PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: April 26, 2026 - May 03, 2026

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

Executive Summary

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

Key Developments

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

Outlook

Please check back later for an updated analysis.

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (May 3, 2026) (2026-05-02 22:50)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A police officer was dismissed from service after being found liable for grave misconduct for his acts related to the handling of the deaths of his ex-wife Police Senior Master Sergeant Diane

Marie Mollenido and her son, the National Police Commission said.

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (May 2, 2026) (2026-05-01 22:52)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter

Cayetano expressed differing views about the partial committee report of the Blue Ribbon Committee regarding its flood control investigation.

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

The Philippine Embassy in Paris has reason to believe Zaldy Co is in France and supposedly has properties in the country, but may not conduct surveillance or arrest him, Ambassador to France Eduardo de Vega said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• PNP: Labor Day 2026 protests peaceful so far (2026-05-01 07:01)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said Labor Day protests across the country have been “peaceful" so far, with no untoward incidents reported as of its latest monitoring.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

economic pressures the country currently faces.

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

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

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

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

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (May 1, 2026) (2026-05-01 00:39)

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

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

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

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

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

• Zaldy Co is in Paris, says DFA's 'highly regarded' diplomatic source (2026-04-30 17:39)

Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro said information that former Ako Bicol party-list Representative Zaldy Co is in Paris came from a “highly regarded diplomatic source,” adding that the Philippine Embassy in France is closely monitoring the matter.

• Former impeachment court spokesman hails SC ruling on 'forthwith' (2026-04-30 16:36)

The spokesperson for the Senate impeachment court in 2025 said the Supreme Court's recent

ruling on the term "forthwith" under the 1987 Constitution's provision on an impeachment trial, as meaning "within a reasonable time," was a vindication for the Senate at the time.

- EXPLAINER: What is probable cause in impeachment complaints? (2026-04-30 16:31)

The House committee on justice on Wednesday unanimously voted that there is probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte based on two impeachment complaints lodged against her. But what does “probable cause” mean?

- EXPLAINER: How are wage hikes determined? (2026-04-30 15:13)

DOLE said the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) NCR has received 16 wage hike petitions - including calls for a daily minimum wage of P1,200, as well as for an increase of P500 daily.

- Pop culture references draw attention at VP Sara House impeachment hearing (2026-04-30 15:01)

During the House impeachment hearings against Vice President Sara Duterte, some lawmakers were able to slip in some “hugot” lines.

- PCSO: No jackpot winners in April 30, 2026 major lotto draws (2026-04-30 14:19)

No bettor won the jackpot prizes in Thursday night"s major lotto draws, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.

- China holds naval, air patrols near Scarborough Shoal amid PH-US Balikatan (2026-04-30 14:18)

China's military said on Thursday its naval and air forces held combat readiness patrols near the Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea.

- 2 more EJK victims laid to better resting place (2026-04-30 13:44)

The healing process for the families of the victims of the Duterte administration"s drug war continues as two more extra-judicial killing (EJK) victims were laid to a better resting place on Thursday.

- Duterte camp requests to appeal ICC confirmation of charges (2026-04-30 13:37)

The camp for former president Rodrigo Duterte has requested permission from the

International Criminal Court to file an appeal over the Pre-Trial Chamber I"s decision confirming the charges against him.

- NBI arrests Jay Sonza in QC over cyberlibel raps (2026-04-30 13:36)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) apprehended Jay Sonza on Thursday night at a house in Project 8, Quezon City.

- ICC trial chamber to convene status conference on Duterte case on May 27, 2026 (2026-04-30 12:49)

The Trial Chamber III of the International Criminal Court (ICC) will hold a status conference on May 27, 2026 on the crimes against humanity charges against former President Rodrigo Duterte in connection with his war on illegal drugs.

- Palace: Marcos asked envoy why France sought Zaldy Co's release (2026-04-30 12:04)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. is looking for answers as to why France requested for the release of former lawmaker Zaldy Co from the custody of the Czech Republic.

- Kitty Duterte on sister VP Sara's impeachment proceedings: 'She's not a thief' (2026-04-30 11:04)

“She"s not a thief.”: this is what Veronica “Kitty” Duterte said when asked about the impeachment proceedings against her sister, Vice President Sara Duterte.

- EXPLAINER: Why is Labor Day observed on May 1? (2026-04-30 10:52)

On May 1, thousands of workers will take to the streets again to issue fresh calls for fair wages and economic relief as the Philippines marks Labor Day.

- House prepares for plenary vote on VP Sara impeachment articles (2026-04-30 10:35)

Once scheduled for plenary action, at least one-third of all members of the House should vote to affirm the decision of the justice committee, which contains the Articles of Impeachment against the Vice President.

- Pulong's allegations against House Justice panel 'anticipated,' says chair Luistro (2026-04-30 10:05)

Pulong Duterte's allegations against the House Justice committee are to be expected as the

impeachment process against Vice President Sara Duterte continues, the committee's chair said.

• What is the Senate's timeline after Articles of Impeachment are transmitted? (2026-04-30 09:46)

Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III has committed that the Senate will immediately convene as an impeachment court, should it receive from the House of Representatives the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte.

• US Embassy warns citizens to avoid Labor Day rallies (2026-04-30 08:55)

The United States Embassy in the Philippines warned American citizens in the country to stay alert for several protests that will be held in Metro Manila on May 1, Friday.

• Palace: Marcos fully trusts active members of AFP (2026-04-30 08:45)

Malacañang said Thursday that President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr. fully trusts the active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

• Manager's checks in money laundering cases can be tracked, says AMLC (2026-04-30 08:42)

The Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) on Thursday said that manager"s checks can still be monitored for possible suspicious transactions, amid concerns that some politicians may use them for their laundering schemes.

• Warships from 5 navies hold maritime drills in West Philippine Sea (2026-04-30 08:25)

The Philippines, United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada deployed 11 warships for a multinational maritime exercise in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) as part of the Balikatan Exercises, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Thursday.

• SP Sotto: Forthwith for me means 'the following day' (2026-04-30 07:49)

Should the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte be transmitted to the upper chamber, Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Thursday said that the Senate will convene as an impeachment court immediately the day after.

• Palace: Czech envoy won't give Marcos more details on Zaldy Co (2026-04-30 07:35)

Malacañang said Thursday the Czech Republic refused to provide further details regarding the

circumstances surrounding former lawmaker Zaldy Co during a meeting with President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr.

• Sara Duterte's impeachment trial attendance depends on circumstance -- lawyer (2026-04-30 07:13)

The attendance of Vice President Sara Duterte at her possible impeachment trial will depend on whether or not her presence is needed in the court, the spokesperson of her defense team said Thursday.

• PNP relieves 11 Pangasinan cops from posts, reshuffles 6 senior officers (2026-04-30 07:09)

PNP relieves 11 Pangasinan cops from posts, reshuffles 6 senior officers

• House justice panel members deny pressure to impeach VP Sara Duterte (2026-04-30 06:40)

Members of the House justice panel denied Thursday that they were pressured or given monetary compensation to vote in favor of finding probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte.

• PNP on full alert for Labor Day 2026 activities (2026-04-30 06:28)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has placed all of its offices and units nationwide under full alert status starting Thursday to ensure the safety and security of Labor Day activities.

• Marcos leads aid distribution in Tacloban (2026-04-30 05:17)

President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr. on Thursday led the distribution of assistance in Tacloban City, under the administration's ''Sa Bagong Pilipinas, Bawat Bayan Makikinabang'' program.

• Japan reports 'meaningful progress' in addressing Navotas landfill fire (2026-04-30 05:03)

Japan reports 'meaningful progress' in addressing Navotas landfill Fire

• Senators hold caucus to discuss possible Sara Duterte impeachment trial (2026-04-30 04:48)

Senators are set to hold an all-member caucus on Thursday to discuss the preparations for the

possible impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.

• Atin Ito 4th civilian mission departs for Pagasa Island in West PH Sea (2026-04-30 03:29)

Civil society coalition Atin Ito on Thursday sent off its civilian mission to Pagasa Island in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

• Sara Duterte's lawyer on NBI findings: Evidence is curated, even spliced (2026-04-30 03:03)

A lawyer for Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday insisted that the evidence presented by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) during the impeachment hearing was “curated” and was not a foundation for probable cause.

• NAPOLCOM dismisses complaint vs CIDG-NCR over Tondo e-sabong raid (2026-04-30 02:56)

NAPOLCOM dismisses complaint vs CIDG-NCR over Tondo e-sabong raid

• Curlee Discaya brought to hospital for shoulder surgery (2026-04-30 01:36)

Embattled contractor Pacifico "Curlee" Discaya II on Thursday morning was temporarily taken out of Senate detention and was brought to a hospital to undergo a surgery on his shoulder, Senate Secretary Mark Llandro “Dong” Mendoza said.

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (April 30, 2026) (2026-04-29 22:25)

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

• Six PH universities recognized in THE Asia University Rankings 2026 (2026-04-29 22:08)

Six Philippine universities have secured spots in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings.

• Kiko Barzaga joins PDP Laban (2026-04-29 18:36)

Cavite 4th District Representative Kiko Barzaga officially took the oath as the newest member of PDP Laban on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, according to a separate social media post of the political party and the congressman.

• ICC trial chamber names Judge Joanna Korner as presiding judge in Duterte case (2026-04-29 14:36)

Judge Joanna Korner of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been elected as the presiding judge of the Trial Chamber III that will hear the crimes against humanity case against former President Rodrigo Duterte in relation to his war on illegal drugs.

• Mike Defensor presents Orly Guteza 'recording' on forced denial of cash deliveries (2026-04-29 14:08)

Former AnaKalusugan party-list Representative Mike Defensor on Wednesday presented a supposed audio recording of "surprise witness" Orly Guteza saying the latter was forced to say that he did not bring money to former Speaker and incumbent Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez.

• No winners of major lotto jackpot draws on April 29, 2026 (2026-04-29 14:02)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said there were no winners of the major lotto jackpot draws on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

• Mike Defensor mum on trafficking complaint vs. wife, child (2026-04-29 13:29)

Former AnaKalusugan party-list representative Mike Defensor refused to comment about a complaint against his wife and child alleging their involvement in human trafficking.

• VP Sara camp says House impeachment proceedings unconstitutional (2026-04-29 11:53)

The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday said the impeachment proceedings conducted by the House Committee on Justice were not in accordance with the Constitution.

• SC: Forthwith in impeachment means within a reasonable time (2026-04-29 10:27)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday clarified that the term “forthwith” mentioned in Article 11, Section 3(4) of the 1987 Constitution means the Senate shall hold an impeachment trial “within a reasonable time,” not necessarily immediately, as previously argued.

• Marcos requesting for more info on why Zaldy Co was released by Czech authorities (2026-04-29 10:24)

President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr. has asked for further information on the status of former lawmaker Zaldy Co as he met with the French envoy and the Chargé d"Affaires of the

Embassy of the Czech Republic.

• BIR secures 19 vehicles tied to Discayas' P7.18B tax cases (2026-04-29 10:09)

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Wednesday took into custody 19 motor vehicles connected to the P7.18 billion tax liabilities of contractors Curlee and Sarah Discaya.

• OWWA opens 10,000 more slots in scholarship program for OFW kids (2026-04-29 09:51)

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) on Wednesday announced that it will open 10,000 additional slots in its scholarship program for the children of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), after it signed an agreement with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

• It's also important for adult Filipinos to get vaccinated, health expert says (2026-04-29 09:17)

A health expert on Wednesday underscored the need for vaccination among adults as he urged the government to expand its free immunization initiatives to include adult Filipinos.

• 'Ex-Marcos loyalists' push Sara-Chavit tandem for 2028 (2026-04-29 08:59)

A group identifying itself as composed of "former loyalists” of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his father and namesake is pushing for a possible tandem between Vice President Sara Duterte and former Ilocos Sur governor Chavit Singson in the 2028 national elections.

• Sara Duterte's lawyers: Finding of probable cause on impeachment raps expected (2026-04-29 08:59)

The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday said the House committee on justice"s finding of probable cause in the impeachment complaints against the official “was not unexpected” considering the direction of the proceedings.

• House justice panel finds probable cause to impeach VP Sara Duterte (2026-04-29 08:18)

Via unanimous vote, the House committee on justice on Wednesday found probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte based on two impeachment complaints filed against her.

• NCDA to drop PWD ID med cert requirement for apparent disabilities (2026-04-29 08:15)

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) on Wednesday said it is set to issue a revised administrative order that will remove the requirement for medical certificates in applying for

persons with disability (PWD) identification cards in cases of apparent disabilities.

• LIST: Recommended vaccines for adults (2026-04-29 08:13)

The Department of Health (DOH) and health experts continue their call for better immunization programs in the country amid possible health risks.

• Bong Revilla camp questions credibility of state witness Roberto Bernardo (2026-04-29 07:39)

The camp of former senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr. on Wednesday questioned the credibility of state witness and former Public Works undersecretary Roberto Bernardo, saying the latter was not being upfront with his role in the flood control mess.

• NBI identifying hitman for alleged assassination plot vs Marcos (2026-04-29 07:17)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is investigating the identity of a hitman allegedly contracted by Vice President Sara Duterte for an assassination plot against President Ferdinand " Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

• Complaint vs. Harry Roque to push through even if he is not in the Philippines -- BIR (2026-04-29 07:15)

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said proceedings against former presidential spokesperson Atty. Harry Roque will push through regardless if he is in the Philippines or not.

• NBI: VP Sara Duterte's threat to kill Marcos is grave threat, inciting to sedition (2026-04-29 06:52)

The video of a press conference showing Vice President Sara Duterte making a threat to kill President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and his family members in certain circumstances constitutes inciting to sedition and three counts of grave threat, the National Bureau of Investigation said Wednesday.

• Brian Poe spurns pop culture references in impeachment proceedings (2026-04-29 05:42)

FPJ Bayanihan Party-list Rep. Brian Poe on Wednesday urged members of the House Committee on Justice to refrain from using pop culture references during the ongoing impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte.

• House panel thumbs down opening of tax returns of Sara Duterte, husband (2026-04-29 04:38)

The House committee on justice voted Wednesday to keep the box containing the income tax returns of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio, sealed.

• Luistro flags potential underreported profits of Duterte-linked firms (2026-04-29 04:27)

Corporate records of several companies linked to Vice President Sara Duterte declared low profit margins despite reporting millions of pesos in gross income, records from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed.

• DA prepares safeguards vs El Niño impact on farms (2026-04-29 04:18)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday announced it is preparing a coordinated, data-driven plan to respond to and manage the potential impact of a possible El Niño later in 2026 on the country"s agriculture sector.

• EXPLAINER: What is the asylum procedure in France? (2026-04-29 04:01)

Malacañang has announced that former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co is seeking political asylum in France shortly after being released from the custody of Czech authorities.

• Gov. Baricuatro says Cebu ready for ASEAN Summit (2026-04-29 03:40)

Cebu Governor Pamela Baricuatro on Wednesday expressed readiness for the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders" Summit as local officials guaranteed that security, traffic, and venue preparations are in place.

• Luistro: People with dirty secrets oppose disclosure of bank transactions (2026-04-29 03:39)

Individuals who oppose the disclosure of bank transactions are those with dirty secrets, House justice committee chairperson and Batangas Second District Rep. Gerville Luistro said Wednesday.

• Marcos unveils PhilHealth's expanded maternity benefits starting April 30th (2026-04-29 03:17)

Marcos announces PhilHealth's expanded maternity benefits

• NBI's Matibag attends Sara Duterte impeachment hearing to present probe on threats (2026-04-29 03:09)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will face the House justice committee on Wednesday to present the findings on its investigation into the alleged threats of Vice President Sara Duterte against President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and others.

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (April 29, 2026) (2026-04-29 01:24)

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

• LIVE UPDATES: VP Sara Duterte impeachment hearing (April 29, 2026) (2026-04-29 00:33)

The House Committee on Justice will conduct a hearing on Wednesday, April 29, regarding the impeachment complaints filed against Vice President Sara Duterte. Here are the latest news and updates.

• OCTA: Self-rated poverty down from 37% to 35% before global oil price shock (2026-04-29 00:29)

Self-rated poverty among Filipino families declined from 37% to 35% before the global oil price shock linked to the Middle East tensions, according to an OCTA Research survey released Wednesday.

• VP Sara impeachment hearings to proceed amid petitions to halt it -Luistro (2026-04-29 00:15)

The House Committee on Justice will continue hearing the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte as scheduled today, April 29, and possibly vote whether there is probable cause to impeach her amid multiple maneuvers seeking to stop its proceedings.

• TESDA begins innovation hub to boost job-ready skills in NCR (2026-04-28 17:32)

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on Tuesday officially kicked off the construction of an innovation center inside its complex in Taguig City in a bid to boost job-ready skills in Metro Manila.

• UP Diliman grad tops April 2026 registered electrical engineers licensure exam (2026-04-28 17:07)

A graduate of the University of the Philippines-Diliman achieved the highest score in the registered electrical engineers licensure examination held earlier this month.

- BOC seizes P250M shabu hidden in imported light bulbs at NAIA (2026-04-28 15:02)

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized nearly P250 million worth of shabu concealed in imported light bulbs at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

- No jackpot winners in PCSO's April 28 major lotto draws (2026-04-28 14:42)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)"s major lotto draws on Tuesday, April 28.

- EXPLAINER: Where is the Schengen area? (2026-04-28 14:23)

Former lawmaker Zaldy Co - who is wanted for graft and malversation of public funds in connection with a P289 million flood control project in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro - is no longer in the custody of Czech authorities and is seeking political asylum in France. Before he came under France"s custody, Philippine authorities said Co was still within the Schengen area in Europe.

- Balikatan Exercise: PH, US forces train vs drones (2026-04-28 13:58)

Philippine and United States forces conducted a live-fire exercise and trained in bringing down drones during the 2026 Balikatan Exercise in San Antonio, Zambales, amid ongoing tension in the West Philippine Sea.

- Call center agent arrested for estafa, car theft scheme (2026-04-28 12:57)

Authorities arrested a call center agent who allegedly used her co-worker"s name to release a vehicle from a car dealership, with the vehicle ending up unpaid.

- Ex-law dean wants SC to recognize foreign divorce between 2 Pinoys (2026-04-28 12:30)

Former law dean Mel Sta. Maria pushed for the recognition of foreign divorce between two Filipinos, saying the current policy mirrors a colonial mentality that discriminates against them.

- Who are the ICC judges assigned to Rodrigo Duterte's trial? (2026-04-28 11:54)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Presidency has constituted the Trial Chamber that will

hear the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte. Who are the three judges who would oversee Duterte's trial?

• DFA: Interpol alerted on Zaldy Co's canceled passports in December 2025 (2026-04-28 10:38)

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Tuesday said it had immediately informed the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) after the passports of fugitive former congressman Zaldy Co were canceled in December 2025.

• Czech gov't says no extradition proceedings vs. Zaldy Co (2026-04-28 10:36)

Czech authorities said they are not currently pursuing extradition proceedings against Zaldy Co, even as talks with Philippine officials shift toward strengthening future cooperation.

• Alan Cayetano defends Bato: 'It's not his desire to be absent' (2026-04-28 10:19)

Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa wants to return to the Senate to fulfill his responsibilities, but the "threats" against him in connection with the supposed arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) bar him from doing so, Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said Tuesday.

• House seeks dismissal of petitions against Sara Duterte impeachment proceedings (2026-04-28 10:14)

The House of Representatives, through the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), has asked the Supreme Court (SC) to dismiss the consolidated petitions seeking to stop the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte.

• P5.3-million forfeiture case junked after respondents agree to return amount (2026-04-28 10:14)

The Sandiganbayan dismissed a P5.3-million forfeiture case against former government officials after the respondents agreed to return the amount to the government.

• Costs hinder Filipinos from staying fit, healthy -- experts (2026-04-28 10:10)

Healthcare costs continue to prevent many Filipinos from prioritizing their health despite growing awareness of its importance, medical experts said Tuesday.

• Barzaga may be expelled from House due to repeated offenses, warns Garin (2026-04-28 09:55)

Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga may face expulsion from the House of Representatives due to his repeated failure to show proper decorum and perform his duty as a lawmaker, House Deputy Speaker and Iloilo 1st District Rep. Janette Garin said on Tuesday.

• PH not concerned Iran war will distract US from region --Teodoro (2026-04-28 09:25)

The Philippines is not worried about any reduction in US deterrence capabilities in the area due to the Iran war, though China would likely try to seize on any perceived opening, the DND said.

• DILG's Remulla attributes 50% drop in crimes to Safer Cities ops (2026-04-28 09:25)

Interior Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla has attributed the 50% drop in crimes in the country to the operations conducted under the “Safer Cities” program, citing stronger enforcement, improved coordination, and shared responsibility among communities.

• ICC sets up court judges for Rodrigo Duterte trial (2026-04-28 08:37)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Presidency has constituted the Trial Chamber that will hear the crimes against humanity case against former President Rodrigo Duterte over killings during his tenure as Davao City mayor and later as Philippine president.

