses against minors, these defendants concealed critical facts from the US government and represent serious criminal offenders.” Assistant Attorney General Brett A. Shumate of the department's Civil Division also defended the campaign. “Every single one of these individuals lied their way into US citizenship,” Shumate said.Under the US Immigration and Nationality Act, naturalized citizenship may be revoked if it was illegally obtained or secured through the concealment of material facts or willful misrepresentation.

- One valid ID is enough, ARTA says (2026-11-07 00:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Director-General Ernesto Perez said on Saturday that one valid identification card (ID), especially the national ID, is sufficient for transactions with government agencies. “If an agency still requires two valid IDs, do not hesitate to report them to ARTA so that action can be taken,” Perez said.Perez cited Section 12 of Republic Act 11055 (Philippine Identification System Act) which provides that the presentation of a PhilID or PhilSys Number (PSN) constitutes sufficient proof of identity for transactions with government agencies, subject to proper authentication. “Therefore, where the sole purpose is to establish a person's identity, a government agency should generally not require a second government-issued ID once a valid PhilID has been presented,” he said.He explained that it was also consistent with Republic Act 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business Law, which prohibits unnecessary, excessive, and redundant requirements unless specifically required by law or stated in the agency's Citizen's Charter. “Accordingly, requiring another ID solely to verify identity may be considered redundant,” the top ARTA official stressed.However, agencies may require additional documents for purposes other than identity verification, such as proof of authority or eligibility, Perez said. “In such cases, the additional requirement should be the specific document needed to establish the required information, rather than another valid ID whose purpose is likewise only to establish identity,” he pointed out.Only government agencies including local government units are covered by the policy, Perez said.

- BI deports 115 Chinese caught in anti-POGO raids (2026-11-07 00:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said on Saturday that 115 Chinese who were arrested in its crackdown on illegal Philippines offshore gaming operators (POGO) in October have been deported.Viado said those expelled were caught by law enforcement agencies led by the Bureau of Immigration and National Bureau of Investigation in two major anti-illegal POGO operations in Zamboanga Sibugay and Cubao, Quezon City.The deportees were flown to China aboard a chartered China Southern Airlines flight CZ5308 following the issuance of summary deportation orders against them.Viado said the deportation underscored the bureau’ s commitment in going after foreign nationals involved in illegal activities . “The agency will continue strengthening its enforcement operations and coordination with local and international law enforcement partners to combat illegal POGO operations, online scams, and other transnational crimes,” he said.

• Palace orders probe into alleged jail privileges for Romualdez (2026-11-06 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacanang on Friday raised the need for an investigation on the reported requirement of detained former House speaker Martin Romualdez to have a personal staff to attend to his needs "24/7" or round-the-clock.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro was asked to comment on the testimony of the former Quezon City jail warden that Romualdez has an assistant at the Quezon City jail."Right now, we are not the ones who can provide a concrete answer regarding that matter, as we are not aware of the truth as to whether he indeed has a special aide," Castro said in a press briefing."Perhaps what needs to be known and disclosed is the reason why it has to be 24/7. And if this appears to be special treatment, it should not become a custom or practice that is tolerated in these kinds of conditions and situations," she said in Filipino."However, it would be better if a deeper investigation is conducted into this matter to determine why former Speaker Martin Romualdez requires a 24/7 aide," the Palace press officer added.

• GSMA pushes regional cooperation vs. cross-border online scams (2026-11-06 17:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The GSMA has urged stronger regional cooperation among telecommunications companies, technology platforms and governments to combat online scams, saying 60 to 70 percent of scams originate outside the country where victims are targeted.Jeanette Whyte, GSMA head of public policy and external affairs for Asia Pacific, said that cross-border information-sharing is necessary to identify and prevent fraudulent activities.Speaking during a media roundtable at The Westin Manila on Wednesday, Whyte said that the Philippines is the first among participating ASEAN countries to conduct a data-exchange proof of concept through Globe, allowing information to be shared with countries such as Thailand and Singapore.The GSMA's regional anti-scam task force also includes 39 companies from 17 Asia-Pacific countries, including mobile operators and digital platforms Google, Meta and TikTok.Whyte said scammers are also adapting their operations, potentially using artificial intelligence to carry out fraudulent activities without relying on large physical facilities.The GSMA cited its 2026 ASEAN Consumer Scam Report, which found that 76 percent of Filipino consumers surveyed were extremely worried about being scammed, while 62 percent avoided

contact or transactions due to scam concerns.Julian Gorman, GSMA head of Asia Pacific, said efforts to combat scams remain ongoing. “We haven't won. We're not winning yet,” Gorman said.

- Impeach court admits VP’s financial records (2026-11-06 16:22)

THE Senate impeachment court has admitted financial, corporate, property and tax documents as well as the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth of Vice President Sara Duterte from 2007 to 2021 introduced by the prosecution team.The court also admitted records from the Anti-Money Laundering Council, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Securities and Exchange Commission, and bank records.However, it said these documents are considered only as “starting financial baseline” and may only be used to evaluate assets existing before Duterte assumed the vice presidency.Also allowed are land titles involving properties in Davao City and the Island Garden City of Samal, and insurance and investments documents.The court, however, rejected documentary evidence relating to the withdrawn articles.The court’s spokesman, Regie Tongol, said Presiding Officer Francis Escudero issued an order to resolve the prosecution’s offer of documentary evidence. However, he said that the admission of the documents does not mean that the prosecution’s allegations are true.In evaluating the prosecution’s evidence, the court rejected the defense’s objection that subpoenaed documents constituted a “fishing expedition” by the prosecution.However, the court also blocked efforts to introduce withdrawn charges or pre-incumbency offenses. Applying the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Duterte v. House of Representatives, it ruled that an official can only be impeached for acts committed during her current term. Duterte’s term as vice president started on June 30, 2022.The court excluded all Commission on Audit disallowance records concerning the confidential funds of the Office of the Vice President and Department of Education. Because Article I was withdrawn on Oct. 13, it decreed that the records cannot be taken up under Article II.All corporate records and forensic computations involving JTC Group of Companies Philippines Inc. and Pikimong Pikimong Philippines Corp. were also denied.On Friday, private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan welcomed the impeachment court’s ruling rejecting the defense’s objections to evidence presented under Article II, saying it removed procedural obstacles ahead of the trial’s resumption. “The good thing about the order on admissibility of our evidence is that the presiding officer admitted all the prosecution’s evidence. So, those are the two orders of the presiding officer, and there should no longer be any obstacle for the defense to present its case,” Kapunan said.She said an impeachment complaint “only needs what are called ultimate facts — who, what, where, when and how. Those are the only things an impeachment complaint needs.” She cited the prosecution’s 52 boxes of evidence to illustrate why attaching every document to the complaint would be impractical.As for the subpoenas, Kapunan said compelling the production of documents is part of court proceedings and falls within the impeachment court’s authority.Kapunan agreed with the court that the documents be used only to establish a baseline for assessing Duterte’s income and net worth. “Admissibility is different from probative value. Just because the presiding officer admitted the evidence does not mean it is

true. They still have to weigh its probative value. What is the weight of this evidence? Does it merit an explanation of unexplained wealth?" Kapunan said.The impeachment trial of Duterte will resume on Monday, Nov. 9.

- Prosecutors to ICC: Protect 55 witnesses vs Duterte (2026-11-06 16:21)

INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors cited reported security incidents involving witnesses and the continuing influence of former president Rodrigo Duterte's allies in seeking protection for 55 witnesses who will testify during his trial.In a public redacted filing made on Nov. 5, the prosecutors told Trial Chamber III that the measures were necessary to protect witnesses whose testimony concerns alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's terms as Davao City mayor and president.The prosecution said numerous witnesses had reported security incidents to its office, while some agreed to cooperate only if they remain anonymous.It argued that direct threats were not necessary to establish an objectively justifiable risk to witnesses, citing previous ICC rulings that recognized the security situation in a particular territory as a relevant consideration when assessed alongside a witness' individual circumstances.The filing identifies six categories of witnesses requiring protection: insider witnesses residing in the Philippines, witnesses from the alleged crime scenes also residing in the country, witnesses whose specific circumstances were redacted, witnesses living abroad, individuals admitted into the ICC protection program and prosecution staff members.Particularly concerning to the prosecutors are insider witnesses whose accounts relate to alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's mayoral and presidential terms and, in some cases, directly implicate him.Their testimony could also implicate former Philippine National Police chief and incumbent Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, whom prosecutors described as having the influence and support to evade arrest despite an ICC warrant that has been public for five months.Dela Rosa remains at largeProsecutors are seeking three categories of protective and special measures: the use of pseudonyms and face and voice distortion to conceal witness identities from the public; closed or private court sessions for sensitive portions of testimony; and psychological support for witnesses considered vulnerable.The measures are intended to safeguard witnesses' identities and well-being without compromising Duterte's right to a fair trial, they said.They maintained that the former president will have the same opportunity to question the witnesses as he would if their identities were publicly known.The defense would also remain free to conduct its own inquiries to challenge the evidence presented by the prosecution.The prosecutors said they will ask the chamber to hold closed or private sessions orally during testimony only when necessary, and would seek to keep as much testimony as possible in public session.The prosecution plans to rely on the testimony of 78 witnesses, 69 of whom are expected to testify in person or have their prior testimony introduced under Rule 68(3) of the ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.The trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30. Trial Chamber III is composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek and Judge Nicolas Guillou.The filing also disclosed that one prosecution staff member, identified as witness P-1439, is already covered by protective measures ordered by a previous Trial Chamber under Regulation 42(2) of the Regulations of the Court.Prosecutors

asked the chamber to maintain the protections, saying the circumstances that justified them had not changed.The prosecution's request to protect the witnesses was initially filed confidentially on Oct. 30. A redacted version was submitted simultaneously, while the public redacted version was released on Thursday.

• NBI files cases vs pet crematorium operators (2026-11-06 16:20)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday filed multiple criminal cases before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against the operators of a pet crematorium in Bacoor, Cavite, over alleged improper and mass disposal of deceased animals.The NBI's Environmental Crime Division filed criminal complaints against Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium following the discovery of dozens of decomposing dog and cat remains stuffed inside sacks and plastic bags in vacant lots and a septic tank in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.The charges include estafa (fraud), violations of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and violations of the Consumer Act of the Philippines.Citing its investigation prior to the filing of the cases, the NBI said the establishment did not have the required equipment to perform cremations.A contracted third-party couple confessed to the agency that due to the overwhelming volume of deceased pets transferred to them through delivery apps, they dumped and buried the bodies instead of cremating them.The complaints also alleged that fake ashes were distributed to grieving pet owners.Meanwhile, more than 250 affected pet owners have come forward to file their own complaints with the police, while animal advocacy groups such as the Philippine Animal Welfare Society and the Animal Kingdom Foundation have partnered with victims to push for full legal accountability.To prevent the suspects from fleeing the country, the NBI has requested the DOJ to issue an immigration lookout bulletin order against the three primary individuals involved in the case.

• Bingo, Care Bears, Pokémon cards in Toy Hall of Fame (2026-11-06 16:19)

NEW YORK — Bingo, Care Bears, the Pokémon Trading Card Game and the humble playground slide have all made it into the National Toy Hall of Fame, taking their place alongside classics like Mr. Potato Head and G.I. Joe.The winners emerged on Thursday from a field of 12 finalists that included Bop It!, mahjong, Monster High dolls, Polly Pocket, Tickle Me Elmo, Yahtzee and the board games Sorry! (Sorry, Sorry!) and Mouse Trap.Experts at The Strong National Museum of Play, home to the National Toy Hall of Fame, note that bingo, which "descends from an Italian lottery played around 1530," is now played virtually worldwide. "While bingo is now often associated with an older audience, it has become increasingly popular with young adults. Recently, public bingo games have gone beyond fundraising and have become popular in bars and nightclubs," curator Mirek Stolee said in a statement.The effort to get the Care Bears into the Hall was helped by earning nearly 1 million followers on social media, while Pokémon trading cards were buoyed by anime enthusiasts and manga readers.The Hall said the slide helps children develop motor skills and encourages exploration. "People of all ages remember fondly the simple, satisfying and energizing experience of racing down a slide," said Jeremy Saucier, vice president for collections.While anyone can nominate a toy, the ones that make it

into the Hall must be considered icons, have engaged multiple generations, fostered creativity, or profoundly changed play or toy design. APThe four 2026 winners will join the 90 toys already enshrined in the National Toy Hall of Fame, a list that includes Cabbage Patch Kids, Dungeons & Dragons, Hot Wheels and Frisbee.

- Lawmakers reject party-list abolition (2026-11-06 16:16)

LEADERS of the House of Representatives rejected on Friday calls to abolish the party-list system.House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms Chairman and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said the debate should focus on improving the system rather than scrapping it.”It is not a question of whether or not we should abolish [the party-list system]. That should be taken out of the equation,” Adiong said at a press briefing after the committee’s first public consultation on House Bill (HB) 9906 in Butuan City.Under the measure, party-list organizations would be classified into three categories — advocacy, sectoral and regional — to establish a framework for determining whether they genuinely represent the constituencies they claim to serve.He said the Constitution intended the party-list system to give certain sectors a voice in the legislative process.Tingog Party-list Rep. Jude Acidre said the need for reforms became more apparent after a 2013 Supreme Court ruling broadened participation in the system, allowing more organizations to compete for seats in the House.”The manner of representation [has] actually evolved. However, what we noticed is that with the evolution of the representation, our way of testing genuine representation has not matched up with that growth,” Acidre said.ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said HB 9906 would establish qualifications for individuals seeking to represent particular sectors, including their track record in advancing the interests or advocacy of those groups.Meanwhile, 4Ps Party-list Rep. JC Abalos acknowledged that the system has imperfections, saying consultations would help lawmakers identify problems and develop appropriate reforms.”Everything that has been discussed with the stakeholders, their observations, including those of the media, will all be considered as the committee deliberates on this very important measure,” Abalos said.The committee will hold further consultations in Iloilo City and Metro Manila to gather additional input from stakeholders in the Visayas and Luzon.Party-list reform is among the legislative priorities identified by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

- Huge oil price rollback seen (2026-11-06 16:15)

OIL companies are expected to implement a big price rollback next week, resulting from global market reaction to recent developments in the Middle East and the United States midterm elections, local oil industry sources said on Friday.Diesel prices, sources said, may drop by around P4.30 to P4.50 per liter, while gasoline prices may go down by about P12.50 to P13.50 per liter.The estimates are based on the four-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia.”Global oil prices declined this week as diplomatic efforts to end the US-Iran conflict eased renewed escalation concerns in the Middle East, despite lingering supply disruption worries as attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and Saudi energy infrastructure continue. Furthermore, the perception of a lower chance of

escalation of tensions following sweeping victories by the Democratic Party in the recent midterm elections also helped prices go down," an industry source said." Regional gasoline and diesel prices fell due to these developments, and because of expectations of higher supply availability following South Korea's easing of diesel restrictions and the additional Chinese export quota. The stronger Philippine Peso against the US dollar also pushed prices lower this week as well," the source added.This week, diesel prices went down by P1 per liter, while gasoline prices increased by P3.50 per liter.

- CFO pushes continuing care retirement initiative (2026-11-06 16:14)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) spearheaded an initiative to address the diverse needs of an aging diaspora population.CFO Chairman Dante Ang II met with Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta to discuss how to provide comprehensive housing, specialized health care and long-term financial stability for overseas Filipinos planning their return to the homeland.Acosta said Pag-IBIG Fund is ready to evaluate funding tracks for land acquisition and structural housing development, noting that the Group Land Acquisition and Development program is a viable financing mechanism for such projects.The program, she said, could leverage the CFO's partnership with the Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, a nongovernment organization championing the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) model. Rather than functioning as traditional, isolated care facilities, CCRCs are designed as integrated ecosystems.The primary objective of the CCRC approach is to enable returning migrants to maintain productive, socially connected and secure lives during their retirement years.The CFO said the pilot phase of the CCRC initiative is slated for rollout in San Pablo City, Laguna, with long-term plans to bring it to key regions nationwide.The CFO and Pag-IBIG Fund were considering aligning the initiative with the national government's flagship Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program to optimize land use, scale up building efficiencies and streamline socialized financing options."Beyond supporting overseas Filipinos as they cross borders, the CFO recognizes the importance of ensuring a stable, secure foundation for their return or retirement," Ang said.

- Almost all coral reef ecosystems face collapse – study (2026-11-06 16:13)

THE world's coral reef ecosystems almost all face a high risk of collapse in the next 50 years, mostly due to warming oceans and heat waves, according to a global assessment released Thursday (Friday in Manila).It's the latest dose of bad news for coral reefs, which are critical sources for seafood and tourism and often serve as buffers from coastal erosion and storms. Sometimes dubbed "rainforests of the sea," they have some of the world's richest biodiversity. They support a quarter of marine species as well as coastal communities and businesses.Some 96 percent of shallow-water reef systems are already critically endangered and could disappear by 2075, the International Union for Conservation of Nature announced on the sidelines of a UN biodiversity conference in Armenia.Most of the world's famous reef systems — including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Coral Triangle in the Western Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Red Sea coral reefs

— are all critically endangered, the highest level of threat. “The risk of coral reef collapse is escalating, but this must be a wake-up call rather than a cause for despair,” said Mishal Gudka, the scientific lead of the global IUCN Red List of Coral Reef Ecosystems assessment, the first of its kind. “Coral reefs have shown a remarkable ability to bounce back from devastating bleaching events,” he said. “Pockets of surviving, resilient coral reefs can still remain in the future, so we must do everything within our reach to set them up for success.” When a reef collapses, hard corals disappear and are replaced by algae, rubble and sponges. As a result, the reef no longer supports a diverse ecosystem that can include everything from tiny invertebrates to reef fish like grouper. “Coral reefs are one of the clearest vital signs of the ocean’s health,” Grethel Aguilar, the IUCN director general, said in a statement.The assessment, spanning 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions, and encompassing 72,726 square miles (188,362 square kilometers) of coral reefs globally, called climate change the “single most consistent threat driving coral reef decline worldwide.” A week ago, another study in the journal Nature by the IUCN found that nearly 44 percent of reef-building coral species face an elevated risk of extinction due to climate change. A year ago, a survey found that harmful bleaching of the world’s coral has grown to include 84 percent of the ocean’s reefs — the most intense of its kind in recorded history.The year 2024 was Earth’s hottest on record, and much of that is going into oceans. The average annual sea surface temperature of oceans away from the poles was a record 69.57 degrees Fahrenheit (20.87 degrees Celsius).Beyond combating rising global emissions, experts said efforts to reduce pollution, overfishing and coastal development can help reefs survive. “We know what is needed: ambitious emissions reductions, stronger protection and restoration efforts, and sustained investment in resilient coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them,” Aguilar said.Andrew Baker, director of the Coral Reef Futures Lab at the University of Miami, sought to inject some hope after reviewing the assessment. He said stopping global warming and pollution isn’t the only way to save corals. “It means finding new ways to restore corals using emerging technology and innovative approaches,” he said, “that can throw a lifeline to struggling reefs and buy us critically needed time to make these transitions.”

- Marcos to Cabinet: Keep prices affordable (2026-11-06 16:12)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday directed the Cabinet to keep prices of basic goods affordable, ensure safe and convenient travel, and protect workers’ rights and benefits.The president issued the directive to 10 ad interim officials who took their oath Friday, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano said.They are Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, Health Secretary Edwin Mercado, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Tourism Secretary Maria Bernardita Mathay, Transportation Secretary Vivencio Dizon, Budget Secretary Kim Robert de Leon, and Philippine Space Agency Director Gay Jane Perez.Marcos urged the officials to prioritize programs that reflect the administration’s commitment to making Christmas more affordable, convenient and meaningful for every Filipino.Recto said the president is focused on helping Filipino families celebrate Christmas with less worry over rising

prices and the cost of daily necessities.Recto said the administration will sustain efforts to keep essential goods, particularly food and other basic household needs, affordable and within reach of ordinary Filipinos.Dizon and Lopez pledged to strengthen coordination to ease traffic congestion and improve public transportation, particularly during the holiday rush.Dizon said the president wants commuters to spend less time on the road and save on transportation costs. He said the Department of Transportation will deploy additional buses, trains, and other public transport services to provide commuters with more convenient and accessible travel options.Lopez said the Department of Public Works and Highways will prioritize road repairs and the completion of ongoing projects to reduce traffic delays.The two officials said their agencies will closely coordinate to ensure smoother travel for Filipinos returning to their provinces for Christmas.The administration will also ensure that employers comply with labor laws, including the immediate release of their employees' holiday wages and other mandatory benefits, the Palace said.These measures aim to protect workers, ease household expenses and allow more Filipino families to enjoy the holiday season, Malacañang said.

- 'Food security spending tilted toward agriculture' (2026-11-06 16:11)

THE government's growing investments in food security remain heavily concentrated in agricultural development, while fragmented programs and weak coordination among agencies make it difficult to determine whether public spending is translating into better access to affordable and nutritious food, a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) found.The study, titled "Food Security Sectoral Analysis: Strengthening Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for Every Filipino," examined government spending trends from 2015 to 2025 and analyzed the 2026 national budget alongside selected food security indicators.PIDS Senior Research Fellow Roehlano Briones and Supervising Research Specialist Agnes Kristine Quilinguing said agricultural development appropriations increased from P89 billion in 2015 to P278 billion in 2026, representing an average annual increase of about 11 percent.Agricultural interventions accounted for roughly 3.4 percent of the national budget, or P231.5 billion, in 2026. Meanwhile, social protection programs related to food security received P68.9 billion, equivalent to 1.01 percent of the national budget.These programs cover agricultural development initiatives, supplementary feeding, school-based feeding, nutrition supplementation and other anti-hunger interventions.The findings point to the need for a broader approach to food security that goes beyond increasing agricultural production to address food affordability, nutrition and the effective delivery of social protection programs.The school-based feeding program was among the fastest-growing allocations, more than doubling in 2026 to P25.7 billion and accounting for more than half of the allocations for social protection programs.Briones said increased government spending must be accompanied by policies that improve agricultural productivity, support farmers' incomes and keep food affordable.He called for the right incentives for the private sector, farmers and government agencies under a coherent policy and programming framework.He also stressed the need to balance domestic production with imports when necessary, while supporting agricultural commodities in which Filipino farmers can compete.The study identified fragmented

responsibilities and uneven budget execution as major obstacles to assessing the effectivenessof government food security interventions.In 2024, the Department of Social Welfare andDevelopment disbursed 88.1 percent of the appropriations covered by the study, while theDepartment of Education disbursed 86.2 percent.The corresponding disbursement rates wereconsiderably lower for the Department of Agriculture at 62.5 percent, the Department ofAgrarian Reform at 64.1 percent and the National Nutrition Council at 61 percent.Quilinguingsaid improving access to nutritious food was not solely the responsibility of the Department ofAgriculture, noting that several national government agencies and local government units wereinvolved in implementing agricultural and social protection programs.She recommendedmapping the agencies involved, establishing a food security budget tag and developing a unifiedresults framework for the 2028 National Expenditure Program to improve coordination andtrack the impact of government interventions.Enrique Dela Cruz, executive assistant at the DA,cautioned against relying solely on spending figures to determine whether governmentinterventions were effective."You will only get what you are willing to measure," he said,pointing out that annual tracking of obligations and disbursements could obscure longer-termresults.He called for program-level evidence linking actual expenditures and unit costs tochanges in agricultural yields, food prices and people's diets.Dela Cruz also urged policymakersto assess investments in vegetables, fruits, legumes, fish and other nutritious food commoditiesinstead of focusing primarily on rice production and calorie availability.Novel Bangsal, executivedirector of the Budget and Tax Research Bureau of the House of Representatives' CongressionalPolicy and Budget Research Department, meanwhile, stressed the need to link governmentspending with development targets.Of the 534 targets under the Philippine Development Plan,212, or about 40 percent, were off track, he said.The study recommended strengtheningcoordination among national government agencies and between national and localgovernments, alongside a monitoring and evaluation system that tracks inputs, outputs,outcomes and long-term impacts.It said food security spending should ultimately be assessedagainst measurable improvements in food availability, accessibility, utilization and stability,rather than budget allocations and program outputs alone.

- Marcos, MILF leaders discuss final steps for peace (2026-11-06 16:10)

THE government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) vowed to sign the completion of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) peace deal before the end of the term of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Malacañang said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met this week with MILF leaders to advance the implementation of the CAB peace agreement, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said on Friday.The CAB is the final peace accord signed on March 27, 2014 between the government and the MILF. It officially ended decades of armed conflict in Mindanao and paved the way for greater self-governance for the Bangsamoro people.Castro said the president and MILF Chairman Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim discussed the remaining commitments under the CAB and reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing the peace process.Marcos and Murad also discussed programs that would provide livelihoods and improve citizens’ quality of life, as well as

completing the fourth and final phase of the decommissioning process for MILF combatants by 2027. “Both the government and the MILF promised to complete the remaining obligations and sign the exit agreement before the end of President Marcos Junior’s term,” Castro said in a press briefing. “This step between the government and the MILF is not just about fulfilling an agreement; it is also about providing a bright future for the families who have long desired tranquility, security, and the opportunity to live in peace,” she added.