• Senators dismayed over Zaldy Co getting out of Czech custody (2026-04-28 08:30)

Several senators on Tuesday expressed disappointment over reports that former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co has slipped out of the custody of Czech authorities.

• PH, South Korean ink $25.6-M deal to establish Nat'l Cyber Security Center (2026-04-28 08:15)

The Philippine and South Korean governments formally partnered to establish the National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) to strengthen the Philippines" cybersecurity landscape.

• Marcos 'disappointed' with latest status of Zaldy Co but not blaming PH officials (2026-04-28 07:55)

Marcos 'disappointed' with latest status of Zaldy Co

• House panel may vote on probable cause to impeach VP Sara by Wednesday (2026-04-28 07:40)

House panel may vote on probable cause to impeach VP Sara by Wednesday

• Kin of missing activist Jonas Burgos ask SC for help (2026-04-28 05:41)

The family of activist Jonas Burgos on Tuesday joined a protest rally and appealed to the Supreme Court for help as he remains missing, years since his disappearance in April 2007.

• 2 minors among Negros 'clash' deaths, NTF-ELCAC says (2026-04-28 05:37)

Two minors were among those 19 killed in what the military called an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental on April 19, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) said.

• Bato 'considering' to waive salary, allowances -JV Ejercito (2026-04-28 04:19)

Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa is now considering declining his salaries and allowances while he remains absent in the upper chamber, Senate Deputy Majority Leader and Ethics committee chairperson JV Ejercito said Tuesday.

• PDEA still has no final result in probe into 'Sammy Uy' (2026-04-28 03:22)

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said it has yet to reach a final result in its ongoing investigation into a certain “Sammy Uy,” despite the probe having been underway for years.

• Police major in custody over alleged link to e-sabong in Negros --PNP (2026-04-28 02:02)

A police major has been placed under restrictive custody after being accused of acting as a protector of illegal online cockfighting operations and other unlawful activities in Negros Island, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday.

• Voluminous documents for red notice vs. Zaldy Co already sent to authorities --PCTC (2026-04-28 00:22)

Even though former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co is no longer in Czech custody or territory, the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime assures that the requirements Interpol needs for a red notice against the ex-lawmaker have been submitted to authorities.

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (April 28, 2026) (2026-04-27 23:48)

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

• DOJ chief Vida to bring home not Zaldy Co, but 'important things' (2026-04-27 20:29)

“Mahalagang bagay kaugnay ni Zaldy Co (Important things about former congressman Zaldy Co)”. These are what acting Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Fredderick Vida would bring back to the Philippines after meeting his Czech counterparts on Monday afternoon in Prague - and finding out that Co is no longer in Czech custody or territory.

• Philippines, Czech Republic to pursue extradition, mutual legal assistance treaties (2026-04-27 19:10)

The Philippines and the Czech Republic have agreed to begin formal negotiations on three agreements regarding law enforcement, including one on extradition, Acting Justice Secretary Frederrick Vida said on Monday.

• LTFRB eyeing to finish distributing fuel subsidy to transport sector by next week (2026-04-27 18:43)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday turned over P447,000 in fuel subsidies to 14 public utility bus operators in the Ilocos Region in a bid to expedite the distribution of aid for the transport sector and finish it by next week.

• Zaldy Co accosted with expired passport, says DOJ chief (2026-04-27 18:27)

Zaldy Co was carrying an expired passport when he was accosted by authorities two weeks ago, Acting Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida told reporters on Monday.

• US, PH, Australia, New Zealand troops join forces for Balikatan live-fire drills (2026-04-27 18:00)

Over 500 troops from the United States, Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand military forces successfully coordinated fires from the land and air to defeat a simulated adversary attack as part of the Exercise Balikatan 2026 held in Aborlan, Palawan on Monday.

• EXPLAINER: What each charge in the Meralco bill mean for customers? (2026-04-27 17:16)

Meralco customers faced “bill shock” in April 2026 as electricity bills sharply spiked. The

Manila Electric Company (Meralco) has recently clarified that the itemized charges in customers" bills are all approved by regulators before implementation. But what does every charge in the Meralco bill mean, and where does it go?

- Zaldy Co no longer in Czech custody, says DOJ (2026-04-27 16:21)

Former Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co, who is wanted in the Philippines on charges of corruption and malversation of public funds in connection with an alleged ghost flood control project, is no longer in the custody of Czech authorities, acting Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said on Monday.

- San Carlos bishop urges responsibility, accountability amid Toboso 'clash' (2026-04-27 15:59)

The bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos in Negros Occidental on Monday called for responsibility and accountability among authorities, the media, and the public amid the alleged clash in Toboso that left 19 people dead, including two students and a local journalist.

- P45M richer: 2 winners to split Megalotto 6/45 jackpot (2026-04-27 14:34)

Two bettors who placed their bets in Nueva Ecija and Mandaluyong City will be splitting P45 million after winning the jackpot prize in the Megalotto 6/45 draw on Monday, April 27, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.

- UP mourns deaths of students in Negros clash, extends assistance to kin (2026-04-27 14:21)

The University of the Philippines (UP) on Monday expressed sadness over the deaths of students Alyssa Alano and Maureen Santuyo, who were among the 19 persons killed during an alleged encounter with government troops in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

- Slain UP students did not tell LGU about community research - Toboso local official (2026-04-27 14:09)

The students of the University of the Philippines (UP) who were killed during an alleged encounter with government troops in Toboso, Negros Occidental did not give prior notice to the local government about their community research in the area, a local official said.

- Who is Maureen Keil Santuyo, the other UP student killed in Negros clash? (2026-04-27 11:15)

Santuyo, fondly known as “Mau” by her peers, was an Associate of Arts student of UPOU and a member of the National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates Youth (NNARA Youth).

• Ping Lacson: Chairman's report to restart Senate flood control project hearings (2026-04-27 10:42)

Senate President Pro Tempore and Blue Ribbon Committee Chairman Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said he would present the progress report on the investigation into the flood control controversy when Congress resumes its session next week.

• ICC confirmation of charges vs Rody Duterte, case records sent to Presidency (2026-04-27 10:37)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Registry has transmitted to the ICC Presidency the decision confirming the charges against former President Rodrigo Duterte, along with other case records.

• Sandiganbayan bars Escudero, Ngu from leaving PH amid flood control probe (2026-04-27 10:37)

The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division has issued a precautionary Hold Departure Order (PHDO) on ex-Senate President and incumbent Senator Francis Escudero as well as businessman Maynard Ngu who are facing government probe over alleged plunder, graft, and indirect bribery in connection with the flood control mess.

• NBI subpoenas 3 vloggers over fake claims on Marcos' health, says Palace (2026-04-27 09:47)

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued subpoenas to three vloggers for allegedly spreading false information regarding the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Malacañang said Monday.

• All barangays to receive aid irrespective of political affiliations, says Palace (2026-04-27 09:40)

All barangays in the country will receive assistance amid the fuel crisis, regardless of the political allegiances of their local executives and representatives in Congress, Malacañang said on Monday.

• Zaldy Co may seek asylum in Czech Republic to avoid return to PH --analyst (2026-04-27 09:25)

Former Ako Bicol Party-list representative Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co may apply for asylum in the Czech Republic to prevent his return to the Philippines, a political analyst said Monday.

• Palace on endorsements for 2028 elections: Too early to tackle politics (2026-04-27 09:14)

For Malacañang, it's too early to discuss about politics as President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr. is busy addressing the challenges hounding the country.

• PNPA to conduct regular body checks on cadets amid hazing issue (2026-04-27 08:56)

The Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) will conduct regular body checks on cadets as part of efforts to prevent hazing and other forms of abuse within the institution.

• Palace says up to law enforcers to probe destabilization plot vs. Marcos (2026-04-27 08:42)

Malacañang on Monday said it's up to law enforcement agencies to investigate Senator Panfilo ' 'Ping'' Lacson"s claim that some retired military officers were planning a “power grab” against President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr.

• SC acquits mother with schizophrenia in child's death, cites legal insanity (2026-04-27 08:30)

The Supreme Court (SC) has acquitted a mother with schizophrenia in connection with the death of her 5-year-old daughter, ruling that her mental condition deprived her of the capacity to recognize the nature and wrongfulness of her act at the time of the incident.

• Palace won't intervene with CHR probe into Negros Occidental clash (2026-04-27 08:10)

Malacañang respects the independent investigation being conducted by the Commission on Human Rights into the recent purported clash in Toboso, Negros Occidental, where 19 people were killed, including a local journalist, a student leader, and two Filipino-Americans.

• Agri chief warns 'triple shock' straining global food supply (2026-04-27 08:05)

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has warned that a “triple shock” of climate change, disease outbreaks, and geopolitical tensions is straining global food supply and making agriculture harder to manage.

• Another UP student among Negros 'clash' fatalities (2026-04-27 07:42)

The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) has confirmed that one of its students was among those killed in what the military called an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

• BuCor, other agencies sign MOA on reintegration of violent extremist offenders (2026-04-27 07:21)

The Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and other agencies on Monday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to institutionalize a collaborative reintegration program for released violent extremist offenders (VEOs).

• Marcoleta urges Blue Ribbon panel to invite Martin Romualdez: 'He's ready to talk' (2026-04-27 05:15)

Senate Deputy Minority Leader Rodante Marcoleta on Monday called on the Senate blue ribbon committee to invite former Speaker and incumbent Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez to the next hearing on the flood control mess.

• Marcos: Nearly 80,000 teachers, school heads promoted since Aug. 2025 (2026-04-27 04:24)

Nearly 80,000 teachers and school heads have been promoted under the government"s Expanded Career Progression (ECP) System since August 2025, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

• Sara Duterte's husband, Mans Carpio, files raps vs. AMLC, BSP, solons (2026-04-27 04:21)

Lawyer Mans Carpio, Vice President Sara Duterte's husband, filed a complaint against officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and several lawmakers following a report on their bank transactions at the House of Representatives.

• Marcos leads rice distribution to local farmers in Roxas City (2026-04-27 03:30)

President Ferdinand ''Bongbong'' Marcos Jr. on Monday distributed rice in Roxas City, Capiz to local farmers and other members of vulnerable sectors, with the aim to help them cope with the effects of rising food and fuel prices.

• Sandiganbayan holds closed-door hearing on bid to bar Escudero, Ngu from travel (2026-04-27 03:24)

The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Monday held a closed-door hearing on Ombudsman prosecutors" petition for a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against Senator Francis Escudero and Maynard Ngu, who are under investigation for alleged plunder, graft, and other offenses linked to the flood control controversy.

• Mans Carpio denies up to P6.7-B flagged bank transactions with Sara Duterte (2026-04-27 02:59)

Atty. Manases “Mans” Carpio is denying that he and his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, had bank transactions totaling P6.7 billion, which the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) flagged as “covered and suspicious.”

• PNP starts probe into Ombudsman investigators" data leak (2026-04-27 02:10)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Monday it will help in tracking down the perpetrators behind the leak of sensitive personal data of investigators of the Office of the Ombudsman.

• VP Sara leads 46% while Leni rises to 35% in 2028 polls matchup per OCTA survey (2026-04-27 00:39)

Vice President Sara Duterte remains the frontrunner with 46% but Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo earned 35%, making the gap narrower in a hypothetical 2028 head-to-head presidential race, according to the latest OCTA Research survey released Monday.

• Trump portrays shooting as proof of his presidency's power (2026-04-27 00:38)

WASHINGTON -- Donald Trump's tuxedo still looked freshly pressed when he stepped to the White House podium Saturday night, barely an hour after the latest apparent attempt on his life.

• LIVE UPDATES: Conflict in the Middle East (April 27, 2026) (2026-04-26 22:39)

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

• Brawner to new WESCOM chief: Sustain credible, steady presence in West PH Sea (2026-04-26 18:05)

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. on Sunday told the new commander of the AFP"s Western Command (WESCOM) to sustain the military"s credible and steady presence in the West Philippine Sea.

• House impeach proceedings don"t violate bank secrecy law - de Lima (2026-04-26 17:35)

House Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Mamamayang Liberal (ML) Partylist Rep. Leila de Lima on Sunday maintained that the House justice committee"s impeachment proceedings - which discussed the “suspicious and covered” financial transactions of Vice President Sara Duterte - do not violate the country"s bank secrecy law or any law for that matter.

• At Mass in Prague, DOJ chief Vida prays for pursuit of justice (2026-04-26 16:00)

During Mass at a Catholic shrine in Prague, Department of Justice (DOJ) Acting Secretary Fredderick Vida prayed to receive “help in his work” regarding former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co.

• PCSO: No jackpot winners for April 26 major lotto draws (2026-04-26 14:25)

No one won the jackpot prizes in the major lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Sunday, April 26.

• 'Clearer picture" emerging on how Zaldy Co moved in Europe --DOJ (2026-04-26 14:01)

Philippine authorities are beginning to piece together how Zaldy Co moved across Europe, DOJ acting Sec. Fredderick Vida said following initial coordination with Czech counterparts.

• With rising fares, fuel surcharges, Filipinos now rethink travel plans (2026-04-26 13:46)

With transport costs rising, some Filipinos are putting travel plans on hold or trimming vacation expenses as higher fares begin to weigh on household budgets.

• DOJ: Czech trip on Zaldy Co case won"t end 'empty-handed" (2026-04-26 12:21)

Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said the Philippine government will not return “empty-handed” from its trip to the Czech Republic, as officials move to clarify the status of former congressman Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co and pursue steps for his possible return to face charges in the Philippines.

• Lacson drafts flood probe chair"s report, eyes Ombudsman submission (2026-04-26 09:53)

Senate Blue Ribbon Committee chairperson Panfilo “Ping” Lacson on Sunday said he is preparing a chairman"s progress report on the panel"s investigation into alleged anomalous flood control projects, and is studying whether it can be furnished to the Office of the

Ombudsman.

• LTFRB: Over P27M in fuel aid released to taxi drivers on last distribution day (2026-04-26 09:15)

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said it released over P27 million in fuel subsidy to taxi drivers on the second and final day of distribution, as part of the government"s cash aid program for the public transport sector.

• Ombudsman condemns leak of investigators" identities, eyes charges (2026-04-26 08:40)

The Office of the Ombudsman on Sunday condemned the online disclosure of its investigators" identities, saying it is now working with law enforcement agencies to identify those behind the leak and file charges against them.

• Marcos: Gov"t services to continue despite energy crisis, cites housing program (2026-04-26 07:56)

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. said Sunday the government would continue delivering public services despite the country"s energy woes, as he highlighted the administration"s housing program in his latest social media reel.

• Mans Carpio readies raps vs BSP, AMLC, House over bank secrecy, privacy breaches (2026-04-26 07:52)

The husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, vowed to file a criminal complaint on Monday against officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), and members of the House Committee on Justice for alleged violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), bank secrecy laws, and the Data Privacy Act.

• DENR orders landfill operators to submit contingency plans, for LGUS to cease ops of open dumpsites (2026-04-26 07:13)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said Sunday it has required sanitary landfill (SLF) operators to submit contingency plans that will address fire incidents and other emergency situations in waste disposal facilities.

• Environmental group urges gov"t to declare national climate emergency (2026-04-26 02:07)

Environmental group Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) has urged the government

to declare a national climate emergency due to the effects of drought in the country.

- Over 1.1 million jeepney drivers received P5k cash aid --DSWD (2026-04-26 01:55)

More than 1.1 million jeepney drivers nationwide received the P5,000 cash relief assistance from the government as of Saturday amid the high prices of fuel in the country, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said.

Source: PhilStar Global

- Army’s 4th Infantry Division gets new commander (2026-05-03 04:09)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operators of Angat Dam have been asked to extend the allocation of irrigation water for rice farms in Bulacan and parts of Pampanga as there are still about 5,000 hectares of farmlands

with standing crops that need to be irrigated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• School exec gunned down (2026-05-01 16:00)

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

• Rider dies in Bulacan vehicular mishap (2026-05-01 16:00)

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

• Pangasinan dam project nearing completion (2026-05-01 16:00)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• 3 die in Quezon fire (2026-05-01 16:00)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Cops help woman give birth at transport terminal (2026-04-30 16:00)

Police officers helped a pregnant woman deliver her baby boy at a transport terminal in Iligan City on Wednesday morning.

• DOLE holds Labor Day job fairs in Bulacan (2026-04-30 16:00)

As part of the celebration of Labor Day, the office of the Department of Labor and Employment in Central Luzon is holding simultaneous job fairs in this town and in San Jose del Monte City today.

• Man nabbed for presenting fake documents at Davao airport (2026-04-30 16:00)

A 50-year-old passenger bound for Manila was arrested after he allegedly presented fake documents to an airline personnel at the Davao International Airport on Tuesday.

• 11 Pangasinan cop chiefs relieved over illegal gambling (2026-04-30 16:00)

The chief of the Pangasinan police and 10 other local police officials have been relieved from their posts in connection with the arrest of 170 people in separate anti-illegal gambling operations.

• Public warned vs premature conclusions on Negros clash (2026-04-30 16:00)

Malacañang yesterday cautioned the public against jumping to conclusions regarding the recent encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental, which left 19 people dead.

• Central Visayas hospitals on alert as Cebu hosts ASEAN summit (2026-04-30 16:00)

A Code Blue alert has been raised in all government-run hospitals and health facilities in Central Visayas as part of the preparation for the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Leaders' Summit from May 7 to 8, according to the Department of Health.

• Teachers call for P50,000 entry-level salary (2026-04-30 16:00)

Members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers Philippines marched to Malacañang yesterday to submit a petition calling for a P50,000 entry-level salary for all teachers in public and private institutions.

• Faster containment seen in Navotas landfill fire (2026-04-30 16:00)

Efforts to contain the fire at the Navotas sanitary landfill have accelerated with increased resources and manpower, Mayor John Rey Tiangco said yesterday.

• PNP pursues ‘good leads’ in Perry Mariano murder (2026-04-30 16:00)

Police are pursuing good leads on the two men who killed long-time billiards patron and businessman Ceferino Mariano and his driver in Quezon City, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

• PNP charged 1,048 cops in Q1 (2026-04-30 16:00)

The Philippine National Police filed administrative cases against 1,048 police officers during the first quarter of the year, a PNP data showed.

• BARMM's regionwide online social service facet launched (2026-04-30 06:29)

The Bangsamoro social services ministry launched on Tuesday, April 28, its Beneficiary Data Management System (BDMS) to boost its public service thrusts, established with the help of the Australian government and an agency of the United Nations.

• April 30: 7 areas under ‘danger’ heat index (2026-04-30 03:59)

PAGASA places seven areas under danger-level heat index, with temperatures up to 43°C.

• All systems go for BARMM polls (2026-04-30 03:23)

Preparations are in full swing for the 2026 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Parliamentary Elections.

• All systems go for BARMM polls prep (2026-04-30 03:23)

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• Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for Apr. 30 (2026-04-30 01:35)

Motorists are seeing a third straight week of rollbacks in diesel prices, even as gasoline prices have begun to edge up again.

• From P17B to P5.8B: EDSA rehab cheaper and faster, says Dizon (2026-04-30 00:30)

DPWH says cost was cut to P5.8B and timeline shortened to under a year.

• Erratum (2026-04-29 16:00)

The second paragraph of the story titled “Court sheriff dismissed for extortion,” which appeared in yesterday’s issue of The STAR, should have read: In a ruling promulgated in November 2025 and uploaded only recently on the website of the Supreme Court, the SC said there was sufficient proof showing Gerard Louie Garganera, sheriff of the Municipal Trial Court

in Cities in Passi City, guilty of the offense. Our apologies.

• Palawan's Entalula Beach tops world's best beaches list (2026-04-29 16:00)

Entalula Beach in Palawan has been named the best beach in the world for its majestic cliffs, clear water and amazing seclusion, according to a global list released on Tuesday.

• Fires hit Kanlaon grasslands (2026-04-29 16:00)

Up to 150 hectares of mixed forest and grasslands within the four-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone of Kanlaon Volcano on Negros Island were destroyed in separate fire incidents that continued for several days.

• Lawmakers back impartial probe of Negros Occidental encounter (2026-04-29 16:00)

More lawmakers are supporting calls for a thorough and impartial investigation into the deaths of 19 people in an encounter in Toboso, Negros Occidental.

• 16 Bangsamoro political parties apply for accreditation (2026-04-29 16:00)

Sixteen political parties have applied for accreditation for the first parliamentary election in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), according to the Commission on Elections.

• 10 hospitalized after ammonia leak in Caloocan (2026-04-29 16:00)

Ten people were rushed to the hospital yesterday due to an ammonia leak at an ice plant in Barangay 168, Caloocan City.

• Quake jolts Eastern Samar areas (2026-04-29 16:00)

A magnitude-4.8 earthquake jolted several areas in Eastern Samar yesterday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

• DPWH reinforces Beata Bridge (2026-04-29 16:00)

New steel railings were placed on the Beata Bridge in Pandacan, Manila by the Department of Public Works and Highways yesterday.

• Workers get free LRT-2, MRT-3 rides tomorrow (2026-04-29 16:00)

In observance of Labor Day, the Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) and Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) will be offering free rides tomorrow.

• BOC turns over 19 Discaya cars to BIR (2026-04-29 16:00)

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) yesterday turned over to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) the custody of 19 vehicles linked to detained contractors Curlee and Sarah Discaya.

• Cops seize 10 kilos of shabu in Pagadian City (2026-04-29 11:08)

Personnel of the Police Highway Patrol Team-Zamboanga del Sur in Region 9 foiled in Pagadian City on Tuesday, April 28, an attempt by a resident of this city to deliver P68 million worth of shabu to contacts in the area.

• 6-month emergency subsidy for BARMM workers mulled (2026-04-29 10:57)

The Bangsamoro labor ministry has recommended to top regional officials the allocation of P1.4 billion as relief support for six months for private sector workers in the autonomous region to ease their burdens caused by the fuel crisis due to the conflict in the Middle East.

• 4 militiamen hurt in attack by Dawlah Islamiya remnants (2026-04-29 06:43)

Four members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit were wounded when remnants of the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya terror group fired assault rifles at their roadside detachments in separate attacks in Datu Hoffer town in Maguindanao del Sur before dawn Monday.

• House probe on Negros clash sought (2026-04-29 06:00)

An inquiry in aid of legislation is being sought in Congress on the armed encounter in Negros Occidental last April 19.

• BARMM moves to address housing needs of 300,000 poor families (2026-04-29 01:12)

Officials of the Ministry of Human Settlements and Development-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are keen on connecting with foreign benefactors who can support their efforts to build houses for fewer than 300,000 homeless families in BARMM.

• Remains of 6 OFWs arrive from Kuwait (2026-04-28 16:00)

The remains of six overseas Filipino workers who died of natural causes in Kuwait arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 on Monday.

• 2 Manila cops axed for traffic violation (2026-04-28 16:00)

A patrolman and his immediate supervisor, a police major, have been sacked from their posts for a traffic violation in Manila.

• Tax evasion raps baseless – Roque (2026-04-28 16:00)

Former presidential spokesman Harry Roque yesterday called baseless the tax evasion complaints filed against him, his wife and an associate before the Department of Justice.

• PNP: Gun-wielding man in road crash surrenders (2026-04-28 16:00)

A licensed protection agent has been identified as the person who brandished a firearm outside a pickup truck, which figured in vehicular accidents in Taguig and Makati.

• 7 rescued from trafficking (2026-04-28 16:00)

Seven people believed victims of human trafficking were rescued in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi on Monday.

• Woman stabbed dead by husband (2026-04-28 16:00)

A woman was stabbed dead by her former husband in General Trias, Cavite on Monday.

• Court sheriff dismissed for extortion (2026-04-28 16:00)

A court sheriff in Passi City, Iloilo has been dismissed from his post for allegedly asking P56,000 in exchange for the settlement of a case involving violation of the bouncing checks law.

• Bus firm summoned over Camarines Sur road crash (2026-04-28 16:00)

The driver and operator of a bus that figured in a recent vehicular accident in Camarines Sur have been ordered to explain the incident, according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

• Out-of-school youth, adults urged to study through ALS (2026-04-28 16:00)

Out-of-school youth and adults may avail themselves of the government’s Alternative Learning System in order to continue their studies and improve their way of living, according to the Department of Education.

• Government bracing for El Niño (2026-04-28 16:00)

The government is drafting measures this early to address the effects of El Niño, which is expected to develop in the third quarter of this year, Malacañang said yesterday.

• 13 areas under 'danger' heat index alert (2026-04-28 06:24)

PAGASA places 13 areas under danger heat index, with temperatures reaching up to 44°C.

• Price cuts extend for diesel, kerosene; gasoline up (2026-04-28 00:30)

Fuel prices move again Tuesday, with diesel and kerosene posting rollbacks.

• Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for Apr. 28 (2026-04-28 00:30)

Fuel prices are shifting again as diesel, kerosene drop and gasoline edges higher this week.

• Davao named best city for travel (2026-04-27 16:00)

Travel and destination guide World Travel Index has listed Davao City as the best in the Philippines for the second time in a row, according to the WTI April 2026 rankings.

• Palace: 42,011 barangays to get P200,000 each (2026-04-27 16:00)

Malacañang gave the assurance yesterday that the government’s development support would benefit all of the country’s 42,011 barangays.

• DOLE vows aid for Zamboanga fish industry workers (2026-04-27 16:00)

Over 30,000 workers will receive aid amid the impending shutdown of fishing and canning operations here due to high fuel costs, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

• Maguindanao leaders join new BARMM political party (2026-04-27 16:00)

More than half of the 36 mayors in Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte have joined a new political party as the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao gears up for the first BARMM parliamentary elections in September.

• Ombudsman junks cases vs Benitez, others (2026-04-27 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has dismissed for lack of evidence the complaints for grave misconduct against Deputy Speaker Alfredo Benitez and members of the city council.

• Patrol car crash: More may face raps (2026-04-27 16:00)

More people could face charges in connection with the patrol car accident that left five detainees dead in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City last week, according to the Philippine National Police.

• Blanket socmed ban for minors hard to enforce – group (2026-04-27 16:00)

A blanket ban on minors' access to social media could be difficult to enforce and vulnerable to circumvention, according to a consumer advocacy group.

• Taguig-Makati crash no road rage – SPD (2026-04-27 16:00)

The Southern Police District has maintained that the April 24 multiple-vehicle collision in Taguig and Makati is not a road rage incident.

• Alleged Atong Ang links to Tondo e-sabong probed (2026-04-27 16:00)

The Philippine National Police is investigating the possible links of fugitive gaming tycoon Atong Ang to e-sabong operations in Tondo, Manila and Talisay in Negros Occidental.

• Jonvic warns SK officials vs corruption (2026-04-27 16:00)

After two Sangguniang Kabataan chairpersons in Makati were suspended over misconduct cases, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla yesterday warned SK officials against corruption.

• 2 Moro men killed in Maguindanao del Norte ambush (2026-04-27 10:59)

Two Moro men actively supporting police law-enforcement activities were killed in an ambush in Barangay Bagoinged, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao del Norte on Sunday, April 26.

• 3 Dawlah members killed in clash with soldiers (2026-04-27 09:25)

Three remnants of the now-defunct Dawlah Islamiya were killed in an encounter with patrolling soldiers in a secluded area in Barangay Tuayan Mother, Datu Hoffer, Maguindanao del Sur on

Sunday, April 26.

• Leaders in 2 BARMM provinces join new political party (2026-04-27 08:46)

More than half of the 36 mayors in Maguindanao del Sur and Maguindanao del Norte have joined the Bangsamoro Federalist Party, which has fielded candidates for the parliament of the autonomous region in its first regional elections on September 14 this year.

• Double-digit rollback for diesel, kerosene set this week (2026-04-27 07:16)

Diesel and kerosene to post double-digit rollbacks as gasoline edges up.

• Price Tracker: Oil, fuel monitor for Apr. 27 (2026-04-27 00:00)

Fuel prices are expected to decline again this week, though at a smaller scale.

• Baguio has highest GDP per capita (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in Cordillera has reported Baguio City as the country's top regional city economy in per capita terms, posting the highest gross domestic product (GDP) per capita among regional cities in 2025.

• Miss Universe security tightened (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Northern Mindanao Police heightened the implementation of security measures across the region, ahead of the Miss Universe Philippines 2026 semi-finals in Misamis Occidental.

• DepEd urged to improve athlete support system (2026-04-26 16:00)

After a strong showing of provincial delegates in the recent Cagayan Valley Regional Athletic Association meet, Nueva Vizcaya Gov. Jose Gambito called on the Department of Education to review and improve the DepEd athlete support system.

• Tampered LPG tanks seized in Bataan (2026-04-26 16:00)

Police arrested five people and recovered hundreds of tampered liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders at a sales center in Mariveles, Bataan on Friday.

• CHR probes Negros Occidental encounter (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has initiated its own investigation into the reported armed encounter that left 19 people dead in Toboso, Negros Occidental last week.

• EDSA-Ortigas Interchange to reopen today (2026-04-26 16:00)

The EDSA-Ortigas Interchange southbound flyover in Mandaluyong will reopen today after it was closed for emergency repairs and structural assessment after a bus caught fire on April 24.

• PNP: Probe vehicle crash that killed 5 detainees (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Philippine National Police has ordered a full investigation after a PNP vehicle crashed and killed five people under police custody (PUPCs) in Quezon City on April 24.

- 5 nabbed for illegal notary (2026-04-26 16:00)

Five people were arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation over alleged illegal notary public service in Manila, the NBI reported yesterday.

- New Quezon City park to double as flood retention facility (2026-04-26 16:00)

Developments within the Quezon Memorial Circle will include a new park, which will also serve as flood retention and detention basins during rainy season.

- Ombudsman slams leak of investigators' data (2026-04-26 16:00)

The Office of the Ombudsman has vowed to pursue maximum legal penalties against those responsible for the malicious online disclosure of its investigators' identities, calling it a "blatant attempt to intimidate public servants and jeopardize their personal safety."

- Mike Defensor's wife denies ties to raided Pasig City establishment (2026-04-26 02:52)

The wife of former lawmaker Mike Defensor has broken her silence, denying allegations linking her and her daughter to an establishment recently raided by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 3, 2026 (2026-05-03 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Another round of fuel price hikes may hit consumers this week with the Department of Energy (DOE) signaling a possible increase in pump prices. Industry estimates suggest diesel prices could rise by around P0.20 to P0.40 per liter, while gasoline may also post an increase, reversing recent weeks of price cuts. Motorists

- Court allows Jay Sonza to post bail for cyberlibel case (2026-05-03 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Pasay Regional Trial Court (RTC) has rectified the charges against former broadcaster Jay Sonza and has allowed him to post a P10,000 bail following his recent arrest for cyberlibel by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). READ: Jay Sonza arrested over cyberlibel case – NBI chief To recall, Pasay City RTC

- DSWD readies over 300,000 food packs in Bicol amid latest Mayon unrest (2026-05-03 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Sunday said over 300,000 food packs and basic needs have already been pre-positioned for residents of the Bicol region affected by Mayon Volcano's continuous eruptive activity. According to a

DSWD advisory, 301,311 family food packs have so far been pre-prepositioned as of 6

• Over 1,000 Albay town residents evacuated due to heavy Mayon ashfall (2026-05-03 12:37)

LEGAZPI CITY — More than 1,000 residents of Camalig, Albay, were evacuated due to heavy ashfall caused by a pyroclastic density current from Mayon Volcano on Saturday. Camalig Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office head Edlyn Noble said 399 families were affected by thick ashfall in the villages of Quirangay, Anoling, Salugan, and Cabagnan. Noble

• Makabayan hits Teodoro for ruling out peace talks with Reds (2026-05-03 10:30)

MANILA, Philippines – The Makabayan bloc on Sunday criticized Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro, Jr. for opposing peace talks with Communist rebels, saying his stance undermines government commitments to pursue negotiations in one of the world's longest-running insurgencies. "Teodoro's refusal to even consider talks 'without precondition' signals that the Marcos administration is choosing perpetual war, not

• DPWH earmarks P368-M for Cabanatuan City – CLLEX road link (2026-05-03 10:20)

CABANATUAN CITY — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has allocated an initial P368 million for the concreting of a 5.6-kilometer road linking the Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) to this city and several nearby municipalities. Publios Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon, who inspected the project on Friday alongside Nueva Ecija 3rd

• Detour bridge in Ilocos Sur collapses due to overloaded truck (2026-05-03 10:01)

MANILA, Philippines — A detour bridge in Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur, collapsed after an overloaded 10-wheeler truck attempted to cross it, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said. The DPWH, in a statement, said the truck, weighing some 20 tons, made its way to the Kaliwet Bailey Bridge in Barangay Nalasin which had

• House nearing approval of land use plan bill, 4Ps amendments (2026-05-03 09:52)

MANILA, Philippines – Two priority bills are set for final approval by the House of Representatives when session resumes this week, as congressional leaders seek to sustain momentum for President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s legislative agenda. In a statement, House Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Alexander "Sandro" Marcos said a bill instituting a

• Talisay, Batangas heat index hits 41°C ; extreme caution advised (2026-05-03 09:35)

LUCENA CITY — Authorities in Talisay, Batangas on Sunday advised residents to take extra precautions after the town's heat index reached the extreme caution level at 41°C. The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) said that the advisory is based on the monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

• SC: Rodrigo Duterte wrongfully fired exec who probed his wealth (2026-05-03 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has ruled that former President Rodrigo Duterte wrongfully dismissed the former Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang eight years ago after he told the Inquirer and ABS-CBN network he had documents which may indicate that the then president and his family had ill-gotten or unexplained wealth. The Jan. 29 decision

• WHAT WENT BEFORE: Duterte tells Carandang: 'Just pray' (2026-05-03 05:41)

MANILA, Philippines — In 2017, Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales delegated Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang to handle cases involving President Rodrigo Duterte's family. Morales inhibited herself from acting on any case filed against Duterte and his family because her nephew, lawyer Manases Carpio, is married to Duterte's daughter, then-Davao City Mayor and now-Vice President Sara

• Quiboloy rally leader gets jail term for blocking PNP manhunt (2026-05-03 05:39)

MANILA, Philippines — A Quezon City court has sentenced a member of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) to four months in jail for instigating the setup of a road blockade in Davao City in an attempt to stall the police manhunt for the sect's leader Apollo Quiboloy in August 2024. Judge Juvenal Bella of

• Defense chief Teodoro rules out renewed talks with rebels (2026-05-03 05:37)

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Saturday rejected fresh calls for the government to revive peace negotiations with communist rebels, saying they continued to commit acts of terrorism in peaceful villages in the countryside. "No, I object to any peace talks with the NPA (New People's Army)," Teodoro told reporters

• Ping Lacson readies report on flood control probe (2026-05-03 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Saturday said that he is set to deliver a progress report as chairperson of the Senate blue ribbon panel on flood control investigations through a privilege speech on Monday or Tuesday next week. This came after the partial report of the panel on flood control

• Tito Sotto warns vs delays in impeachment trial (2026-05-03 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Saturday warned he would not brook any delaying tactics should the House of Representatives impeach Vice President Sara Duterte as expected. The Senate president said impeachment rules have already been tested in the past, including the impeachment trial of former Chief Justice Renato Corona, and any

• DOT pushes studied development of 2 new 'jewel beaches' (2026-05-03 05:31)

TACLOBAN CITY — Two more beaches joined the ranks of the world's best after Lagen Island in El Nido, Palawan, was named among the top in 2013, according to the Department of Tourism (DOT). The new "jewel beaches" are Entalula Beach in El Nido, Palawan, named

among the best for three years running, and Kalanggaman

• Customs to auction off 6 more luxury vehicles (2026-05-03 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) will conduct another public auction for six luxury vehicles on May 7. In a social media post on Saturday, the BOC-Port of Manila said the public auction through sealed bidding would be held at 10 a.m. at the conference room of its Prefab Building in Port Area.

• Palace okays Sara Duterte trip to South Korea, Europe (2026-05-03 05:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang has issued a travel authority allowing Vice President Sara Duterte to embark on overseas travels May 2 to May 15. Palace press officer Claire Castro confirmed the approval of Duterte's request to travel to several European and Asian destinations. Her original itinerary included visits to the Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany

• 'MacGuffin Untold': The Art of the In-Between (2026-05-03 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — In cinema, a MacGuffin is a plot device—an object or a goal—that exists solely to set the story in motion. It is often a detail irrelevant in itself, yet essential to the journey. For the artist, the "MacGuffin" is the quiet, daily ritual: the discarded sketches, the shifting light in a studio,

• Agusan del Sur builds its way to Palarong Pambansa stage (2026-05-03 05:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — On May 24 this year, some 18,000 athletes and sports officials from across the country will march through the grounds of the Datu Lipus Makapandong DO Plaza Sports Complex in Prosperidad, the capital of Agusan del Sur, for the opening of the weeklong Palarong Pambansa. The occasion will mark

• This week's milestones: May 3-9 (2026-05-03 05:15)

May 3, 1572 Oton in the province of Iloilo was established as a pueblo and became the third Augustinian mission in the country (after Manila and Cebu) during the chapter assembly of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus in the Philippine Islands. It became a large pueblo that included the present-day towns

• DENR: Green sea turtle nesting in Panglao signals healthy ecosystem (2026-05-02 23:49)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) has successfully nested along the shores of Panglao Island in Bohol, underscoring the ecological importance of the province's coastal habitats, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Visayas said. In an advisory, DENR confirmed that the nesting occurred at around 7:26 p.m. on

• Bulacan jeepney drivers get rice, cash subsidy (2026-05-02 23:44)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan — Around 10,000 transport sector workers received rice subsidy and cash diesel assistance from the provincial government of Bulacan and from the monthly salary of its high ranking officials. Gov. Daniel Fernando and Vice Gov. Alexis Castro, with Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) chief Rowena Tiongson, distributed five kilos

• LOOK: Dagupan rocks with 3-km bangus street party (2026-05-02 23:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Dagupan City marked its annual ‘Bangus’ Festival on Thursday, April 30, with a three-kilometer long street party dubbed as “Kalutan ed Dalan” along De Venecia Highway. There, residents and visitors grill ‘bangus’ or milkfish, the city’s top aquaculture product. The street party is the main crowd drawer of the traditional Bangus Festival.

• Group decries exclusion of minimum wage earners in ‘ayuda’ rollout (2026-05-02 23:18)

BACOLOD CITY — The General Alliance of Workers Association (Gawa) issued a formal letter of protest on Friday, May 1, condemning the national government for excluding private minimum wage earners from emergency cash assistance, or “ayuda,” despite the ongoing economic crisis. Gawa Secretary General Wennie Sancho, signed the protest letter on behalf of the private

• LOOK: Lasip Chico in Dagupan highlights lechon industry in annual feast (2026-05-02 23:04)

DAGUPAN CITY — Villagers of Barangay Lasip Chico in Dagupan City celebrated its annual feast highlighting its lechon industry through the 4th “Lechonan ed Barangay” on Saturday, May 2. Some 22 pigs were roasted simultaneously starting at 6 a.m. The roasted pigs were offered for free taste and sold for P800 per kilo. According to

• NUJP condemns cybercrime, data privacy raps vs CDO broadcaster (2026-05-02 22:21)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A local broadcaster here is facing complaints for alleged violations of the Cybercrime Prevention Act and the Data Privacy Act after her station published screenshots of a private message thread with a city official regarding the delayed release of student scholarship allowances. The local chapter of the National Union of

• Coast Guard warns mariners of Balikatan missile drill in Tacloban waters (2026-05-02 22:17)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Coast Guard District Eastern Visayas (CGDEV) has issued a navigational advisory warning mariners of a missile-related activity in the waters off San Pedro Bay from May 5 to 7, as part of the ongoing Philippines–United States Balikatan Exercises. In its advisory issued on April 28, CGDEV said the activity will involve

• Scattered rains, daytime heat to persist across Visayas — Pagasa (2026-05-02 22:11)

ILOILO CITY — Intermittent rain showers and continued daytime heat are expected to persist across parts of the Visayas over the next five days, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. In its May 2 to 6 outlook, Pagasa's Visayas office forecast partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and

• Roasted pigs take center stage in Dagupan village festival (2026-05-02 22:07)

DAGUPAN CITY, Pangasinan – The rich aroma of roasted pigs drifted through a vacant lot along Old De Venecia Highway on Saturday morning as Lasip Chico village here staged its "Lechonan ed Barangay," a celebration of an industry the community has nurtured for decades. Rows of pigs slowly turned over glowing charcoal pits from 6:30

• Puerto Princesa woman wounded in shooting over domestic dispute (2026-05-02 22:04)

Puerto Princesa City — A 40-year-old woman was wounded in a shooting incident that stemmed from a family altercation in Barangay Sta. Lourdes here on Saturday morning, May 2. Initial report from the Puerto Princesa City Police Office (PPCPO) stated that the incident stemmed from a domestic dispute between the victim and her husband. The

• Villar pushes bills to ease job-hunting costs (2026-05-02 21:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Mark Villar on Labor Day called for the passage of two bills seeking to reduce job-hunting costs and address job-skills mismatch among Filipino workers. Villar cited Senate Bill No. 1272, or the proposed Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay Act, and Senate Bill No. 1295, which seeks to create a tripartite council composed of

• May 2 Lotto 6/42 bettor wins ₱35.47M jackpot (2026-05-02 21:44)

MANILA, Philippines—A bettor won the Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office draw on Saturday, May 2. According to PCSO, the winning Lotto 6/42 combination was 22-34-42-19-03-25, with a jackpot of ₱35.47 million. One ticket holder won the prize. No winner was declared for the Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot. The winning combination was

• LOOK: Heavy ashfall from Mayon Volcano blankets towns in Albay (2026-05-02 20:50)

DARAGA, ALBAY — Heavy ashfall blanketed several towns in Albay's third district on Saturday following a strombolian eruption and continuous pyroclastic density currents (PDCs) from Mayon Volcano, local officials said. At least 17 barangays in Guinobatan town were severely affected, with some areas experiencing near-zero visibility, Guinobatan Mayor Gemma Ann Ongjoco told Inquirer. "The ashfall

• Solons: SC ruling vindicates ex-Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Carandang (2026-05-02 20:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Some lawmakers on Saturday said the Supreme Court ruling declaring unconstitutional the removal of former Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Carandang vindicated the former official. They also said the resolution renewed attention on past

investigations involving the Duterte family's financial transactions. Akbayan Party-listRepresentative Chel Diokno said the ruling affirmed that "even the

• 'People's Court' to monitor Duterte impeachment trial (2026-05-02 20:21)

MANILA, Philippines — A civil society-led "People's Court" will be formed to monitor the possible Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte following a House committee's finding of probable cause to impeach her. The House Committee on Justice voted unanimously that evidence in two complaints alleging Duterte misused public funds and made a death

• HEAT INDEX WATCH: 5 areas may experience temp up to 43°C on May 3 (2026-05-02 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Fourteen (14) areas are forecast to experience "danger level" heat indices, with five areas expected to peak at 43°C on Sunday, May 3, the state weather bureau said. Under the classification of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Association (Pagasa), a heat index of 42°C to 51°C falls under the "danger"

• Mayon Volcano emits pyroclastic density current along Mi-isi gully (2026-05-02 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — A pyroclastic density current (PDC), locally known as "uson," was observed at Mayon Volcano on Saturday, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). Phivolcs, in an initial advisory, said an ongoing PDC was seen moving along the Mi-isi gully on the volcano's south-southwestern slopes. Pyroclastic density currents are fast-moving

• Sotto warns against delays in a possible Duterte impeachment trial (2026-05-02 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Saturday warned against possible delaying tactics should the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte reach the Senate. He also sees no need to amend the chamber's existing impeachment rules. Sotto, in a radio interview, said that the existing framework had already been tested in past

• Palace confirms approval of Duterte's new list of foreign trips for May (2026-05-02 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Saturday confirmed reports that the Office of the President (OP) approved Vice President Sara Duterte's rescheduled trips from May 2 to May 15. "Confirmed," Palace Press Officer Claire Castro told reporters in a Viber message when asked about the reported approval of Duterte's travel authority. The confirmation came after Duterte

• Curious driver foils alleged cigarette smuggling in Pangasinan (2026-05-02 16:29)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — A tricycle driver's suspicion led to the surrender of alleged smuggled cigarettes to authorities on Friday, May 1. Police said the 42-year-old driver from Nueva Ecija was hired by an unidentified individual to deliver two boxes to Rosales, Pangasinan for P2,000. While en route, he became curious and partially opened the packages.