- PNP steps up Asean security preparations (2026-11-06 16:08)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday assured the public that security systems are in place for the Asean Summit in Manila. “The PNP is prepared to ensure the security of the activity, including the VIPs, attendees, and the venue where it will be held — we will secure all of that. We also have sufficient resources, including personnel, logistics, and the necessary funds,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said. “PNP will be working alongside various agencies, especially the local government units,” he said.Nartatez said the PNP will fully utilize its resources and will declare the necessary alert status once it finalizes its assessment of the security situation.Likewise, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has strengthened security arrangements around hotels, billeting facilities, and other establishments accommodating foreign delegates for the summit.BGen. Christopher Abrahano, NCRPO officer-in-charge, directed police district commanders to intensify coordination with hotel management, property administrators, and private security agencies to ensure that appropriate security measures are in place and that any potential security concern is immediately reported and acted upon.Abrahano emphasized that security coverage must extend beyond summit venues and designated motorcade routes, since foreign delegates and visitors will also stay, dine, and conduct other activities in various establishments across the metropolis.Abrahano added that clear communication and reporting channels with hotel security officers, police visibility in strategic locations, and local police stations’ readiness to promptly respond to any reported incident or suspicious activity are paramount to maintaining peace and order during the summit.The 49th Asean Summit and Related Summits will be held in Manila from Nov. 16 to 18, 2026.

- 85 urban poor families get land titles (2026-11-06 16:07)

MEMBERS of nine urban poor communities in Muntinlupa City and in San Jose del Monte (SJDM), Bulacan have received their individual Transfer Certificates of Title (TCTs) under the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) program.Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said on Friday that he and Social Housing Finance Corp. (SHFC) President and CEO Federico Laxa led the two separate awarding ceremonies.The first awarding took place at DHSUD central office in Quezon City, where 42 urban poor families from four homeowners’ associations (HOAs) in Muntinlupa City received their long-awaited land titles.These included 13 members of Airspeed Ville Homeowners Association (HOA), 15 from Planas HOA, seven from Samahang Magkakapitbahay sa Walong Gatang, and seven from Bayanan.Aliling said the beneficiaries secured their land

titles more than 20 years after their respective take-outs, marking a significant milestone in their long-standing pursuit of legal ownership of the land they have called home for two decades.The DHSUD chief was joined by Laxa as they proceeded to Barangay Sapang Palay, SJDM where 43 family-beneficiaries from five community groups received their TCTs.The recipients included 11 members of Galahapmai HOA, five from BBF Phase 1, eight from BBF Phase 2, 18 from Partida Heights, and one from Policarpio HOA, ending their long wait for land ownership, according to the housing department.The awarding reflects the administration's commitment to expanding access to housing and giving underserved communities more opportunities to secure their own homes, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive, the housing czar said.Aliling said the latest awarding brings the number of family beneficiaries who have benefited from the Enhanced Community Mortgage Program and received their land titles through DHSUD and SHFC to more than 5,400 since the program's revival last year.

- PhilHealth vows faster payments, accreditation of health facilities (2026-11-06 16:06)

THE Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will reduce accreditation hurdles and speed up payments to local health facilities to strengthen local health systems and advance Universal Health Care (UHC).PhilHealth Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Beverly Lorraine Ho made the pledge during the High-Level UHC Summit 2026 on Thursday at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific. "The best measure for us is if our spending translates to care felt by our members. Our commitment to LGUs is simple: fewer hurdles to get accredited and faster payment once services are delivered," Ho said. "The goal here is to have a financing system that fits how local facilities actually run," she added.The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), the Department of Health (DOH), WHO, and PhilHealth organized the summit under the theme "Accelerating Universal Health Care through Optimized Financial Management and Evidence-informed Local Leadership." It brought together national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), development partners, and private sector representatives.Discussions focused on implementing the Special Health Fund (SHF), integrating local health systems, and using health data and resources.The summit also discussed efforts to streamline accreditation and reimbursement processes and strengthen coordination among stakeholders to ensure financing mechanisms respond to the operational needs of local health facilities.Health Secretary Edwin Mercado underscored the need to strengthen local governance and align national health priorities with local implementation. "The success of Universal Health Care is not measured solely by the number of integration sites or the amount of funds pooled in the SHF, but by how effectively these resources are transformed into accessible, equitable, and quality health services for every Filipino," he said. He also cited the need to strengthen primary healthcare, establish functional referral networks, improve health facility management and ensure access to quality health services.WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala said local chief executives play a critical role in planning, financing and coordinating health services. "With national governments and partners working alongside local leaders, we can strengthen health

systems and accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage," Piukala said.WHO Representative to the Philippines Dr. Eunyoung Ko said the Philippines had made progress toward universal health coverage but challenges remained in ensuring access to health services without financial hardship.She said WHO was providing evidence and technical assistance, including developing 82 provincial health profiles to identify gaps and guide local health priorities.Discussions on the SHF also covered transparent resource allocation, financial management, and stakeholder coordination to ensure health financing mechanisms meet the needs of local health facilities.Local government presentations from Davao de Oro, Quezon province, Dagupan City, and Leyte featured their experiences and approaches to health financing and service delivery.The summit concluded with ULAP and its member leagues, DOH, PhilHealth, and WHO Philippines, endorsing a Commitment to Action on Accelerating Universal Health Care through Optimized Financial Management and Evidence-Informed Local Planning.The four organizations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening local health systems through collaboration between national and local governments.

- BOC posts historic P97.5B collection (2026-11-06 16:05)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) recorded its highest monthly collection in history, reaching P97.463 billion in October 2026 despite a decline in import volume.Preliminary data showed October collections were P14.501 billion higher than the P82.962 billion collected in October 2025. It also reached 99.42 percent of the month's P98.028 billion revenue target, BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said on Friday.Nepomuceno said the BOC's total collection from January to October 2026 reached P853.662 billion — the highest in the agency's history for the first 10 months of the year.This surpassed the P846.522 billion target by P7.140 billion. It was also P69.029 billion higher than the P784.633 billion collected during the same period in 2025.According to the bureau, its collections help fund infrastructure projects, health services, and other vital government programs and operations. "For every peso collected, the agency contributes to the delivery of services that improve the lives of Filipinos, especially communities that need support the most," Nepomuceno said.He said the new records resulted from stricter collection monitoring, improved customs administration, and the collective efforts of Customs personnel nationwide. "Every record we achieve reflects the dedication and hard work of our Customs personnel nationwide. My heartfelt thanks to all our collection districts for their tireless efforts and commitment to delivering results," Nepomuceno said.However, he said the agency still needs to collect more than P157 billion in November and December to meet its full-year revenue target of P1.011 trillion.To achieve this, the agency will focus further on revenue monitoring, strengthen customs enforcement, and continue reforms that speed up the processing of legitimate trade and ensure proper payment of duties and taxes, he said.In line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive, Nepomuceno said the BOC will continue to intensify revenue collection, transparency, and accountability to support the government's key programs and strengthen the economy.

- QC honors grassroots innovations (2026-11-06 16:04)

FROM seismic risk assessments of buildings to livelihood programs built on textile waste, the 2026 Quezon City Green Awards celebrate local initiatives that demonstrate how community-driven solutions build safer, more sustainable communities, Mayor Joy Belmonte said on Friday.Belmonte said the city government honored villages, schools, businesses, institutions, and community organizations for programs that strengthen disaster resilience, improve food security, promote greener buildings, and reduce plastic and textile waste.The winning organizations received grants of up to P300,000 to support their proposed innovations, plus opportunities to integrate their initiatives into the city's green and resilience programs, the mayor said.Launched in 2023, the QC Green Awards is the country's first local government-led awards program recognizing initiatives that promote disaster resilience and environmental sustainability.This year, the awards moved away from grouping entries by sector and instead recognized programs addressing specific climate and disaster challenges. Of the 123 entries, 82 reached the semifinals and 50 advanced to the finals, according to the local government.Among the winners in the Resilient category was the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, Inc. – Quezon City Chapter, whose pre-earthquake assessment project uses rapid visual screening to identify potential seismic vulnerabilities in existing buildings before a major earthquake strikes.The awards also recognized iFIVE Inc. for its disaster risk reduction and emergency response management program, which combines workplace policies, employee training, and emergency response procedures to protect workers, safeguard assets, and keep operations running during disruptions.In the Green category, Avida Towers Cloverleaf Condominium Corporation and One Vertis Plaza Condominium Corporation were honored for green building initiatives supporting the city's transition to clean, renewable, and sustainable electricity.MABU Philippines Inc., a food surplus marketplace, was cited for its food rescue and surplus donation tracking, while FOOD Reskyu of Barangay Pasong Putik was recognized for collecting safe, usable excess food from establishments and redistributing it to families who need it most.HeritageFinds Clothing Shop was recognized for a community-based design and sewing initiative that trains community sewists to work with Philippine tropical fabrics and indigenous weaves.The program incorporates these materials into apparel, corporate gifts, and small-batch team uniforms, linking textile circularity with skills development and livelihood opportunities.Beyond honoring winners, Belmonte emphasized that QC Green Awards help promising initiatives grow.Semifinalists received expert coaching from disaster risk reduction and climate action practitioners, participated in a full-day workshop to develop their ideas, and received technical feedback from the review panel, she said.Finalists also received pitch coaching, publicity through the city's communication platforms, and opportunities to build future partnerships with the city government."Let us continue to operate on a hope — not on a passive wish, but as our strongest weapon. A cooler, greener, and safer Quezon City is not just a dream; it is already being built by the people in this room," Belmonte said."When we work together, there is no crisis we cannot face. We are 'One City Rising.' Together, hand in hand, toward a dream where everyone is included in progress," she added.

- Ombudsman to file complaints vs fake news peddlers (2026-11-06 16:03)

OMBUDSMAN Jesus Crispin Remulla said Friday his office will file complaints with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and Facebook against social media accounts spreading fake news about him and the Office of the Ombudsman.Remulla said the complaints seek to stop the proliferation of misleading posts, including those targeting his health and attempting to influence public opinion on corruption cases pending before the Sandiganbayan. “We are filing a complaint with DICT and Facebook itself to stop the proliferation of fake news,” Remulla said in a press briefing.He cited online posts about former speaker Martin Romualdez's case, which he said appeared intended to influence the proceedings and public perception ahead of a bail hearing.Remulla said said that the complaints would also cover troll farms and other social media accounts used to deceive the public.The Ombudsman said his office was investigating who owned and operated the blogs and accounts involved. He clarified that the immediate action would be to file a complaint, while filing criminal cases would depend on the investigation's findings. “There is freedom of speech, but we should have fairness,” Remulla said. “It’s really a careless use of a very powerful medium — careless or indecent use.”

- Supreme Court lauds Gesmundo’s legacy (2026-11-06 16:02)

THE Supreme Court said the reforms initiated by Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo resulted in improved access to justice, as the head magistrate retired on Friday.In a special en banc ceremony on Thursday, Gesmundo was presented the Judicial Medal of Distinction and The Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos Award.The Supreme Court said that the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (SPJI) 2022–2027, which was drafted under Gesmundo, will serve as the blueprint for modernizing the judiciary.” The SPJI was a plan. You were the reason it became a reality,” Gesmundo said in his farewell message.Reminiscing his beginning as a young boy in San Pablo City, Laguna, to the highest post in the judiciary, Gesmundo said he never sought the position and attributed his rise to “God’s grace and providence.” “The Court endures; its members are only temporary stewards. We are entrusted with its care, not its ownership,” Gesmundo said.He thanked the Filipino people for the opportunity to serve them, noting the judiciary’s work did not begin with him, and it will not end with his retirement.The reforms initiated by Gesmundo include the enactment of the Judiciary Fiscal Autonomy Act, the deployment of Regional Court Managers and Judiciary Marshals, the reorganization of the Judicial Integrity Board into the Judicial Integrity Office, the completion of more than 100 Halls of Justice nationwide, rollout of eCourt PH, introduction of electronic notarization, digitalization and regionalization of the bar examinations, governance framework for the use of human-centered augmented intelligence in the judiciary, implementation of the Unified Legal Aid Service, and the adoption of rules on gender-fair language and courtroom etiquette and guidelines for Filipino Sign Language interpretation in court proceedings.Gesmundo credited judges, court officials and employees for carrying out reforms, saying they were results of collective efforts.Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, who served as master of ceremonies, described Gesmundo as a trusted confidant, mentor and friend.Gesmundo earned his law degree from Ateneo de Manila University in 1984, and succeedingly joined the Office of the Solicitor General.

He was appointed associate justice of the Sandiganbayan in 2005 and became an associate justice of the Supreme Court on Aug. 14, 2017.Gesmundo assumed office on April 5, 2021, as the country’s 27th chief justice.

- Duterte allies top congressional poll (2026-11-06 16:01)

CANDIDATES identified with the Duterte family were the preferred choice of 38 percent of Filipino adults for district representatives in the 2028 elections, a survey by Momentum Research showed.The October 2026 National Momentum Survey found that nearly 4 in 10 respondents preferred candidates allied with the Duterte camp, while 26 percent favored independent candidates, 16 percent preferred opposition-aligned candidates and 10 percent chose candidates aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Six percent remained undecided, while 3 percent refused to answer.The Duterte camp’s strongest support was in Mindanao, where 70 percent of respondents said they preferred Duterte-aligned candidates for their congressional representatives.The survey found Duterte-aligned candidates leading in Metro Manila and Visayas, although the preferences in these regions were considerably less pronounced.In Visayas, 38 percent preferred Duterte-aligned candidates, followed by independent candidates at 19 percent and opposition-aligned candidates at 18 percent.Metro Manila showed a closer contest between Duterte-aligned and opposition-aligned candidates, with 34 percent favoring the former and 31 percent the latter.The Rest of Luzon, meanwhile, stood out as the only region where independent candidates were the most preferred, receiving 38 percent, compared with 24 percent for Duterte-aligned candidates.The findings suggest differing regional preferences for congressional candidates as political groups position themselves ahead of the May 2028 national and local elections.Generational differences emerged in the survey.Millennials showed the strongest preference for Duterte-aligned congressional candidates, with 54 percent choosing candidates from the former president’s political camp.Among adult members of Generation Z, 36 percent preferred Duterte-aligned candidates, while 33 percent favored independents.Preferences among Generation X were more evenly distributed, with 28 percent choosing Duterte-aligned candidates, 26 percent independent candidates and 19 percent each for Marcos-aligned and opposition-aligned candidates.Baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation showed a different pattern, with Marcos-aligned candidates receiving the highest preference at 24 percent. Duterte-aligned and opposition-aligned candidates each received 19 percent.The survey found that political identification was closely associated with respondents’ preferred congressional candidates.Among respondents identifying with the Duterte camp, 85.2 percent preferred Duterte-aligned candidates. More than half of pro-Marcos respondents, or 53.3 percent, favored candidates aligned with Marcos, while 58.4 percent of opposition supporters preferred opposition-aligned candidates.Among independent respondents, 44.7 percent preferred independent congressional candidates, followed by Duterte-aligned candidates at 24.2 percent.The National Momentum Survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults from Oct. 16 to 19.It has a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level. The margins of error for the regional

samples are plus or minus 7 percentage points for Metro Manila, 3.8 points for the Rest of Luzon, 6.1 points for Visayas and 5.8 points for Mindanao.

• Ombudsman to inspect jails over alleged Romualdez VIP treatment (2026-11-06 15:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla will personally conduct surprise inspections of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) facilities housing detainees facing Sandiganbayan cases to check for alleged special treatment, including the reported arrangement allowing former House speaker Martin Romualdez to have personal staff inside detention.Remulla said Friday that the inspections would be conducted at unpredictable hours, including midnight, to ensure jail personnel follow regulations and treat detainees equally. “If there’s special treatment. You know, special treatment for anybody,” Remulla said when asked about the focus of the inspections.The announcement came a day after BJMP Quezon City Jail superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion testified before the Sandiganbayan that she allowed Romualdez to have personal staff stay with him inside his cell around the clock to attend to his daily needs.The hearing was called to address reports that Romualdez, who is detained over a P7.44-billion plunder case, had allegedly been leaving the facility by ambulance. Pacion denied that he had left the jail, while journalist Ramon Tulfo later retracted his claim.Remulla said he would personally visit the facilities, initially targeting the jail in Payatas, and use a body camera during the inspections.Regarding the reported personal assistant arrangement involving Romualdez, Remulla said the Ombudsman would first validate the allegation, stressing that such a setup was prohibited. “We will have to validate it. That is not allowed,” he said.Pacion earlier said she approved the arrangement because of her assessment of Romualdez’s mental health condition and the facility’s inability to provide round-the-clock assistance.Remulla described the arrangement, if established to constitute an infraction, as favoring a detainee and warned that jail personnel involved could be dismissed from government service, including the facility superintendent. “I will not hesitate. If we find something, we will dismiss them from the service,” he said.He also questioned the security implications of allowing a personal assistant inside the facility and said the Ombudsman could install its own CCTV cameras if necessary.Remulla said jail personnel would be held accountable first if irregularities were found, particularly those responsible for enforcing detention rules. “The ones who will first be held accountable are the people in charge of the jail,” he said.

• Times’ Myka Arceo wins 2 awards from EJAP (2026-11-06 13:09)

Manila Times business reporter Niña Myka Arceo won two awards at the 35th Economic Journalists’ Association of the Philippines (EJAP)-Ayala Business Journalism Awards held Friday at Fairmont Makati.Arceo was named Banking Reporter of the Year and Macroeconomy Reporter of the Year during the awards ceremony.She joined The Manila Times in 2023 and currently covers the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev), and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

• PH Pavilion brings local farm goods to China expo (2026-11-06 12:24)

SHANGHAI — The Philippine Pavilion at the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) has officially opened on Friday, showcasing Filipino fruits and food to a potential market of over one billion people.The CIIE is China's premier exposition to promote international imports to China's domestic market.The Philippine Pavilion, under the "FOODPhilippines" export brand, brought together 30 food manufactuers and exporters to solidify the country as a premier sourcing destination for high value tropical food, beverage and ingredients in the Southeast Asian region.In his address in the opening of the pavilion at the National Convention and Exhibition Center here, Philippine Ambassador to China Jaime FlorCruz said that the purpose of the mission remained consistent and clear, which is to bring Philippine products into the Chinese market, and into the shops, restaurants, and homes of Chinese consumers."Together, these efforts tell the story of our islands of opportunity–which served as a very visual theme for our trade promotion efforts in China. For many Chinese friends, the Philippines bring to mind beautiful beaches, tropical landscapes, and warm hospitality," FlorCruz said.He added that the Philippine islands also produce a rich variety of food and other goods that the country is proud to share with the world."This pavilion brings a taste of those islands to Shanghai. Behind every product are farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs whose livelihoods benefit when Philippine goods find customers overseas," FlorCruz said.He urged Chinese buyers and distributors to taste the products, ask its origins and how will they reach their customers."Whether you serve a supermarket, a restaurant, or a neighborhood shop, we hope you will find something Filipino-made, grown, or produced, to add to your offering," FlorCruz said.He said that the Embassy in Beijing, its consulates, and trade and agriculture offices are ready to help connect with Filipino suppliers and sustain relationshops beyond the expo.Department of Trade and Industry - Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions Executive Director Leah Pulido Ocampo said the country's participation in the CIIE comes off after its record participation in the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning with over 70 companies and 300 delegates."China remains to be a vital trading partner and a catalyst for growth for our country. Let us take advantage of opportunities being offered by trade shows such as CIIE as our gateway for trade and collaboration," Ocampo said.Some of the products being showcased in the fair included durians and bananas from Mindanao, coconut products and other Filipino snacks such as banana chips.Agriculture Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria Guevarra said the DA is facilitating market linkages between farmers and possible buyers through farm inputs."We link them with those buyers who are in need of agriproducts na in demand ngayon (that are in demand) and we make it a point na talagang yung farmers na sinusuportahan ng DA ang (those that the DA supports are among those) first in line," Guevarra told The Manila Times.She also said that with the anticipated demand for the Chinese market, they are strengthening the production side of farm products.

- BJMP given 48 hours to explain Romualdez aide's access to detention cell (2026-11-06 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has given the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) 48 hours to explain why a personal aide of

Leyte First District Rep. and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez was allowed inside his detention cell, warning that officials responsible for any violations could face administrative and criminal charges.In a statement Friday, DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla ordered the BJMP leadership to submit a comprehensive report detailing the legal and administrative basis for allowing the aide inside Romualdez's detention cell, the circumstances surrounding the authorization and the officials or personnel involved.The report must be backed by relevant records and documentation and establish whether applicable laws and regulations were followed, Remulla said.He described the arrangement as requiring immediate scrutiny, stressing that political position, influence or personal connections should not exempt anyone from the rules governing jail facilities.Remulla also directed the BJMP to preserve all relevant records and warned that incomplete findings, unsupported explanations or failure to meet the 48-hour deadline would not be accepted.Any violations established by the report would be addressed promptly, regardless of the individuals involved, he said."The authority entrusted to jail officials must be exercised strictly within the bounds of the law," Remulla said. "No special treatment. No selective enforcement. No one is above the law.”

• Tropical depression may intensify into super typhoon — Pagasa (2026-11-06 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is monitoring a tropical depression outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) that may enter the country on Sunday, Nov. 8.In its 5 p.m. weather forecast on Friday, Pagasa weather specialist John Manalo said that the tropical depression was located 2,865 kilometers east of Northern Luzon, packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 70 kph.It was moving northwestward at 30 kph and was gradually strengthening. “If it enters the PAR, we will name it Samuel,” Manalo said in FilipinoManalo said the tropical depression could intensify and reach super typhoon category.

• NBI files complaint vs pet crematorium operators (2026-11-06 11:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday filed multiple criminal complaints before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against a pet crematorium based in Bacoor, Cavite over the alleged improper and mass disposal of deceased pets.The NBI's Environmental Crime Division lodged the complaint against Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium after the discovery of dozens of decomposing remains of cats and dogs in vacant lots and a septic tank in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.The operators face multiple criminal charges, including estafa (fraud), violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and violation of the Consumer Act of the Philippines, the complaint showed.Citing its investigation prior to the filing of the complaints, the NBI said the establishment did not possess the required equipment to perform cremations.The NBI also said that the couple who were contracted by the crematorium to do the animal cremation admitted to authorities that they resorted to dumping and burying because of the overwhelming volume of deceased pets transferred to them.Meanwhile, more than 250 affected pet owners have come forward to file separate complaints through police units.The NBI also asked the DOJ to issue an immigration lookout

bulletin order against the three primary individuals involved in the case to prevent them from fleeing the country.

- PAF retires Huey fleet (2026-11-06 10:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has decommissioned its UH-1H Huey helicopter fleet, ending its 57 years of military and humanitarian service.Lt. Gen. Arthur Cordura, PAF commanding general, led the decommissioning ceremony at the Brig. Gen. Benito N. Ebuen Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu on November 5.The first four UH-1H helicopters arrived at Villamor Air Base on March 29, 1969. Two more were subsequently acquired, bringing the number to six.Over nearly six decades, the Hueys supported military operations, troop transport, humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions across the country.The PAF had previously retired most of its older Huey helicopters but retained upgraded variants, including the Huey II and Super Huey, for search-and-rescue and other support operations.The retirement is part of the Air Force's continuing modernization and capability development program as it transitions to newer aircraft.

- Air Force retires Huey helicopters (2026-11-06 10:48)

THE Philippine Air Force (PAF) has retired its UH-1H, or Huey, helicopter fleet after almost 60 years of military and humanitarian service.Last Nov. 5, Philippine Air Force Commanding General Arthur Cordura led the fleet’s decommissioning ceremony at Brig. Gen. Benito N. Ebuen Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.The PAF retired the last six Hueys in its inventory that were still operational before their decommissioning.Col. Alvin Jay Capinguian, PAF spokesman, said the Huey is an iconic asset of the Air Force in the last six decades that was used practically in every major combat or humanitarian mission. “Whether to take troops into combat, to pick up wounded, to deliver relief goods, to drop off rescue personnel, they were always there,” Capinguian told reporters on Friday.The PAF is shifting to platforms better suited for the requirements of a modern armed forces, Capinguian said.Taking over the Huey’s role is the S-70i Black Hawk, which Capinguian said is bigger, more powerful and is equipped with a digital communications system.He said the Huey’s analog radio system sometimes poses a problem in communicating with aircraft with a digital system.Iconic as it is, the Huey cannot catch up “with the modern needs of the armed forces,” Capinguian said.Having been turned over from the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing to the Air Logistics and Support Command, the six Hueys will go into storage until the PAF decides how to dispose of them.

- Brazil’s president to attend Asean Summit (2026-11-06 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will attend the 49th Association of Southeast Asia Nations (Asean) Summit upon the invitation of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed that the president, as this year's Asean chairman, invited Lula to the regional summit.Manila will host the summit from November 15 to 17."Brazil was invited as guest of the chair. Pres. Lula will attend the Summit," said DFA Assistant Secretary Dax Imperial.Lula visited the Asean headquarters in

Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2025. He was welcomed by Asean Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.The Asean Secretariat said Lula's "historic visit, the first of its kind by a Brazilian head of state, underscored the growing significance of Asean–Brazil Sectoral Dialogue Relations, which was established in 2022."

• SC upholds extension of village, SK officials' terms until 2028 (2026-11-06 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has upheld a law allowing incumbent village (barangay) officials and youth council (Sangguniang Kabataan) members elected in October 2023 to remain in office until their successors are elected in November 2028, rejecting a challenge that the extended tenure violates the people's right to vote.In a decision written by Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda, who on Friday took his oath as chief justice, the high court dismissed a petition filed by election lawyer Romulo Macalintal questioning the constitutionality of Republic Act 12326.Enacted on Sept. 24, 2026, the law increased the terms of village officials from four years to five years and reduced the maximum number of consecutive terms they may serve from three to two. It also set the next village and SK elections in November 2028.Macalintal argued that the law violated the guidelines established by the high tribunal in its 2023 ruling in Macalintal v. Commission on Elections, which allows the postponement of elections only for important, substantial or compelling reasons.He also questioned the measure on substantive due process grounds and argued that it violated the people's right to vote and the constitutional requirement that village officials be elected.Rejecting the arguments, the high court said that the 2023 guidelines did not apply because RA 12326 was primarily a law fixing the terms of village officials, not a measure postponing elections.The court explained that the law's main purpose was to increase the officials' terms from four to five years, with the November 2028 election schedule merely implementing the new term.It stressed that a law fixing terms of office does not become an election-postponement measure simply because it affects the election calendar.The court said Congress has the authority to fix, change and extend the terms of village officials, provided the period before the start of the new term is reasonable and not unduly long.The high tribunal also rejected the argument that the law deprived voters of their right to choose their local officials. “The right to vote does not require a particular term length or election frequency for village officials, provided elections are held regularly at fixed and predictable intervals established by law,” it said.