• Lacson to make privilege speech to update public on flood control probe (2026-05-02 15:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson on Saturday said that he is set to deliver a progress report as a chairperson of the Senate blue ribbon panel on flood control investigations. He will report to the people through a privilege speech on Monday or Tuesday next week. This move comes even if the

• SC voids Duterte's dismissal of ex-Dep. Ombudsman Melchor Carandang (2026-05-02 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines—The Supreme Court has declared void former President Rodrigo Duterte's dismissal of Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang, stating that the former president lacked the disciplinary authority to do so. In a decision promulgated Jan. 29, 2026, but recently posted on its website, the Supreme Court's Third Division said the chief executive has no

• Kanlaon Volcano emits 700-meter ash plume anew – Phivolcs (2026-05-02 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Fresh ash emission was observed from Kanlaon Volcano in Negros Island on Saturday afternoon, May 2, state volcanologists said. In its advisory, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded plumes that rose 700 meters above the summit crater before drifting west-southwest. Based on its latest 24-hour monitoring, Phivolcs said on

• TRB to begin imposing toll at Cavitex C5 Link-Segment B on Tuesday (May 5) (2026-05-02 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has announced that toll will now be collected from the newly-opened Cavitex C5 Link-Segment B starting Tuesday, May 5. This came after toll fees were waived at the new toll road for the entire month of April, as announced by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The six-lane, two-kilometer

• Court convicts KOJC member over Quiboloy arrest blockade (2026-05-02 13:43)

MANILA, Philippines — A Quezon City court has convicted a Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) member for violating the Public Assembly Act over a highway blockade staged during the 2024 police operations against televangelist Apollo Quiboloy. The Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39, Quezon City found Eduardo Corda guilty of violating Section 13(a) of Batas Pambansa

• Ridon: Sara Duterte expected to be impeached within 2 weeks (2026-05-02 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon on Saturday said that Vice President Sara Duterte is expected to be impeached by the House of Representatives within the next two weeks as he expressed confidence of the House justice panel that the minimum number of votes to impeach her will be secured. Ridon said

• Teodoro rejects calls to resume peace talks with NPA (2026-05-02 11:33)

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte — Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. on Saturday said there would be no resumption of peace talks with communist rebels, rejecting calls from former negotiators following a deadly military operation in Negros Occidental. “No. I object to any peace talks with the NPA (New People’s Army),” Teodoro told reporters on the

• Suspect yields P4.59-M ‘shabu’ in Lucena City (2026-05-02 11:13)

LUCENA CITY — Anti-narcotics operatives arrested an alleged high-value drug suspect and seized “shabu” (crystal meth) worth up to P4.59 million in a buy-bust operation in this city on Friday night, May 1. Lt. Col. Ryan Hernandez, Lucena City police chief, said operatives from the city drug enforcement unit, with personnel from the Quezon Maritime

• Napolcom sacks slain cop’s husband for grave misconduct, obstruction (2026-05-02 11:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Police Commission (Napolcom) has dismissed from service Police Senior Master Sergeant John Mollenido, the estranged husband of slain policewoman Diane Mollenido, over grave misconduct, and obstruction of justice. In a statement on Saturday, Napolcom said that the decision of the en banc found Mollenido administratively liable for “grave misconduct, neglect

• Bohol’s ‘antingaw’ places 2nd in International Mollusc of the Year 2026 (2026-05-02 10:37)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A rare mollusc discovered in Bohol has captured international attention after placing second in the 2026 International Mollusc of the Year (IMOY) competition, highlighting the Philippines’ unique marine biodiversity. The species, Lithoredo abatanica, locally known as “antingaw,” garnered 5,097 votes to secure the first runner-up spot behind the Mediterranean Vampire Snail (Cumia

• Cavite City, Infanta brace for dangerous heat index this weekend (2026-05-02 10:23)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has warned of dangerous heat levels in Cavite City and Infanta, Quezon, on May 2 and 3. Based on its 5 p.m. bulletin Friday (May 1), Sangley Point in Cavite City is expected to reach a heat index of 43°C on Saturday and

• Cop linked to farmer’s shooting surrenders in Pangasinan (2026-05-02 09:41)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — A police officer suspected in the shooting of a 25-year-old farmer in this capital town on Thursday, April 30, has surrendered to authorities. The suspect turned himself in at the San Carlos City Police Station, where he is assigned, at around noon on Friday. He also surrendered his issued firearm, along with

• Passenger dies after falling overboard in Batangas waters (2026-05-02 08:52)

LUCENA CITY — A passenger died after reportedly falling overboard from a vessel in the waters off the Verde Island Passage in Batangas City on Friday, May 1, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said. The PCG Batangas station said its Isla Verde substation received a report that the man had fallen into the sea and

• MMDA sets alternate routes for QC road works in May (2026-05-02 08:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has advised motorists to take alternate routes as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will conduct road reblocking and repairs in certain areas in Quezon City from May 1 to May 31. READ: DPWH nears completion of Edsa phase 1 rehab The MMDA said

• Cloudy skies over Luzon, rains for Visayas and Mindanao on Saturday (2026-05-02 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Parts of the Visayas and Mindanao will experience rains while a huge part of Luzon will see partly cloudy to cloudy skies on Saturday due to easterlies, the state weather bureau said. In the 5 a.m. weather forecast of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration, weather specialist Loriedin de la

• DepEd eyes 2.4M learners in private school subsidies (2026-05-02 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) is targeting to subsidize the schooling of more than 2.4 million students under the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-Gastpe). Nearly 990,000 junior high school students will be covered by the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) program, while around 1.47 million senior high

• Lawyer: VP Sara Duterte’s impeachment defense ‘addled’ (2026-05-02 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Famed litigation lawyer Lorna Kapunan sought the psychological and psychiatric evaluation of Vice President Sara Duterte because of her remarks on the “strong evidence” presented during the impeachment proceedings at the House of Representatives. “We should look at the psychological and psychiatric evaluation of a public official. Let’s not even say vice

• Jay Sonza arrested over cyberlibel case (2026-05-02 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation on Thursday evening arrested former broadcaster Jay Sonza over charges that he spread fake medical information questioning President Marcos’ fitness to fulfill his official duties. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed to the Inquirer that Sonza was arrested on the strength of a warrant issued by the Pasay

• PhilHealth highlights ‘Yakap’ for workers on Labor Day (2026-05-02 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Various branches of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) across the country highlighted on Labor Day its Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (Yakap), which aims to assist government and private employees with their health needs. Under the program,

enlisted workers may avail of medical consultations, laboratory services, certain medicines, anddiagnostic tests from

• Police eye business rivalry in billiards patron’s slay (2026-05-02 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Police are looking into a business rivalry as a possible motive in the murder of sportsman and businessman Ceferino “Perry” Mariano, who was gunned down with his driver along a busy street in Quezon City on Tuesday. At a briefing at Camp Crame on Friday, Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño, spokesperson for the

• PH part-time jobs surged 35% in Q1 – Jobstreet (2026-05-02 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine job market is increasingly leaning toward part-time and flexible work arrangements, with postings for such roles surging in the first quarter amid the “normalization” of hybrid and remote setups, according to online employment platform Jobstreet by SEEK. In its latest report, Jobstreet said part-time job postings rose 35 percent year-on-year,

• Marcos asks labor to just ‘keep going’ as wage hike clamor grows (2026-05-02 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday stopped short of offering a clear commitment to the labor sector despite intensifying demands for a nationwide wage hike, which has been made more urgent by the Middle East crisis. The President, in his Labor Day statement, called workers the “backbone” of the country, but the

• Negros clash spurs call to revive talks with Reds (2026-05-02 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Former government peace negotiators called for a resumption of peace talks with communist rebels following the killing of 19 people in a recent military operation in Negros Occidental, saying the two sides once came close to reaching an interim peace agreement to end the nearly six-decades-old insurgency. “The nineteen (19) deaths in

• Provinces mark Labor Day with protests (2026-05-02 05:06)

OLONGAPO CITY, Philippines — Workers and community groups staged Labor Day protests across the country on Friday, Labor Day, with separate rallies raising concerns over rising prices, alleged corruption and broader socio-economic issues. Oustide the Subic Bay Freeport gate, around 60 protesters joined a one-hour program, where speakers linked local economic hardships to national policies,

• Fruit bat colonies found in Apayao biodiversity expedition (2026-05-02 05:04)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — Colonies of the endemic giant golden-crowned flying fox (Acerodon jubatus) and the large flying fox (Pteropus vampyrus) were documented during a 10-day biodiversity monitoring mission in the forests of Apayao from April 20 to April 30, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said. Dorothy Cayaba, officer in charge

• BARMM posts record-high P5.1B in investments in 4 months (2026-05-02 05:02)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The flow of investments into the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) continues to surge, surpassing the record set in 2025 and exceeding this year's target. Mohamad Omar Pasigan, chair of the Bangsamoro Board of Investments (BBOI), said total approved investments reached P5.1 billion as of April 30. "This

• 13 Central Luzon cops with admin cases dismissed in last 4 months (2026-05-02 00:46)

MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA, Philippines — Thirteen police officers in different parts of Central Luzon were dismissed from the service between January and April this year after facing administrative charges, the Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) disclosed on Friday, May 1. In a statement, the PRO3 said the dismissed individuals were among the 72 police officers

• Truck catches fire in Malaybalay City amid extreme heat (2026-05-02 00:38)

MALAYBALAY CITY, BUKIDNON, Philippines — Residents of Barangay San Jose here were alarmed after thick black smoke billowed from a commercial area on Friday morning, May 1, prompting people to rush to the scene of a fire. According to the Malaybalay City Fire Station, the incident occurred in Purok 2, where a closed-type truck parked

• More than 3,000 jobs offered in Labor Day fair in Cagayan Valley (2026-05-02 00:28)

TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN, Philippines — For thousands of jobseekers, May 1 was spent applying for jobs instead of resting as they queued in long lines at Labor Day job fairs at two private malls in this city and in Santiago City, Isabela. Department of Labor and Employment Regional Director Elpidio Jesus Atal Jr. lauded jobseekers

• Drug suspect nabbed, yields P13.6M worth of meth in Zamboanga City raid (2026-05-01 23:36)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Personnel of Police Regional Office 9 (PRO 9) have intensified the campaign against illegal drugs following the arrest of a high-value individual and confiscation of some two kilograms of suspected shabu worth P13.6 million in Barangay Ayala, Zamboanga City, on Thursday morning, April 30. Joint operatives from the

• Zambales town marks 'Buwan ng Panitikan' with National Artist Ricky Lee (2026-05-01 23:16)

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — Writers, students, and cultural advocates gathered on Thursday, April 30, at the San Antonio Youth Center to mark the culmination of the country's Buwan ng Pambansang Panitikan, with National Artist Ricky Lee as guest of honor. Lee, a National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, headlined the main session "Mga

• Danger-level heat index lingers in parts of Visayas; some areas hit 45°C (2026-05-01 23:05)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Several areas in the Visayas continue to experience dangerous heat index levels, with some locations reaching as high as 45°C, even as slightly lower—but still risky—conditions are expected over the weekend, according to the latest data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). As of May 1, Dumangas

• Iloilo City intensifies long-term support for 4Ps families (2026-05-01 22:50)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Iloilo City government is shifting its focus from temporary relief to long-term self-sufficiency by expanding its support systems for beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), particularly for youth who have aged out of the national government's subsidy program. In a meeting with 4Ps parent leaders held on Friday,

• No jackpot winners for Ultra, Mega Lotto on May 1 (2026-05-01 21:49)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the jackpots for Ultra Lotto 6/58 and MegaLotto 6/45 in the Friday, May 1, 2026 draw, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). Ultra Lotto 6/58 produced the combination 53-37-16-45-05-29 for a jackpot worth ₱75 million. No ticket holder matched all six numbers. READ: Ultra Lotto, Super Lotto jackpots unwon

• 2 solons confident majority of their parties to back Duterte impeachment (2026-05-01 21:37)

MANILA, Philippines — At least two lawmakers believe that the majority of the members of their respective parties will support the impeachment bid against Vice President Sara Duterte after seeing the body of evidence presented during hearings. In separate interviews on Friday, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon and Deputy Speaker Janette Garin both said that

• Legarda renews call to protect workers as fuel, food prices soar (2026-05-01 20:52)

Senator Loren Legarda on Labor Day renewed her call for urgent government action to ease the burden on Filipino workers facing the daily impact of rising fuel and food prices. She emphasized that the struggle of laborers today goes beyond wages; it is about survival and dignity amid economic hardship. Filipino workers across sectors bear

• LRT-2 to open passenger cooling rooms in all stations starting May 4 (2026-05-01 20:10)

MANILA, Philippines — A passenger cooling room will be set up at every Light Rail Transit 2 (LRT-2) station starting May 4, amid the continued hot and humid weather across the country. READ: HEAT INDEX WATCH: 13 areas forecast to reach 'danger' level on Saturday In a Facebook post on Friday, the Light Rail Transit

• Chua: Duterte tax record scrutiny to bolster ill-gotten wealth allegation (2026-05-01 19:41)

The examination of the income tax returns (ITRs) of Vice President Sara Duterte will strengthen the allegation that she has amassed ill-gotten wealth, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said Friday. Chua, who chairs the House committee on good government and public accountability, said the

committee on justice intends to compare the ITRs of Duterte and her

• Garin: No payoffs, coercion in Sara Duterte impeachment (2026-05-01 19:20)

Deputy Speaker Janette Garin of Iloilo on Friday said there were no payoffs or coercion in the move by the House committee on justice to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte, saying the unanimous vote of its 53 members was driven by evidence against Duterte. The Iloilo lawmaker issued the statement in response to a report

• Duterte impeachment: AMLC report, threat video grounds for conviction—Kapunan (2026-05-01 19:08)

The two most compelling grounds that could lead to Vice President Sara Duterte's conviction in the impeachment trial are the Anti-Money Laundering Council's (AMLC) report on the P6.77 billion in flagged transactions in her and her husband's bank accounts, and the grave threats she publicly made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos,

• Cops in bungled arrest ops in Zamboanga to face admin raps (2026-05-01 19:05)

PAGADIAN CITY — The Special Investigation Task Group (SITG) ALFAD has recommended the filing of administrative cases against police personnel involved in the bungled arrest operation last April 23 in Barangay Sinunuc, Zamboanga City that led to the death of three civilians and the wounding of another. The cases will be filed on top of

• HEAT INDEX WATCH: 13 areas forecast to reach 'danger' level on Saturday (2026-05-01 18:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Thirteen areas in the country are expected to reach the "danger" level threshold on Saturday, May 2, according to the state weather bureau. The heat index, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defined, measures the level of a person's discomfort due to the effects of the temperature

• LTFRB suspends ops of jeepney in viral Cebu road crash (2026-05-01 18:37)

MANILA, Philipines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended for 30 days the operation of a jeepney in Cebu City after allegedly being involved in a road crash on Friday, May 1, which injured at least 18 passengers. In a statement, the LTFRB mentioned that based on the CCTV, one passenger

• Police, protesters trade barbs over violence at Labor Day rally (2026-05-01 18:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The police and protesters clashed over how at least seven police officers were injured and why authorities attempted to extinguish an effigy that had been burned at a Labor Day rally in Manila. The protesters were marching towards the United States Embassy to call for an end to their war on Iran,

• Duterte bloc dared: Fight impeachment at House plenary (2026-05-01 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers supportive of Vice President Sara Duterte may have missed their chance to dispute the impeachment complaints against her at the House of Representatives' committee on justice, but they will have another opportunity when the committee report reaches the plenary for consideration. In an interview on Friday, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry

• Cebu steps up effort to cushion effects of El Niño (2026-05-01 17:19)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Anticipating the potential return of El Niño, the provincial government of Cebu is stepping up efforts to secure water supply and cushion communities from the impact of prolonged dry conditions. Governor Pamela Baricuatro said the province is pursuing a comprehensive strategy that combines emergency response measures with long-term infrastructure development to

• KMU to Marcos: Nation's backbone Filipino workers are 'skin and bones' (2026-05-01 16:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) on Labor Day slammed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s remark that Filipino workers are the backbone of the nation, saying there is nothing really left to them but "skin and bones." This scathing statement came in response to Marcos' message for the 124th Labor Day anniversary on Friday, where

• How AI-powered investment scams target Filipinos (2026-05-01 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Fake news, real losses. A promise of extra income led a senior citizen to lose P11,000 after encountering what appeared to be a legitimate online article bearing the name and branding of INQUIRER.net. The fake article, which the 77-year-old woman saw on Facebook in mid-February, claimed that a small investment of around

• Wage hike call, anti-NPA rally mark Labor Day in Bacolod (2026-05-01 16:24)

BACOLOD CITY — A small group gathered Friday morning in front of the Bacolod City Government replica at the Bacolod City Public Plaza, condemning what they described as atrocities committed by the New People's Army (NPA) in Negros Occidental, including the killing of 48 civilians. The group branded the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People's

• Chua: Question is on solons who'll vote against impeaching Duterte (2026-05-01 16:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Instead of accusing lawmakers who found probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte of being coerced or bribed, the real questions must be asked of those who will disagree with her impeachment, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said on Friday. Chua, in an online interview, reiterated that members of the House of Representatives' committee

• Baguio Labor Day protest demands wage increase, scrapping of oil tax law (2026-05-01 16:22)

BAGUIO CITY — Progressive groups marched along Session Road and converged at Igorot Park on Labor Day, calling for a regional minimum wage increase and concrete government action to ease the impact of rising prices. Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Cordillera spokesperson Mike Cabangon said the situation reflects a widening gap between the rich and the

• Agusan electric co-op: Lifeline clients subsidy at 1 centavo/kWh only (2026-05-01 16:13)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ASELCO) has clarified that regular customers were charged only one centavo per kilowatt-hour (kWh) in their March electricity bills, refuting claims that bills had doubled due to the Lifeline Subsidy program. ASELCO's acting manager for corporate affairs and communication, Mimi Mandahuyan-Ramos, said the

• Labor Day protest in Olongapo decries high cost of living, US military (2026-05-01 16:04)

OLONGAPO CITY — Workers and community groups staged a Labor Day protest outside the Subic Bay Freeport gate on Friday, May 1, drawing attention to rising prices, alleged corruption, and opposition to the expanding presence of foreign military forces in the area. Around 60 protesters joined a one-hour program, where speakers linked local economic hardships

• HEAT INDEX WATCH: Pangasinan sizzles at 43°C (2026-05-01 15:58)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan— The heat index in Pangasinan hit 43 degrees Celcius on Friday May 1, placing the province under the "danger" level as extreme heat conditions persist. The Pangasinan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) likened the conditions to "being inside a car parked under the scorching sun without air conditioning," underscoring the

• Navotas landfill fire may leave lasting toxic threat to Manila Bay food chain (2026-05-01 15:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Smoke from the April 10 fire at the closed Navotas Sanitary Landfill may have begun as an air pollution crisis, but environmental groups and researchers now warn its longer-term dangers could spread through nearby waters, marine life and food systems connected to Manila Bay. Weeks after the blaze started, concerns have shifted

• Lacson: Bringing partial infra probe report up meant to fight fake news (2026-05-01 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Delivering a progress report on the blue ribbon committee's probe of the infrastructure corruption mess before the plenary is meant to inform the people and avoid any misinformation, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said on Friday. In a statement, Lacson said that despite disagreements regarding the partial committee report, he has decided

• Labor Day: Senior High School graduates given headstart in job fairs (2026-05-01 15:07)

MANILA, Philippines — A “Green Lane” or “express entry privilege” was made available for Senior High School (SHS) graduates during Labor Day job fairs held nationwide on Friday, as part of a collaboration between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). The Green Lane allows SHS graduates to bypass

• DOLE releases payment guidelines for employees working on Labor Day (2026-05-01 14:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has issued the rules on the proper payment of wages for employees on Labor Day, May 1, which is a regular holiday. In a Labor Advisory No. 12, series of 2025, released on Friday, DOLE noted that if an employee does not work this Labor

• Labor Day: Lawmaker renews call for wage tax reform, decent work (2026-05-01 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Wage tax reform and the push for “decent work” for all Filipinos were among the key calls raised during the country’s 124th Labor Day observance, with Trabaho Party-list Rep. Johanne Bautista saying workers need stronger economic support amid rising living costs. As the conflict in the Middle East continues to drive prices

• Dead sperm whale found along shoreline in Catanduanes (2026-05-01 14:24)

LEGAZPI CITY — A dead sperm whale was found along the shoreline of Sitio Ilo in Barangay Batohonan, Viga town in Catanduanes on Wednesday, April 29. The carcass, measuring about 25 meters long and five meters wide, was already in an advanced state of decomposition when assessed, Wheng Bricia-Briones, information officer of the Bureau of

• After Jay Sonza arrest, PCO vows to continue crackdown on fake news (2026-05-01 14:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Following the arrest of former television and radio personality Jay Sonza, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said Friday it will continue its crackdown on fake news peddlers to ensure they are held accountable under the law. In a press release, the PCO lauded the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for Sonza’s arrest

• Manhunt launched vs 2 suspects in Maguindanao Sur shooting (2026-05-01 14:15)

COTABATO CITY – Police in Maguindanao del Sur have launched a manhunt for two men captured on CCTV firing a pistol against at four motorcycle shop workers in Shariff Aguak town on Thursday, April 30, authorities said. Provincial police Director, Colonel Michael John Mangahis, also appealed to the public to help identify the suspects, who

• LGUs rely heavily on casual labor for frontline services, CSC data show (2026-05-01 14:04)

MANILA, Philippines — A significant share of frontline government work in the Philippines depends on employees without permanent appointments, according to an analysis of Civil Service Commission (CSC) data by University of the Philippines Diliman professor and Inquirer data scientist Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao. Non-career personnel account for about 225,438 workers, or 10.74 percent, of

• Women top contractual jobs; men lead casual, political posts — data (2026-05-01 14:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Women make up a larger share of contractual positions in government, while men dominate both casual work and politically linked appointments, according to an analysis of Civil Service Commission (CSC) data by University of the Philippines Diliman professor and Inquirer data scientist Dr. Rogelio Alicor Panao. The findings are based on data

• Kabataan solon calls Mendiola police barricade ‘overacting’ on Labor Day (2026-05-01 13:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Kabataan party-list Rep. Renee Co on Friday called the police barricade around the Mendiola area in Manila “overacting,” but the Philippine National Police (PNP) defended the measure, saying there was no “overkill.” Police had cordoned off the Mendiola area amid protests marking this year’s Labor Day. “Is President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. afraid

• Farmer dies from snake bite in Bukidnon town (2026-05-01 13:38)

IMPASUG-ONG, Bukidnon – Authorities confirmed that a venomous snake bite caused the death of a farmer whose body was discovered on the morning of Tuesday, April 28, in Sitio Imbatug, Barangay Kalabugao, Impasugong town, Bukidnon. Police identified the victim as a resident of the village who went to a nearby stream on Monday, April 27,

• PNP eyes business rivalry in ambush-slay of billiard patron, driver (2026-05-01 13:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A “business rivalry” may have led to the killing of longtime billiards patron and club owner Ceferino “Perry” Mariano, 75, in Quezon City earlier this week, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Friday. “There are some people calling the Quezon City Police District… They are giving information as to Mariano’s business

• Wage hikes take effect in Regions 10, 13 on Labor Day, says DOLE (2026-05-01 13:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Workers in Regions 10 and 13 celebrated Labor Day on Friday with higher daily minimum wages ranging from P475 to P500, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said. Beginning May 1, the daily minimum wage in Region 10 rose to P500 from P485 following the implementation of the second tranche of P14.

• Eastern Visayas marks Labor Day with over 6,800 job openings (2026-05-01 13:11)

TACLOBAN CITY — Thousands of job seekers across Eastern Visayas converged on Labor Day job fairs on Friday, May 1, as participating companies offered at least 6,806 employment opportunities throughout the region. Of the total vacancies, 2,872 were available in Tacloban City alone during a major job fair held at the Tacloban City Convention Center.

• LTO clarifies: No blanket ban on e-bikes, e-trikes (2026-05-01 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Friday clarified that there is no blanket ban on electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric tricycles (e-trikes), stressing that these

vehicles can still operate on city and municipal roads. In a statement, LTO chief MarkusLacanilao said the restriction applies only to national highways and

• Manhunt underway for cop in Pangasinan farmer shooting (2026-05-01 12:52)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — Police have launched an intensified manhunt for a police officer suspected of shooting a 25-year-old farmer past midnight on Thursday (April 30) in Barangay Aliwekwek, this capital town. Lt. Col. Junmar Gonzales, Lingayen police chief, said the suspect is a police personnel assigned to the San Carlos City Police Station and a

• Marcos highlights success of tech-voc, job fair in Labor Day speech (2026-05-01 12:50)

MANILA, Philippines — On Labor Day, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said more than 250,000 job seekers were hired on the spot at job fairs and over five million graduated from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) since he assumed office in 2022. Marcos reported these in his speech during the124th

• Amid challenges, Dy vows to continue pushing for workers' welfare (2026-05-01 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — House of Representatives Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III has vowed to continue pushing for workers' welfare, admitting that a lot of challenges and problems in workplaces still plague Filipino laborers. In his Labor Day message, Dy said that he knows that workers still complain about low salaries and benefits, along with the lack

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of May 1, 2026 (2026-05-01 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists may soon face another round of fuel price hikes, with the Department of Energy (DOE) signaling a possible increase in pump prices next week. Industry estimates suggest diesel prices could rise by around P0.20 to P0.40 per liter, while gasoline may also post an increase, reversing recent weeks of rollbacks. READ:

• Ortega: Reason for unanimous vote is strong evidence vs Sara Duterte (2026-05-01 11:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers from different affiliations voted unanimously to declare the existence of probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte not because of any pay-off, but due to overwhelming evidence presented during hearings, Deputy Speaker Paolo Ortega V said on Friday. Ortega downplayed allegations that there were conditions — alleged budget increments or threats

• Tiny frog species found in Sibuyan; urgently needs habitat protection (2026-05-01 10:16)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The discovery of a new miniature frog species in the forests of Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park is shedding light on the Philippines' rich yet still underdocumented biodiversity, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Mimaropa said in a social media post on Friday, May 1. The species, Platymantis

• DOTr orders halt on onboarding new TNVS drivers, motortaxi riders (2026-05-01 10:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has ordered the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to stop the onboarding of new transportation network vehicle services (TNVS) drivers and motorcycle taxi riders. “This comes after data showed that some companies have exceeded their allocated limits for the number of drivers and riders,” the

• From wages to war: Workers take grievances to streets on Labor Day (2026-05-01 09:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Workers took to the streets on May 1, as the National Wage Coalition led Labor Day protests calling for a P1,200 wage, job security, and urgent relief from rising prices. Friday marks the 124th Labor Day celebration in the Philippines, yet labor groups said workers continue to grapple with the labor crisis,

• DepEd district supervisor gunned down in Zamboanga Sibugay (2026-05-01 09:30)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A district supervisor from the Department of Education (DepEd) was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Alicia town, Zamboanga Sibugay, on Thursday evening, police said. The victim, identified as Rey Dalaota Camaingking, 45, was a resident of Nesoricom Village, Barangay Magdaup, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay. Police said the incident took

• Easterlies to bring heat, isolated rains across Visayas – Pagasa (2026-05-01 09:24)

ILOILO CITY — The Visayas will continue to experience warm and humid weather in the coming days, with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warning of dangerously high heat index levels, despite a slight increase in the likelihood of afternoon rain showers. In a special weather bulletin issued at 5 a.m. on

• Labor Day message: Senators push urgent action to protect workers (2026-05-01 09:05)

MANILA, Philippines — As the nation celebrates Labor Day on Friday, senators supported calls for concrete and immediate actions that strengthen rights and protect workers who have been pushed to the brink by rising costs and stagnant wages. In a statement, Sen. Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan said that high fuel prices triggered by the Middle East conflict,

• Workers, groups to march in Bacolod for P1,200 wage hike on Labor Day (2026-05-01 08:56)

BACOLOD CITY – About 2,000 to 2,500 workers and members of progressive organizations are expected to participate in a Labor Day march-rally in Bacolod City on Friday afternoon, May 1. The event aims to demand a legislated daily wage increase of P1,200. READ: Marcos reaffirms government’s genuine support for workers on Labor Day The protestors

• Rising prices, health top Filipinos’ worries in 2026 – Octa survey (2026-05-01 08:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Inflation topped Filipinos' worries on national issues in the first quarter of 2026, while health, food, and income security emerged as their most pressing personal concerns, a survey showed. The Octa "Tugon ng Masa" survey, conducted from March 19 to 25 via face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults, found that 45 percent of

• 4 cops dismissed anew, 7 sacked for kidnapping in sabungeros case (2026-05-01 08:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Four police officers charged over the 2021 to 2022 disappearances of cockfighting aficionados (sabungeros) were ordered dismissed again, alongside seven other cops, in a separate administrative complaint connected to two other alleged kidnapping cases. In a statement on Friday, the National Police Commission (Napolcom) said it had found all 11 police officers

• PH to experience hot, humid weather with afternoon rain on Labor Day (2026-05-01 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Hot and humid weather, with possible afternoon rain showers and thunderstorms, is expected this Labor Day as prevailing easterlies continue to affect the country, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies, or warm winds from the

• Marcos reaffirms government's genuine support for workers on Labor Day (2026-05-01 07:26)

MANILA, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. renewed his commitment to building a nation where "hard work is rewarded and opportunity is real" as the country celebrates Labor Day on Friday. In a message, Marcos paid tribute to the workforce whose efforts shape the nation's future and promised to foster an environment that respects honest

• Decision on 'P1,200 basic pay' petitions in NCR seen in July (2026-05-01 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The decision on the petitions calling for a P1,200 daily minimum wage for workers in Metro Manila is expected to be released in July, according to the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). Dole spokesperson and Assistant Secretary Lennard Serrano on Thursday said the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) for

• Employers push tax cuts, not wage hikes, on Labor Day (2026-05-01 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The country's largest employers' group is pushing back against calls for wage increases on Labor Day, warning that most companies are already strained by rising costs and cannot absorb higher labor expenses. "We understand the needs of the people, but the government should be the one to shoulder that. Companies can no

• LTFRB summons bus firm personnel for not giving 20-percent fare discount (2026-05-01 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has summoned the operator, driver and conductor of a public utility bus registered under the government's service contracting program for failing to give a fare discount to a passenger. The LTFRB said in a statement on Thursday that it issued a show cause order

• PH press freedom rank up but media still at risk (2026-05-01 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines now ranks 114th in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index, slightly higher than the previous year's 116, even as the annual report shows the level of freedom enjoyed by media around the world to be at its lowest since 2001. Despite the country's higher ranking, the international nonprofit organization, Reporters

• DA: Palay harvest drops to lowest levels since 2019 (2026-05-01 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Palay (or unmilled rice) production in the first quarter of this year reached its lowest level since 2019 as farmers planted less of the household staple, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The statistics agency recorded that palay output totaled 4.4 million metric tons (MT) in the first quarter

• DOTr chief blames TNCs, gov't execs for bloated list of beneficiaries (2026-05-01 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez has blamed transport network companies (TNC) and unidentified officials of two government agencies for the bloated list of beneficiaries used in the payout of a P5,000 fuel subsidy for public utility vehicles amid the energy crisis. Lopez said that officials of TNCs and the Department of Transportation (DOTr)

• Gov't needs P155B to fund proposed Uplift law (2026-05-01 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration will need at least P155 billion to fund the programs and projects, including the possible expansion of subsidies for the middle class, to address the energy and price shocks caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The amount is based on an estimate given by the Office

• Luistro rejects Pulong Duterte jab: House panel not pressured (2026-05-01 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The head of the House justice committee on Thursday rejected allegations by a brother of Vice President Sara Duterte that lawmakers had been pressured to find probable cause in the impeachment complaints against her. Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said the congressional panel was not biased when it ruled on Wednesday to support

• House prosecutors next: De Lima, Diokno among those suggested (2026-05-01 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution team for the anticipated Senate impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte may be composed of new and familiar names, including holdovers from the roster formed in 2025. Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, chair of the House committee on justice, on Thursday mentioned several candidates who can make the 11-member

• Senate prez: ‘Forthwith’ means ‘the following day’ (2026-05-01 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III on Thursday committed to begin the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte “forthwith,” or the day after the articles of impeachment against her are transmitted to the Senate by the House of Representatives. Sotto made the remarks after emerging from a caucus among senators to discuss

• Leyte irrigation project to boost rice production in Eastern Visayas (2026-05-01 05:17)

VILLABA, LEYTE, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday led the inauguration of the P1.21-billion Hibulangan Reservoir Irrigation Project here, a major infrastructure development expected to enhance agricultural productivity across several towns in Leyte province. The project, considered one of the region’s largest irrigation facilities, is designed to provide reliable irrigation water to some

• La Union provincial gov’t hands over 94 vehicles to villages (2026-05-01 05:10)

DAGUPAN CITY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — La Union Governor Mario Eduardo Ortega and Vice Governor Eric Sibuma led the distribution of 92 multi-purpose vehicles (MPVs) and two dump trucks during a turnover ceremony held on Thursday to recipient barangays in the province. The turnover was held at the Speaker Pro Tempore Francisco I. Ortega Convention Center

• Group seeks P250 wage hike in Western Visayas (2026-05-01 05:06)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Citing the crippling effects of the recent oil price shocks and soaring inflation, labor alliance United Labor Panay petitioned the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) on Thursday for a P250 increase in the daily minimum wage for workers across Western Visayas. The filing of the petition was accompanied by

• Leyte’s Kalanggaman Island on world’s list of best beaches (2026-05-01 05:04)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Kalanggaman Island in Palompon, Leyte, has earned a spot on the 2026 list of the world’s 50 best beaches, drawing recognition from international travel professionals and seasoned travelers. Karina Rosa Tiopes, Department of Tourism director for Eastern Visayas, described the inclusion of Kalanggaman as a “proud and happy moment” for

• Advocates want green energy projects hastened (2026-05-01 05:02)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — Consumer advocates on Tuesday warned that the cost of power in Mindanao, and even the rest of the country, could rise further if the Department of Energy (DOE) lifts the moratorium on the use of coal to generate electricity. BenCyrus Ellorin, project director of the Consumers for Renewable Energy

• Rising heat index in parts of Visayas to persist into early May (2026-05-01 04:59)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — High heat index levels are expected to continue across much of the Philippines through the first days of May, with several areas in the Visayas still experiencing conditions classified as “danger,” according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on Pagasa’s latest data as of 5 p.m.

• Iloilo City to grant fuel subsidy to taxi drivers as oil prices rise (2026-05-01 04:48)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The Iloilo City Government is set to roll out a fuel subsidy program for taxi drivers, offering P1,000 worth of fuel coupons to help cushion the impact of rising oil prices driven by global supply pressures. According to an advisory from the Iloilo City Public Information Office, the first release of

• Search on for man who went missing while swimming in Marinduque (2026-05-01 04:46)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has launched a search and rescue operation for a 48-year-old man who went missing while swimming along the shoreline of Gasan town, Marinduque province on Thursday. The missing individual was identified as Armando Sapunto, of Barangay Pangi, also known as Little Pangi. He was

• 15 drug suspects nabbed; over P392,000 worth of shabu seized in Caraga (2026-05-01 04:21)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Fifteen suspected drug personalities were arrested while more than P390,000 worth of suspected shabu was seized in separate anti-illegal drug operations across the Caraga region on Tuesday, April 29, police said. The Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) said the operations resulted in the confiscation of 57.74 grams

• 89-year-old bedridden woman dies in Iloilo fire (2026-05-01 04:13)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — An 89-year-old bedridden woman died after a fire ravaged seven houses in Sara town, Iloilo province, on Tuesday, leaving an estimated P1.6 million in structural damages. According to Fire Inspector Jory Biliran, chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Sara Fire Station, the blaze completely destroyed five homes and partially

• Army division based in CDO has new commander (2026-05-01 04:09)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — Major General Michelle Anayron on Wednesday bowed out as commander of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division, relinquishing his post to a Philippine Military Academy (PMA) classmate, after 38 years of service in the military. Anayron formally turned over command to Brigadier General Siegfred Tubaldo, a classmate from the PMA

• Provisional authority of operator involved in Ortigas flyover fire nixed (2026-04-30 23:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Thursday cancelled the provisional authority given to the operator of a bus that caught fire on the Ortigas flyover in Edsa last week. According to the LTFRB, the board deliberated on how the

incident could have been prevented if there were regular roadworthiness

• Good projects casualties of flood control scandal, Gatchalian laments (2026-04-30 23:48)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — Infrastructure projects that are above board are affected by the scandals that rocked several flood control projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) including those implemented in Oriental Mindoro, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian lamented. In the sidelines of the commencement exercises of the City College of Calapan,

• 11 areas to reach ‘danger’ level heat indices on Labor Day (2026-04-30 23:46)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 11 areas are forecast to record “danger” level heat indices on Labor Day, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Pagasa defines heat index as the heat felt by the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. “Danger” level heat indices range between 42°C and

• Marcos welcomes Japan ex-PM, promotion of renewables upheld (2026-04-30 23:27)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former Japanese Prime Minister and now Supreme Adviser to the Parliamentary Association of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), Kishida Fumio, on Thursday reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation on energy security and boost the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for both countries. Kishida is

• 4 Discaya-owned cars still unsold after negotiated offers – BOC (2026-04-30 23:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The four remaining seized vehicles of contractor couple Cezarah “Sarah” and Pacifico “Curlee” Discaya remained unsold after failed negotiated offers, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said on Thursday. The BOC held a negotiated sale on the same day for the four cars and other items across different ports in the country. The

• Dead sea cow found in Puerto Princesa beach (2026-04-30 22:53)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN, Philippines — A dead male sea cow (Dugong dugon) was found dead by staff of a beach resort on the shore of Barangay San Rafael last Sunday, April 26. Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) said in its report that employees of Astoria Palawan saw the sea cow floating in

• Itogon reopens trekking sites on May 1 (2026-04-30 22:43)

ITOGON, BENGUET, Philippines — Mayor Bernard Waclin has lifted the suspension on trekking and other outdoor activities in this town’s eco-tourism sites, with operations set to resume on Friday, May 1. In Executive Order No. 23, Waclin announced the reopening of popular destinations, including Mt. Ulap, Mt. Ugo, Mt. Pigingan, Mt. Bidawan, Mt. Cotcot, and

• Mayon evacuees get P10,000 aid from DSWD (2026-04-30 22:31)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has released over P11 million in emergency cash aid to families displaced by the continued unrest of Mayon Volcano, with each beneficiary receiving P10,230. Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Thursday led the distribution of emergency cash transfer (ECT) assistance to evacuees staying at

• 42 former employees file criminal complaints vs bus conglomerate (2026-04-30 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Former employees of a bus conglomerate have filed criminal complaints against the company, alleging that they were forced out of their jobs amid an internal family dispute over ownership. In filing three separate counts of grave coercion, the complainants named Olivia Yanson, Leo Rey Yanson, Ginnette Dumancas, as well as other responsible