• Padilla backs Bato: ‘I would not surrender either’ (2026-11-06 09:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Robinhood Padilla on Friday backed Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa’s refusal to surrender, saying the International Criminal Court (ICC) has no authority over Filipinos.Padilla issued the statement when he showed up at the Department of Justice (DOJ) where he filed his counter-affidavit in connection with the obstruction of justice complaint lodged against him and several other respondents.Interviewed by reporters, he described the ICC as a foreign body with no jurisdiction over Filipinos."Even if it's the ICC, I wouldn't surrender either. Why would I surrender to them? That is Bato's right," Padilla said. "Surrender to whom, a foreigner? No way. I haven't seen any local arrest warrant; no local court is looking for him. This

is a foreign body," the senator said in Filipino.The complaint against Padilla stemmed from a May 13, 2026 incident at the Senate premises, where National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents attempted to serve an ICC-issued arrest warrant against dela Rosa who has since gone into hiding. The operation resulted in a tense standoff and confrontation between NBI agents and personnel from the Senate Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms.Authorities later accused Padilla and other respondents of helping dela Rosa, a former Philippine National Police chief, evade arrest.

• Jail detainees not allowed to have personal assistants — Ombudsman (2026-11-06 07:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday said detainees are not allowed to have round-the-clock personal assistants and warned that jail officials who allow such unauthorized practices can lose their jobs.Remulla issued the statement following the admission of Quezon City Jail Superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion that former speaker Martin Romualdez, who is in jail for plunder, has a personal assistant inside the jail’s male dormitory. Pacion said she approved the arrangement because of her assessment of Romualdez’s mental health condition and the facility’s inability to provide round-the-clock assistance. “We will have to validate it. That is not allowed,” Remulla said.He cited the security implications of allowing a personal assistant inside the facility and said the Ombudsman could install its own CCTV cameras if necessary.Remulla said jail personnel would be held accountable if irregularities were found, particularly those responsible for enforcing detention rules. “The ones who will first be held accountable are the people in charge of the jail,” he said.The Ombudsman said that he will inspect facilities of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to check if detainees are getting special treatment.

• LTFRB extends application period for TNVS regularization (2026-11-06 04:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has extended the application period for the regularization of ride-hailing partners operating under temporary or “tempo” status.Upon the directive of Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, acting LTFRB chairman Greg Pua Jr. said that the online application window for temporary Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) operators, which opened on October 8 for an initial 30 working days, will run for another 30 days. The extension is meant to ensure that no one will be left behind in the government's push to provide a decent source of income for workers in the public transportation sector, Pua said.The Manila Times was told that the regularization initiative was expected to benefit thousands of TNVS partners, following discrepancies the LTFRB uncovered in the platforms of some Transport Network Companies (TNCs)."Tempo" refers to the practice of TNCs of onboarding TNVS units onto their digital platforms without the units first securing the required authority from the LTFRB. The practice violates the agency's rules, as it allows TNVS units to serve the riding public despite the absence of a valid franchise, according to the bureau."Our regularization move is aimed at helping thousands of TNVS drivers whose only fault was that they relied in good faith on their onboarding and assumed substantial financial commitments in the process," Pua said.He added that the measure was

also in compliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to enforce fair rules and regulations while looking after the welfare of the public transport sector.Based on its latest data, the LTFRB has received 13,216 applications, of which 5,091 have already been issued a Provisional Authority (PA). Pua said the agency is now fast-tracking the processing of the remaining applications."We ask our partners in the TNVS community who are applying for regularization to follow the application process. The requirements are intended to prevent application cancellations due to challenges that include questions on vehicle ownership," he said.

- Cabinet officials take oath (2026-11-06 04:12)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday led the oath-taking ceremony of 10 ad interim appointees as he reaffirmed his confidence in their leadership and recognized their contributions to their respective offices. They are Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, Health Secretary Edwin Mercado, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Tourism Secretary Maria Bernardita Mathay, Transportation Secretary Vivencio Dizon, Budget Secretary Kim Robert De Leon, and Philippine Space Agency head Gay Jane Perez."This is the best team ever assembled here since my father's (late former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr.) Cabinet," the President said during the event."The President urged government officials to build on existing gains, address longstanding challenges, and ensure the effective implementation of priority programs," Malacañang said.The Palace said "stronger accountability, cleaner governance, and tangible results for every Filipino remain the administration’s expectations of its department and agency leaders. "Public service must translate into concrete actions that protect the welfare and address the needs of Filipino families and workers," Malacañang said in a statement.

- LTO issues SCO against Lipa City over plate-switching incident (2026-11-06 02:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show cause order (SCO) against the Lipa City government after its driver was caught removing the vehicle's white rear plate and replacing it with a red one.In its follow-up investigation, the agency identified the SUV (sport utility vehicle) as registered to Lipa City, Batangas, LTO chief Markus Lacanilao said.Citing the use of two different plates on a single vehicle, the LTO has ordered the designated driver and a representative of the local government to appear before the agency for a hearing. They are also required to submit their respective sworn statements, along with supporting documents and an explanation of why they should not be held liable for the violations stated in the SCO, Lacanilao said.Among the violations they must explain is failure to attach or improper attachment/tampering of authorized motor vehicle license plates and/or third plate stickers, the LTO head said.He said the driver, who has been ordered to surrender his driver's license, must also explain why his license should not be permanently suspended or revoked on grounds of being an improper person to operate a motor vehicle. “No one has the privilege to set their own rules when it comes to the use of vehicle plates. Whoever owns the

vehicle must follow the law," Lacanilao said. "And one thing is certain: we will not give special treatment to anyone," he vowed.

• VP Sara to visit Hong Kong (2026-11-06 02:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte will travel to Hong Kong from November 6 to 8 to attend engagements, including an event organized by the Filipino community, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) said Friday. Duterte secured permission for the trip from the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 98 through an order dated November 3, the OVP said. The Office of the President also issued a corresponding travel authority. "The Vice President shall cover the cost of her travel using personal funds. No government money, resources, or facilities shall be used in connection with her travel," the OVP said.

• Unemployment rate rises to 5.4% in September (2026-11-06 02:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of unemployed Filipinos rose to 2.86 million in September, up 909,000 from a year earlier and 95,000 from the previous month, as the unemployment rate climbed to 5.4 percent, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Friday.Preliminary results of the September 2026 Labor Force Survey presented by National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Claire Dennis Mapa showed that the unemployment rate increased from 3.8 percent in September 2025 and 5.3 percent in August 2026.Meanwhile, the employment rate slipped to 94.6 percent from 96.2 percent a year earlier and 94.7 percent in the previous month.The country's labor force expanded to 53.19 million from 51.56 million in September last year and 52.56 million in August.Despite the increase in unemployment, underemployment declined by 348,000 from August.

• Big-time oil price rollback seen (2026-11-06 01:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Oil companies are expected to implement a big-time price rollback next week as the global market reacted to recent developments in the Middle East and the US mid-term elections, local oil industry sources said on Friday.They said that diesel prices may drop by around P4.30 to P4.50 per liter, while gasoline prices may go down by about P12.50 to P13.50 per liter.These estimates are based on the 4-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia.This week, diesel prices went down by P1 per liter, while the cost of gasoline increased by P3.50 per liter.

• Prosecutors seek ICC protection for 55 witnesses vs Duterte (2026-11-06 00:50)

MANILA, Philippines — International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have cited security risks in the Philippines, reported security incidents involving witnesses and the continuing influence of former president Rodrigo Duterte's allies in seeking protective measures for 55 witnesses expected to testify in his trial.In a public redacted filing made Nov. 5, prosecutors told Trial Chamber III that the measures were necessary to protect witnesses whose testimony concerns alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's terms as Davao City mayor and president.The prosecution said numerous witnesses have reported security incidents, while some had made

their cooperation conditional on being granted anonymity.It argued that direct threats were not necessary to establish an objectively justifiable risk to witnesses, citing previous ICC rulings that recognized the security situation in a particular territory as a relevant consideration when assessed alongside a witness's individual circumstances.The filing identifies six categories of witnesses requiring protection: insider witnesses residing in the Philippines, witnesses from the alleged crime scenes also residing in the country, witnesses whose specific circumstances were redacted, witnesses living abroad, individuals admitted into the ICC protection program, and prosecution staff members.Particularly concerning, prosecutors said, are insider witnesses whose accounts relate to alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's mayoral and presidential administrations and, in some cases, directly implicate the former president.Their testimony could also implicate former Philippine National Police chief and incumbent Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, whom prosecutors described as having sufficient influence and support in the Philippines to evade arrest despite an ICC warrant that has been public for five months.Dela Rosa remains at large.Prosecutors are seeking three categories of protective and special measures: the use of pseudonyms and face and voice distortion to conceal witness identities from the public; closed or private court sessions for sensitive portions of testimony; and psychological support for witnesses considered vulnerable.Duterte’s trial will start on November 30.

- Hontiveros sees Senate removing unjustified allocations from 2027 budget (2026-11-05 19:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Thursday expressed confidence that the Senate will remove unsubstantiated programs, projects, and questionable line items from the proposed 2027 national budget, backing efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability in government spending.Speaking to reporters, Hontiveros said she and her fellow vice chairpersons fully support Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito in continuing the budget reforms initiated last year, particularly the opening of bicameral conference committee (bicam) proceedings to the public."I'm very confident because we in the Senate are firmly committed to supporting the position taken by the Senate President two days ago," Hontiveros said, referring to Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian's commitment to remove programs, activities, projects, and line items that lack sufficient justification."We, the vice chairpersons, fully support Chair JV (Ejercito) in continuing the budget reforms initiated last year, including making the bicameral conference committee proceedings open to the public," she added.Hontiveros also cited efforts by some Senate finance committee vice chairpersons to open budget hearings to civil society organizations (CSOs), allowing public-interest groups to participate in scrutinizing government spending proposals.The senator said that public participation should extend beyond congressional budget hearings and begin at the earliest stages of the budget preparation process."I think advocates want to push for their participation all the way back to the beginning of the process—from the President's budget call to the preparation of each department's budget request for submission to the DBM," she said.Hontiveros said broader public participation would help establish a more transparent and accountable budget process."So yes, I am confident that the Senate can pass the best version of the budget from our perspective,

and we are committed to deliberating with our counterparts in the House during the bicameral conference committee proceedings," she added.

- DSWD lauds ex-4Ps child who won int'l young ecofeminist award (2026-11-05 18:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) congratulated Monitte Lantas, a former monitored child of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) who received the Irene Dankelman Young Ecofeminist Award at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference.Lantas received the award on Oct. 21, 2026 during the conference which was held in Yerevan, Armenia."The whole DSWD family is proud of Monitte Lantas," Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao, the department's spokesman, said on Wednesday."Aside from giving honor to our country, Monitte proved that being a 4Ps beneficiary helps us have good values and foundation to become an exemplary citizen," Dumlao said in Filipino and English.The award is named after the late Dutch ecofeminist Dankelman. International organizations established the award to honor her legacy, the DSWD said."The award recognizes a new generation of changemakers advancing environmental protection, human rights, and gender justice," the department said.It said that international organizations including the Women Engage for a Common Future, Women's Environment and Development Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature Netherlands, and Both ENDS chose three young leaders—Sarah Adongo of Uganda, Yemi Knight of Barbados, and Lantas—for the 2026 edition.The DSWD described Lantas as a Tagbanwa indigenous leader.It said that through the Nagkakaisang Kabataang Katutubo ng Narra, Monitte "leads youth-driven mangrove conservation and restoration initiatives while strengthening local youth skills in environmental monitoring, mapping, leadership, and advocacy."Based on what Dumlao said, Lantas advocated for women's and children's rights, reproductive health, and the prevention of violence against women and children. Likewise based on what Dumlao said, Lantas also advocated "for elevating the status of indigenous peoples, that they are more included" in the government's decision making.

- Manila archbishop orders parishes to pray for rain amid very strong El niño (2026-11-05 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Cardinal Jose Advincula, the archbishop of Manila, ordered parishes to pray for rain after the communion part of masses starting Nov. 8 amid the very strong El Niño.In a circular dated Nov. 5, Advincula directed all parishes and communities in the Archdiocese of Manila to pray the Oratio Imperata ad Petendam Pluviam after the post-communion prayer starting this Sunday until further notice."As we implore the Lord to grant us the gift of rain, let us be reminded of the power of united prayer. When we come together as one community of faith, we entrust our needs and concerns to God's loving providence, confident that He hears the prayers of His beloved people. May this common supplication also strengthen our solidarity with the poor and vulnerable communities who may be especially affected by the consequences of drought," he said.Advincula encouraged priests, catechists, religious educators, and people involved in faith formation to "take this opportunity

to deepen the faithful's understanding of our Christian responsibility to care for creation."He urged them to "help our communities recognize that the natural world is not merely a resource to be consumed, but a precious gift entrusted by the Creator to our care and stewardship.""In particular, water is essential to all life and must never be taken for granted. We must cultivate habits of conservation, responsible consumption, and concern for the common good," he said."Let our prayers move us to concrete action. As we ask God to send us rain, may we also become more faithful stewards of His creation, mindful that caring for our common home is an essential expression of our love for God and our neighbors," Advincula said.On Wednesday, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DoST-Pagasa) said that a very strong El Niño is "present in the tropical Pacific and is expected to persist until the first half of 2027, potentially reaching its peak by the end of 2026."The DoST-Pagasa strongly advised the public and concerned agencies to " implement appropriate sectoral interventions, conservation and mitigation measures, particularly water conservation and efficient management of water resources, to minimize the potential impacts of El Niño."

- VP’s defense team to call 24 witnesses (2026-11-05 16:19)

VICE President Sara Duterte’s defense team has named 24 witnesses for the first week of its presentation of evidence in her impeachment trial, following the withdrawal of its initial witness, constitutional law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento.The list was contained in a Nov. 4 manifestation with a request for subpoenas filed by Duterte’s lawyers before the Senate impeachment court, according to a copy of the document provided by the prosecution.Defense counsel Michael Wesley Poa confirmed on Thursday that the defense had submitted its witness list. “We respect Dean Sarmiento’s personal decision and appreciate his initial consideration of our invitation. We wish him well in his continued contributions to constitutional discourse,” Poa said.He added that the defense understood Sarmiento’s decision, but declined to disclose the contents of its court submissions. “Consistent with our disposition since pretrial, we will refrain from disclosing the contents of our court submissions and filings,” Poa said.The 24 witnesses named in the manifestation are Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp.; Jaime Adalin, Davao City assessor; John Kenneth Enumerables, Island Garden City of Samal assessor; Vingelin Bajan, Davao City accountant; Cindy Colina, Matina Crossing barangay chairman; Olivia Barcarse, BDO Unibank first vice president; Alvin Go, BDO legal service group head; Paul Roderick Ysmael, Bank of the Philippine Islands senior vice president; Cesar Bernard Coloma, BPI vice president and head of litigation; Marino Buban Jr., EastWest Bank first vice president and head of legal service division; Joselito Vallada, Land Bank of the Philippines senior vice president; Janella Marie Panlilio, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. legal and remedial services group head; Jose Manuel Jr., Philippine Savings Bank head of legal services division; Rodel Mediavillo, PSBank branch review and control unit head; May Ann Candaroma-Morales, PSBank loan securities department head; Joseph Anthony Lopez, Security Bank head of legal and first vice president; Joselito Banaag, UnionBank of the Philippines corporate secretary and general counsel; Louiemel Panes,

UnionBank branch ambassador; Rogelio Villos Jr., UnionBank senior branch ambassador; Jayah Deneserie Scalf, UnionBank branch ambassador; Gemma Lynn Del Mundo, UnionBank senior branch ambassador; Anel Martin Antero; Chadrin Parian; and Vimar Barcellano, Quezon City prosecutor. The witnesses are expected to address various aspects of the defense's efforts to counter Article II of the Articles of Impeachment, which accuses Duterte of unexplained wealth.Balucanag-Punay, Adalin, Enumerables and Bajan are expected to testify on corporate records, property tax declarations and tax maps, as well as Duterte's remuneration during her tenure in Davao City.Colina, meanwhile, is expected to discuss matters concerning Matina Crossing, including its creation, official name and other names by which it is known.Bank representatives will testify on requests made by Duterte and her lawyer, Manases Carpio, through Poa Himala and Virtucio Law, along with the banks' responses and related documents.The manifestation also named Antero, Parian and Barcellano, although it did not specify their expected testimony.Former dean begs offSarmiento, former dean of the College of Law of the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City, declined to participate as a witness in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Duterte.In a Facebook post on Thursday, Sarmiento thanked the defense team for recognizing the value of the constitutional and legal views he has been sharing on social media. "I had not anticipated that these views might potentially become part of the impeachment proceedings. After careful consideration, I have decided to decline participation as a witness in the proceedings," he said.He explained that his decision is personal, to preserve the independence of his constitutional law scholarship and the impartiality of his legal views and opinions.Sarmiento added that he has asked the defense team to withdraw their request for a subpoena for his appearance or, if one has already been issued, to seek its recall by the impeachment court.Earlier, in a formal manifestation filed with the court, Duterte's counsel said Sarmiento would testify on legal and constitutional principles relevant to the impeachment case.House lead prosecutor Gerville Luistro on Thursday praised Sarmiento for declining to testify.House prosecutor and Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon on Thursday welcomed Sarmiento's decision, saying his planned testimony on legal and constitutional principles was irrelevant to the remaining charge. "It is only right that Dean Ralph Sarmiento withdrew from appearing at the trial," Ridon said in Filipino. "Presenting evidence from the defense about what they claim to be legal and constitutional principles is misplaced and has no basis: next week's trial is about the defense against the allegations of unexplained wealth against the vice president, nothing else," he added.What the vice president's counsels should focus on, the lawmaker reiterated, is to "explain the P800 million to P1.5 billion in unexplained wealth" supposedly amassed by Duterte and her husband Manases Carpio. "More than P100 million deposited in financial accounts that were not declared in the Vice President's SALN (statement of assets, liabilities and net worth), credit card transactions exceeding P200,000 just for dining out and shopping for shoes, and many more," Ridon said. WITH JAVIER JOE ISMAEL AND KRISTINA MARALIT

- Newly developed wells make first gas delivery (2026-11-05 16:17)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the first delivery of natural gas from Malampaya's new offshore wells in Batangas City on Thursday.Speaking at the ceremonial first flow of gas from Malampaya's Phase 4 Project (MP4), Marcos said the new wells would help move the Philippines closer to energy independence. "Maximizing the use of Malampaya gas could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices," he said.Marcos assured Filipinos that locally sourced energy would ensure stability amid global tensions, since most of the country's energy sources are imported. "What does this mean for every Filipino family? Our own gas, more reliable electricity, a more stable energy supply for our country," he said in Filipino, stressing the urgent necessity of developing domestic resources to guard against geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions. "As our economy grows, so does our demand for energy. Industrialization and energy grow hand in hand; one cannot exist without the other. We cannot fully rely on other countries to provide these resources all of the time," Marcos added.The successful drilling and testing of the Malampaya East-1 and Camago-3 wells earlier in the year uncovered an estimated 222 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves.By June, both wells were integrated into the existing Malampaya subsea production system, channeling indigenous gas from offshore Palawan through transmission infrastructure directly to gas-fired power plants serving the Luzon grid.The chief executive noted that the Malampaya project forms part of a broader administrative drive to strengthen national energy security. Under the current administration, 14 new petroleum service contracts have been awarded for oil, natural gas and native hydrogen exploration.The achievement marks a significant milestone for the Malampaya consortium and reinforces the project's role in sustaining the Philippines' indigenous natural gas supply. "From offshore Palawan, this indigenous natural gas will flow through the Malampaya gas transmission infrastructure to Batangas, and ultimately to the gas-fired power plants serving the Luzon grid," the president said.He cited the importance of maximizing indigenous natural gas to help manage electricity costs, noting that greater use of Malampaya gas "could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices." Prime Infra Chairman Enrique Razon Jr. highlighted Malampaya's enduring contribution to national development and the importance of continued investment in its resources. "For 25 years, Malampaya has demonstrated the value of developing our own energy resources. It has powered millions of Filipino households and businesses, supported economic growth and generated more than $14 billion in government revenues. But Malampaya's resources are finite. Sustaining production requires continued investment and the technical expertise to develop reserves that are increasingly challenging to access. That is what Malampaya Phase 4 (MP4) represents," Razon said.With an investment of close to a billion dollars, MP4 involved drilling two deepwater wells and installing subsea infrastructure to connect them to the existing Malampaya production platform. The project added an estimated 222 billion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas reserves, capable of generating approximately 31.46 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough to power 13.11 million Filipino households for one year.MP4 was completed in 27 months after the final investment decision, five months ahead of its original schedule and five months ahead of the industry benchmark. Additionally, the

Department of Energy has introduced special allowances for service contractors targeting frontier areas and gas development, alongside the implementation of the Philippine Gradiometry and Seismic Survey Project.Marcos urged investors to build on the success of this Malampaya Phase 4 Project. “Together, let us shape a Bagong Pilipinas with the foresight to explore, the resolve to develop and the wisdom to manage our resources responsibly for the benefit of generations of Filipinos to come,” he said.

- Tulfo admits he goofed; Romualdez tale untrue (2026-11-05 16:16)

AFTER his statement made headlines, broadcast journalist Ramon Tulfo on Thursday issued a retraction, saying there was no truth to his claim that former speaker Martin Romualdez was sneaking out of jail. “I was fed the wrong report that former speaker Martin Romualdez could go in and out of jail,” Tulfo said in a Facebook post on Thursday admitting that one of the most embarrassing and humiliating experiences as a journalist is spreading wrong information.Tulfo earlier claimed that Romualdez had been sneaking out and returning to the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory through a backdoor arrangement designed to conceal his movements.He even alleged that as per a “tweety bird,” electricity supply was intentionally interrupted to disable closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitoring to allow him to escape through a staircase where an ambulance was waiting for him.This claim prompted an immediate investigation by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), which found no evidence in CCTV footage dating back to September, of any power interruptions or of Romualdez leaving the facility.The Sandiganbayan Third Division, reacting to Tulfo’s initial report, had summoned two jail officials to testify on Thursday regarding the custody of the former speaker. “No such thing happened when the facts started coming in yesterday. It was fiction. I... goofed. No excuses,” Tulfo said.Even Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said the claims were not true as proven by the CCTV review and even invited journalists to personally observe the lawmaker’s presence and condition at the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory. “It is not true. He does not leave the BJMP, he does not receive visitors outside of the [allowed] areas, he practically receives very few visitors, just his counsel and family,” Remulla said.Remulla said the government is taking such allegations with all seriousness and reiterated that Romualdez receives the same treatment as all persons deprived of liberty in the facility.Romualdez, he said, is still under medical confinement due to a list of illnesses including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, primary hypothyroidism. The lawmaker has lost a hundred pounds since his medical problems began.Romualdez is facing graft and plunder charges, and is considered a central figure in the flood control bribery scandal.The Romualdez camp welcomed Tulfo’s retraction. “We welcome Mr. Ramon Tulfo’s public acknowledgment that the allegations he circulated concerning former speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez’s supposed unauthorized movements outside his detention facility were false. Mr. Tulfo has admitted that he was fed incorrect information, failed to independently verify it and subsequently passed it on to the public,” the congressman’s counsel, Ade Fajardo, said in a statement. “He has now described the allegations as fiction. This public retraction is significant, particularly because the allegations had already circulated widely and subjected our client to public suspicion and

criticism,” he added.The lawyer also cited the testimony of Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion, who denied that Romualdez had been allowed to leave the facility without authorization.The retraction followed a Nov. 4 demand letter from Romualdez’s lawyers directing Tulfo to stop circulating the allegations, remove or correct his original post and issue a prominent clarification, while warning of possible legal action.“We appreciate Mr. Tulfo’s willingness to acknowledge his mistake publicly. It takes responsibility to correct an erroneous report, especially after it has gained widespread attention,” Fajardo said.

- Move It appeals P555.7M penalty for ‘ghost riders’ (2026-11-05 16:15)

MOTORCYCLE taxi platform Move It has filed a motion for reconsideration after receiving the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board’s (LTFRB) preliminary decision imposing a penalty of P555.75 million for overshooting its rider allocation.In a statement, Move It said it had thoroughly reviewed the decision and its implications for the industry, and is engaging with LTFRB through proper processes.“We respect the board’s authority, and we remain committed to working toward a sustainable and adaptive regulatory framework for motorcycle taxis,” the company said.The LTFRB, now under the acting leadership of Greg Pua Jr., slapped Move It with a P555.75-million fine over “ghost riders” that exceeded its authorized allocation.In its Oct. 9 decision, the agency found that Move It had 73,321 active riders on its platform against an authorized allocation of only 17,746 — an excess of 55,575 riders.But in the same statement, Move It clarified its position, describing rider allocation as a dynamic measure of live, on-demand supply.The gig economy is built on flexibility, with riders going online and offline throughout the day based on their own schedules, it noted.“Because of this natural fluidity, maintaining continuous supply for commuters means monitoring the number of riders who are actively online and ready to accept trips at any given moment, especially during peak rush hours,” the company said.Addressing its rider-partners, it reiterated that it would continue to work closely with the LTFRB and other regulators to protect their livelihood.“To commuters, the platform acknowledged how much they rely on its services, especially with the holiday rush approaching, and committed to working with regulators to ensure continued service when needed most,” Move It said.It added that it would await the LTFRB’s review of its motion for reconsideration.Pua said the LTFRB is drafting measures to deal with the issue in relation to the affected riders while ensuring that the online boarding system of ride-hailing services is strictly complying with the government’s regulations.“What the agency is focused on is addressing the plight of the thousands of overboarded riders who invested their own resources to earn a decent living — and whose only fault was that they acted in good faith and trusted that they were allowed to operate under the existing rules and regulations,” he said.

- SKorean firm starts building 3rd Philippine Navy frigate (2026-11-05 16:14)

SOUTH Korean shipbuilder HD Hyundai Heavy Industries has begun construction of the third Miguel Malvar-class frigate for the Philippine Navy, with the company targeting delivery ahead of its contractual schedule.The company held a steel-cutting ceremony on Nov. 4 at its shipyard,

marking the start of construction of the first of two additional 3,200-ton frigates ordered by the Philippine government in December 2025.The vessels, which will become the Navy's FFG-8 and FFG-9, are scheduled for delivery in 2029.HD Hyundai said it plans to speed up construction by drawing on its experience in building warships for the Philippine Navy and its expanded production capacity following its merger last year.The two new frigates will retain the basic specifications of the first batch of Miguel Malvar-class vessels, but will have improved weapons and sensor systems.Among the major upgrades is the installation of a Korean Vertical Launching System equipped with LIG Defense and Aerospace's K-SAAM, also known as Haegung, surface-to-air missile system.The new frigates will also be delivered with a towed array sonar system, enhancing their ability to detect and track underwater threats, particularly submarines.The second batch will replace the French-made MBDA VL-MICA air defense system used on the first two frigates with the South Korean K-SAAM system.The change will give the Navy another air defense capability while allowing the vessels to carry multiple surface-to-air missiles in vertical launch cells.The acquisition of the two more frigates is part of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program's Re-Horizon 3 phase.The vessels are intended to expand the Navy's modern surface combatant fleet as the Philippines faces growing maritime security challenges, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.HD Hyundai said the new vessels would follow the same basic specifications as the first two, allowing the Navy to streamline crew training, ship operations, spare-parts procurement and maintenance.The latest contract represents the fourth shipbuilding project of the company for the Philippine Navy.It built two Jose Rizal-class frigates, two Miguel Malvar-class frigates and six offshore patrol vessels for the Navy.With the two additional frigates, the company's total orders from the Philippine Navy will reach 12 ships.The Jose Rizal-class vessels, the Jose Rizal and the Antonio Luna were the Navy's first modern guided-missile frigates and represent a significant upgrade in the service's surface warfare capabilities.The Miguel Malvar-class frigates, the Miguel Malvar and the Diego Silang further strengthened the Navy's capabilities with modern combat management systems, advanced sensors and weapons.The Navy's projected force structure also includes four Rajah Sulayman-class corvettes, three Del Pilar-class offshore patrol vessels, one Conrado Yap-class corvette, three Jacinto-class patrol vessels, four Tarlac-class landing platform docks, two Bacolod City-class logistics support vessels, five Ivatan-class vessels, nine Acero-class fast attack interdiction craft, three Cyclone-class patrol ships and multiple Multi-Purpose Attack Craft.

- 'Leave no room for corruption' (2026-11-05 16:13)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday urged local chief executives to leave "no room for corruption" in the use of the government's disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance program (DRRAP) funds for local government units (LGUs).In his keynote speech at the ceremonial turnover of the funds held in Malacañang, Marcos said the P8.6 billion distributed to 306 LGUs must be strictly used for disaster rehabilitation, drawing a firm red line against anomalies in public works."This is the people's money, intended for our fellow citizens who have been devastated by disaster. It is not a fund for profit-making, nor is it for anyone

looking to enrich themselves amidst the tragedies we are experiencing," Marcos said in Filipino."There must be no room for corruption in this program. Ghost projects are prohibited. Commissions are prohibited. Substandard rehabilitation projects are prohibited,” he added, urging local chief executives to use the funds wisely.The funds were earmarked for critical rebuilding efforts, including shelter and resettlement, infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and public buildings, education and health services, agricultural and fisheries recovery, and social protection programs.The president warned that anyone trying to profit from public tragedies will face the law.Marcos said that funds were distributed based on community needs, devoid of political considerations. “It is with trust that we hand it to you based on need — no political color considered,” he said.Drawing from his past experience as a governor, Marcos underscored that LGUs are best positioned to understand the realities on the ground.The chief executive noted that the first batch exceeding P6 billion has already been released, while a second batch amounting to over P2.5 billion has been approved for immediate downloading to local governments.To ensure rapid response, the administration has streamlined bureaucratic procedures. While interventions through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund previously took eight to 11 months, the revised process cuts delivery time down to four to six months.However, he reminded local leaders to improve their capacity to document and report disaster impacts promptly to the Office of Civil Defense and the NDRRMC to facilitate national assistance.

- PH among countries with highest teen inactivity – WHO (2026-11-05 16:12)

ABOUT 40 percent of adolescents in the Philippines reported having no physically activity in a week, placing the country among those with the highest rates of inactivity among young people, according to country estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO).WHO said in a study that 40 percent of adolescents in the Philippines, Namibia and Nepal reported no active days, not even an hour of exercise a week.The study, published in The Lancet Global Health, draws on hundreds of population-based surveys from 140 countries and territories, involving more than 3.2 million teens, WHO said.In its global estimates released Wednesday, WHO found that one in four adolescents aged 11 to 17 worldwide reported no active days in the previous week, meaning they did not complete at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on any day.The findings translate to about 240 million young people worldwide who reported no physically activity days in a week, WHO said.Adolescents in the study reported being physically active for an average of 2.7 days a week, while only 14 percent were active on all seven days.WHO also found a gender gap in physical activity, with 28 percent of girls reporting no active days, compared with 22 percent of boys.Only 11 percent of girls reported being physically active every day, compared with 17 percent of boys.WHO warned that physical inactivity is a major risk factor for heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. “Helping young people develop active habits early in life is critical to protecting their health and reducing the global burden of these diseases,” the agency said.WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world had made almost no progress in getting young people to become physically active over the past 15 years, with girls being left furthest behind. “The answer is not

to tell adolescents to try harder. It is to build schools, streets and communities where moving, playing and being active is safe, easy and normal," he added.WHO said physical activity was shaped by where adolescents live, study, travel and spend their free time. Transport patterns, access to safe public spaces, opportunities for walking and cycling, school environments, affordability, social norms and screen-based lifestyles can all influence their opportunities to be active.The agency called for stronger action across education, transport, urban planning, sport and health, including policies that make physical activity an easy, safe and accessible part of everyday life.

- Gatchalian to LGUs: Fortify reading gains (2026-11-05 16:11)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian urged local government units (LGUs) to fortify reading gains and dismantle basic and functional illiteracy as the country observes National Reading Month in November.Gatchalian said that while the Philippines showed a welcome improvement in reading ability as reflected by its performance in the latest Program for International Student Assessment, deeply rooted systemic deficiencies remain a pressing concern. He added that approximately seven out of 10 Filipino learners aged 15 continue to score below the minimum global standards for reading proficiency.Gatchalian stressed the necessity of embedding localized grassroots interventions alongside national standard programs, such as the Department of Education's Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning initiative.A centerpiece of this legislative push is the proposed National Literacy Council Act, which aims to legally institutionalize the participation of municipalities, cities, and provinces. Under the measure, Gatchalian proposes designating local school boards as de facto local literacy councils. This structural change would legally mandate local governments to formulate localized, data-driven roadmaps to eliminate illiteracy, backed by clear, measurable performance indicators. "In our efforts to improve literacy and the reading proficiency of our students, the role of our LGUs is crucial, especially since they have a better understanding of the challenges and needs of the students within their jurisdictions," Gatchalian said.The proposed localized roadmaps are designed to sync with the country's Community-Based Monitoring System Act and the Alternative Learning System, ensuring that resources are directly funneled to areas suffering from acute learning poverty.

- LTO revokes licenses of taxi drivers in 'gas-and-run' case (2026-11-05 16:10)

THE Land Transportation Office (LTO) has revoked the licenses of two taxi drivers involved in a gas-and-run racket, a form of theft where a motorist pulls up to a gas station, has their vehicle's fuel tank filled by an attendant, and then drives off without paying. "It is wrong to flee after fueling up without paying. We know gas is expensive today, but that is no reason to evade payment. Workers struggle for every peso they earn, so it is unjust for them to be the ones to lose out because of such an act," LTO chief Markus Lacanilao said, noting the two were barred from securing a new license for the next two years.Lacanilao said a driver is expected not only to practice road safety but to pay his obligations as well. "This is why the LTO acts swiftly on such incidents to ensure that those proven to have violated the rules are held accountable. We

do not condone such behavior and will not allow the responsibility of every motorist to be ignored or the aggrieved to be neglected," he added.

• Malabon pushes information literacy (2026-11-05 16:09)

MALABON Mayor Jeannie Sandoval said Thursday the city would embed media and information literacy (MIL) into local governance.During her talk at the MIL Cities Central Hybrid event on Nov. 3, 2026, Sandoval cited four pillars of implementation: institutionalization, access to information, citizens' engagement and action, and knowledge and information sharing.The virtual event was organized for the observance of Global Media and Information Literacy Week and World Cities Day by Al Rayyan, Qatar, Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Unesco.Sandoval said Malabon has been an MIL pilot city since 2025.City Administrator Alex Rosete said MIL has been woven into regular city programs since Sept. 15."Media and information literacy is not simply about providing information; it is about ensuring that our citizens can understand, evaluate, and use it responsibly," Rosete said.

• NAIA passenger volume tops 1.29M (2026-11-05 16:08)

PASSENGER volume at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) hit 1.29 million during the nine-day holiday rush from Oct. 27 to Nov. 4, 2026, beating initial forecasts and marking a 4.4-percent increase compared to last year.The New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) reported that actual volume reached 1,291,885 passengers, compared to 1,237,475 during the same period in 2025. This was 3.4-percent higher than the operator's conservative projection of 1.25 million, which had initially anticipated a modest 1-percent growth.International passenger traffic rose 3.94 percent to 649,691 from 625,056 a year earlier, while domestic traffic grew 4.86 percent to 642,194 from 612,419. Oct. 30 proved to be the busiest day, handling 153,901 passengers and exceeding the daily projection of 149,216.To prepare for the holiday surge, NNIC partnered closely with airlines, ground handlers, transport providers and key government offices — including the Department of Transportation, Manila International Airport Authority, and the bureaus of Immigration, Customs, and Quarantine.Operational adjustments included round-the-clock monitoring via a 24-hour Command Center at Terminal 2 to coordinate incident response. NNIC also deployed extra personnel to screening checkpoints and immigration counters, increased security patrols, and established Public Assistance Desks across Terminals 1, 2 and 3.Traffic management teams synchronized with road authorities to regulate vehicle flow around the airport, while inter-terminal shuttles facilitated smoother passenger transfers.According to the operator, these measures are part of an ongoing effort to improve passenger processing, terminal access and facility management as NAIA adapts to growing travel demands.

• No tax hikes for businesses in Manila – Moreno (2026-11-05 16:07)

MANILA Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso said Thursday that business tax will not be increased to keep the cost of doing business in the city low.He cited the Minimum Basic Needs platform, which aims to create more business opportunities and predictable rules for

businesses. “When you pay one peso, you get one peso receipt,” Moreno said during a courtesy call by representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) at Manila City Hall.Moreno informed the delegation of measures to ease doing business in Manila, including the reduction of zoning requirements from 22 to seven. “You are always welcome to do business in Manila. It is inexpensive to do business in Manila. We will not raise taxes,” Moreno said.AmCham Philippines Executive Director Ebb Hinchliffe said the meeting exceeded their expectations. “This is already more than we expected today. To meet with the mayor is always an honor and a privilege, and what we were looking for is to learn more about why American investors or other foreign investors should come and invest in the city of Manila,” Hinchliffe said. “Mission accomplished. He very clearly outlined the reasons that Manila is open for business, and I can now go back and very confidently recommend the city,” he added.AmCham Philippines has more than 900 members across the country, representing American and multinational companies.

- Drug suspect nabbed in Muntinlupa (2026-11-05 16:06)

THE Muntinlupa Police arrested a fugitive wanted for violating the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.Roque Sarbida Romano Jr., alias “Digoy,” was No. 7 in the November 2026 Muntinlupa Top Ten Most Wanted list.Romano was arrested by virtue of a warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 256, Muntinlupa City, in connection with Criminal Case Nos. 24-1114 and 24-1115 for violations of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. “We will not allow wanted individuals to evade the law. We will remain steadfast in our pursuit of those with standing warrants, ensuring that every operation reflects our commitment to professionalism, accountability, and the swift administration of justice,” said district director BGen. Rodel Pastor.

- Authorities raid illegal Caloocan lotto outlet (2026-11-05 16:05)

THE Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the National Bureau of Investigation raided a lotto outlet on Camarin Road, Caloocan City, on Wednesday for allegedly running an illegal numbers game. “The PCSO maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy for illegal gambling and fraudulent operations,” PCSO General Manager Mel Robles said. “Every peso spent on legitimate PCSO games goes directly toward funding essential health programs, medical assistance, and charitable services for Filipinos nationwide. Operations that issue unauthorized tickets actively deprive our countrymen of these vital benefits,” he added.Seized during the operation was bet money estimated at P5,000, one fake ticket, a mobile phone used for point-of-sale operations, and gaming hardware and paraphernalia.

- Economic dependence on China seen to threaten PH sovereignty (2026-11-05 16:04)

ECONOMIC dependence on China could constrain the Philippines’ ability to defend its sovereignty and make independent policy decisions, a civil society group warned on Thursday.Democracy Watch co-convenor Lloyd Zaragoza urged Manila to strengthen domestic industries rather than compromise its national interests for economic opportunities.The

country’s mounting diplomatic tensions with Beijing should serve as a wake-up call for the Philippines to build a stronger and more self-reliant economy, Zaragoza said in a statement. “The Philippines should not have to choose between protecting its economic interests and defending its sovereignty,” he said in response to a joint appeal by business and sectoral groups for Manila and Beijing to ease diplomatic tensions. “The Philippines should pursue economic partnerships that strengthen our national capacity, not create dependencies that compromise our democratic independence. A strong economic partner should make the Philippines stronger, not more dependent,” he said.Zaragoza pointed to the country’s significant trade imbalance with China, noting that the Philippines imports substantially more goods from the country than it exports to its market.He questioned if such a relationship was generating sufficient benefits for domestic industries, employment and the country’s long-term economic development.The group’s position came after 22 business organizations, led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged both countries to ease diplomatic tensions, warning that a prolonged standoff could have serious economic consequences for the Philippines.Zaragoza also cited figures showing that China’s net share in Philippine foreign direct investments (FDIs) fell by more than 75 percent, from $13 million in 2024 to $3.2 million in 2025, accounting for 0.2 percent of the country’s total FDIs.He said a genuinely beneficial economic partner should bring substantial investments that create opportunities for Filipinos without forcing the Philippines to choose between economic security and independence. “Economic dependence can become a vulnerability to our democracy. When our economy is overly reliant on external markets and supply chains, our ability to make independent policy decisions and stand firm on matters of national interest can be constrained by economic pressures,” Zaragoza said.He added that the country’s sovereignty and democratic institutions should never become bargaining chips in pursuing economic opportunities.

- Cayetano calls for equitable distribution of classroom funds (2026-11-05 16:03)

SAYING that 30 of the poorest municipalities receive no funding for additional classrooms, Sen. Pia Cayetano on Thursday called for a more equitable distribution of classroom construction funds. “Many communities across the country still lack enough classrooms. But the need is not the same everywhere. Some areas have much bigger shortages than others,” Cayetano said in a statement. “Since government resources are limited, we must make sure that classrooms are built where they are needed most,” she said.Citing data from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EdCom 2), Cayetano said that more than half of the local government units (LGUs) with the most severe classroom shortages did not receive funding for additional classrooms under the 2026 national budget.She said while nine out of 10 first-class LGUs received funding, only about half of fifth-class LGUs were allocated funds.Thirty of these poorer municipalities, despite having a combined requirement of 356 classrooms, received no funding at all.Cayetano said classroom shortages are not limited to poor and remote communities, since urban schools are also struggling to accommodate growing student

populations.She noted that many schools have resorted to holding two to three class shifts daily to accommodate learners.She also cited United Nations projections that two-thirds of the world’s population will be living in urban areas by 2050, pointing to the need to prepare for the growing demand for school facilities as more people move to cities.“And as more people move to cities, the need for classrooms will continue to grow,” Cayetano said.As the Senate reviews the proposed 2027 national budget, Cayetano said lawmakers would take a closer look at how classroom construction funds are distributed.She stressed the need for updated and reliable data on classroom requirements, projected student enrollment and communities expected to experience increased demand for school facilities in the coming years.Cayetano also emphasized that budget planning must look beyond existing shortages and anticipate the future needs of schools and communities.“We must also think beyond today’s shortages. Our budget planning should consider what our schools and communities will need in the future,” she said.Cayetano said access to decent learning facilities should not depend on where a child lives or goes to school.“Our goal must be clear: no child should be left behind because of where they live or go to school,” she said.

- Senators push zero tariffs on PH heated tobacco, agri exports (2026-11-05 16:02)

IN a major push to expand market access for Philippine exports, senators are seeking the total elimination of Japanese tariffs on locally manufactured heated tobacco products (HTPs), fruits and other agricultural products.The reciprocal trade proposal was pitched by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Vice Chairman Sen. Erwin Tulfo and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform Chairman Sen. Francis Pangilinan during an official parliamentary visit to the Japanese Diet to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Philippines-Japan Friendship.The push for zero tariffs aims to modernize the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement. Signed originally in 2008, the treaty slashed or outright eliminated duties on over 90 percent of goods exchanged between the two Asian partners.However, emerging alternative sectors, such as HTPs, and shifting agricultural dynamics were completely unmapped when negotiations closed nearly two decades ago. The Department of Trade and Industry has been working to finalize renegotiation rounds to keep the bilateral framework relevant in the face of newer regional trade agreements.“With the emergence of new products from the Philippine tobacco industry and the increasing demand for them in Japan, we are respectfully asking the Japanese government to consider our proposal to exempt Philippine-made HTPs from tariffs,” Tulfo said during the legislative sessions.The trade push aimed to address global competitive disadvantages. Currently, European Union exporters enjoy preferential terms that place Philippine manufacturers at an economic handicap in the lucrative Japanese consumer market.The senators emphasized that removing the trade barriers will drive local manufacturing, optimize domestic agricultural supply chains, secure massive employment opportunities and establish a steady, resilient export pipeline to neighboring Asian economies.Heading the parliamentary mission were Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian and Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri.Joining them were Senators Lito Lapid, Raffy Tulfo, JV Ejercito, Erwin Tulfo and Pangilinan.The senators also held discussions with the Sasakawa Peace

Foundation, with Tulfo expressing profound institutional gratitude for the foundation's continuous humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance to the Philippines.The Tokyo summit capitalizes on a reciprocal visit last Sept. 16 by a Japanese legislative delegation, led by Japanese Senate Vice President Fukuyama Tetsuro.

- SC allows video testimony to spare child witnesses from courtroom trauma (2026-11-05 16:01)

THE Supreme Court has revamped its rules on examining child witnesses, allowing video-link testimonies, recorded depositions and professionally conducted interviews to spare children from repeatedly reliving traumatic experiences in court.Under the Revised Rule on the Examination of Child Witnesses (RRECW), approved by the Court en banc on June 17, 2026 but only announced Wednesday, courts may allow children to testify through videoconferencing from outside the courtroom when appearing in person is likely to cause them further trauma.The new rules also allow electronically recorded depositions and recorded interviews conducted by trained professionals to be presented as evidence, subject to safeguards protecting the rights of the accused and other parties.In announcing the revised rules, the Court said the changes aim to make court proceedings more child-friendly while ensuring that children's voices are heard without exposing them to unnecessary psychological harm.Under the rules, judges may limit the people a child witness can see and hear during testimony, including the accused, while preserving the latter's constitutional right to confront witnesses.If identification of the accused is necessary, the accused may briefly appear on camera or be identified by the child through an image displayed on screen.Children who cannot testify in court or through videoconferencing because of disability, health concerns or other circumstances may instead give an electronically recorded deposition in the presence of the judge and lawyers from both sides. The recording may be used in place of their actual courtroom testimony.The revised rules also recognize recorded interviews conducted by a team of professionals as evidence, reducing the need for children to repeatedly recount painful incidents.

- ATOM applauds US voters in recent elections (2026-11-05 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The August Twenty-One Movement (ATOM) lauded voters in the United States, following the wins of Democratic Party candidates in their midterm elections.In a statement on Thursday, ATOM called on the Philippine opposition to take down notes from the "stunning defeat of fascism" in the recent US polls, especially with the upcoming presidential elections in 2028. "We call on our friends from the Philippine opposition to take notes from the stunning defeat of fascism in the recent US midterm elections. We must harness the lessons from this cycle and apply them to our own struggle to confront the two-pronged evil of the corrupt and fascist Marcos and Duterte dynasties as we inch closer to the 2028 elections," ATOM said. "The innumerable damage inflicted by the corruption and brutality of the Marcos and Duterte fascist dynasties on our nation is no different from the destruction wrought on the people of America and the rest of the world. Democratic forces should continue the fight to

finally bring their madness to an end," the group added.ATOM, known for its involvement in the 1986 EDSA Revolution, said it is possible Filipino voters can do what the American voters did. "If the Americans can defeat their own fascist regime, even through an election, the Filipino people can also do this again at home," the group said.Meanwhile, the Liberal Party (LP) of the Philippines, also hoped that Filipino voters could elect the right candidates in 2028. "We send our warmest congratulations to the Democrats of the United States of America on their historic victories in the 2026 midterm elections," the party said on Wednesday. "Through their collective determination and perseverance, what we witnessed was more than just a blue wave. As several states flipped, we saw a blue tsunami sweep across the political landscape… These results demonstrate the power of grassroots organizing, collective action, and people coming together to make their voices heard and advance the interests of ordinary citizens," it added.Candidates from the Democratic Party won the US midterm elections held on Tuesday.

- Laguna Copperplate Inscription, UST Baybayin Documents, Obusan cultural archive added to Unesco register (2026-11-05 15:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Three pieces of Philippine documentary heritage were added on Thursday to a register of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).The Unesco-Philippine National Commission or Unacom said in a post on Facebook that during the 11th general meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific in Jakarta, Indonesia on Nov. 5, "all three Philippine nominations were successfully inscribed in the" Unesco Memory of the World Regional Register.Those three are: The Laguna Copperplate Inscription (LCI); The Baybayin Documents in the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas; and The Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group (RoFG) Audiovisual Archive."This remarkable achievement brings greater international recognition to the Philippines' rich documentary heritage and opens new opportunities to preserve, share, and promote these invaluable treasures for future generations," the Unacom said.An infographic in the Unacom's post described the LCI as the Philippines' "earliest known historical document." The LCI has "a record on debt acquittal etched into a thin copperplate as early as" the year 900, the infographic said.Another infographic in the Unacom's post described the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Baybayin Documents as "the oldest known manuscripts written entirely in" Baybayin. The manuscripts, the infographic said, show "structural correspondences with Southeast Asian and North Indian writing systems..."An infographic in the Unacom's post said that the RoFG Audiovisual Archive is composed of over 3,700 "ethnographic films and recordings (1970-2016) initiated by" Obusan who is a National Artist. "It documents indigenous dances, rituals, and community practices across the Philippines...," the infographic said.UST said on Facebook that it "is honored to be the home of a precious National Cultural Treasure that has now been inscribed in the" register."A little over a decade after Documents A and B of the Baybayin scripts became the country's first archival National Cultural Treasure, the Asia and the Pacific Region now recognizes the value of this piece of our country's history," UST said.The university congratulated the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas and thanked the

stakeholders "who help us care for these important pieces of our heritage.""As we advance to face the challenges of the modern world, may we do so with renewed respect for the treasured past that we care for in the present," UST said.The 415-year-old university said it was "a proud moment" not only for Thomasians but also for Filipinos.

• Marikina launches free spaying and neutering program for rescued stray animals (2026-11-05 15:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Marikina City has launched a free spaying and neutering program for rescued stray dogs and cats at its Animal Rescue and Shelter.Mayor Maan Teodoro announced the program in a Facebook post on Wednesday, saying it would become a regular city service and would be brought to different barangays. “Aside from our free anti-rabies vaccination, spaying and neutering is also important. It is a humane way or practice for animal population control,” Teodoro said in Filipino.She said the program initially covers rescued stray dogs and cats at the city's Animal Rescue and Shelter. “For those asking, the free spaying and neutering [program] will now be a regular program. We will go around our barangays, so please watch out for the schedule in your area,” she added.