• No winners in April 30 Super Lotto, Lotto 6/42 draws (2026-04-30 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines – No bettor won the jackpots for the Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Thursday, April 30, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The Super Lotto 6/49 winning combination was 40-41-24-23-46-42, with a jackpot of ₱33.78 million. There were no jackpot winners. READ: Lotto Results Today – April 30, 2026

• Dole on calls for P600 minimum wage hike in NCR: Nothing’s impossible (2026-04-30 21:44)

MANILA, Philippines — With clamor for a P1,200 living daily minimum wage of workers in Metro Manila, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) on Thursday said that there is “nothing impossible” for a P600 increase in their salaries. This is what Dole spokesperson and assistant secretary Lennard Serrano answered when asked if a P600

• Manila Water rolls out safeguards vs heat-related illness for workers (2026-04-30 21:02)

MANILA, Philippines – Manila Water continues to prioritize the welfare, health, and safety of its workforce by strengthening measures to protect workers from the effects of extreme heat as temperatures remain high across its service areas. As the country experiences elevated heat indices, Manila Water and its contractors have implemented interventions to help prevent heat-related

• HEAT INDEX WATCH: 11 areas hit ‘danger’ levels Thursday (2026-04-30 21:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 11 areas across the country recorded “danger”-level heat indices on Thursday, April 30, the weather state bureau said. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said among the areas monitored, Virac (Synop) in Catanduanes, Iloilo City, and Dumangas, Iloilo recorded the highest heat index at 44°C. READ:

• Jay Sonza arrested over cyberlibel case – NBI chief (2026-04-30 20:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Former television and broadcast personality Jay Sonza was arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday evening in Quezon City over a cyberlibel case filed against him for allegedly spreading fake medical records of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. NBI Director Melvin Matibag confirmed the arrest in a phone interview with

- Kitty Duterte: My sister is not a thief (2026-04-30 20:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Veronica “Kitty” Duterte came to the defense of her embattled sister Vice President Sara Duterte who is the subject of impeachment complaints in the House of Representatives. On Wednesday, the House justice panel found probable cause to impeach Duterte in a unanimous 53-0 vote after deliberating on the impeachment complaints, which cited

- UP Manila opens BS Radiologic Technology for 2026 UPCAT passers (2026-04-30 19:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Did you pass the 2026 University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT) but are waitlisted for a degree program with available slots (DPWAS)? You may try getting admitted to the first batch of Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology (BS RadTech) students at UP Manila. During its 1408th meeting on Thursday,

- DOH exec faces graft complaint as bro allegedly bags project worth P140M (2026-04-30 19:38)

MANILA, Philippines — An undersecretary of the Department of Health faces a graft complaint filed in the Office of the Ombudsman on Thursday over allegations of conflict of interest after his brother reportedly bagged over P140 million worth of infrastructure projects, including hospitals, during the official’s term. Health Undersecretary Matthew Baggao was the subject of

- PCSO’s P18.2-M aid gives Mindoro healthcare system shot in the arm (2026-04-30 19:07)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — In a move that underscores the government’s unwavering commitment of bringing high-quality public healthcare to the countryside, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) recently delivered a total of ₱18.2-million package consisting of state-of-the-art medical equipment and financial support to the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro. The turnover, which aligns with

- Election lawyer honors 447,000 women who fought for rights to vote (2026-04-30 18:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal on Thursday honored the more than 447,000 Filipino women who fought for their right to vote in 1937, marking the 89th commemoration of Woman Suffrage Day. In his statement, Macalintal recalled how Filipino women stood their ground at a time when they faced deep discrimination and were often

- 2 women nabbed for operating beauty clinic without license in Isabela (2026-04-30 18:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Two women were arrested for allegedly running an unlicensed beauty clinic in Isabela, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said on Thursday. The

suspects were entrapped after giving a poseur-client some injections of small doses for botoxand glutathione at their clinic in Barangay District 1, Cauayan City last April 22,

• Gen Zs beyond work: Finding pace and purpose amid constant change (2026-04-30 18:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Many workplaces today are filled with Generation Z employees who bring fresh ideas to the table. Beyond deadlines and daily demands, how do they navigate life and set their own pace in an ever-changing world? Long hours of commuting and fieldwork can be physically tiring, but for these Gen Z employees, taking

• Puerto Princesa police seize P270,000 worth of smuggled cigarettes (2026-04-30 18:35)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY — Puerto Princesa police confiscated suspected smuggled cigarettes in an operation in Sitio Bucana, Barangay Iwahig, here at dawn on Thursday, April 30. Acting on intelligence information and in coordination with the Bureau of Customs, personnel from Puerto Princesa Police Station 2 (PS-2) proceeded to Sitio Bucana at 1:20 a.m., resulting in the

• 9 rescued from distressed motor banca in Occidental Mindoro town (2026-04-30 18:22)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO — Nine passengers were rescued on Thursday, April 30, after their motor banca partially submerged in the waters off Mamburao town, Occidental Mindoro, authorities said. The Philippine Coast Guard Sub-Station (CGSS) Mamburao, in coordination with the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO), responded to the incident involving the motor

• Benitez says no hike in solons' MOOE, cites gov't underspending (2026-04-30 18:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Instead of an increase in the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) allocated to lawmakers, House Deputy Speaker Albee Benitez said that the government actually has a problem of underspending recently when it comes to district projects. In an interview on Thursday, Benitez countered reports accusing the House leadership of approving an increase

• Marcos announces expanded aid programs through LGUs (2026-04-30 17:56)

TACLOBAN CITY, Philippines – President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday announced the expansion of direct funding to local government units (LGUs), alongside new food assistance and scholarship initiatives, as part of efforts to strengthen coordination between national and local governments. In a speech delivered before governors, mayors, and other local officials at the Tacloban Convention

• Soccsksargen LGUs told to brace for El Niño onslaught (2026-04-30 17:38)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines – The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) has warned local government units (LGUs) and the public in Region 12 to brace for the impact of a possible "super" El Niño phenomenon, which was expected to hit the country starting in June and likely to persist until early 2027. Rodrigo Sosmeña, OCD-Region

• Palace: Marcos trusts AFP amid NBI probe into assassination plot (2026-04-30 17:29)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. fully trusts the active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) amid the National Bureau of Investigation's (NBI) probe into an alleged hitman reportedly hired by Vice President Sara Duterte to assassinate him, according to Palace press officer Claire Castro. This developed after NBI Director Melvin

• Pangasinan, BFAR join hands for salt industry development (2026-04-30 17:25)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan – The Pangasinan provincial government has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 1 to develop its salt industry. The MOA was signed last Tuesday by Pangasinan Governor Ramon Guico III and BFAR-I OIC Regional Director Girly dela Pena at the Urduja House in this

• Angara pushes sustainable AI solutions to bridge education system gaps (2026-04-30 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines – Education Secretary Sonny Angara underscored the Department of Education's (DepEd) commitment to deploying artificial intelligence (AI) to simplify school operations and directly address the everyday challenges faced by teachers and learners. "AI does not always have to be complex—it is in simple, meaningful integrations where it truly changes lives," Angara said during

• Bus operator summoned for violating discount rules of service contracting (2026-04-30 17:19)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Thursday said it summoned the operator, driver and conductor of a bus registered in the government's service contracting program for failing to provide a fare discount to a passenger. In a statement on Thursday, the LTFRB said it issued a show cause order

• DBM: Gov't needs P155B to fund programs under Uplift bill (2026-04-30 17:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Marcos administration will need at least P155 billion to fund programs and projects, including the possible expansion of subsidies for the middle class, to address the energy and price shocks caused by the Middle East conflict. The amount is only the estimated funding requirement of the Office of the Executive Secretary

• De Lima to Sara Duterte camp: Authenticated threat video not guesswork (2026-04-30 17:02)

MANILA, Philippines – Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Leila de Lima on Thursday said the attempt by Vice President Sara Duterte's legal camp to dismiss the threat allegations as "guesswork" and "out of context" is contradicted by the impeachment record, where the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) presented an authenticated video of Duterte's Nov. 23, 2024

• NIA clears irrigation canals in Bicol to ease El Niño impact (2026-04-30 16:56)

LEGAZPI CITY — The National Irrigation Administration Regional Office V has conducted desilting and clearing operations in several irrigation systems to improve water delivery to farms in Bicol amid the effects of El Niño. READ: Farmers at risk from El Niño, urgent gov't action needed – agri group In Albay, the activity was carried out

• House ratings up; 7 in 10 Filipinos satisfied with lawmakers – survey (2026-04-30 16:47)

MANILA, Philippines – Public satisfaction with members of the House of Representatives remains strong, with about seven in 10 Filipinos expressing approval of their district representatives, according to Deputy Speaker Jay Khonghun of Zambales, based on the latest nationwide survey by WR Numero Research. Khonghun said Thursday results of the March 2026 Philippine Public Opinion

• Paolo Duterte told: How can you remove GAA when it's a law? (2026-04-30 16:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Legislators have disputed claims that district lawmakers were threatened with the removal of budget allocations if they do not back Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment, with one ranking member reminding critics that the budget is a law that cannot be easily changed. In an interview on Thursday, Deputy Speaker Albee Benitez said

• Sara Duterte camp told: Threat evidence is authentic (2026-04-30 16:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima has called out Vice President Sara Duterte's camp after they claimed that the impeachment proceedings only yielded "guesswork" findings. De Lima issued the statement on Thursday, a day after the House of Representatives' committee on justice discussed Duterte's threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady

• Toboso probe must ensure civilians not drawn to insurgency – NTF-Elcac (2026-04-30 16:15)

MANILA, Philippines – A ranking official of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) on Thursday said the body respects the proposed House inquiry over the April 19 clash in Toboso, Occidental Mindoro, even as they hope the investigation will see to it that no more minors or foreigners will be drawn

• Dole: 190,000 job vacancies in nationwide Labor Day fairs (2026-04-30 15:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Around 90 job fair sites with over 190,000 vacancies will be available for job seekers nationwide for Labor Day on Friday, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said Thursday. Dole spokesperson and Assistant Secretary Lennard Serrano said that as of Thursday, there are 2,274 participating employers and 190,825 job vacancies as

• PNP: No need for 'loyalty check' amid new rumors of coup plot (2026-04-30 15:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said there was no need for a “loyalty check” within the law enforcement agency amid claims by Sen. Panfilo Lacson that there were attempts at an uprising backed by uniformed personnel. “The PNP remains apolitical and will not engage in any political speculation. Our main

• Commercial fishing intrusions in municipal waters hit 5-year high (2026-04-30 15:14)

Commercial fishing activity inside the country’s municipal waters surged to its highest level in at least five years in March, according to monitoring data released by marine conservation group Oceana. The spike has heightened concerns over weak enforcement, declining fish stocks and worsening hardship among small-scale fisherfolk already burdened by soaring fuel costs. Using satellite-based

• MWSS penalizes Maynilad; Mayor Biazon backs long-term fix (2026-04-30 15:07)

MANILA, Philippines – Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon welcomed the decision of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO) to penalize Maynilad Water Services Inc. for failing to provide continuous water supply to customers in the West Zone, including Muntinlupa. MWSS-RO imposed a ₱54.28-million fine on Maynilad and ordered a ₱327.96 rebate for

• DBM launches microsite on livelihood, food, transport aid (2026-04-30 14:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Thursday unveiled the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) microsite, which presents the government’s efforts to cushion Filipinos from the impacts of the Middle East conflict. Budget Undersecretary Goddes Hope Libiran, speaking at a briefing in Malacañang, said the website lists

• Newly promoted Air Force Brig. Gen. Mikee Romero gets rare Navy honors (2026-04-30 14:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Michael “Mikee” Romero of the Philippine Air Force Reserve Force has been awarded three of the Philippine Navy’s rarest and highest qualifications—an achievement military officials describe as unprecedented in the history of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Navy. Romero received the Naval Aviator Wings, Command-at-Sea Badge,

• Mayon Volcano continues eruptive activity for 115th straight day (2026-04-30 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano continued its eruptive activity for the 115th consecutive day on Thursday, April 30, with sustained lava effusion, ash emissions, and hazardous volcanic events, according to state volcanologists. In its latest 24-hour observation, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said lava continued to flow through multiple gullies or slopes,

• Legarda backs anticipatory finance for climate resilience, youth leadership (2026-04-30 14:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Senator Loren Legarda on Thursday called for a decisive shift from the cycle of "trauma and repair" toward proactive climate readiness, urging the Philippines to legislate for anticipation to safeguard communities before disasters strike. Legarda delivered her keynote address at the Asia Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (ACCCDR) on April

• House eyes private lawyers for possible Senate impeachment trial (2026-04-30 14:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives may tap private lawyers to strengthen its prosecution team in the event an impeachment court is convened to try Vice President Sara Duterte, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Thursday. Luistro said bringing in external legal experts could help ensure a stronger case, noting that impeachment proceedings require

• Dole: Decision on P1,200 NCR daily minimum wage may come in July (2026-04-30 14:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The decision on petitions calling for a P1,200 daily minimum wage for workers in Metro Manila may be out by July, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said on Thursday. According to Dole spokesperson and Assistant Secretary Lennard Serrano, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) in the National Capital

• Rep. Chua: VP Duterte, husband can't hide tax records from trial forever (2026-04-30 14:15)

MANILA, Philippines – President Sara Duterte and her husband, Atty. Manases Carpio, cannot hide their income tax returns behind legal technicalities forever, Manila Rep. Joel Chua said Wednesday night. Chua, a lawyer and chairperson of the House committee on good government and public accountability, clarified that the committee on justice's decision to keep the Bureau

• Labor Day 2026: Workers declare 'day of reckoning' (2026-04-30 14:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The commemoration of Labor Day in the Philippines began on May 1, 1903, when more than 100,000 workers marched from Tondo to Malacañang to demand fair wages and better working conditions from the Americans. Led by the Union Obrera Democratica de Filipinas, the protest condemned the exploitation of Filipino workers and called

• PNP names new personnel and records management, research chiefs (2026-04-30 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has appointed two senior police officials as its new directors for personnel and records management, and research and development. Police Regional Office Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PRO BARMM) director Brig. Gen. Jaysen de Guzman was appointed as the new PNP director for personnel records and

• Marcos vows increased local gov't support fund if properly used (2026-04-30 13:35)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday reiterated his commitment to increase the budget for the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) if it is proven to be used properly. He made the statement during the "Sa Eastern Visayas, Bawat Bayan Makikinabang" event in Tacloban City, Leyte, where he met with scholars under the

• PNP on full alert for Labor Day protests (2026-04-30 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is now on full alert as part of security measures for rallies marking this year's Labor Day this coming Friday. The law enforcement agency previously noted it would only be raising its alert level status to "heightened alert" in anticipation of protest-actions. However, in a press briefing

• DAR wipes out P800M in farmers' debts in Eastern Visayas (2026-04-30 13:33)

The condoned amount reached ₱799,524,119, including accrued interest, according to DAR Region 8 Director Robert Anthony Yu. READ: Marcos leads distribution of condonation certificates to farmers The distribution was held at the Tacloban City Convention Center on Wednesday and was led by DAR Undersecretaries Kazel Celeste, Josef Angelo Martires, and Rowena Niña Taduran, representing Agrarian

• Curlee Discaya brought to hospital for surgery — Senate secretary (2026-04-30 13:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Contractor Pacifico "Curlee" Discaya was transferred from the Senate detention facility to a hospital for shoulder surgery scheduled on Friday, Senate Secretary Mark Llandro Mendoza said. Discaya, who has been held at the Senate detention facility for contempt since September 2025, complained of pain in his right shoulder in early March 2026.

• Marcos inaugurates P1.21 billion irrigation project in Leyte (2026-04-30 13:18)

VILLABA, Leyte— President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday led the inauguration of the P1.21-billion Hibulangan Reservoir Irrigation Project in Barangay Hibulangan here, a major infrastructure development expected to enhance agricultural productivity across several towns in Leyte. The project, considered one of the region's largest irrigation facilities, is designed to provide a reliable water supply to

• Senators discuss impeachment preparations in caucus (2026-04-30 13:12)

MANILA, Philippines – Senators met in a caucus on Thursday to discuss its preparations, if the House transmits the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte, Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III told reporters. Sotto bared that apart from the agenda for the upcoming resumption of Senate session, the senators will also discuss the logistics

• Matibag: NBI to also sue Mike Defensor over human trafficking case (2026-04-30 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Rep. Mike Defensor will also be included in the additional cases that will be filed by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) involving a human trafficking

case, NBI director Melvin Matibag confirmed Thursday. In an interview with the INQUIRER,Matibag said the NBI will file the cases of human trafficking against

• PNP: 11 officials relieved for underperformance after gambling den raids (2026-04-30 13:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Eleven police officials were relieved of their posts for allegedly underperforming in their duties after several suspected illegal gambling dens in Pangasinan were raided by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), netting 150 bettors earlier this month. PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño confirmed this in a briefing with reporters at Camp

• Visayas braces for dangerous heat index levels through May 1 (2026-04-30 12:21)

ILOILO CITY — Several areas across the Visayas are expected to experience “danger” level heat index values in the coming days, with some locations nearing extreme thresholds, according to the latest outlook from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Data released as of 5 p.m. on April 29 show that parts of

• 3 minor eruptions rock Taal Volcano; Alert Level 1 stays (2026-04-30 12:08)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Taal Volcano in Batangas produced three minor eruptions – two phreatomagmatic and one phreatic – on Wednesday night, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported. In its Thursday morning bulletin, Phivolcs said the three events lasted a total of 11 minutes, from 8:52 p.m. to 9:03 p.m., based on

• PDEA dismantles alleged drug den in Batangas, nabs 6 suspects (2026-04-30 11:55)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon – Operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and policemen dismantled an alleged drug den, arresting four suspects during an operation on Wednesday in Balayan, Batangas. In a report posted on its Facebook page, PDEA Calabarzon said its Batangas-based agents, with assistance from local policemen, carried out a buy-bust operation that

• Red tide warning up in 2 Pangasinan towns (2026-04-30 11:36)

BOLINAO, Pangasinan – The coastal waters of the island town of Anda and this town in Pangasinan province remain positive for red tide toxin (paralytic shellfish poison), and shellfish here are not safe for human consumption, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Shellfish Bulletin No. 9, issued by BFAR Region I

• Sara Duterte camp hits House hearing, calls evidence ‘curated, spliced’ (2026-04-30 11:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Legal counsel for Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday criticized the House Committee on Justice’s impeachment proceedings, saying the evidence presented in its latest hearing failed to establish a sufficient case against Duterte. In a media release dated April

30, lawyer Paul Lawrence Lim claimed that the allegations of inciting to sedition

• Gerville Luistro bares possible prosecution team (2026-04-30 11:00)

MANILA, Philippines — A mix of new names and old guards from the first attempt to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte were floated by Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro as possible members of the new prosecution team, a day after the House of Representatives panel found probable cause to move forward with the complaints. In an interview

• Napolcom junks admin raps vs CIDG NCR cops in Tondo e-sabong bust (2026-04-30 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Police Commission (Napolcom) has dismissed an administrative complaint against some personnel of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group National Capital Region (CIDG NCR). Lodged by the Coliseo de Manila management, the complaint sought to hold the CIDG NCR officers liable after P40,000 in cash and 22 gamefowl supposedly went missing

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 30, 2026 (2026-04-30 09:15)

MANILA, Philippines – Following three weeks of oil price rollback, motorists may need to brace for a new round of fuel price hikes next week, with the Department of Energy (DOE) flagging early signs of upward adjustments driven largely by the weakening peso against the US dollar. As of Tuesday, April 28, 2026, motorists welcomed

• Magnitude 4.6 earthquake jolts Surigao del Sur; no damage expected (2026-04-30 08:50)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 4.6 earthquake struck off Surigao del Sur early Thursday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported. The tremor was recorded at 6:04 a.m., with its epicenter located 37 kilometers northeast of Cagwait town in Surigao del Sur. READ: Magnitude 4.3 earthquake hits Batanes town It had a

• HEAT INDEX WATCH: ‘Danger’ level in 7 areas on April 30 – Pagasa (2026-04-30 08:26)

MANILA, Philippines — At least seven areas are expected to register “danger” level heat indices on Thursday, April 30, the state weather bureau said. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defines heat index as the more reliable measure of how hot it actually feels to the human body as it reflects how

• Ex-spox: SC ‘forthwith’ clarification backs Senate impeachment timeline (2026-04-30 08:21)

MANILA, Philippines – The clarification of the Supreme Court on the term “forthwith” pertaining to the timeline of proceeding with an impeachment proved the critics of the Senate wrong, former Senate impeachment court spokesperson Atty. Regie Tongol said. This came after the SC’s decision on Wednesday dismissed a petition to legally compel the Senate to

• Pagasa: Hot, humid weather on Thursday with likely scattered rains (2026-04-30 07:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Easterlies will continue to affect the country on Thursday, causing generally fair but hot and humid weather, with scattered rains expected afternoon until evening in some areas, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the easterlies are the warm winds coming from the

• Seized Discaya vehicles fetch P102M (2026-04-30 05:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has collected over P80.3 million in revenues this year from the sale of five seized luxury vehicles, four of these owned by private contractors Pacifico “Curlee” Discaya II and wife, Sarah. A total of 32 vehicles owned by the Discayas were placed in the BOC’s custody last

• Amnesty PH urges gov’t: Probe death of ‘Negros 19’ (2026-04-30 05:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Amnesty International Philippines on Wednesday called for an independent investigation into a series of armed encounters, including the April 19 clashes in Toboso, Negros Occidental that left 19 people dead, as it noted that decades of government counter-insurgency operations have failed to protect noncombatants. “It is shocking that after almost 60 years

• Survey: Fuel shock leaves 4 in 10 Filipinos struggling (2026-04-30 05:52)

MANILA, Philippines — More than four in 10 Filipinos faced financial strain in April as soaring fuel prices linked to the Middle East crisis made it harder for households to stretch their monthly income to cover living expenses. A recent survey conducted by Synergy Market Research and Strategic Consultancy found that 44 percent of Filipinos

• ‘Ghost’ drivers stall P5,000 aid release (2026-04-30 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has found serious discrepancies in the list of beneficiaries provided by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and transport network companies (TNCs)—a discovery that has slowed down the release of the P5,000 cash subsidy to eligible drivers affected by high fuel prices.