• PH to showcase "Tropical Flavors" in Shanghai Expo (2026-11-05 15:18)

SHANGHAI — The Philippines is expected to showcase its tropical flavors to the Chinese market as it participates in the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) from November 5-10.The CIIE is China's premier exposition to promote international imports to China's domestic market. It is held every year at the National Exhibition and Convention Center.Under the "FOODPhilippines" export brand, more than 30 food manufacturers and exporters will participate in the Philippine pavilion in a bid to solidify the country as a premier sourcing destination for high value tropical food, beverage and ingredients in the Southeast Asian region.It also reflects the Philippines' agricultural capabilities while it adapts to the global demand for health-focused, eco-conscious, and convenient nutrition.This year's delegation will focus on coconut innovations, with manny exhibitors showcasing high-value coconut derivatives, such as virgin coconut oil (VCO), fractionated coconut oils, organic sugar, coconut water, and beverages, among others.They will be complemented with the country's core tropical fruit offerings like the Puyat durian, Carabao mangoes, bananas. and processed calamansi products, as well as specialty snacks, artisanala tablea cacao, and plant-based health blends.Department of Trade and Industry - Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (DTI-CITEM) Executive Director Leah Pulido Ocampo said that the CIIE is a "crucial platform" to elevate Philippine food enterprised within global supply chains."China’s massive import market provides a vital gateway for our local small and medium enterprises to transition from commodity suppliers into competitive, value-added global players. “ Ocampo said.She also said that the country's participation demonstrates the strength of Philippine agrifood as premium quality, with functional nutritional benefits and sustainable practices reinforces the Philippines' role as a "go-to sourcing destination in Southeast Asia, and creates lasting economic pathways that are inclusive of grassroots communities.”The country's participation in the CIIE builds on the country's

performance in the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), where Philippine exhibitors secured a record US$60 million in export sales.It is the highest figure generated since CITEM first led the national delegation in 2004, and highlights the expanding market share, buyer confidence, and sustained demand for Filipino agrifood products across regional Chinese markets.The Philippine pavilion will be opened on November 6 and will be participated by officials from the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, Philippine Consulate-General in Shanghai, and officials from the DTI and Department of Agriculture.

- NTF-Elcac welcomes FBI probe of CPP-NPA networks in US (2026-11-05 12:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) welcomed reports that US authorities are investigating alleged recruitment, financing and logistical support networks of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) operating in the United States, following reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had questioned the family of an American activist detained in the Philippines.NTF-Elcac spokesman Liza Fidelis Cañada said Americans and organizations suspected of supporting the communist insurgency should expect scrutiny from US authorities, noting that Washington designated the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization in 2002.The task force issued the statement on Thursday following disclosures by the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) concerning alleged FBI inquiries involving the family of Gabe Pasion, an Anakbayan activist. Pasion reportedly said during a press conference in Baltimore organized by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines that FBI personnel and the US Embassy in Manila had repeatedly contacted his family through phone calls, home visits and inquiries at their workplaces.His sister, Christina Pasion, was arrested in July following a raid on a suspected communist safehouse in Laguna.Cañada said the reported inquiries should prompt closer examination of possible recruitment and support networks allegedly operating under the banner of human rights and social justice advocacy. "The allegations reported by the NDFP reinforce the need to investigate whether organizations operating under the banner of human rights and social justice are being exploited as recruitment and support networks for the CPP-NPA," she said.Cañada said the reported FBI inquiries came months after the US Embassy issued a security advisory in May warning Americans against NPA recruitment and involvement in armed insurgency activities. She cited several cases involving Americans who allegedly became involved with the communist movement in the Philippines.In January, Filipino-American Chantal Anicoche of Maryland was recovered near an armed encounter in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro. She later acknowledged traveling to the Philippines intending to join the NPA and staying in an insurgent camp before her repatriation, according to NTF-ELCAC.Christina Pasion, who had traveled with Anicoche, reportedly remained with the communist movement for several more months before being arrested in July alongside a wanted NPA member. In April, American activists Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem, both linked to Anakbayan-USA, were among those killed during an armed encounter in Negros Occidental."These cases raise serious questions. Who recruited these young Americans? Who financed and facilitated their travel? What networks connected

them with armed insurgents and ultimately placed their lives in danger?" Cañada said.She called for closer cooperation between Philippine and American authorities to investigate possible recruitment, financing and logistical support networks operating across borders."The Philippine government stands ready to cooperate and share relevant intelligence with the FBI and other competent American authorities," she said.Cañada also urged Filipino-American families, particularly parents of young people seeking to reconnect with their Philippine roots through activism, to remain vigilant against what she described as deceptive recruitment disguised as human rights or social justice advocacy."No political ideology justifies sacrificing young lives on the altar of a dying, violent rebellion," she said.

- Hontiveros pushes tighter citizenship checks (2026-11-05 11:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros said reforms in the country's civil registration and citizenship verification systems are crucial to national security.During a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Thursday, Hontiveros cited the case of businessman Joseph Sy as an example of how weaknesses in the civil registration system can pose broader national security concerns.Sy, chairman of Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc. and a former chairman of a major mining company, came under scrutiny after the Bureau of Immigration (BI) found that his fingerprints matched those of Chinese Chen Zhong Zhen.The investigation seeks to establish whether Sy is Joseph Cue Sy, as stated in his Philippine birth certificate, or the Chinese identified through the fingerprint match. Hontiveros said Sy's birth was registered only when he was 41 years old, with authorities subsequently finding serious irregularities in the documents supporting his late registration.These included the absence of records of the purported marriage of his declared parents, certifications that Sy and his supposed parents were not residents of their declared barangay, and a residential address that was reportedly found to be a vacant lot.A baptismal certificate submitted to support his birth registration also could not be authenticated by the purported parish, while the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reportedly found no civil registry records for his supposed parents.Despite these red flags, the birth certificate was accepted into the country's civil registry.Hontiveros said that the consequences of questionable birth registrations extend beyond the issuance of a single government document, as birth certificates can serve as the foundation for obtaining Philippine passports, claiming citizenship rights, and accessing privileges reserved for Filipinos.These include eligibility to own land, participate in constitutionally restricted industries, and hold positions in institutions where nationality is a determining factor. In Sy's case, Hontiveros said that the businessman had become chairman of a major mining company and a member of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary.Hontiveros said the problem is also reflected in raids on illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), where foreign nationals have reportedly been found in possession of fraudulent Philippine identification documents."Every government document is ultimately an expression of trust. When the government declares that a person is Filipino, every other institution relies on that declaration. If the foundation of that identity can be manipulated, then the vulnerability does not end with the civil registry. It travels with that person throughout the entire government

system. That is the loop we intend to close today," she said.Sy was absent from Thursday's hearing after reportedly being rushed to the emergency room of Makati Medical Center, according to his lawyer, Alma Fernandez-Mallonga."Early this morning, Mr. Sy called me up to say that he was in the emergency room of Makati Medical Center. He had been feeling unwell since last night," Mallonga told the panel.She said Sy had prepared to attend the hearing and respected the Senate proceedings but was unable to do so because of his medical condition. Mallonga committed to submitting medical documents to support her client's absence. She also informed the panel that Sy had been released from immigration detention almost a month ago and had undergone surgical procedures.Sy was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in 2025 after arriving from Hong Kong. The reported fingerprint match subsequently raised questions about the authenticity of the documents supporting his claim to Filipino citizenship.

- NBI says ‘Bato’ still in PH, chances of locating him 'high' (2026-11-05 11:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday expressed confidence that authorities have a high chance of locating Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, citing intelligence reports indicating that the lawmaker remains in the Philippines.NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the bureau continues to gather information and is preparing possible operations in areas identified through intelligence reports. “I think with the information we're getting, the chances of locating him are quite high,” Matibag said in an ambush interview.Asked for an update on the search for dela Rosa, Matibag said the NBI was continuing its efforts and could launch operations in the coming days. “It’s still the same, but we may conduct operations anytime soon to eliminate the areas we have identified based on the intelligence reports we have gathered," he said.Asked whether the senator was believed to be hiding in Mindanao, Matibag declined to disclose details of his possible whereabouts. “I cannot tell. We have a strong belief that he is here in the Philippines,” the NBI chief said.

- Comelec sees 3M new voters (2026-11-05 10:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said Thursday it is expecting three million additional voters ahead of the 2028 national and local elections, with continuing voter registration set to begin on Nov. 10.Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia said the registration period would run nationwide until July 30, 2027, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. “We plan to be able to register around 3 million voters. Currently, we have 71 million voters, and we plan on an addition of 3 million. So we will have more or less 74 million voters in the 2028 National and Local Elections,” Garcia told reporters at the Comelec Main Office in Intramuros, Manila.The Comelec will launch the registration campaign at Luneta Park on Nov. 10, with activities scheduled for three days.Garcia warned candidates against vote-buying. “We will not hesitate to disqualify candidates or file appropriate cases against them,” he said, urging voters not to sell their votes.Garcia said the Comelec aims to complete the purging of the voters' list before the end of 2027 through its Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

• India in final-stage talks to expand missile sale to Philippines, sources say (2026-11-05 10:24)

NEW DELHI/MANILA — India is in final-stage talks to expand its sale of supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters, as New Delhi nears completion of deliveries under a 2022 deal.The Philippines is expected to buy about five BrahMos systems, nearly 60 missiles in total, in a deal potentially worth $700 million to $800 million, two of the Indian sources said."Manila has shown interest again to procure about 5 systems of the BrahMos and they now view India as a very reliable partner," one Indian source said.New Delhi's latest likely deal with the Philippines, which is modernizing its military and strengthening coastal defenses as tensions rise in the disputed South China Sea, is much higher than the last $375 million order of BrahMos for naval use.BrahMos, developed jointly by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles and can be launched from land, sea and air platforms.Arsenio Andolong, Philippines defense ministry spokesperson, told Reuters that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had expressed his desire to acquire additional BrahMos missiles. Andolong did not offer more details.Speaking virtually at the Delhi Defense Dialogue on Wednesday, Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the Philippines hoped to secure more BrahMos units and had shared a wish list with Indian authorities to make the system more tailored to the Philippine environment.Reuters is the first to report the size and value of the deal.The additional purchase comes at a time when Manila is building its military strength as tension escalates with Beijing on overlapping claims in the South China Sea, where the two countries have clashed in recent years.India's defense and foreign ministries, as well as missile maker BrahMos Aerospace, did not respond to requests for comment.Interest in the BrahMos system has increased since last year's four-day conflict between India and Pakistan, when India used the weapons system for the first time in battle.In July, Delhi announced the supply of BrahMos missiles to Indonesia and has also signed a deal with Vietnam. It is in talks on the system with a number of other countries including UAE, Thailand, South Africa and Brazil.India's defense exports for the fiscal year to March reached 384.24 billion rupees ($4.11 billion), a jump of more than 62% from the same period the year before, government data showed.

• PH authorities probe Markle Jr. (2026-11-05 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine authorities are investigating the possible involvement of Thomas Markle Jr. in a case involving thousands of explicit images and a video allegedly found in digital devices belonging to his father, American director Thomas Markle Sr.In a media interview at Camp Crame on Thursday, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said investigators are treating the younger Markle as a person of interest (POI) after receiving information that minors were allegedly brought to his residence in Cebu.Remulla stressed that Markle Jr. is not a suspect as authorities continue to validate the information. “There are signs that point to the son being involved in the crime as well, but only as a person of interest, so far, he is not treated as a suspect,” he said.He said around 7,500 photographs and one video depicting the alleged sexual abuse of underage boys and girls of Asian, Latina and European descent as well as

Filipino-looking victims were discovered in the older Markle’s devices. Some of the children in the video were estimated to be only 10 to 11 years old.The investigation began after Markle Jr. discovered the materials while searching for a cellphone at a friend's house in Cordova, Cebu, where his father's belongings had been left. He subsequently turned over the digital devices to authorities.Remulla described the recovered materials as among the most disturbing cases he had encountered, but said investigators have yet to establish whether the devices and contents indeed belonged to Markle Sr.The elder Markle, father of Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle, lived in a high-rise apartment in Cebu City from January 2025 until May 2026. He returned to the United States in May for medical treatment and a prosthetic limb after suffering a severe blood clot in late 2025 that led to the amputation of his left leg below the knee.Authorities are also seeking assistance from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation in determining the ownership of six mobile phones that originated from the US. Remulla said investigators expect to obtain developments in the case in the coming days as they continue examining the recovered devices and validating information on the possible involvement of the younger Markle.

• Drought to hit several provinces this month because of ‘very strong’ El Niño — Pagasa (2026-11-05 09:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Several provinces are expected to be hit by drought this month because of the super El Niño that has developed in the tropical Pacific, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said."A very strong El Niño is currently present in the tropical Pacific and is expected to persist until the first half of 2027, potentially reaching its peak by the end of 2026," Pagasa said in a statement on Thursday."For November 2026, below normal to way below normal rainfall is expected over most parts of the country, with several provinces likely to experience meteorological drought/dry spell conditions by the end of the month," it said."Warmer than average mean air temperatures are also expected across most parts of the country," it said.Expected to experience drought in november are Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Capiz, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Siquijor and Misamis Oriental.Many provinces in Luzon, including Metro Manila, will experience dry spells.

• Animal Kingdom Foundation recovers 46 sacks of animal remains in Bulacan site (2026-11-05 07:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) on Thursday recovered 46 sacks of animal remains at a dump site in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.In a Facebook post, AKF said the site is in Barangay Gaya-Gaya. “So far, 46 sacks containing animal remains have been recovered at the site. However, the exact number of animals remains undetermined, as multiple animals were found inside some sacks,” AKF said. “The remains are already in an advanced stage of decomposition. No identification tags or other identifying information were found, only the sacks containing the remains,” it added.The development came after 29 dead cats and dogs were discovered wrapped in plastic bags at a vacant lot in Barangay Minuyan in

San Jose del Monte.

• Almost 28k former rebels given aid — Palace (2026-11-05 06:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 28,000 former rebels and their dependents have returned to the fold of the law since July 2022 and received P1 billion in government assistance to rebuild their lives, Malacañang said on Thursday.The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said that 27,897 former rebels and their dependents received livelihood opportunities, education, and other government aid.The administration continues to pursue reintegration and community development initiatives aimed at providing former rebels and their families with opportunities to contribute to lasting peace, the Palace said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday convened the 10th NTF-Elcac Executive Committee Meeting to review government efforts toward lasting peace and development in conflict-affected communities.The meeting assessed the task force's accomplishments and the implementation of programs under the National Action Plan on Unity, Peace, and Development 2025–2028, the Palace said in a statement.The president directed concerned government agencies to prioritize the transformation program, which provides livelihood opportunities, educational assistance and other support to help former rebels reintegrate into their communities.Under the Barangay Development Program, the government has allocated P44.9 billion for development projects covering 5,638 of the 9,750 identified isolated areas.These projects include 978 classrooms, 1,601 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, 1,182 water and sanitation systems, and 556 health stations, benefiting an estimated 16.08 million Filipinos.The reintegration efforts form part of the administration's broader peace and development agenda, which seeks to address the socioeconomic conditions in conflict-affected communities through improved access to basic services and sustainable livelihoods.The program also extends assistance to their families, with at least 3,911 dependents receiving scholarships under the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Educational Assistance Program.

• Marcos names Rodil Zalameda new chief justice (2026-11-05 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda has been selected as the next chief justice to succeed Alexander Gesmundo, who will retire on Friday, Malacañang announced on Thursday.Zalameda will be the country's 28th chief justice."Today, I am pleased to announce that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda to serve as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, succeeding Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, who is set to retire tomorrow, November 6," Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano said."In selecting Justice Zalameda, the President recognizes the importance of experienced and principled leadership in preserving public confidence in our judicial institutions," he said.The President expressed his confidence that Zalameda will "discharge the responsibilities of chief justice with integrity, impartiality, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law," Cayetano added.

• LRMC opens 24/7 parking facility at LRT-1 (2026-11-05 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC), the private operator of the Light Railway Transit (LRT-1), has opened a 24/7 paid parking facility at its Dr. Santos Station in Parañaque City, enhancing its push for seamless multi-modal transit.The parking facility will allow commuters to leave their vehicles safely and skip the vehicular traffic, LRMC President and CEO Enrico Benipayo said.Benipayo said the facility supports the Department of Transportation's "Park and Ride" and "Road to Rail" initiatives by giving commuters from southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces direct access to the LRT-1 network.Operated by third-party partner GlobalParking Management Inc. under an agreement with LRMC, the lot accommodates four-wheel and two-wheel vehicles, offering 93 slots for cars and SUVs and 100 slots for motorcycles.The facility runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and features CCTV (closed-circuit television) surveillance, an automated boom gate system, and on-site parking attendants. Payments may be made in cash."Our goal at LRMC is to provide holistic mobility solutions that go beyond train operations. By providing a safe, accessible, and well-managed parking space, we are empowering commuters to easily transition from private vehicles to efficient rail transport," Benipayo said."This facility bridges road and rail transportation, making daily commutes faster, safer, and more convenient for everyone," he added.The LRMC said four-wheeled vehicles are charged P40 for the first five hours, with succeeding hours at P10 each while motorcycles and e-bikes pay a flat rate of P30 for the first eight hours, followed by P5 for each succeeding hour.An overnight rate of P100 applies to vehicles parked between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.Parking is free for persons with disabilities and senior citizens upon presentation of a valid identification card.

- SC allows video testimony, recorded interviews to spare child witnesses from courtroom trauma (2026-11-05 04:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) has revamped its rules on examining child witnesses, allowing video-link testimonies, recorded depositions and professionally conducted interviews to spare children from repeatedly reliving traumatic experiences in court.Under the Revised Rule on the Examination of Child Witnesses (RRECW), approved by the court en banc on June 17, 2026 but only announced Wednesday, courts may allow children to testify through videoconferencing from outside the courtroom when appearing in person is likely to cause them further trauma.The new rules also allow electronically recorded depositions and recorded interviews conducted by trained professionals to be presented as evidence, subject to safeguards protecting the rights of the accused and other parties.In announcing the revised rules, the SC said the changes aim to make court proceedings more child-friendly while ensuring that children's voices are heard without exposing them to unnecessary psychological harm.Under the rules, judges may limit the people a child witness can see and hear during testimony, including the accused, while preserving the latter's constitutional right to confront witnesses.If identification of the accused is necessary, the accused may briefly appear on camera or be identified by the child through an image displayed on screen.Children who cannot testify in court or through videoconferencing because of disability, health concerns or other circumstances may instead give an electronically recorded deposition in the presence of the

judge and lawyers from both sides. The recording may be used in place of their actual courtroom testimony.The revised rules also recognize recorded interviews conducted by a team of professionals as evidence, reducing the need for children to repeatedly recount painful incidents.

• Marcos leads first gas delivery from new Malampaya wells (2026-11-05 04:39)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the first delivery of natural gas from Malampaya's newly developed offshore wells in Batangas City.Speaking at the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant on Thursday, Marcos said the new wells would help move the Philippines closer to energy independence. "Maximizing the use of Malampaya gas could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices," he said in his speech.

• Padilla, Tulfo statistically tied — survey (2026-11-05 04:10)

MANILA, Philippines — If the elections were held today, Senators Robin Padilla and Raffy Tulfo would be statistically tied in the vice presidential race, a survey by Momentum Research showed.Padilla's support rose to 20 percent in October from 15 percent in August, while Tulfo's dropped to 18 percent from 25 percent during the same period, the October 2026 National Momentum Survey revealed.Sen. Bong Go maintained his 14 percent support, while Sen. Rodante Marcoleta remained at 9 percent.Sen. Bam Aquino gained two percentage points to 10 percent, while Sen. Kiko Pangilinan more than doubled his support from 3 percent to 7 percent.Sen. Risa Hontiveros, meanwhile, slipped from 8 percent to 6 percent.The survey also found that 7 percent of respondents were undecided, while 2 percent declined to disclose their preferred vice presidential candidate.In September, Padilla said that he no longer planned to seek public office in 2028.Tulfo and Aquino have also ruled out seeking the vice presidency, with Tulfo saying he intends to run for reelection.The survey results showed a sharp regional divide in voter preferences, with Padilla dominating Mindanao while Tulfo led in the rest of Luzon.

• Tulfo retracts claim on Romualdez: I was fed wrong info (2026-11-05 03:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Journalist Ramon Tulfo on Thursday retracted his claim that former speaker Martin Romualdez has been sneaking out of jail. "I was fed the wrong report that former speaker Martin Romualdez could go in and out of jail," Tulfo said in a Facebook post. He admitted that one of the most embarrassing and humiliating experiences of a journalist is spreading wrong information.Reports that Romualdez has been going out of the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory prompted the Sandiganbayan Third Division to order the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to review CCTV footage and account for his whereabouts from the time he was brought to jail until Nov. 4.The bureau was directed to submit a notarized report by Monday, Nov. 9, along with CCTV maintenance records, access logs, records of possible footage alterations, power interruptions, vehicle movements and ambulance use. "Accused Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez shall not be moved, removed, transferred and/or otherwise be released from his detention at the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory unless ordered by the court," the

Sandiganbayan said.

• VP defense team respects Sarmiento’s decision not to testify in impeachment trial (2026-11-05 02:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte said it respects the decision of law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento declining their invitation for him to serve as a defense witness in her impeachment trial.Michael Poa, spokesman for the Vice President’s defense camp, said that they would honor the legal scholar’s decision. This development follows a manifestation filed by the defense on Wednesday requesting the Senate Impeachment Court to issue a subpoena duces tecum and subpoena testificandum to Sarmiento, a respected faculty member of political and constitutional law at the University of St. La Salle (USLS) College of Law and its former vice chancellor for administration.The defense planned to make Sarmiento as its anchor witness for November 9 to testify on the foundational constitutional principles relevant to Article II of the impeachment complaint, which focuses on allegations of unexplained wealth against Vice President Duterte.However, Sarmiento declined the invitation, citing a desire to protect his academic freedom. In a statement, he thanked the defense team for recognizing his work but noted that he never anticipated his digital commentary becoming part of an actual impeachment trial.Sarmiento has a substantial online footprint, commanding over 318,000 followers on Facebook, where he frequently posts balanced analyses, including recent commentary emphasizing the need for procedural fairness after the prosecution dropped three out of four charges against Duterte."After careful consideration, I have decided to decline participation as a witness in the proceedings," Sarmiento stated. "This is a personal decision to preserve the independence of my constitutional law scholarship and the impartiality of my legal views and opinions."Sarmiento added that he has reached out to the defense to request that they withdraw their motion for a subpoena, or move for its immediate recall if the court has already issued it. He maintained that he remains fully committed to fostering public understanding of the Constitution through an independent lens.Poa extended the defense team's gratitude for Sarmiento's initial consideration.

• Pangilinan pushes expanded agricultural insurance protection for famers, fisherfolk (2026-11-05 02:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan is pushing for stronger and more comprehensive agricultural insurance protection for farmers and fisherfolk through a measure seeking to expand insurance coverage and ensure the continued operation of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 2583 on Oct. 29, proposing to strengthen the PCIC by extending its corporate term and its insurance services through further amendments to Presidential Decree No. 1467.The measure seeks to bolster the agricultural sector’s resilience against climate-related risks, particularly with the looming threat of a strong El Niño that could trigger severe drought, disrupt agricultural production, and jeopardize the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk, as well as the country’s food security. “Agricultural insurance protects farmers and fisherfolk against losses, supports continued production, and

facilitates access to financing. Strengthening and modernizing the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) is therefore essential to making insurance protection more accessible, responsive, and sustainable," Pangilinan said in the bill's explanatory note.Citing Philippine Statistics Authority data, he noted that poverty incidence among farmers and fisherfolk reached 27 percent and 27.4 percent, respectively, in 2023, highlighting the need for stronger government support for these vulnerable sectors.He said that agricultural insurance serves as a critical safety net, helping farmers and fisherfolk recover from losses caused by natural calamities, climate-related disruptions, and other agricultural risks. It also helps sustain food production and improves their access to credit.Under the measure, the PCIC's insurance coverage would be expanded to cover a broader range of agricultural commodities and assets, including palay, corn, high-value crops, livestock, aquaculture and fishery products, agroforestry crops, and forest plantations.Coverage would also extend to agricultural machinery, equipment, transport facilities, and infrastructure.The bill likewise seeks to strengthen the PCIC's authority to provide life and accident term insurance coverage for farmers and fisherfolk.

- DOTr deploys 20 buses to ease LRT-2 congestion (2026-11-05 01:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has deployed 20 buses to give Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) commuters an alternative during rush hour.The buses will initially serve commuters traveling from Antipolo City in Rizal to Cubao, Quezon City and Legarda, including students heading to schools and universities in Manila, DOTr Secretary Vince Dizon said on Thursday.The initiative aimed to ease pressure on the LRT-2, which has been unable to accommodate thousands of passengers because of its limited number of operational trains, Dizon said.Under the trial arrangement, the regular fare from Antipolo to Legarda, originally P80, was reduced by 20 percent to P66. Students will pay P55.The bus deployment was a temporary measure while the government works on longer-term solutions to the LRT-2's operational problems, said Dizon, a former Department of Public Works and Highways chief.During Wednesday's inspection at the Masinag station in Antipolo, Dizon said around 4,000 passengers during the 6 to 8 a.m. peak period could not be served by the rail line.The DOTr chief noted that commuters sometimes had to wait 30 to 45 minutes in line before boarding a train. Only 10 trains are operational and that number could decline further when some break down.Dizon attributed the shortage to years of inadequate maintenance and funding, noting that the trains are 25 to 27 years old and have not been replaced.Buying new trains would not immediately solve the problem, as delivery could take three to four years and the government has yet to allocate funds for the purchase."We cannot solve this overnight. I apologize to our commuters because this is not an easy problem to address," Dizon said.The DOTr is also studying the possibility of establishing a busway-style system along Marcos Highway in Rizal to make trips faster.

- DepEd reports improved reading levels under ARAL program (2026-11-04 19:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) reported a decrease from 6.7 million to 4.5 million in the number of learners with reading difficulties under its Academic

Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) program.Education Secretary Sonny Angara said that the results were encouraging after one year of implementation."From 6.7 million, it became 4.5 million whose reading levels improved. So it's very encouraging and that's only after one year," Angara said in Filipino and English during an interview after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Iloilo Numeracy and Literacy Expo at Punta Villa Resort in Iloilo on Wednesday. Angara said that the ARAL program was intended to address learning deficiencies so that difficulties in reading would not carry over from one school year to another.He also said that DepEd had issued policy guidelines on weather conditions, providing for alternative learning modes when temperatures become too high.On classroom construction, Angara said local governments in Iloilo were providing funds to complement the national government's assistance, adding that the classroom deficit was decreasing in Iloilo and Panay.

- Sotto pushes rules to address prolonged absences of senators (2026-11-04 18:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente Sotto III is seeking clearer rules to address senators who remain absent from their duties for extended periods without authorization, saying prolonged absenteeism undermines public accountability and wastes taxpayers' money.In Senate Resolution No. 751, filed on Oct. 27, Sotto urged the Senate Committee on Rules to review existing regulations and establish mechanisms for addressing prolonged unauthorized absences among Senate members.Sotto said the measure seeks to address a gap in the chamber's existing rules, particularly when a senator's extended absence affects the performance of legislative functions."As public servants elected by the Filipino people and whose salaries and allowances are derived from the taxes they have paid, we owe it to them to perform our duties with diligence and to represent them in the legislative framework," Sotto said in the resolution.He invoked the constitutional principle that public office is a public trust, stressing that government officials must remain accountable to the people and discharge their responsibilities with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency.Sotto noted that prolonged absenteeism and alleged neglect of duty had become matters of public concern, with complaints against some senators already filed before the chamber's Committee on Ethics."Such absenteeism and neglect of duty is deemed a waste of taxpayer funds and has caused public clamor over the past months," he said.Sotto said the Senate must revisit its rules to determine the appropriate response to prolonged unauthorized absences and ensure that senators meet the standards of public service expected of them."There is a need to revisit the current Rules of the Senate to study the best possible approach as regards the issue of prolonged unauthorized absence of the members of the Senate with the view of ensuring highest standards of public service commensurate to the trust reposed by the electorate," he said."No less than the 1987 Constitution has pronounced that public office is public trust and that all public officials and employees must at all times be accountable to the people they serve and must serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency," he added.

- Jail officials quizzed on Romualdez report (2026-11-04 16:21)

THE Sandiganbayan 3rd Division has summoned two jail officials to testify on Thursday on the custody of former speaker Martin Romualdez following reports alleging he had been secretly leaving his detention facility.Clerk of Court for the 3rd Division, Dennis Pulma, told The Manila Times on Wednesday that the court ordered Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion and medical officer Henry Fabro of the Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory in Payatas, Quezon City, to "personally appear and testify" at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 5."In light of the recent online news articles," the court issued the resolution to establish the "current status of accused Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez's custody at BJMP Payatas," Pulma said, referring to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).The summons followed allegations that Romualdez had been leaving jail without authorization. The BJMP has launched an investigation and said its initial closed-circuit television (CCTV) review found no recorded movement by Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined.The BJMP has launched an investigation into the claims, but BJMP chief JDIR Efren Nemeño said initial CCTV reviews showed no recorded power interruption at the Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory or any recorded movement of the lawmaker inside his cell."Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or CCTV interruption at the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory, and no recorded movement of Rep. Martin Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined," the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.The investigation came after columnist Ramon Tulfo claimed on social media that Romualdez is secretly leaving and returning to the jail through a backdoor arrangement designed to keep his movements hidden.Tulfo said an asset he called "Tweety Bird" alleged that Romualdez uses a staircase while the facility's electricity is intentionally cut to prevent CCTV cameras from capturing his movements.The former speaker supposedly takes the backdoor stairs where an ambulance is waiting for him — a movement Tulfo alleged was also done by former senator Bong Revilla as well as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who have both been committed to the same facility due over the flood control scandal.A CCTV clip sent to The Manila Times dated Nov. 4 showed Romualdez was inside the detention center wearing the yellow shirt for persons deprived of liberty on that day.In his post, Tulfo did not mention any particular date when the former speaker supposedly sneaked out, but the BJMP conducted a thorough CCTV review since September to confirm the allegations.Romualdez was committed to the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory since Sept. 14 over his alleged connection to the flood control controversy.Bustinera reiterated that CCTV monitoring remained fully operational with no unrecorded movement or power outages recorded.The BJMP said it takes such allegations seriously but reiterated that "all PDL (person deprived of liberty) are subject to the same custodial rules and that any movement outside the jail requires a proper court order." "We welcome relevant information from the public and will cooperate with any investigation by other government agencies," the agency said.The BJMP also assured the public of professionalism, transparency and commitment to equal treatment of all PDLs "without distinction or special privilege."

- 'VP defense team has no defense vs bank records' (2026-11-04 16:20)

THE defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is “defenseless,” a member of the House prosecution team said on Wednesday.Trial spokesman and former Surigao del Norte representative Robert Ace Barbers made the assertion as he reiterated that Duterte’s counsels would be hard-pressed to counter evidence presented by the prosecution when the materials themselves came from the vice president’s camp.“The defense is defenseless. In other words, how can you refute the evidence presented by the prosecution — given that the very documents submitted actually originated from the defense camp itself?” Barbers said in Filipino in a press conference.“Bank records will never lie. I don’t think the bank managers will deny the existence of outstanding balances they reported before the impeachment court to controvert what the prosecution team laid down,” he added.The former lawmaker also noted that the panel already expected the defense team to object to its formal offer of evidence.In its comment before the Senate Impeachment Court, Duterte’s defense team sought to exclude key documentary evidence, including records from the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Anti-Money Laundering Council, citing technical defects, lack of witness authentication and failure to establish a direct link to impeachable offenses.“We already expected that they would do that. They will attack the technicality of the trial. They will attack the documents that we have presented as evidence,” Barbers said.“They will attack that. They will say it’s wrong, that it’s not allowed — simply because they have no counterargument,” he added.The panel has withdrawn three of the four Articles of Impeachment against the vice president, leaving only Article II, which accuses Duterte of amassing unexplained wealth disproportionate to her lawful income, failing to truthfully disclose her assets and liabilities in her SALNs (statements of assets, liabilities and net worth) and maintaining prohibited business interests.One of the panel’s witnesses, forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera, earlier identified about P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed.“The evidence is substantial, and it is extremely difficult to refute or disprove — not least because it consists of actual documents, which cannot lie; this is not evidence that could have been fabricated,” Barbers said.“So, once again, I would like to say that it will be difficult for the defense to challenge, or perhaps even rebut, the evidence we have presented,” he added.The impeachment proceedings will resume on Nov. 9, with the Duterte defense team reportedly out to present 90 witnesses.Barbers argued that the opposing side cannot simply overwhelm the proceedings with witnesses, lengthy arguments or procedural objections while leaving fundamental questions about the vice president’s declared wealth, income, assets and financial transactions unanswered. “The number of witnesses is not the measure of the truth. What matters is whether they can address the documents and figures presented by the prosecution,” he said.Duterte, he said, must explain whether her declared income reasonably accounts for the accumulation of her wealth and whether all business interests, investments and other financial holdings were properly disclosed.“If all transactions were proper and above board, every figure should be explainable. Simply denying or casting doubt on the documents is not enough. These must be addressed with clear, concrete explanations and evidence,” Barbers said.“The defense has the right to defend their client,

but this process should not be used as an excuse to evade serious questions that need to be answered," he added.

- PNP vows 'Bato' arrest despite his police ties (2026-11-04 16:19)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) reiterated their unwavering vow to implement the arrest warrant against Sen. Ronald dela Rosa regardless of his ties with the law enforcement agency he once led and served almost all his life. "Our chief PNP made it abundantly clear that we will not allow any hindrance, regardless of the person's position or previous public position, we will do our duty, we will implement the warrant of arrest," Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, said in a press briefing.The PNP's answer came following the challenge issued by Palace Press Secretary Claire Castro to PNP chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. to pursue the arrest of dela Rosa despite his historical connections.Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity for his role in the bloody war on drugs, when he was then-president Rodrigo Duterte's PNP chief.Castro made the challenge following Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla's pronouncement that dela Rosa's connection as former PNP chief and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy are making his arrest more difficult. "We understand that this is not a matter of personal discretion or political consideration. The PNP does not play politics. We remain true to our oath of fulfilling our duty within the law," Co said.Remulla repeatedly said that dela Rosa is being coddled by a powerful armed group whom the government would rather negotiate with than risk 10,000 just for the arrest of one man.While not divulging the results of the negotiations, the government has issued a P50-million bounty for information leading to the arrest of dela Rosa, tagged him as "armed and dangerous," and gave him a week to surrender.The week has passed with no surrender or feelers from the fugitive senator. His camp, through his lawyer, even renewed their petition before the Supreme Court to block the ICC arrest citing recent developments such as the bounty and the armed and dangerous tag as dangers to his life.Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief himself, said the PNP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government should refrain from divulging information on manhunts.The PNP expressed agreement with Lacson's statement and maintained that indeed, they are keeping the integrity of operational details.Lacson on Wednesday said that Philippine courts must be respected and local legal procedures observed if dela Rosa is arrested.Lacson said dela Rosa should be placed under the custody of a Philippine court, even in a ministerial capacity, if authorities apprehend him so he can avail himself of all legal remedies available under Philippine law, including recourse to the Supreme Court. "That's part of due process — if he is arrested, he may be placed under the custody of a local court where he can avail of all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of the law," Lacson said in an interview on radio DZMM.He cited Section 17 of Republic Act 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity, which establishes the country's jurisdiction over persons suspected or accused of crimes covered by the law under specified circumstances.These include cases in which the accused is a Filipino citizen, is present in the Philippines regardless of citizenship or residence, or has

committed the alleged crime against a Filipino citizen.However, the law also allows Philippine authorities, in the interest of justice, to defer investigation or prosecution when another court or international tribunal is already investigating or prosecuting the same crime. Authorities may instead surrender or extradite the accused to the appropriate international court or another state, subject to applicable laws and treaties.Lacson also cited Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, which provides that a case may be deemed inadmissible before the ICC if it is being investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it, unless that state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the proceedings.The same provision covers cases in which a state has investigated an alleged crime but decided not to prosecute, unless the decision resulted from its unwillingness or inability to genuinely pursue the case.

- Duterte lead over Robredo narrows to 7 points – OCTA (2026-11-04 16:18)

VICE President Sara Duterte's lead over former vice president and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup has narrowed to 7 percentage points, the smallest recorded by OCTA Research in its 2026 surveys.Duterte obtained 40 percent against Robredo's 33 percent in the third-quarter 2026 Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos nationwide.The seven-point margin was down from 11 points in the first quarter, when Duterte registered 46 percent against Robredo's 35 percent, and nine points in the second quarter, when the figures stood at 43 percent and 34 percent, respectively.OCTA said Duterte's preference had declined by 6 percentage points over the three survey rounds, while Robredo's remained relatively stable, ranging from 33 percent to 35 percent.The proportion of respondents who chose neither candidate or did not know whom to vote for rose to 26 percent in the latest survey, from 22 percent in the second quarter and 19 percent in the first quarter.The growing undecided bloc suggests that voters moving away from Duterte have not necessarily shifted their preference to Robredo, OCTA said.Despite the narrowing margin, Duterte remained ahead nationally, with her seven-point lead outside the survey's plus-or-minus 3-percentage-point margin of error.The survey results also showed significant regional differences in the hypothetical matchup.Robredo led Duterte in the National Capital Region, with 39 percent against 32 percent, and in Balance Luzon, where she received 49 percent against Duterte's 24 percent.Duterte, meanwhile, maintained a commanding lead in Mindanao, with 71 percent against Robredo's 2 percent. She also led in Visayas, 46 percent to 27 percent.By socioeconomic grouping, Robredo led among Class ABC respondents, with 40 percent against Duterte's 32 percent.She also made an 11-point gain among Class E respondents, rising from 31 percent in the second quarter to 42 percent in the latest survey, while Duterte's preference fell from 51 percent to 41 percent.OCTA said the two were statistically tied in Class E, although the relatively small sample of 109 respondents warranted caution in interpreting the results.Duterte continued to lead in Class D, which accounts for roughly 4 in 5 adult Filipinos, with 41 percent against Robredo's 31 percent. Twenty-eight percent in this group were undecided.The survey also showed Robredo narrowly leading among women, 38 percent to 35 percent, and urban residents, 38 percent to 35 percent. Duterte led among men, 45 percent to 28 percent, and rural residents, 47 percent to 25

percent.Duterte maintained her advantage among voters below 45 years old, while Robredo held narrow leads among those aged 45 and older.OCTA said the findings should be treated as an early measure of public sentiment rather than a prediction of the May 2028 elections.The survey was conducted while Duterte's impeachment trial was ongoing. However, OCTA cautioned that its findings did not establish whether the proceedings influenced respondents' voting preferences.Robredo has repeatedly said she would not seek national office in 2028 and was likely to pursue another term as Naga City mayor.OCTA noted that the hypothetical matchup therefore measured Robredo's standing among voters rather than support for an actual presidential candidacy.The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

- Democrats win US Congress in midterm rout of Trump (2026-11-04 16:18)

WASHINGTON D.C. — Democrats seized control of the United States Congress on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his presidency.The Democratic landslide will give the opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Trump's administration, and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.The results reflected deep anger over living costs, tariffs and Trump's war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring and compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular president. "I'm just so happy. I'm so eager," 22-year-old paralegal Michael Diaz said in Georgia, celebrating a big win by rising Democratic star Jon Ossoff in the Senate.Trump struck a conciliatory note despite his history of questioning elections, telling The New York Times he was "absolutely willing" to accept the results. "I think the Democrats did a good job, I really do," the 80-year-old told Fox News, in rare praise for his political opponents. "They fought hard."But he sought to distance himself from his own party's poor showing, adding that "I don't view it as a hit on me."He acknowledged that the Iran conflict had contributed to the defeat, while defending the military campaign, and he suggested the rival parties could find common ground on immigration, long one of the most divisive issues of his presidency.Republican heartlandAs Trump was conceding, the scale of the Democratic victory grew further when former logger Troy Jackson defeated longtime Republican senator Susan Collins in Maine, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans.Earlier breakthroughs in Kansas and Iowa had clinched the Senate majority for Democrats, following stunning victories in Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina and Ohio.In Kansas, Methodist minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative state since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic senator since 2008.Texas Democrat James Talarico declared he had defeated "Goliath" in winning a Senate seat while Gina Hinojosa unseated the state's Republican governor Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule.Democrats also protected key Senate seats of their own, including Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.The party's House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina and New Jersey, including districts Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.In one closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford

ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Trump won by 17 points two years earlier.Democrats also won Georgia's governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in US history.Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat — but only after seeing off surprisingly strong Democratic challenges.The night was "a big wipeout and a strong repudiation of Donald Trump and his policies," George Washington University professor Todd Belt told Agence France-Presse (AFP).Trump on defensiveDemocratic control of Congress will allow the party to pursue investigations into the Iran war, immigration enforcement and allegations of corruption, while blocking Trump's legislation and senior appointments.Robert Garcia, now expected to lead the powerful House Oversight Committee, warned Republicans on social media: "LAWYER UP." House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Trump's MAGA movement "on the run from sea to shining sea." Jeffries could become the first Black speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January.Despite his conciliatory remarks, Trump also insisted on social media that Republicans would have won "IN A LANDSLIDE" if he had been running, after repeatedly urging supporters throughout the campaign to "pretend I'm on the ballot." He also repeated his threat to use the presidential veto on Democratic-passed laws, posting a picture on social media of a red baseball cap reading just: "VETO."

- P555M fine vs Move It for 'ghost riders' hailed (2026-11-04 16:17)

A BROAD coalition of consumer, transport, legal and motorcycle rider groups has commended the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for slapping Move It with a P555.75-million fine over "ghost riders" that exceeded its authorized allocation.The group vowed on Wednesday to keep a close watch on how the penalty is enforced while pressing for stronger safeguards for commuter safety and rider livelihoods.The groups backing the statement are the National Confederation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Nactodap); National Public Transport Coalition (NPTC); Digital Pinoys; Lawyers for Commuters' Safety and Protection; Kapatiran ng Dalawang Gulong (Kagulong); Motorcycle Taxi Rider Organization (Metro); Samahang Manibela Mananakay at Nagkaisang Terminal ng Transportasyon (Manibela); and Pilipino Society and Development Advocates for Commuters and Consumers.The LTFRB in its Oct. 9 decision found that Move It had 73,321 active riders on its platform against an authorized allocation of only 17,746 — an excess of 55,575 riders. "We previously filed a case against the excessive number of motorcycle taxis affecting the livelihood of tricycle drivers. Now, it has been proven that what we were fighting for was right," said Ariel Lim of NPTC and Nactodap in a press briefing.The coalition raised concerns over how mandatory rider accreditation, training and safety standards were verified given the scale of the excess onboarding cited by the LTFRB. "For commuters, the question is not simply motorcycle availability during rush hour. It is whether every rider is properly documented, trained and safe to provide the service," said Ronald Gustilo, Digital Pinoys national campaigner. "Safety and commuter protection cannot be set aside just to meet demand," Gustilo added.The coalition

also recalled the earlier controversy over government fuel assistance when discrepancies in rider and driver records forced the Department of Social Welfare and Development to conduct additional verification. “We have long questioned the overboarding and its impact on commuter safety. Public funds are also at stake when the records used in distributing aid are inaccurate. We must ensure that assistance goes to legitimate beneficiaries,” Gustilo said.Metro said ordinary riders should not be held responsible for onboarding decisions made by platform management. “For our fellow MC Taxi riders, we all ride to earn a decent living and bring something home to our families. It was not the riders who made the decisions on how many the company should onboard,” said Jayson Luna, Metro’s lead convenor.Don Pangan, Kagulong secretary-general, emphasized the need to shield rider livelihoods. “If a platform exceeds its authorized rider allocation, the company should explain and be held accountable. Riders should not be used as a shield for the company’s decisions and violations,” Pangan said.Manibela likewise emphasized that adherence to existing regulations is indispensable to the legitimacy of motorcycle taxi operations. “How can a sector become fully legal if, even now, the rules are not being followed? It must be clear that compliance with the law is everyone’s obligation, without exception,” said Mar Valbuena, Manibela chairman.The groups said they would closely track the LTFRB’s and the Department of Transportation’s next moves in enforcing the fine, urging transparent and consistent action that holds operators accountable, protects commuters and avoids unfairly penalizing ordinary riders.The LTFRB said that Move It filed a motion for reconsideration before the bureau. “What the agency is focused on is addressing the plight of the thousands of overboarded riders who invested their own resources to earn a decent living — and whose only fault was that they acted in good faith and trusted that they were allowed to operate under the existing rules and regulations,” acting LTFRB Chairman Greg Pua Jr. said.He said the LTFRB is currently crafting measures in dealing with the issue in relation to the affected riders while ensuring that the online boarding system of ride-hailing services is strictly complying with the government’s regulations.

- Marcos to name next chief justice this week (2026-11-04 16:16)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will announce this week the successor to Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who is set to retire on Friday, Malacañang said on Wednesday.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said all of the contenders for the top judiciary position “have their own strengths and their own integrity.” “Don’t worry, the next chief justice will be announced this week. We will not preempt our president.” The Judicial and Bar Council shortlisted five Supreme Court associate justices to succeed Gesmundo. They are Marvic Leonen, Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Rodil Zalameda, Japar Dimaampao and Jose Midas Marquez.In a letter to the president dated Oct. 14, former Chief Justice Reynato Puno endorsed Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez for the top post in the judiciary.Puno said Marquez’s extensive administrative background, familiarity with the Supreme Court’s internal operations and experience coordinating with other branches of government make him a strong candidate to lead the judiciary.Puno, who served as chief justice from December 2006 to 2010, said he had personally witnessed Marquez’s work

ethic and professional competence during his 17 years at the Supreme Court.When Puno assumed the chief justice post in December 2006, Marquez served as his chief of staff while concurrently holding key positions as assistant court administrator, head of the Public Information Office and Supreme Court spokesman.Puno said Marquez performed these responsibilities with consistent excellence.Marquez has served the Supreme Court for 30 years, including about 12 years as court administrator before becoming an associate justice five years ago.” More than any aspirant, Justice Marquez is most familiar with how the Supreme Court works, especially its internal processes,” he added.Beyond his experience within the judiciary, Puno highlighted Marquez’s exposure to inter-branch relations through assignments that required him to coordinate with officials of the executive and legislative departments.

- House checks delivery of P6.2B El Niño aid (2026-11-04 16:15)

THE House of Representatives’ Committee on Agriculture and Food continued its inquiry on Wednesday into government preparations and responses to El Niño, including the distribution of the P6.2 billion in aid to 310,000 farmers and fisherfolk.” We must verify whether field disbursements in hit regions are reaching intended beneficiaries,” the panel’s head, Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, said, pertaining to the assistance under the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food and Transport program.The committee is examining the P371-million shortfall for interventions such as cloud seeding and measures to combat pests threatening sugarcane production.The Department of Agriculture (DA) has proposed a consolidated P61.99-billion action plan, which lawmakers are assessing for its capacity to protect agricultural communities.Enverga emphasized the immediacy of the need.” Our farmers and fisherfolk can no longer afford to wait. We are asking all agencies attending today to provide clear and honest answers so we can immediately deliver swift and targeted assistance to the agricultural sector,” he said.Sultan Kudarat Rep. Bella Vanessa Suansing, who introduced House Resolution 967, said Wednesday’s hearing should establish what has been accomplished since the issue was discussed in June.She sought updates on Republic Act 12287, or the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act, particularly whether disaster declarations had led to the release of funds for preventive measures.” We hope to hear from the DA on updates to its commitments from last June, as well as its plans and mandate to provide alternative sources of income and livelihood for our farmers and fisherfolk,” Suansing said.At the Senate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday to establish an online public accountability dashboard to track government spending and the delivery of interventions on El Niño.” I call on the President to direct the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), through OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the concerned agencies, to maintain a single, coordinated El Niño action plan with named leads, measurable targets, and regular public reporting,” Pangilinan said.” The backbone of all these efforts is the proper use of taxpayers’ money. The public must know clearly where the funds are going, what the government is doing, and what results these measures are achieving,” he added.Meanwhile, Malacañang said it has ordered the pre-positioning of irrigation pipes and solar-powered water pumps for farmers expected to be affected by the super El Niño.This comes after the Philippine

Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that 12 areas may experience drought by the end of November, particularly Nueva Vizcaya and other parts of Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).” Our fellow citizens in Nueva Vizcaya need not worry, as preparations are indeed being made for the effects of El Niño — especially here in Cagayan Valley, in Region 2,” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said in Filipino.Castro said the government began implementing preventive measures as early as June.On Oct. 28, she said P20 million in funds were allocated to provide solar-powered water pumps and fuel assistance to farmers.Castro said the DA has invested P17.9 million in farm inputs to help farmers mitigate the impacts of the drought.The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has allocated P702.62 million in financial assistance to benefit 68,905 individuals through a unified package for livelihood, industry, food and transport assistance.” So, in all affected areas — especially those specifically targeted by the very strong El Niño — assistance from the National Irrigation Administration, the DSWD, and the DA is being provided to help alleviate any hardships that may arise from this very strong El Niño,” Castro said.

- Procurement integrity bill pushed (2026-11-04 16:14)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian said Senate Bill 1962, or the proposed Government Contracting and Procurement Integrity Act, is a vital safeguard to transparency in government contracts, as his colleagues approved the measure on third and final reading.” It is important that we enact this into law as soon as possible to ensure that public funds are directed toward programs and projects that benefit the people, rather than merely serving the relatives of those in power,” said Gatchalian, a principal author of the bill.Under the bill, relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are strictly prohibited from entering into contracts with government agencies where their kin exercise official functions or influence. The anti-nepotism ban encompasses immediate family as well as extended relations up to first cousins, including parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.The broad coverage applies to elected national and local officials, Cabinet secretaries, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, officers and board members of government-owned and -controlled corporations, and officials of state universities and colleges, along with their designated alternates.The bill covers a comprehensive scope of government transactions, including public infrastructure projects, procurement of goods and services, supplies, machinery, joint ventures and public-private partnership agreements involving public funds or government property.To enforce compliance, the proposed law imposes severe penal sanctions. Public officials and personnel who violate the prohibition face imprisonment ranging from one to three years, fines of at least P100,000 and perpetual disqualification from holding any public office.The measure will undergo bicameral reconciliation before it is submitted to the president for signature.