• Should foreign divorce be recognized in PH? SC hears views (2026-04-30 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Recognizing foreign divorce under Philippine law will help resolve “limping marriages” or marital unions that are legitimate in one country but nullified in another. This was among the views taken up by experts on family law and private international law as the Supreme Court heard arguments on Tuesday over a lower court

• Marcos announces higher PhilHealth maternity benefits (2026-04-30 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday announced the expansion of the coverage and an increase in the rates of maternity benefits provided by the

Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth). In a video message, Marcos said that under theexpanded program, which takes effect on April 30, PhilHealth coverage for normal delivery will

• SC: 'Forthwith' leaves timing of impeach trial to Senate 'discretion' (2026-04-30 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — "Forthwith," the term used in the Constitution to describe the manner by which the Senate should conduct an impeachment trial, is discretionary and "does not specify a fixed timeline" for the chamber to start the proceedings. This was according to a ruling of the Supreme Court en banc on a petition that

• 'Popoy' or Piolo? Marcoleta gets his movie quips wrong (2026-04-30 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Sagip party-list Rep. Paolo Marcoleta got his movie references mixed up when he made a manifestation during the justice committee hearing at the House of Representatives on Wednesday. As the panel resumed deliberations on the two impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, Marcoleta challenged the committee to open the sealed box

• 150 hectares of grassland in Mt. Kanlaon danger zone on fire (2026-04-30 05:33)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — Ongoing fires have hit about 150 hectares of grassland, including some trees, within the 4-kilometer permanent danger zone of Kanlaon Volcano on Negros Island. Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park Superintendent Philip Lechoncito said on Wednesday, April 29, that the fires have not been caused by volcanic activity. The fires are

• Not enough House votes to open VP's tax records (2026-04-30 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — It will now be up to the Senate, once it sits as an impeachment court, to decide whether to unseal a box containing tax records of Vice President Sara Duterte, her husband and their businesses, after a motion to open it failed at the House committee on justice on Wednesday. But this

• Panel finds 'probable cause' to impeach Sara Duterte (2026-04-30 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — In a unanimous vote, the House justice committee on Wednesday declared the existence of probable cause in the two impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, moving them closer to a plenary vote and possibly a Senate trial that can derail her declared intention to seek the presidency in 2028. Fifty-three members

• 10-month-old infant among 7 rescued in anti-cybersex ops in N. Mindanao (2026-04-30 05:28)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — Seven survivors of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC), including a 10-month-old infant, were rescued in a series of anti-trafficking operations across the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan during the first quarter of this year.

The operations, conducted from January to March, were spearheaded by

• No rotational power outages in off-grid areas (2026-04-30 05:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said on Wednesday that there are no rotational brownouts being implemented in off-grid areas because of the oil crisis triggered by the Middle East war. According to the Department of Energy chief, state-run Philippine National Oil Co. has been directed to prioritize off-grid generation companies in the allocation

• DA to distribute P2,345 aid to over 3,000 farmers, fishers in Calapan (2026-04-30 05:15)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — More than 3,000 farmers and fishers here are set to receive cash assistance from the Department of Agriculture (DA), city officials announced. The distribution had started on Tuesday, April 28. In an advisory, the city government said each beneficiary will receive P2,345 in financial aid, to be distributed beginning

• PNP probing bosses of 2 'moonlighting' Davao cops (2026-04-30 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police is investigating the supervisors of two Davao de Oro police officers who were arrested along with four civilians accused of illegally transporting P290,000 worth of mineral ores in Misamis Oriental. "Command responsibility is being reviewed," PNP Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on Wednesday.

• Obando wants calamity state amid dump fire (2026-04-30 05:06)

OBANDO, BULACAN, Philippines — Local officials are studying the declaration of a state of calamity after smoke from a burning landfill in nearby city of Navotas in Metro Manila reached several communities. A fire broke out at the landfill, located in a section of Barangay Tanza in Navotas, on April 10 and the blaze had

• Bohol sets stricter rules on whale shark tourism (2026-04-30 05:04)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — The provincial government of Bohol has imposed stricter regulations on marine wildlife tourism following the signing of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of Provincial Ordinance No. 2026-004, or the "Enhanced Sustainable Marine Wildlife Interaction Ordinance." Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado on Monday signed the IRR which provides clear guidelines for

• SC told to act on BARMM rules ahead of COC filing (2026-04-30 01:09)

MANILA, Philippines — A manifestation was filed before the Supreme Court, warning that redistricting and political party rules ahead of the first regular parliamentary elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) may affect voter representation and participation in the polls. Petitioners Sultan Alim Saad Amate and Maulana Mamutuk filed the manifestation amid

• NBI says Sara Duterte tried to visit Madriaga (2026-04-29 23:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday said Vice President Sara Duterte tried to visit Ramil Madriaga—the self-proclaimed “bagman” for Duterte, an allegation the VP repeatedly denied—at the Bureau of Jail Management Penology (BJMP) facility in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City. During the House justice panel clarificatory hearing on Duterte’s

• Heat index in Dagupan City soars to 44ºC, highest on Wednesday, April 29 (2026-04-29 22:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Dagupan City in Pangasinan recorded the highest peak index on Wednesday, April 29, at 44ºC, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. According to Pagasa, heat index refers to how hot it actually feels to the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. Once it ranges from

• Health experts concerned over low vax rates among Filipino adults (2026-04-29 22:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Health experts on Wednesday called on working age Filipinos to get vaccinated as they noted a gap in immunization rates among adults compared to children and the elderly. In a press conference, Philippine Foundation for Vaccination vice president Bryan Posadas stressed that vaccination “must be done as often as possible or based

• No winner for April 29 Grand Lotto, Mega Lotto jackpots (2026-04-29 21:58)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the jackpots in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Wednesday, April 29, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said. The Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 42-02-54-35-41-49 for a jackpot of ₱73.37 million. There was no jackpot winner. The Mega Lotto 6/45 winning combination was

• Lopez: TNCs, transpo officials liable for bloated list of TNVS drivers (2026-04-29 21:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Sec. Giovanni Lopez on Wednesday said transport network companies (TNC), as well as current and former officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB), will be held accountable for the bloated list of ride-hailing drivers discovered during the payout of government cash assistance. Lopez made

• BARMM rolls out system to strengthen child, family protection (2026-04-29 21:09)

COTABATO CITY – To ensure that the delivery of social services is fairer and easier to access for families in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) has launched on Tuesday, April 28, the enhanced Beneficiary Data Management System (BDMS). The project is supported by the

• 700 cops deployed to secure 2026 Palarong Pambansa in Agusan del Sur (2026-04-29 21:03)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – The Police Regional Office (PRO) 13 has mobilized 700 personnel to secure the 2026 Palarong Pambansa, ensuring a smooth, incident-free event when it kicks off on May 24. The deployment comes after a formal send-off ceremony held at Camp Rafael C. Rodriguez, Libertad, Butuan City, on April 27, 2026.

• Water shortage threatens Guiuan town as heat index soars in E. Visayas (2026-04-29 20:59)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Guiuan Water District in Guiuan town, Eastern Samar has warned of a looming water shortage as extreme heat continues to lower water levels in underground sources, reducing supply capacity in the town. In an advisory issued Tuesday, April 28, the water district said prolonged dry conditions have significantly affected its pumping

• Lawmakers: Sara Duterte threat, sedition raps key to impeachment case (2026-04-29 20:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima on Wednesday said the complaints of grave threats and inciting to sedition against Vice President Sara Duterte are among the “most important” charges in her impeachment case, as it essentially serves as a window into her true character. De Lima made the pronouncement during the

• BOC turns over 19 Discaya-owned cars to BIR for tax probe (2026-04-29 20:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Wednesday turned over to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) 19 vehicles owned by contractor couple Sarah and Curlee Discaya for tax investigation. According to the BOC, the 19 cars are among the 32 motor vehicles it placed under its control in September 2025 following a

• Manila Water PV marks 11 years of expanding water access (2026-04-29 20:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Water Philippine Ventures (MWPV), the non-East Zone subsidiary of Manila Water Company, celebrates its 11th year of expanding access to safe, reliable, and sustainable water and wastewater services across the Philippines. As Manila Water’s domestic investment arm outside Metro Manila, MWPV continues to support national development through strategic partnerships, infrastructure investment,

• Rep. Javi Benitez seeks probe into bloody Negros Occidental clash (2026-04-29 20:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Negros Occidental Rep. Javi Benitez has filed a resolution asking appropriate House of Representatives committees to investigate a military operation in Toboso town in his province which led to the death of 19 individuals — including alleged human rights workers and civilians. Benitez in a message to INQUIRER on Wednesday confirmed that he has

• PNP to deploy over 106,000 law enforcers for Labor Day protests (2026-04-29 20:36)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 106,633 law enforcers will be deployed for this year’s Labor Day protests this coming Friday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. Of this number, 95,556 will be PNP personnel, while 2,576 will be from other law enforcement units and 8,501

will be from the police's partner and volunteer groups,

• Church, gov't, biz leaders gather for renewable energy investment summit (2026-04-29 20:31)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Church, government and business leaders are set to convene on Thursday, April 30, for the first-ever Renew Mindoro Investments Summit, an initiative aimed at accelerating renewable energy (RE) development on the island and addressing its persistent power shortage. The summit, to be held at the Divine Word College of Calapan

• House panel sees grounds to impeach Sara Duterte (2026-04-29 20:15)

MANILA, Philippines — While there were fewer topics touched during the final hearing of the House of Representatives' committee on justice on the two impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, it was not short on key discussions — ranging from funny soundbites to more serious revelations. Early on during Wednesday's hearing, the committee held extensive

• Mt. Province town under state of calamity due to drought, energy crisis (2026-04-29 20:05)

ROXAS, Isabela — The Paracelis town in Mountain Province was placed under a state of calamity on April 28 due to the "worsening drought, critical water shortage, and ongoing energy crisis." In the approved declaration of a state of calamity, Mayor Marcos Ayangwa said the local government unit "is mobilizing all resources to protect our

• QC cops find motorcycle used in ambush-slay of businessman, driver (2026-04-29 20:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The police found Tuesday night the motorcycle used by two unidentified assailants in the ambush-slay of a businessman and his driver along Timog Avenue in Quezon City. The motorcycle – a Yamaha Mio 125S with black and green colorway – was found abandoned along Scout Rallos, with two helmets still placed on

• Luistro laments Sara Duterte skipping hearing, attending Laguna exhibit (2026-04-29 19:44)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte attended a pop-up exhibit in Laguna on Wednesday while impeachment proceedings against her were taking place in the House of Representatives. This did not escape the attention of Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, chairperson of the House justice panel, which had repeatedly invited Duterte to attend the proceedings. Instead

• Camille Villar calls for partnerships to boost PH sustainable energy (2026-04-29 19:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Camille Villar — the youngest senator of the 20th Congress and chairperson of the Senate committee on environment, natural resources and climate change — reaffirmed her push for circular and renewable energy solutions as she joined the launch of the biomass facility of Nestlé Philippines in Cabuyao, Laguna, highlighting the role

• IRR for Labor Education Act signed after nearly 5 years (2026-04-29 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines – Labor education will now be integrated into the curriculum of colleges and universities after government officials on Wednesday finally signed the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Labor Education Act, nearly five years after it was passed in 2021. During the signing ceremony held at the office of the Commission on

• WATCH: Justice committee argues about opening VP Duterte's tax records (2026-04-29 19:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the House justice committee take turns arguing for or against opening a BIR box containing the income tax returns of Vice President Sara Duterte during the final hearing on the impeachment complaints filed against her. /atm

• Cooling stations set up in Iloilo City as heat index rises (2026-04-29 19:11)

ILOILO CITY — The city government here has begun installing cooling stations in key public areas to provide immediate relief to commuters and pedestrians amid intensifying heat conditions. An initial unit is currently being set up along Diversion Road in Mandurriao, with two more stations scheduled for installation on General Luna Street and Plazoleta Gay

• WATCH: Abante opposes opening VP Duterte's tax records (2026-04-29 19:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila 6th District Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. opposes the sealed BIR box containing Vice President Sara Duterte's income tax returns during the House justice committee hearing on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. /atm

• Diokno, De Lima confident Duterte impeachment will pass House plenary (2026-04-29 19:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Akbayan party-list Rep. Chel Diokno and Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima are confident that the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte will be approved by the House of Representatives in plenary session. On Wednesday, the House justice committee unanimously found probable cause in both complaints against Duterte, meaning the

• PhilSA: Metro Manila nitrogen dioxide falls below pre-fire level (2026-04-29 18:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) levels in Metro Manila have dropped below those recorded before the landfill fire in Navotas City on April 10, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) said. PhilSA said the decline coincided with reported "significant progress" in extinguishing the fire, which has burned an estimated 31.95 hectares. READ: PhilSA: Smoke from

• WATCH: Cendaña comments on case vs justice committee members (2026-04-29 18:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Percival Cendaña comments on the case filed against House justice committee members by Manases Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte. Cendaña

made his remarks at the opening of the final hearing on the impeachment complaints filed against the vice president. /atm

• WATCH: De Lima urges opening VP Duterte's tax records (2026-04-29 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Leila de Lima moves to open a sealed box from the BIR, which contains the income tax returns of Vice President Sara Duterte. De Lima made the motion at the final hearing on April 29, 2026, on the impeachment complaints against the vice president. /atm

• WATCH: VP Duterte's kill remark is 'gravest' impeachment ground – de Lima (2026-04-29 18:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima says Vice President Sara Duterte's kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his family is the gravest ground for her impeachment. De Lima made the statement on the final impeachment hearing on April 29, 2026. /atm

• Sara Duterte's silence shows she's afraid of truth — Abante (2026-04-29 18:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's silence and refusal to attend the House of Representatives justice committee's impeachment proceedings show "fear" on her part for the truth to come out, House human rights panel chair Bienvenido Abante Jr. of Manila said Wednesday. Abante, an impeachment complaint endorser, made the statement in the course of

• WATCH: Luistro's opening statement at final VP Duterte impeachment hearing (2026-04-29 18:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Gerville Luistro sums up past proceedings to open the final hearing on April 29, 2016, on the impeachment complaints filed against Vice President Sara Duterte. /atm

• Group eyes people's initiative for enactment of anti-dynasty measure (2026-04-29 18:03)

MANILA, Philippines — A coalition of non-government organizations is planning to launch a people's initiative to enact an anti-political dynasty measure, retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said on Wednesday. According to Carpio, he, along with Atty. Alex Lacson and other lawyers held a dialogue with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) on the same

• 'Forthwith' explained: SC rules on impeachment trial speed (2026-04-29 17:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court on Wednesday clarified that "forthwith proceed" in an impeachment trial does not necessarily mean the Senate should act at breakneck speed, but rather within a "reasonable time." In a decision written by Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda, the Court dismissed a petition for mandamus filed by lawyer Catalino Aldea Generillo

• WATCH: De Lima comments on case vs justice committee members (2026-04-29 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Leila de Lima comments on the case filed against House justice committee members by Manases Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, accusing them of breaking data privacy and bank secrecy laws during a hearing on the impeachment complaints against the vice president. /atm

• WATCH: Diokno comments on case vs justice committee members (2026-04-29 17:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Chel Diokno comments on the case filed against House justice committee members by Manases Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, accusing them of violating data privacy and bank secrecy laws during the hearing on the impeachment complaints filed against the vice president. /atm

• Sara Duterte remarks vs Marcos shown anew at impeachment hearing (2026-04-29 17:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives justice committee and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday presented several videos of Vice President Sara Duterte's previous statements against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as part of the hearings on the impeachment complaints against her. The NBI had been summoned by the House justice committee to

• House panel consolidates Sara Duterte impeachment complaints (2026-04-29 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives committee on justice on Wednesday moved to consolidate the two impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte for a more efficient proceeding. READ: House justice panel finds probable cause to impeach Sara Duterte It was former Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Leila De Lima who moved to consolidate the third

• Sara Duterte camp: House 'departed' from design with impeachment move (2026-04-29 17:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's legal team said Wednesday that the House of Representative's finding of probable cause to impeach her came as no surprise, maintaining that the chamber had "departed" from its constitutional design. This came in response to the House committee on justice finding probable cause to impeach Duterte. READ: House

• NBI: Duterte's threat video authenticated, unedited (2026-04-29 16:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The video showing Vice President Sara Duterte's November 2024 remarks about President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez was authentic and showed no signs of editing, alteration, or artificial intelligence (AI) manipulation, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday told lawmakers on Wednesday. The

• House justice panel finds probable cause to impeach Sara Duterte (2026-04-29 16:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The House committee on justice has found probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte, after three clarificatory hearings on the two complaints under the panel's jurisdiction. During the hearing, the committee finished discussing allegations that Duterte threatened to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Araneta Marcos, and former House Speaker

• Angara honors Gokongwei Brothers Foundation as DepEd Hero (2026-04-29 16:16)

MAKATI CITY — Education Secretary Sonny Angara officially conferred the DepEd Hero Award on the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation (GBF), recognizing its transformative investments in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and teacher development for directly uplifting the lives of Filipino learners and educators. The 2026 DepEd Hero citations were awarded to GBF's leadership: Lance

• DA: Rice prices may hit P62/kg in September due to high fertilizer costs (2026-04-29 16:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The price of rice per kilo may reach P62 in September, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said on Wednesday. Laurel was asked about the price of agricultural products during the Senate Proactive Response and Oversight for Timely and Effective Crisis Strategy (PROTECT) panel hearing amid tensions in the Middle

• NBI: Alleged hitmen hired by Duterte to kill Marcos identified (2026-04-29 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has identified individuals who may have been supposedly hired by Vice President Sara Duterte to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. if she were killed. NBI Director Melvin Matibag told reporters this as he left the House of Representatives justice committee's fourth hearing on the impeachment complaints

• More impeachment hearings for due process? We've done enough – solons (2026-04-29 15:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Several lawmakers have countered proposals for additional hearing dates on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte to observe due process, believing that the House committee on justice had already given the matter enough time. They noted that the House committee on justice had already given the matter enough time. During the tail end

• Luistro seeks full-scale probe into Michael Yang-Sammy Uy network (2026-04-29 15:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Wednesday pressed for a separate and full-scale investigation into the network suggested by former Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV's allegations after the House committee on justice found that the transactions it tested from his annexes matched official Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) records. Luistro raised the call as part

• Luistro: Bank secrecy can’t shield wealth in impeachment probe (2026-04-29 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro on Wednesday said Vice President Sara Duterte’s camp cannot hide behind bank secrecy to block the scrutiny of suspicious financial records, arguing that the Constitution’s demand for public accountability carries greater weight in an impeachment proceeding. The chair of the House justice committee issued the statement as the

• Duterte’s security group may play a role in her threat vs Marcoses – NBI (2026-04-29 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Vice Presidential Security and Protection Group (VPSPG) is part of the follow-up investigation being conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) into Vice President Sara Duterte’s threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. NBI Director Melvin Matibag gave this information on Wednesday to the House committee on justice’s hearing on the two

• Bayan: House panel not opening BIR box with Duterte records ‘saddening’ (2026-04-29 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives justice committee’s decision not to open the box submitted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) containing Vice President Sara Duterte’s tax records is “saddening,” the group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said Wednesday. While the House justice panel held its fourth hearing on the impeachment complaints against Duterte

• VP Sara Duterte’s kill remark is ‘gravest’ impeachment ground – de Lima (2026-04-29 14:06)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte’s kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his family is the gravest ground for her impeachment, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said on Tuesday, as a congressional panel continues to weigh the complaints seeking her removal from office. She said Duterte’s statement that she plotted to

• BPO workers’ network asks Dole for P1,200 NCR minimum daily wage (2026-04-29 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Two days before Labor Day, a network of business process outsourcing (BPO) employees has asked the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) for a wage increase for workers in the National Capital Region (NCR), demanding a P1,200 minimum wage amid higher costs of goods and services. The BPO Industry Employees Network (BIEN)