- Asean chief leads call for regional cooperation on 'ethical, safe AI' (2026-11-04 16:13)

FUZHOU, China — Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn led the call for regional cooperation on "responsible governance and ethics, a safety

network, and harnessing infrastructure" amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a media forum here on Wednesday.In a video speech at the 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum, Kao warned that AI's "rapid rise raises serious questions about trust, accountability and safety in the media."Kao highlighted Asean’s efforts to "promote responsible AI governance, including the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap, and the Asean AI Safety Network."He encouraged practical cooperation in content verification, investment in journalists' professional capacity, and the responsible use of AI in newsrooms.He cited the important role of credible and responsible media in strengthening cross-border understanding, supporting social cohesion and advancing people-to-people connectivity.He also underscored the media's growing responsibilities amid the rapid circulation of information and increasing use of AI.He stressed the need to ensure that the development of AI infrastructure was "responsible and safe."Kao said a 10-year plan for the Plus 3 countries — China, South Korea and Japan — was in the works to enable them to forge a strong partnership with Asean built on a "consensus of respect for diversity, [and a] wider effort to make a dynamic and people-centered region amid numerous challenges, including AI."Media executives from the Asean Region echoed the call, recognizing an "invisible wall of misunderstanding and misinformation that has grown thicker and thicker, creating animosity that has increased the divide."Geopolitical tension and emergencies caused by climate change are among the issues that can create misinformation, with media responsible for either "building a bridge of mutual understanding or severing it."Michael Ang, director and board member of The Manila Times and one of the speakers, said “he rapid shift toward digital distribution, platform dominance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence present challenges no single outlet can navigate alone.""Generative AI tools offer operational efficiency, but they also raise urgent questions about verification, copyright and public trust," Ang said in his speech, which carried the common theme of "Openness and Cooperation for Shared Development.""To build an accountable, future-ready media network across East Asia, we must move toward practical structured collaboration anchored on technical exchange programs on best practices in the newsroom, build collaborative reporting initiatives that protect diversity and elevate underrepresented stories and establish fact-checking networks to counter misinformation," he said.Zosito da Silva, vice president and editor-in-chief of the Tatoli News Agency in Timor-Leste, sought the creation of a "self-fact-checking network" and for stories to come not only from the "big countries" but from the "small countries" as well.Other media executives present were Syvanh Homsayadeth, editor-in-chief of the Pasaxon Newspaper in Laos; Heng Sovann, editor-in-chief, Apsara Media Services; Thanchanok Jongyotying, editor-in-chief, Thai News Network; Han Yonghong, associate editor, Lianhe Zaobao, Singapore; and Kang Miao, deputy director, Xinhua, News Agency Fujian Branch.The 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum and the 2026 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road were organized by the People's Daily, China's English-language newspaper, and Fujian province.

- Corruption top concern of Filipinos — survey (2026-11-04 16:12)

FIGHTING corruption, including the flood control scandal, has overtaken high prices of basic goods as the top issue Filipinos want the government to address, a nationwide survey conducted in October showed.The National Momentum Survey by Momentum Research found that 59 percent of Filipino adults cited corruption as one of the three most important issues the government should prioritize, ahead of the 53 percent who wanted lower prices of food and basic goods.The findings point to a shift in public priorities as the controversy over alleged irregularities in flood control projects continues to fuel scrutiny of government spending and infrastructure allocations.In July, fighting corruption ranked only fourth among issues respondents wanted President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address, with 32 percent citing it as a priority.The October survey also found that 40 percent wanted the government to increase workers' wages, while 21 percent each cited combating poverty and hunger and lowering electricity and fuel prices.Corruption was the leading concern among respondents from low-income and middle-income households, cited by 64 percent and 67 percent, respectively.Among poor households, however, 56 percent wanted the government to prioritize lowering food and basic goods prices.Regional findings showed that corruption was the leading concern in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, cited by 67 percent and 64 percent of respondents, respectively.In Visayas and Mindanao, the cost of food and basic goods was the leading concern, cited by 59 percent and 54 percent, respectively.In Metro Manila, increasing workers' wages ranked second at 47 percent, ahead of lowering food and basic goods prices at 38.7 percent.The survey also found that younger respondents were more likely to cite corruption as a priority.Nearly seven in 10 Gen Z respondents, or 69 percent, wanted the government to prioritize addressing corruption, compared with 57 percent of millennials, 51 percent of Gen X respondents and 52 percent of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation.For older respondents, the rising cost of goods remained a more pressing concern. It was cited by 60 percent of Gen X respondents and 64 percent of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation.The survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults from Oct. 16 to 19. It had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.Respondents were asked to select up to three issues from a list of 18 national concerns that they believed the government should prioritize.

- PH, China agree on peaceful, responsible dispute resolution (2026-11-04 16:12)

THE Philippines and China have agreed to resolve their disputes peacefully and manage differences responsibly in order to maintain "stable and predictable" relations, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Wednesday.The Philippines "remains committed to a stable, predictable, mutually respectful, and mutually beneficial relationship with China," the DFA said in a statement.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has repeatedly affirmed that the Philippines "must rely on diplomatic means to resolve disputes and manage differences with other countries, including China," it added.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro on Tuesday received a telephone call from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during which they discussed the state of bilateral ties between Manila and Beijing. "The exchange was frank, pragmatic, and constructive, and reflected the interest of both sides in a stable and predictable

relationship founded on mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation," the DFA said.The two officials shared the understanding that Manila and Beijing should "avoid actions and rhetoric that could needlessly undermine relations or heighten tensions," the DFA said.Meanwhile, the DFA welcomed the joint appeal issued on Nov. 3 by Philippine business and sectoral organizations for the stabilization of Philippines-China relations.It said the appeal served "as a constructive contribution that underscores the value of candor, composure, principled conduct, sound judgment, and measured engagement in the conduct of foreign relations." "The DFA has consistently maintained that diplomacy, dialogue, and mutually beneficial practical cooperation can be pursued without compromising the assertion and protection of the country's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction," it added.Lazaro underscored that good relations between the Philippines and China serve the interests of both countries and of the region.She said the Philippines-China relations "must be sustained through regular high-level exchanges, ministry-to-ministry channels, and the appropriate bilateral and regional mechanisms."The discussion also covered other matters of concern, including maritime issues, "but focused on returning the relationship to an even keel" and on upholding the 1975 Joint Communiqué, which remains the enduring basis of Philippines-China cooperation and of the Philippines' One China Policy, the DFA said.The Foreign Affairs Department underscored that Manila's relations with Beijing are "in accordance with the national interest and in pursuit of an independent foreign policy as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution."

- Student leaders slam social media ban (2026-11-04 16:09)

STUDENT leaders warned that a proposed blanket ban on social media access for Filipinos under 18 could further widen barriers to education by cutting students off from digital learning resources, academic communities, and opportunities beyond the classroom, as the country continues to grapple with a learning crisis.The Student Council Alliance of the Philippines (SCAP) joined student representatives from universities and secondary schools nationwide at a press conference titled "Ban Predators, Ban Groomers, Not Learners" in Quezon City on Wednesday. "For many young people, social media extends learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. Social media helps us stay informed, connect with others, and find learning opportunities," said Edrianna Villaruz, SCAP undersecretary-general.SCAP made clear that it does not take online dangers lightly, acknowledging that cyberbullying, grooming, online sexual exploitation, misinformation and scams are real threats to young Filipinos.It argued, however, that locking an entire generation out of digital spaces does not stop the people who cause harm. "We recognize that young people face risks online, but the answer is not to take away their access to digital spaces that also support their learning and development," Villaruz said. "If a predator is the problem, go after the predator. Don't shut the door on millions of learners," she pointed out.The group stressed that for many students, social media is also where they learn, organize, and find opportunities, with scholarship announcements, academic communities, educational resources, and civic conversations all taking place online.A blanket ban would cut off the very students who rely on these platforms to study, connect and take part

in public life, it warned. “For a lot of young people, social media is the classroom after the classroom, and sometimes it is the only one they have,” Villaruz said.Instead of a ban, SCAP laid out a five-point agenda: protect children without punishing responsible young users; keep social media open as a space for learning; strengthen law enforcement and reporting systems against online predators and groomers; hold platforms accountable for privacy, content moderation, age-appropriate safeguards, and abuse reporting; and invest in digital literacy so students can recognize threats and practice responsible digital citizenship.Student leaders from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Batasan Hills National High School, and Adamson University, along with a representative from the National Federation of Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG) and Student Leaders for Good Governance (SLGG), shared their views on education, online safety and digital rights.Lawmakers, government agencies, and technology companies should work with young people, not around them, in crafting online safety policies that are balanced, rights-based, and youth-inclusive. “Protect the youth, hold abusers accountable, and preserve opportunities for every Filipino student,” Villaruz said.

- Pax Silica deal signed during Asean Summit? (2026-11-04 16:08)

MALACAÑANG hinted on Wednesday that the draft framework for the proposed US-led Pax Silica initiative may be signed during the 49th Asean Summit in Manila.” Let us see,” said Palace Press Officer Claire Castro during a press briefing when asked if President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would sign the draft framework during the summit.Castro said that the Philippines is still awaiting the response of the United States to the proposed agreement, being the initiative’ s leader. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), which oversees the project, said it had already discussed with the president the preliminaries of the endeavor.” The BCDA has met with the Office of the President — through the Office of the Executive Secretary regarding a memorandum submitted jointly with the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry),” Castro said in Filipino, quoting the BCDA.” Guidance has been provided for the BCDA to follow during the negotiations and the finalization of the framework arrangement with the US counterpart. Essentially, we are now just awaiting a response from the US side concerning the draft agreement; that is the message they conveyed,” she added.When asked by The Manila Times on the issue of communities that would be displaced because of the project, Castro said the government will ensure that those who would be affected will receive assistance.” Of course, financial assistance will certainly be provided should anyone actually end up being displaced,” she said.Castro said that only 3,000-plus hectares of the over 6,000 hectares total designated spot for the project are considered a “buildable zone.” ” If they (locals) are located within the buildable zone, they will not be left to fend for themselves or lose their place to live,” Castro said, noting the remaining land outside the buildable areas was reserved for Indigenous peoples.The BCDA said consultation has been done in Capas, Tarlac, on the possible displacement of Aeta communities in the area because of the project.The Palace previously confirmed that US President Donald Trump will attend the Asean Summit, leading to speculations that the Pax Silica deal may be signed during the event.

- Alarm raised on lack of developmental pediatricians (2026-11-04 16:07)

SEN. Joel Villanueva said the country's shortage of developmental pediatricians must be promptly addressed.Villanueva suggested hiring additional consultants and fellow positions in public training hospitals to remedy the shortage.This comes as the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EdCom 2) noted that severe regional disparity in specialists has left hundreds of thousands of public-school learners with disabilities without formal medical diagnoses." These are low-hanging fruit. If we can capacitate these hospitals to train more specialists, maybe we can help expand access to developmental assessment and support services," said Villanueva. The co-chairman of EdCom 2 noted the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center and National Children's Hospital as immediate targets for capacity expansion.Data from the Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (PSDBP) showed that as of June 2026, only 109 certified developmental pediatricians operate across 156 clinics nationwide. This nominal workforce is tasked with serving an estimated 5 million learners with disabilities.Compounding the crisis is a stark geographic concentration. Nearly half of the available clinic listings — 47 percent — are located in the National Capital Region. Calabarzon follows with 15 percent, and Central Luzon holds 12 percent. By contrast, the Visayas and Mindanao are left with just 7.7 percent and 9 percent of specialists, respectively. Regions such as Bicol, Mimaropa, Eastern Visayas and Soccsksargen have only one listed specialist each, while Caraga and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have none.PSDBP Vice President Dr. Lourdes Tanchanco said the country has only five institutions offering the required fellowship training, most of which are in Metro Manila." We can accommodate around two to three pediatricians in each of the training programs," Tanchanco said during an EdCom 2 consultation.This training bottleneck, she said, severely restricts timely interventions. An EdCom 2 analysis of Department of Education data for School Year 2025–2026 revealed that of 492,902 public-school learners flagged as having disabilities, 63.4 percent had recorded behavioral manifestations. Only 36.6 percent have secured a formal clinical diagnosis.EdCom 2 Executive Director Karol Mark Yee emphasized that patient-to-doctor ratios have soared to 1:37,068 in Region 5 (Bicol Region) and 1:24,728 in Region 12 (Soccsksargen). "This is of great concern because learners do not just need diagnosis but also continued support from specialists," Yee said.

- Matobato, Lascañas, Mancao among 3 unidentified ICC witnesses? (2026-11-04 16:06)

COULD self-confessed former Davao Death Squad (DDS) members Edgar Matobato and Arturo Lascañas, and retired police officer Cezar Mancao be among three witnesses whose recorded testimonies the prosecution wants admitted in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court (ICC)?The question arose after the ICC prosecution sought permission to introduce the previously recorded testimonies of three witnesses identified only as P-0019, P-1032 and P-1409, whose accounts cover alleged DDS operations, extrajudicial killings in Davao City and Duterte's alleged involvement in the killings.In a public redacted application dated Nov. 3, the prosecution withheld the identities of the three witnesses but detailed their accounts of the alleged death squad's operations, including its targeting of suspected criminals, the use of Laud Quarry as a burial site and alleged

financial rewards for killings.Matobato and Lascañas were previously identified as potential insider witnesses in the ICC proceedings.ICC Assistant to Counsel Kristina Conti had said the two could provide evidence on the planning and implementation of alleged DDS operations, the people involved, and how killings were ordered, financed and carried out.However, the prosecution's latest filing does not identify P-0019, P-1032 or P-1409 by name.The prosecution described P-0019's testimony as covering extrajudicial killings in Davao City during Duterte's tenure as mayor, the pattern and widespread nature of the killings, and the atmosphere of fear and impunity in the city.The witness also recounted Duterte's alleged practice of reading the names of suspected criminals on his local television program, "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa," some of whom were subsequently killed, according to the prosecution.P-1032, meanwhile, provided an account of the existence and composition of the DDS, its targeting of suspected criminals and its alleged use of Laud Quarry as a burial site.The witness also recounted being threatened with death and fleeing to another part of the Philippines after being warned that a group had been ordered to kill him.The third witness, P-1409, provided evidence concerning the DDS' alleged involvement in extrajudicial killings from 2016 to 2017.His recorded testimony also discussed alleged financial rewards for killings given by Duterte to DDS handlers through co-perpetrator Sonny Buenaventura.Buenaventura is a retired police officer who served as Duterte's driver and security aide when he was Davao City mayor.He has also been identified by Lascañas as the alleged logistics and finance officer of DDS who facilitated payments for killings.The prosecution said P-1409's account included independent observations that corroborated other evidence concerning killings allegedly carried out pursuant to Duterte's orders.The three testimonies, the prosecution argued, are relevant to establishing the contextual elements of crimes against humanity in Davao City and Duterte's individual criminal responsibility.The prosecution asked Trial Chamber III to admit the witnesses' previous statements, interview transcripts and supporting materials under Rule 68(3) of the ICC Rules of Procedure and Evidence.It also sought permission to conduct one-hour supplementary examinations of each witness, instead of the estimated three hours needed for their direct examinations if the recorded testimonies were not admitted.Granting the request would save at least six hours of court time, the prosecution said.It maintained that admitting the recorded testimonies would not prejudice Duterte's rights because the witnesses would appear in court, confirm their statements and remain available for cross-examination by the defense, as well as questioning by the prosecution, the judges and the legal representatives of victims.The chamber has yet to rule on the prosecution's request.

- Palace: Never stop youth seeking jobs abroad (2026-11-04 16:05)

MALACAÑANG said the government will not prevent young Filipinos seeking a better life abroad from migrating, noting that their success abroad benefits the economy.The Palace’s statement follows a Philippine Institute for Development Studies study finding that the country’s labor supply is at risk, as more Filipinos — especially the youth — are leaving or planning to leave to work abroad because of low wages at home.In response to the study’s findings, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro acknowledged concerns about potential labor losses and job mismatches

but said the administration supports Filipino workers' professional growth overseas. "We should not hinder young people who wish to work abroad," Castro said in Filipino during a press briefing on Wednesday. "Just because they go abroad, it does not mean they can no longer be relied upon. Whatever they earn overseas will help their families, support their personal needs and even contribute to our country's economy," she added.To address underlying issues, Castro noted that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed the Commission on Higher Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), and the Department of Education to sharpen youth training.Through these targeted programs, the government ensures Filipino workers remain competitive whether they build their careers locally or tap international job markets.Addressing questions on whether supporting overseas employment contradicts investment promotion strategies that pitch the country's young domestic workforce as a primary economic advantage, Castro clarified that outflow is not absolute.Castro said that while many young professionals find better career paths abroad, ongoing government initiatives to attract foreign and local investment aim to create well-matched domestic jobs.Rather than restricting freedom of movement, the administration prioritizes upskilling Filipino youth so they can thrive wherever their careers take them, ensuring their capabilities serve as an asset at home and abroad. "While the government works to address these gaps — aiming to attract more investment to the Philippines and create jobs that truly align with the skills of our workforce — we will not hold our youth back. Instead, we will continue to enhance the capabilities of our fellow Filipinos, ensuring that should they choose to work abroad, they are well-equipped to benefit from such opportunities," Castro concluded.

- Truth-telling session to tackle 2 deaths from police operation (2026-11-04 16:04)

THE Drug War Truth Commission late on Tuesday said that the upcoming truth-telling session on Friday, Nov. 6, will tackle two deaths from the same police operation.On Aug. 5, 2017, Christopher de Leon Lazaro and Alberto Umali Paragas died in a police operation in Barangay Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan.Marissa Lazaro, Christopher's mother, and Rizza Quiamco, Alberto's sister, will speak in the truth-telling session at the Co Po Ty Audio Visual Room of Adamson University in Manila on Friday at 9:30 a.m. "Lazaro and Quiamco will describe how their families learned of the deaths, what happened next, and their efforts to find answers. Their testimony will place two family perspectives on the same reported operation before the public," the truth commission said. "The Department of Justice case file reproduces police statements describing an alleged attempted robbery followed by an exchange of gunfire. The department's resolution did not independently determine the circumstances of the deaths. It dismissed the complaint against the two men because they had died, but it did not rule on the legality of the operation or on whether any officers bear responsibility," it added.According to the postmortem certificate of Paragas, he had gunshot wounds to the head, trunk and right arm, while the medico-legal report for Lazaro also saw gunshot wounds to the head and left leg, as well as ligature marks on both wrists. "The session will consider these records alongside the families' accounts and the police statements in the Justice Department file," the commission

said.The Truth Commission will also broadcast this truth-telling session live on its Facebook page.

- BOC seizes P99.4M ketamine at Clark Airport (2026-11-04 16:03)

COFFEE equipment and cleaning powder turned out to be cover for nearly 20 kilos of ketamine worth P99.4 million in the latest drug-smuggling attempt foiled by Customs authorities at the Clark International Airport.The two shipments, containing a combined 19.89 kilograms of ketamine valued at P99.445 million, originated from Switzerland and Amsterdam and were bound for recipients in Mandaluyong City and Montalban, Rizal, respectively.The BOC-Port of Clark, working with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), intercepted the shipments after intelligence from the PDEA Airport Interdiction Unit.One shipment, weighing 9,882 grams, was declared as roasted coffee beans, a coffee machine, and coffee-making equipment. The other, weighing 10,007 grams, was misdeclared as sodium bicarbonate cleaning powder.Both shipments were subjected to physical examination after authorities flagged them for inspection.Laboratory tests subsequently confirmed that the seized substances were ketamine, a dangerous drug regulated under Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as amended.The latest seizure adds to a growing list of drug-smuggling attempts foiled at the Port of Clark, where authorities have repeatedly uncovered ketamine concealed in seemingly ordinary commercial goods and household items.In October alone, Customs intercepted another shipment containing 4.14 kilograms of suspected ketamine worth P20.7 million from Amsterdam, disguised as a compact ceramic fan and bound for Valenzuela City.Authorities seized the shipment after X-ray screening detected suspicious images.In August, authorities also intercepted 1.675 kilograms of ketamine worth P8.375 million concealed inside a resin rabbit figurine shipped from France.Earlier, in March, Customs seized 6.156 kilograms of ketamine worth P30.78 million concealed in a shipment declared as solar cables from the Netherlands.The drugs were discovered following X-ray inspection and a PDEA K-9 examination.In 2025, the Port of Clark likewise intercepted 5.062 kilograms of ketamine worth P25.31 million hidden inside a wooden cable reel declared as a data cable roll and shipped from Belgium.The recurring seizures highlight how drug smugglers exploit international parcel and air cargo services, using ordinary merchandise and misleading declarations to evade customs inspection.District Collector Jairus Reyes said the Port of Clark would further tighten its inspection measures in anticipation of increased parcel volumes during the holiday season. “We expect an increase in parcels arriving through air express carriers. Thus, we will intensify document checks and physical inspections, while ensuring that our X-ray machines are properly maintained and operational,” Reyes said.BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno, meanwhile, vowed to sustain the agency's campaign against illegal drugs in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “As we expect an increase in shipments this holiday season, we will also tighten our vigilance. We will continue strengthening our inspections and operations to ensure that illegal drugs do not enter the country,” Nepomuceno said.The BOC said it would continue intelligence-driven operations and strengthen coordination with law enforcement agencies to prevent the smuggling of illegal drugs through the country's ports of

entry.

• BI stops 2 Filipinos headed for conflict zones abroad (2026-11-04 16:02)

IMMIGRATION officers prevented two Filipino men from leaving the country after discovering they were targeted by suspicious recruitment schemes offering significant payments and high salaries for employment in conflict-stricken areas abroad.Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents intercepted the two passengers in separate incidents on Oct. 24 and 27, amid concerns they would fall victim to illegal recruitment, human trafficking or forced labor.The victims were allegedly lured by overseas job offers promising as much as $27,000 in payments and thousands of dollars in monthly salaries. Immigration officers barred them from leaving the country after uncovering suspicious recruitment arrangements linked to conflict-stricken destinations.In the first case, a former protection agent and security guard who was unemployed told immigration officers that he was recruited through Facebook and later contacted via WhatsApp.He was allegedly promised a $12,000 signing bonus upon arrival and a monthly salary of $2,500. The recruiter also offered to cover his travel expenses and make the arrangements.The second passenger initially claimed he was traveling to Hong Kong for vacation, with a friend supposedly sponsoring his trip.Further questioning, however, revealed that he had also encountered a recruitment advertisement on Facebook before being redirected to WhatsApp, where he was allegedly offered overseas employment with a promised payment of $27,000 and a monthly salary of $3,000.He told immigration officers that he had not spent a centavo for the trip.The BI did not identify the recruiters, employers or specific destinations involved but said the job offers were intended to send the Filipinos to areas plagued by armed conflict.BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado warned Filipinos against accepting suspicious overseas employment offers, particularly those promising unusually high salaries and signing bonuses. “No job offer is worth risking your freedom or your life,” Viado said, warning that unscrupulous recruiters could exploit Filipinos’ hopes of earning more money to expose them to armed conflict, human trafficking and forced labor.He said the BI would continue scrutinizing suspicious travel arrangements and disrupting potential illegal recruitment networks to prevent Filipinos from falling victim to exploitation abroad.The two interceptions are part of the government’s efforts to protect Filipinos from human trafficking and illegal recruitment, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive.The BI urged jobseekers to verify the legitimacy of recruiters, employers and overseas employment arrangements before accepting offers or leaving the country.

• SSS backs govt drive for one-stop digital services (2026-11-04 16:01)

THE Social Security System (SSS) on Wednesday said it supported the government’s push for more connected and accessible public services by bringing the MySSS Card’s front-facing ID feature and selected member services to the eGovPH superapp.On Oct. 21, 2026, SSS President and CEO Victor Alfonso Limlingan said he and his predecessor, now Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Robert Joseph de Claro, signed a data-sharing agreement to enable the integration.The partnership came shortly after de Claro’s

appointment as DICT secretary, following his tenure as SSS chief, and advances collaboration between the two agencies. “This partnership marks a major step in making SSS services more accessible and convenient for our members. By integrating the digital MySSS Card and key services into the eGovPH superapp, we are bringing social security closer to every Filipino — right at their fingertips,” Limlingan said.Once integrated, members will be able to access the front-facing digital representation of their MySSS Card as one of the identification cards (IDs) available through the eGovPH superapp, Limlingan said. “They will also be able to view their contribution history, total number of contributions, latest membership type, and most recent employer information,” the SSS chief executive said.The state pension fund said these services will help members check whether contributions have been posted and verify their membership and employer information through a shared government platform.Limlingan stressed that the integration reflects the SSS’ commitment to digital transformation and member convenience. “Our members should not have to visit multiple offices or use multiple applications just to access basic services. Through the eGovPH superapp, we are making it easier for Filipinos to check their contributions, verify their membership status, and access their MySSS Card — all in one place,” he said.He explained that the move was part of the government’s broader digital transformation agenda, which sought to connect agencies’ services through a shared digital platform that unifies government services in one application.Both de Claro and Limlingan agreed that the partnership also aimed to expand social-protection access for digital workers, including freelancers and online professionals, by making SSS services easier to find and use online.While members can already access their membership and contribution records through the MySSS mobile app, the integration will provide another convenient way to view these records, along with the MySSS Card ID feature and other government services, the SSS said.The agreement signals that the SSS will be among the government agencies feeding services into the eGovPH superapp, supporting the administration’s goal of integrating all government services into the platform, Limlingan said. “We are proud to be part of this national effort to unify government services. The SSS remains committed to leveraging technology to deliver faster, more secure, and more member-centered service,” he said.

- Lacson: Dela Rosa entitled to due process before local courts if arrested (2026-11-04 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Wednesday said that Philippine courts must be respected and local legal procedures observed if Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa is arrested, saying these are essential to ensuring his constitutional right to due process.Lacson said Dela Rosa should be placed under the custody of a Philippine court, even in a ministerial capacity, if authorities apprehend him so he can avail himself of all legal remedies available under Philippine law, including recourse to the Supreme Court."That's part of due process — if he is arrested, he may be placed under the custody of a local court where he can avail of all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of the law," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio.He cited Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes

Against Humanity, which establishes the country's jurisdiction over persons suspected or accused of crimes covered by the law under specified circumstances.These include cases in which the accused is a Filipino citizen, is present in the Philippines regardless of citizenship or residence, or has committed the alleged crime against a Filipino citizen.However, the law also allows Philippine authorities, in the interest of justice, to defer investigation or prosecution when another court or international tribunal is already investigating or prosecuting the same crime. Authorities may instead surrender or extradite the accused to the appropriate international court or another state, subject to applicable laws and treaties."No criminal proceedings shall be initiated against foreign nationals suspected or accused of having committed the crimes defined and penalized in this Act if they have been tried by a competent court outside the Philippines in respect of the same offense and acquitted, or having been convicted, already served their sentence," the law read.Lacson also cited Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which provides that a case may be deemed inadmissible before the ICC if it is being investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it, unless that state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the proceedings.The same provision covers cases in which a state has investigated an alleged crime but decided not to prosecute, unless the decision resulted from its unwillingness or inability to genuinely pursue the case.Lacson further invoked Article III, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution, which protects Filipinos against unreasonable searches and seizures and requires that arrest warrants be issued by judges upon a determination of probable cause.He also recalled signing a Senate resolution expressing the chamber's position that Filipinos should be protected against extraordinary rendition and given reasonable time before their surrender or extradition from the country to seek judicial relief and exhaust available legal remedies."Our local courts should be respected. If he is arrested, he should be placed under the custody of the local court, even if this is ministerial because the local court is not handling his case so it cannot determine his guilt or innocence. It's almost ministerial but just the same, we have our law and it should be respected," Lacson said."Even subpoenas and summonses issued by international or foreign courts must go through Philippine local or regional trial courts, which will issue the corresponding subpoenas and summonses," he added.

- OWWA brings home 52 OFWs from Riyadh (2026-11-04 15:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Fifty-two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, returned to the Philippines aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR928, which arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on Tuesday, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.In a statement dated November 3 and posted on Wednesday, OWWA said it provided the returning workers with food, land and air transportation, temporary accommodation for some of them, and financial assistance for their immediate needs.The agency said it continues to coordinate with the Department of Migrant Workers, the Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Offices in Saudi Arabia to assist OFWs affected by the situation there. “OWWA is here to assist you as you recover and prepare for your next steps with your family,” the agency said in its message to the returning workers.

• Northeast monsoon to bring cooler mornings (2026-11-04 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or amihan will bring cooler temperatures in parts of Luzon, while the easterlies will continue to cause rain in several areas of the country, the state weather bureau said Wednesday.In its 5 p.m. weather forecast, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Weather Specialist Benison Estareja said amihan was bringing cloudy skies and light rain over Batanes and the Babuyan Islands, with isolated light rain possible in Cagayan Valley, the Cordillera Administrative Region, and the Ilocos Region.Meanwhile, the easterlies will bring a higher chance of rain in Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Quezon, and Marinduque."Bring an umbrella if you are leaving the house overnight," Estareja said in Filipino.Typhoon In-fa, which remains outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), is moving northward and away from the country toward the North Pacific Ocean. No new tropical cyclone is expected to enter PAR for the rest of the week, Pagasa said.Estareja said cooler temperatures are expected during the early morning, with Metro Manila recording a minimum of 22 degrees Celsius, Tagaytay 20 degrees, and Baguio City 15 degrees on Thursday.For the weekend, the northeast monsoon is expected to strengthen slightly and extend toward Central Luzon, while the easterlies will continue to bring rain to parts of the Bicol Region, Visayas, and Mindanao.Pagasa also warned of possible flash floods and landslides in Eastern Visayas, including Tacloban City, due to expected rain.

• SC drops Romualdez petition to stop Ombudsman’s plunder probe (2026-11-04 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has dropped the petition of former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez seeking to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating his alleged involvement in the multibillion-peso flood control scam, ruling that the petition has become moot after a ₱7.4-billion plunder case was filed against him before the Sandiganbayan.In a press briefing on Wednesday, the SC en banc said there was no longer a need to resolve Romualdez’s petition for certiorari because the Ombudsman already filed the criminal case, and the former House leader has been arraigned and pleaded not guilty.The high court also denied his request for a temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary injunction to prevent the Ombudsman from continuing its preliminary investigation.Romualdez had questioned the conduct of the investigation, including the Ombudsman's application for a preliminary hold departure order and freeze order against him, as well as the alleged use of inadmissible evidence.The ₱7.4-billion plunder case stemmed from allegations that Romualdez and former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co orchestrated a kickback scheme involving government-funded flood control and other infrastructure projects from 2022 to 2025.The controversy erupted in 2025 after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in flood control projects, following revelations of questionable government-funded infrastructure works, including allegedly substandard and non-existent projects.The scandal triggered congressional investigations and a government-wide examination of public works contracts, with contractors, government officials and lawmakers facing scrutiny.

• Chinese president to skip Asean Summit (2026-11-04 10:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected not to attend the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and Related Summits in Manila because Chinese Premier Premier Li Qiang will represent China in these events.The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shared this information on Wednesday when asked to confirm reports that Xi will not participate in the yearly regional summit to be hosted by the Philippines.Li has " customarily led the Chinese delegation to Asean-related summits in recent years," the DFA said."On the questions regarding the representative of China for Asean Summits, it is the Chinese Premier (Premier Li Qiang) who attends the Summits, not President Xi," DFA Assistant Secretary Dax Imperial said in a text message."We have not received the official confirmation of Premier Li Qiang's attendance, as this usually comes much closer to the Summit," said Imperial, DFA spokesman on Asean affairs.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro during her phone conversation on Tuesday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang said that the Philippines takes its responsibilities as Asean chairman seriously.The DFA said Lazaro conveyed that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "looks forward" to the participation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang in the 49th Asean Summit and Related Summits in Manila.Wang conveyed China's anticipation of Marcos' participation in the 33rd Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen, China from November 18 to 19.Lazaro and Wang assured each other that their respective leaders would be accorded the proper courtesies and assistance during these meetings, the DFA added.

• Ombudsman suspends eight DPWH personnel over Surigao infra projects (2026-11-04 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman ordered Wednesday the preventive suspension without pay for up to six months of eight Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel over alleged irregularities in infrastructure projects in Surigao del Norte.In a six-page order, the Ombudsman said the suspension would remain in effect pending the resolution of administrative cases against the seven engineers and one accountant. "Sufficient grounds exist to impose preventive suspension on Respondents," the order read. "Without delving into the merits of the case and based on the evidence submitted by Complainant, the allegations against Respondents appear to be supported by strong evidence at this stage," it added.Preventive suspension was ordered to prevent the respondents from potentially abusing the authority of their current positions while the administrative cases are being investigated.Those suspended were Annie Dela Vega, DPWH Regional Office XI district engineer; Federico Gotico III, Demilyn Castrence, Quintinano Armendariz Jr. and Edward Tinio, all Engineer III; Florencio Sulana, Engineer II and acting chief of Quality Assurance; Ricky Arciga, Engineer II; and Jerome Sulapas, Accountant III.In August, the Ombudsman recommended the filing of criminal and administrative complaints against the respondents, along with former Surigao del Norte Representatives Francisco Matugas and Francisco Matugas II, over the anomalous ₱80.61-million Mahayhay–Tuburan Road project in Del Carmen which was declared fully complete.The OMB's Field Investigation Office II filed administrative charges of conduct

prejudicial to the best interest of the service, grave misconduct, and serious dishonesty following allegations that substantially incomplete projects under the DPWH Surigao del Norte 1st District Engineering Office had been fully paid.Site inspection conducted in April found the project only 65 to 70 percent accomplished. At least ₱31,586,438.91 was released despite its actual condition.The Independent Commission for Infrastructure earlier submitted a list of reportedly completed DPWH projects in the area that were allegedly not fully delivered.

• Asean chief leads call for regional cooperation on 'ethical, safe AI' (2026-11-04 08:20)

FUZHOU, China — Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn led the call for regional cooperation on "responsible governance and ethics, a safety network, and harnessing infrastructure" amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a media forum here on Wednesday.In a video speech at the 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum, Kao warned that AI's "rapid rise raises serious questions about trust, accountability and safety in the media."Kao highlighted Asean’ s efforts to "promote responsible AI governance, including the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap, and the Asean AI Safety Network." He encouraged practical cooperation in content verification, investment in journalists' professional capacity, and the responsible use of AI in newsrooms.He cited the important role of credible and responsible media in strengthening cross-border understanding, supporting social cohesion and advancing people-to-people connectivity. He also underscored the media's growing responsibilities amid the rapid circulation of information and increasing use of AI.He stressed the need to ensure that the development of AI infrastructure was "responsible and safe."Kao said a 10-year plan for the Plus 3 countries—China, South Korea and Japan—was in the works to enable them to forge a strong partnership with Asean built on a "consensus of respect for diversity, [and a] wider effort to make a dynamic and people-centered region amid numerous challenges, including AI."Media executives from the Asean Region echoed the call, recognizing an "invisible wall of misunderstanding and misinformation that has grown thicker and thicker, creating animosity that has increased the divide."Geopolitical tension and emergencies caused by climate change are among the issues that can create misinformation, with media responsible for either " building a bridge of mutual understanding or severing it."Michael Ang, director and board member of The Manila Times and one of the speakers, said “the rapid shift toward digital distribution, platform dominance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence present challenges no single outlet can navigate alone.""Generative AI tools offer operational efficiency, but they also raise urgent questions about verification, copyright and public trust," Ang said in his speech, which carried the common theme of "Openness and Cooperation for Shared Development.""To build an accountable, future-ready media network across East Asia, we must move toward practical structured collaboration anchored on technical exchange programs on best practices in the newsroom, build collaborative reporting initiatives that protect diversity and elevate underrepresented stories and establish fact-checking networks to counter misinformation," he said.

• Lacson: Public anger, vigilance can foil 'pork' insertions (2026-11-04 08:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Public indignation coupled with sustained vigilance could help thwart attempts by unscrupulous lawmakers to insert questionable allocations into the proposed 2027 national budget, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Wednesday.Lacson expressed hope that persons behind the attempts to mangle the budget anew would be proven wrong by the efforts of lawmakers and budget advocacy groups pushing for accountability. “When anger meets vigilance, greed and callousness face a fierce fight. The flood control scandal has barely settled, yet the ‘kapalmuks’ of the world are testing the limits of the people’s patience yet again. I would like to think they are wrong this time... Thanks to the People’s Budget Coalition and all like-minded individuals standing together for accountability,” he said in a social media post. “Anger alone or vigilance alone will not be enough. But combine them and the ‘kapalmuks’ will have something to reckon with,” he added in an interview on DZMM radio.Lacson welcomed moves by some members of the House of Representatives to engage with budget advocacy groups, saying growing public support for their demands for accountability could help strengthen efforts to ensure transparency in the budget process.He also renewed his call for greater transparency in budget deliberations, including keeping livestreams running even during breaks, particularly throughout the proceedings of the bicameral conference committee, where differences between the Senate and House versions of the budget are reconciled.Meanwhile, Lacson said he and his staff continued to scrutinize the proposed spending measure, checking for questionable insertions and determining whether listed projects were viable and had complied with documentary and other requirements. “We in the majority bloc have agreed that there will be no sacred cows. As former Justice Adolfo Azcuna said, all means all. There will be no sacred cows as far as those who made insertions are concerned. If there are projects that cannot be implemented or lack the needed requirements, they will be removed,” he said.Lacson stressed that his efforts to scrutinize the budget were driven by his commitment to honest public service rather than political ambitions. “I am left with no further political ambitions. Whatever I do now is pure advocacy in pursuit of honest public service which I love doing no matter the cost,” he said.

- DepEd mourns passing of former Education secretary Mona Valisno (2026-11-04 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday expressed its condolences to the family of former Education secretary Mona Dumlao-Valisno. “The Department of Education extends its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and the entire DepEd community on the passing of former Education Secretary Mona Dumlao-Valisno,” the department said in a statement.Valisno served as education secretary in 2010 and devoted her time and service to advancing education in the country, the department said. “During this time of mourning, DepEd grieves with her bereaved family and pays tribute to her contribution to the history of the department,” it added.

- Romualdez sneaking out of jail? BJMP launches probe (2026-11-04 06:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has launched an investigation into claims that former speaker Martin Romualdez has been secretly sneaking out

of jail.BJMP chief Efren Nemeño ordered the probe on November 3 but initial CCTV reviews showed no recorded power interruption at the Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory or any movement of the lawmaker outside his cell. “Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or CCTV interruption at the New Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory, and no recorded movement of Rep. Martin Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined,” the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.

• AirAsia PH fly-thru traffic soars as Filipinos seek alternative destinations (2026-11-04 03:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino travelers are increasingly seeking alternative holiday destinations, driving substantial growth for AirAsia Philippines' connecting flight services in 2026.Passenger data released by the airline showed traffic between Manila and Almaty, Kazakhstan surged by 1,000 percent, the highest growth among the carrier's Fly-Thru routes.Other destinations also posted notable growth, including Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which increased by 705 percent, Manila-Penang, Malaysia, by 50 percent, and New Delhi, India, by 43 percent.The figures point to an emerging opportunity for Filipino travelers to discover more of Asia and beyond, supported by AirAsia's extensive network and Fly-Thru service, which connects passengers to multiple destinations through a single booking."It's exciting to see more Filipinos becoming open to exploring destinations they may not have considered before. Travel is not just about visiting the usual holiday spots anymore, it's about discovering new places, experiencing different cultures, and making more meaningful memories. The strong growth in Almaty is a good example of this changing interest," AirAsia President and General Manager Anna Victoria Lu said in a statement.From the mountains of Almaty to the beaches of Maldives and Bali, more international adventures await Filipino travelers through AirAsia Fly-Thru connectivity.The airline said passengers can fly from Manila to Almaty, Kazakhstan; Jaipur and New Delhi, India; Penang, Malaysia; the Maldives; Phuket, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Shenzhen, China; Yangon, Myanmar; Sarawak, Indonesia; Sabah, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.From Cebu, travelers can discover more of Asia: Penang, Malaysia; Bali, Indonesia; Siem Reap, Cambodia; Hanoi and Da Nang, Vietnam; Singapore; Jakarta, Indonesia; Sri Lanka; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.For a limited time, AirAsia Philippines is offering its largest Fly-Thru sale from November 3 to November 9. The promotion provides Filipinos with expanded options to travel to destinations beyond Asia, with fares starting as low as P7,699.

• International parcel scam busted by CIDG (2026-11-04 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 159 foreigners, mostly Indonesians, Malaysians, Vietnamese and Chinese were rescued during a police operation at a scam hub in Pasay City on November 3.Three masterminds of the parcel scam were arrested.Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. and Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla led the raid.Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) saw make-believe law enforcement offices of China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia, and workers disguised as law enforcers, along with their accomplices.Philippine authorities were informed of the scam when three Indonesian workers escaped. “We are now studying the pieces of evidence. The laptops, cellphones and

ipads that they used and we will see there the people who were victimized," Nartatez told reporters in an interview on the site after the raid. "And now with the help of Indonesian police and others, we will prosecute them and we will share the necessary pieces of evidence to pursue cases against these personalities especially the masterminds," he said.ModusVarious law enforcement uniforms were found in the scam site during the raid. According to Col. John Guiagui, CIDG-National Capital Region chief, the modus is done in four stages.The scammers choose their victims from their voluminous database and inform them of a parcel delivery which was already paid to lure the targets. However, they will then be told that the parcel contained contraband, particularly illegal drugs.Scripts are prepared in the four Asia languages, which showed that there was no intent to victimize Filipinos since the actors do not know Tagalog.This is where the characters will come in. Lower ranked officers will threaten the target that they will be investigated and their money and assets will be frozen.Higher ranking officers would then come in and offer a way out for the victim by giving them an account number, supposedly secured and guaranteed, where they can send money.Once the money is deposited, the scammers disappear.The group lures workers online through social media and messaging apps like Telegram, offering them virtual assistant work but upon arrival in the Philippines, they will be locked in the building and forced to work.Guiagui said the workers also endured physical abuse.

- Candidates with Filipino roots score victories in Northern Marianas elections (2026-11-04 02:53)

SAIPAN, Northern Marianas — Several candidates with Filipino ancestry won in the Northern Mariana Islands' general election last Nov. 3, including lawmakers tracing their family roots to Pangasinan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Quezon City.Another candidate with Filipino heritage is poised to advance to a runoff for attorney general.Unofficial results released by the Commonwealth Election Commission on Wednesday showed incumbent Sen. Jude Untalan Hofschneider, whose maternal family traces its roots to Pangasinan, received 806 votes in his uncontested reelection bid on Tinian.Hofschneider, a Republican, was among four candidates with documented Filipino ancestry who occupied winning positions in the legislative elections.In Saipan's six-seat Precinct 3 House race, incumbent Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, an independent, received 1,353 votes, placing third behind Marissa Flores and Elias Rangamar.Yumul, who traces his Filipino ancestry to Pangasinan and Pampanga, previously told The Manila Times that his family's roots in the Commonwealth extend several generations."My Filipino roots are an important part of who I am today. My Naraja side has been in the CNMI for four generations, and my Yumul side for three generations," he said.Yumul said his grandfather migrated from Pangasinan, while his father came from Pampanga."Our family has maintained a strong connection to Filipino heritage and culture, which has shaped my values," he said.Yumul said his legislative priorities include strengthening economic cooperation between the CNMI and the Philippines, particularly in agriculture, food distribution, tourism, and labor protections.He supports efforts to include the Philippines in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which he believes could expand tourism and help diversify the Commonwealth's economy.He also favors

strengthening the CNMI's foreign worker program and addressing the disruption caused by the federal touchback requirement, which forces certain foreign workers to leave the United States temporarily before their employers can seek further work authorization.Another incumbent, Rep. Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr., secured a winning position in Saipan's Precinct 2, receiving 606 votes to finish second behind fellow independent John Paul Sablan, who garnered 670 votes.Two seats were contested in the precinct.Aquino traces his Filipino heritage to his great-grandfather, who came from Tarlac, while his Japanese ancestry comes from his mother and grandmother."My identity is shaped by a rich tapestry of resilience, migration, and deep-rooted cultural values," Aquino previously told The Manila Times."My great-grandfather traced his roots back to Tarlac in the Philippines, embodying the timeless Filipino spirit of hard work, adaptability, and perseverance."Aquino said growing up with Filipino and Japanese influences shaped his commitment to public service, particularly the Filipino values of malasakit or genuine compassion, and bayanihan, or community cooperation."Ang tunay na lider ay hindi lamang nakaupo sa opisina; siya ay lumulusong sa komunidad (A true leader does not stay in his office, he should be seen in communities)," Aquino said, emphasizing that genuine leadership requires working directly with the community.Aquino said his legislative priorities include reducing living costs, supporting small businesses, improving healthcare access, and strengthening infrastructure.He also hopes to deepen CNMI-Philippines ties through direct trade and shipping links, educational partnerships between Northern Marianas College and Philippine universities, and expanded cultural exchanges.Aquino has proposed establishing a Filipino-American community advisory board and strengthening labor protections for foreign workers, alongside regular community consultations.In Precinct 5, incumbent Rep. Angelo Camacho, another independent with Filipino roots, received 958 votes, finishing second behind Democratic incumbent Leila Staffler, who garnered 1,344 votes.Camacho previously confirmed that his Filipino family hailed from Quezon City.The election results put all four lawmakers in position to continue serving in the CNMI legislature, subject to certification by the CEC.Meanwhile, attorney general candidate Michael Evangelista, who has also acknowledged his Filipino ancestry, placed second in the three-way contest with 3,854 votes, or 30.2 percent.Evangelista finished just 18 votes ahead of Jonathan Glass, who received 3,836 votes, or 30.1 percent.Joaquin DLG Torres led the race with 5,073 votes, or 39.7 percent.With none of the candidates securing more than half of the votes, a runoff is expected between the top two candidates following certification of the results.The narrow margin between Evangelista and Glass makes the official count particularly significant in determining who will face Torres in the runoff.In the broader election, former governor Ralph DLG Torres and running mate Ben Jones led the gubernatorial contest with 6,437 votes, or 49.5 percent, followed by independent candidates BJ T. Attao and Edmund Villagomez with 5,043 votes, or 38.7 percent.The third ticket of Lawrence F. Camacho and Edith Deleon Guerrero received 1,537 votes, or 11.8 percent.With neither leading ticket securing the required majority, the gubernatorial election is headed for a runoff.Incumbent US congressional Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds also secured a second term based on the unofficial results, receiving 8,194 votes against challenger Galvin Sablan Deleon Guerrero's 4,675 votes.In the legislature, independents occupied 14 of the 20 House seats, compared with five Republicans and one Democrat, while Republicans appeared headed for a

five-seat majority in the nine-member Senate.All results remain unofficial and subject to verification and certification by the CEC.

• DPWH backs Senate removal of 295 projects from 2027 budget (2026-11-04 02:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has thrown its support behind the Senate's decision to strip P8.8 billion in funding for 295 projects from the proposed 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP).The removal was due to insufficient documentation as the agency escalates its campaign against ghost infrastructure projects, DPWH Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Wednesday.The move follows a directive from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. requiring the DPWH to ensure that every project proposed for the 2027 spending plan is backed by supporting documents, Lopez said. “It was very clear from the President himself: No complete documents, no projects,” the DPWH chief said.The issue surfaced after former Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon told the Senate that 295 projects lacked the required documentation from district engineering offices (DEOs) and recommended that they be dropped from the proposal.Lopez affirmed that the reforms launched under Dizon will carry forward, noting that project proponents must now submit an Approved Program of Work and validated geo-tagged photos, among others.They are also required to submit a Certificate of Implementability, and either a Masterplan, Feasibility Study, or Regional Development Council/Local Development Council endorsement—or a Certificate of Non-Objection—before any project can be included in the 2027 NEP, the DPWH said."The strict instruction of President Marcos to us is that no project lacking documents should be allowed to slip through, so that we can ensure our fellow Filipinos will physically and actually feel the projects we implement," Lopez said. "Secretary Vince Dizon made sure that projects included in the government budget must be transparent, which is why we must implement them properly and correctly," he said.

• Pangilinan calls for online dashboard to track El Niño funds (2026-11-04 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Wednesday urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to establish an online public accountability dashboard to track government spending and monitor the delivery of interventions as the country braces for the potentially devastating effects of a strong El Niño.The chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform said the proposed platform should provide Filipinos with timely information on how public funds are allocated and spent, what government agencies are doing to mitigate the effects of the weather phenomenon, and whether these interventions are producing results. “I call on the President to direct the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), through OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the concerned agencies, to maintain a single, coordinated El Niño action plan with named leads, measurable targets, and regular public reporting,” Pangilinan said in his eight-point action plan. “The backbone of all these efforts is the proper use of taxpayers’ money. The public must know clearly where the funds are going, what the government is doing, and what results these measures are achieving,” he added.The proposed dashboard would consolidate critical information,

including weather forecasts, damage assessments, water conditions, priority needs, funding allocations, relief supply inventories and price-control advisories.Pangilinan proposed requiring government agencies to submit updates every 24 hours, 48 hours or weekly, depending on the urgency and nature of the information.The platform should go beyond reporting available resources and track the actual release and utilization of funds, delivery of relief supplies, number of households assisted, completion of farm and water-system interventions, resolution of price complaints, and filing of cases against violators.

- Cagayan Valley to test response to magnitude 8.5 quake in drill (2026-11-04 01:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The government will again test its disaster preparedness on Thursday as emergency responders, local government units and communities simulate their response to a magnitude 8.5 earthquake and tsunami off Cagayan in yet another drill, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.The full-scale exercise in Santa Ana, Cagayan, will simulate an earthquake triggered by movement along the East Luzon Trough, with the epicenter located 180 kilometers southeast of the coastal town.The simulation will be the highlight of the Fourth Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) on November 5, which aims to assess the readiness of government agencies, emergency responders and communities to deal with a major earthquake and tsunami.The exercise will test the implementation of Santa Ana's Earthquake and Tsunami Contingency Plan and the Regional Disaster Response Plan of the Cagayan Valley Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.Among the response capabilities to be tested are early warning system activation, community evacuation, emergency telecommunications, search and rescue, mass casualty incident management and the activation of emergency operations centers.The drill will also simulate the management of evacuation camps and internally displaced persons, water search and rescue, management of the dead and missing, and responses to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards and oil spills.The OCD will lead the exercise in coordination with member agencies of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and local government units.The NSED will begin at 8 a.m., with the ceremonial pressing of the button at 9 a.m. to signal the start of the nationwide "Duck, Cover and Hold" procedure and evacuation drills, followed by the full-scale simulation.Similar earthquake drills and related exercises will be conducted in other parts of the country under the supervision of OCD regional offices.The fourth-quarter exercise will also coincide with the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day 2026, which carries the theme " Resilience Starts with You."

- Duterte’s lead over Robredo narrows to 7 points in OCTA survey (2026-11-04 01:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's lead over former vice president and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup has narrowed to seven percentage points, the smallest recorded by OCTA Research in its 2026 surveys, as the number of undecided voters continued to increase.Duterte obtained 40 percent against Robredo's 33 percent in the third-quarter Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from September 28 to October 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos nationwide.The seven-point margin was

down from 11 points in the first quarter, when Duterte registered 46 percent against Robredo's 35 percent, and nine points in the second quarter, when the figures stood at 43 percent and 34 percent, respectively.OCTA said Duterte's preference had declined by six percentage points over the three survey rounds, while Robredo's remained relatively stable, ranging from 33 percent to 35 percent.The proportion of respondents who chose neither candidate or did not know whom to vote for rose to 26 percent in the latest survey, from 22 percent in the second quarter and 19 percent in the first quarter.The growing undecided bloc suggests that voters moving away from Duterte have not necessarily shifted their preference to Robredo, OCTA said.Despite the narrowing margin, Duterte remained ahead nationally, with her seven-point lead outside the survey's plus-or-minus three-percentage-point margin of error.The survey results also showed significant regional differences in the hypothetical matchup.Robredo led Duterte in the National Capital Region, with 39 percent against 32 percent, and in Balance Luzon, where she received 49 percent against Duterte's 24 percent.Duterte, meanwhile, maintained a commanding lead in Mindanao, with 71 percent against Robredo's 2 percent. She also led in Visayas, 46 percent to 27 percent.