• Shellfish from Dauis, Tagbilaran waters now safe for consumption (2026-04-29 13:53)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Shellfish and other marine products collected from the coastal waters of Dauis and Tagbilaran City in Bohol are now safe for human consumption, following the lifting of a previous red tide advisory, authorities said. In a shellfish bulletin dated April 28, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) reported that

• P5.6M suspected illegal drugs from abroad seized in Pampanga (2026-04-29 13:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities intercepted two packages from abroad containing suspected illegal drugs worth P5.6 million at a courier warehouse in Pampanga. The interception followed an operation conducted by the Clark Inter-Agency Task Force Against Illegal Drugs (CRK-IATFAID), composed of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)–Pampanga District Office, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Bureau of

• Chipongian, business journalist, writes 30 (2026-04-29 13:35)

Veteran business journalist Lee C. Chipongian passed away on April 26 at the age of 56. She was a contributing editor at Malaya Business Insight and previously served as assistant business editor at Manila Bulletin, where she had worked for more than two decades. Before joining the business desk, Chipongian covered every major business beat,

• National gov't has disbursed P41 billion since Gulf war broke out – DepDev (2026-04-29 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines — In response to the effects of the Middle East war on the Philippines, the national government has disbursed a total of P41.6 billion to support different sectors. The Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DepDev) gave this figure to senators on Wednesday. Joseph Capuno, DepDev undersecretary for the Investment Programming Group, presented

• Luistro jokes if Co wanted to be named in Carpio complaint (2026-04-29 12:54)

MANILA, Philippines — House justice panel chief and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro jokingly asked on Wednesday if Kabataan party-list Rep. Renee Co wanted to be a respondent to the criminal complaint filed by Manases Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte. Carpio on Monday filed criminal complaints over alleged violations of Anti-Money Laundering Act,

• John Lloyd or Piolo? Rep. Marcoleta quotes wrong movie in manifestation (2026-04-29 12:52)

MANILA, Philippines — It seems that Sagip party-list Rep. Paolo Henry Marcoleta was confused as to which movie character he should quote when he made a manifestation during the House of Representatives committee on justice's hearing on Wednesday. During the hearing on the two impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, Marcoleta dared the committee to

• BOC earns P80 million from auctioning 5 seized luxury vehicles this year (2026-04-29 12:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has collected over P80.3 million in revenues from auctioning five seized luxury cars this year. Four of the five vehicles belonged to contractor couple Cezarah "Sarah" and Pacifico "Curlee" Discaya. The BOC has, so far,

auctioned nine out of 13 seized luxury vehicles of the Discayas. Four

• Explainer: What's driving the latest spike in electricity prices (2026-04-29 12:43)

Across the Philippines, especially in Metro Manila, electric bills have been spiking at a pace that is hard to ignore. Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) reported higher electricity rates for April, with residential customers consuming 200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) a month seeing the overall rate rise to P14.35 per kWh — an increase of 53 centavos per

• Sara Duterte impeachment: April 29 hearing about her character — Luistro (2026-04-29 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The third clarificatory hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte delves into her character, as the House of Representatives' committee on justice will tackle the threats she made against ranking officials, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Wednesday. In her opening speech, Luistro said that discussions regarding Duterte's threats against

• Sara Duterte impeachment: House vote falls short to open BIR box (2026-04-29 12:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The box containing the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) records of Vice President Sara Duterte, her husband, and their firms remained unopened after the motion to open it failed to garner enough votes in the House justice panel on Wednesday. A majority of 38 lawmakers voted against opening the box, while only

• Carpio's case vs solons seen as a diversionary tactic, desperate attempt (2026-04-29 12:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Some lawmakers criticized the case filed by lawyers Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, against some members of the House justice committee for supposedly illegally disclosing his bank records. Carpio sued Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) Chairperson and Bangko Sentral Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, as well

• Caloocan residents warned against ammonia leak (2026-04-29 11:54)

[Updated April 29, 2026, 12:56 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — Caloocan City Mayor Along Malapitan on Wednesday advised residents to take precautionary measures due to an ammonia leak from an ice plant in Barangay 168, Deparo. In a social media post, Malapitan urged residents to remain inside their homes and keep their doors and windows shut.

• PhilHealth system meeting equity mandate, but sustainability gap remains (2026-04-29 11:33)

Although the PhilHealth system is functioning as designed, a data scientist said the Philippines may want to consider models such as Taiwan's, where almost all residents contribute through "fixed, manageable premiums" based on their category. Dr. Alicor Panao, a data scientist and

associate professor at the University of the Philippines, said PhilHealth's latest claims data

• Over 2,000 Bukidnon drivers get cash aid (2026-04-29 11:26)

QUEZON, Bukidnon — A total of 555 tricab or "bao-bao" drivers in Quezon town received P5,000 each in cash assistance on Tuesday under a government program aimed at easing the burden of rising fuel prices. The payout was held at the Municipal Evacuation Center in Poblacion and facilitated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development

• P68-M in shabu seized from tricycle in Pagadian City checkpoint (2026-04-29 11:16)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A routine highway checkpoint turned into a major anti-drug bust on Tuesday afternoon after police discovered P68 million worth of suspected shabu hidden inside a modified tricycle (locally known as bao-bao) along the national highway in Barangay Buenavista here. Police Major Jason Ray Gomera, team leader of the Zamboanga

• Duterte absent anew at House impeachment hearing April 29 (Wed) (2026-04-29 11:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte did not appear before a House committee holding impeachment proceedings against her on Wednesday (April 29), standing firm on her decision to boycott the hearings on the complaints that may undermine her political future. Duterte was again absent and not on her assigned seat when the House justice

• Marcos announces expanded maternity benefits under PhilHealth (2026-04-29 10:54)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday announced expanded maternity benefits under Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)starting April 30. From P9,750, the PhilHealth coverage for normal delivery in hospitals will be P29,000. The coverage for those who will give birth via caesarean section, meanwhile, will increase from P37,000 to P58,000. "Prenatal care has also been

• Luistro: AMLC confirms another Sara Duterte transaction (2026-04-29 10:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Another financial transaction linked to Vice President Sara Duterte, as cited in documents presented by former senator Antonio Trillanes IV, has been confirmed by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Wednesday. In her opening statement at the third clarificatory hearing of the House committee on justice regarding the two

• High-value' drug suspect nabbed, P3.7-M shabu seized in Lucena City (2026-04-29 10:28)

LUCENA CITY, Quezon — Police arrested an alleged high-value drug suspect and seized suspected shabu worth up to P3.7 million in a buy-bust operation in this city on Tuesday night. Col. Romulo Albacea, Quezon police chief, in a report on Wednesday, said that operatives of the Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit (PDEU) arrested the suspect, identified

• Supervisors under probe after 2 Davao cops caught with P290,000 ore (2026-04-29 10:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is investigating the supervisors of two active Davao de Oro police officers who were arrested alongside four civilians for transporting P290,000 worth of allegedly illegal mineral ores in Misamis Oriental. “Command responsibility is being reviewed,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a statement on

- House panel resumes Sara Duterte impeachment hearings (2026-04-29 10:06)

MANILA, Philippines – A congressional panel continued hearings on the complaints seeking Vice President Sara Duterte’s removal from office on Wednesday, in what could be the final day of proceedings as lawmakers weigh the charges that may affect her political future. Congressmen examining the complaints will review a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) report on

- NBI chief Matibag arrives at House panel hearing on Duterte impeachment (2026-04-29 09:56)

MANILA, Philippines — National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Melvin Matibag has arrived at the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City for the House of Representatives justice committee’s hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte. The NBI is expected to present the findings of its investigation into the supposed threats made by Duterte

- 9.2M Filipino families consider themselves ‘poor’ — survey (2026-04-29 09:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Around 9.2 million or 35 percent of Filipino families consider themselves “poor,” Octa Research reported on Wednesday. Based on Octa’s first quarter Tugon ng Masa survey, the recorded self-rated poverty in March is two percentage points lower than the 37 percent (9.8 million families) reported in December 2025. Despite the decline in

- OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 29, 2026 (2026-04-29 09:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Oil prices continue to trend downward, bringing sustained relief to consumers for three consecutive weeks. The latest cuts mark the third straight week of reductions for diesel, signaling a shift after months of steep increases that weighed heavily on transport and food costs. READ: PH gains new access to Russian oil as

- WATCH: House conducts final impeachment hearing vs VP Sara Duterte | April 29 (2026-04-29 08:21)

This report is part of Inquirer’s special coverage of Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment proceedings. For real-time updates, follow our live coverage of the impeachment. The House Justice committee conducts on Wednesday, April 29 its final hearing on the impeachment complaints filed against Vice President Sara Duterte. LIVE UPDATES: Sara Duterte impeachment hearing | April 22 READ: Lacson: P26-M

- Magnitude 5.4 quake jolts waters off Eastern Samar (2026-04-29 07:45)

MANILA, Philippines — A magnitude 5.4 earthquake jolted waters off Eastern Samar Wednesday morning, the state seismologists reported. READ: Phivolcs Modernization Act to boost disaster monitoring capabilities According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), the tremor, which was tectonic of origin, occurred at 6:58 a.m. The quake's epicenter was located 42

• Another hot, humid weather across PH due to easterlies on Wednesday (2026-04-29 07:25)

MANILA, Philippines — A hot and humid weather is forecast to continue across the country on Wednesday, April 29, due to easterlies, the state weather bureau reported. The easterlies, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), refer to the warm winds coming from the Pacific Ocean. This weather system will bring

• BIR orders tax probe of Sara Duterte, hubby, 9 firms (2026-04-29 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has ordered a tax audit of Vice President Sara Duterte, her husband Manases "Mans" Carpio, and nine businesses being linked to the couple, saying there is probable cause to have their financial records examined. In a statement on Tuesday, the BIR said it had issued letters

• Lacson: P26-M budget still there for Sara Duterte trial (2026-04-29 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The budget is ready should it finally happen—forthwith, of course. The Senate has at least P26 million still available from last year's budget to fund the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte if ever she's impeached, again, by the House of Representatives, according to Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson. Lacson heads

• ERC: Meralco 'bill shock' just follows the law (2026-04-29 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on Tuesday defended the extra charges in electricity bills that have sent many consumers fuming following a recent increase in Meralco rates. In a statement, the regulator said it acknowledged the public's complaint over what it called Meralco's "bill shock," but maintained that the charges "are imposed

• Journos, execs gather for Digital Media Asia (2026-04-29 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Journalists and media executives from around 20 countries gathered at the Manila Hotel in Manila on Tuesday to kick off the WAN-Ifra (World Association of News Publishers) Digital Media Asia (DMA), a two-day conference on revenue, technology and audience-related issues shaping the industry. It marked the first time for the DMA to

• SC clears mother of parricide, cites her mental illness (2026-04-29 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has cleared a woman who was earlier convicted of parricide over the death of her own child in 2010, citing her mental disorder. The high tribunal's Third Division noted that the woman was clinically diagnosed with schizophrenia

years after the incident, when she jumped off Manila's Delpan Bridge into

• Pasig gov't closes hotel for trafficking, sex work (2026-04-29 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Pasig City government has ordered the immediate closure of a hotel owned by a company linked to the wife and son of former House Rep. Mike Defensor after a government raid exposed allegedly illegal activities inside the establishment. In a closure order dated April 27 and made public on Tuesday, the

• DENR eyes legal options vs Navotas landfill owner (2026-04-29 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said on Tuesday that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is coordinating with the Office of the Solicitor General to study the possible legal actions to be taken against the operator of the fire-hit Navotas landfill. "On our side, we have been discussing with the

• UP to kin of slain students: Not all 'lessons' learned in class (2026-04-29 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines (UP) has urged the public to withhold judgment over the presence of its students, Alyssa Alano and Maureen Santuyo, in Toboso, Negros Occidental, where a series of encounters between government troops and alleged New People's Army (NPA) members on April 19 left the pair dead, along with

• Curlee Discaya to undergo shoulder surgery (2026-04-29 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Private contractor Pacifico "Curlee" Discaya may temporarily be released from the custody of the Senate to undergo surgery on his shoulder, Senate Secretary Mark Llandro "Dong" Mendoza said on Tuesday. Discaya has been detained by the Senate since September last year after he was cited in contempt for supposedly lying about the

• Pangasinan farmers urged to delay planting due to limited irrigation (2026-04-29 04:40)

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN, Philippines — San Roque Power Corp. (SRPC) has advised farmers to shift the next palay planting season to July, citing the effects of this year's "super El Niño" and changing rainfall patterns. Tom Valdez, SRPC vice president for corporate social responsibility, said the San Roque Dam in San Manuel town can continue operating

• Negros town declares CPP-NPA-NDFP 'persona non grata' (2026-04-29 04:35)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The municipal council of Toboso in Negros Occidental has unanimously declared the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) "persona non grata" (unwelcome or unacceptable) within the municipality's territorial jurisdiction. The resolution, approved during the council's regular session on Tuesday, urged all villages

• Saulog Festival showcases culture, resilience in Tagbilaran City (2026-04-29 04:30)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — The Saulog Festival celebration here on Sunday showcased performances rooted in faith, history, and local identity in honor of St. Joseph the Worker, drawing residents and visitors to the annual event. Fifteen barangays took part in this year's street dance and ritual showdown despite challenges brought by a global fuel

• PDEA agents arrest woman, seize P3.4-M shabu in Marawi drug sting (2026-04-29 03:48)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — A 39-year-old woman was arrested in Marawi City during a drug buy-bust operation late in the afternoon of April 27, Monday, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PDEA-BARMM) said on Tuesday. PDEA-BARMM Regional Director Edgar Jubay said combined anti-drug operatives arrested the woman

• SC urged to recognize foreign divorces to reduce broken marriages (2026-04-29 01:59)

MANILA, Philippines — One way of resolving cases of "limping marriages," or a union legitimate in one country but nullified in another, among Filipinos is by recognizing foreign divorce under Philippine law. This was the insights of family law and private international law experts, who were invited as amicus curiae, "or friends of the court,"

• Speaker Dy invites Asean lawmakers to experience Bohol (2026-04-28 23:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III on Tuesday extended an invitation to young Southeast Asian lawmakers to visit the Philippines in the future, highlighting Bohol as a symbol of the region's shared natural and cultural heritage. Speaking at the 3rd Consultative Meeting of the Young Parliamentarians of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA),

• DA warns public vs misinformation on swine repopulation project (2026-04-28 23:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday warned the public against misleading information circulating about its Swine Repopulation Project (SRP). In a statement, the DA clarified to the public that the SRP is a three-year initiative designed to address challenges brought about by the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak. "The project aims

• Both victims in QC road shooting die – police (2026-04-28 23:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Both victims aboard a hatchback car, which was shot by two unidentified motorcycle-riding perpetrators in Quezon City on Tuesday afternoon, have died. In a statement on Tuesday night, the QCPD identified the victims by the aliases "Norberto," 51; and "Ceferino," 75. Norberto was the driver of the hatchback car, while Ceferino was

• Dy rallies young Asean legislators to ensure regional progress is shared (2026-04-28 23:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Speaker Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III on Tuesday rallied young Southeast Asian lawmakers to lead efforts to ensure regional progress is shared by all by placing inclusive development at the center of Asean's agenda. At the 3rd Consultative Meeting of the Young Parliamentarians of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), hosted by the

• OSG asks SC to dismiss challenges vs VP Sara Duterte's impeachment case (2026-04-28 22:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) has asked the Supreme Court (SC) to dismiss the petitions that challenge the legality of the ongoing impeachment case—referred to by petitioners as "mini-trial"—against Vice President Sara Duterte at the House committee on justice (HCJ). In an 85-page comment-opposition dated April 23, the OSG also

• No jackpot winner in major Lotto draws on Tuesday, April 28 (2026-04-28 21:54)

MANILA, Philippines – The Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws did not yield a jackpot winner on Tuesday, April 29, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 result: 09-47-32-39-45-33 Jackpot prize: ₱75 million. Super Lotto 6/49 result: 27-09-34-05-16-42 Jackpot prize: ₱30.23 million Lotto 6/42 result: 15-09-12-16-37-35 Jackpot prize:

• Dangerous heat index forecast to hit 8 areas on Wednesday, April 29 (2026-04-28 21:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Eight areas in Luzon and the Visayas are forecast to experience dangerous heat indices on Wednesday, April 29, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Pagasa defines heat index as the heat felt by the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here's how to

• Manila Water urges customers to avail desludging services amid dry spell (2026-04-28 21:01)

MANILA, Philippines – As warmer and drier weather persists in many areas, Manila Water encourages customers to avail of the company's scheduled septic tank desludging services this May as part of regular household sanitation and wastewater management. Extended dry conditions may contribute to higher water use in homes, making regular septic tank maintenance important in

• Brawner: End is near for Daulah Islamiyah terrorists in Lanao del Sur (2026-04-28 20:55)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. on Tuesday said the military is close to finally dismantling the Daulah Islamiyah terrorist group in Lanao del Sur after soldiers recently neutralized 10 of its members in a series of operations. Brawner disclosed that on

• Health experts call for workplace measures to curb burnout (2026-04-28 20:41)

MANILA, Philippines – Health experts are calling for workplace policies that recognize and address cases of burnout among employees, which, despite not being a medical condition, can lead to health issues and productivity loss. In a forum on Tuesday organized by the Department

of Labor and Employment, licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Carolina Uno-Rayco said burnout

• QC road shooting victim dies (2026-04-28 20:39)

MANILA, Philippines — One of the two shooting victims in Quezon City on Tuesday afternoon, has died, the police said. In a text message to the Inquirer, Quezon City Police District (QCPD) spokesperson Maj. Jennifer Gannaban confirmed that the fatality was the driver of car who was shot by a motorcycle-riding gunman along Timog Avenue.

• DOLE to offer over 1,000 jobs in Oriental Mindoro on Labor Day (2026-04-28 20:34)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Oriental Mindoro is offering 1,467 job vacancies for applicants in the province in a job fair on May 1, Labor Day. In an advisory posted on social media, DOLE said that the jobs fair will be held at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan inside

• Farmers at risk from El Niño, urgent gov't action needed – agri group (2026-04-28 20:31)

MANILA, Philippines—The Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women urged the government to take both immediate and long-term measures to mitigate potential agricultural damage affecting farmers' livelihoods amid the El Niño Alert and the fuel crisis. Earlier, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that although ENSO-neutral conditions are currently dominant over the

• Marcos orders, vows more financial, tech support for PH inventors (2026-04-28 20:22)

MANILA, Philippines — In order to further support the country's inventors, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday said he ordered the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to boost financial and technical support for them. He made rhe announcement during the 2026 National Invention Contest and Exhibits (NICE) Awarding Ceremony in Malacañan Palace, where

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: Parts of Visayas remain under 'danger' levels (2026-04-28 20:19)

ILOILO CITY — Several areas in the Visayas continue to experience dangerously high heat index levels, with some stations reaching the "danger" category over the past five days, according to the latest monitoring and forecast of the DOST-Pagasa issued as of 5 p.m. on April 28, 2026. Data show that in Western Visayas, Dumangas, Iloilo

• House bill seeks increased annual paid leaves from 5 to 10 days (2026-04-28 20:05)

MANILA, Philippines — A bill seeking to amend the existing annual paid leaves of employees, increasing it from five to 10 days, has been filed before the House of Representatives by Parañaque City Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan. In a statement on Tuesday, Yamsuan urged colleagues in the House to tackle House Bill (HB) No. 6602 as

• BIR orders tax audits of firms linked to VP Sara Duterte (2026-04-28 20:05)

MANILA, Philippines – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Tuesday said it has authorized tax audits on nine businesses linked to Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio. According to the BIR, it ordered the issuance of Letters of Authority (LOAs) for the audits after determining that probable cause exists to “warrant

• Palace eyeing UPLIFT bill focusing on gov’t savings, project funding (2026-04-28 19:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday said the executive branch will propose to Congress the United Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) Bill, which concerns government savings, project listings, and unreleased appropriations, among others. This was announced by Palace press officer Claire Castro at a briefing following the 5th UPLIFT Committee hearing earlier

• Brawner defends troops in Negros clash; warns schools vs NPA recruitment (2026-04-28 19:36)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. on Tuesday defended the military’s recent operations in Negros Occidental that left 19 suspected New People’s Army (NPA) fighters dead, stressing that the encounter was legitimate and triggered by reports from local residents. Brawner recalled that

• Ridon sees solons voting for probable cause in VP Duterte impeachment (2026-04-28 19:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon believes that majority of committee on justice members will vote to declare the existence of probable cause in the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte, as the evidence presented cannot just be likened to a smoking gun anymore. Instead of a smoking gun, Ridon said in

• BOC seizes over P249-M shabu concealed in LED spotlights (2026-04-28 19:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized an estimated P249.83 million worth of suspected shabu concealed in light-emitting diode (LED) spotlights in a warehouse in Pasay City. READ: BOC seizes P174-M illegal goods in Valenzuela warehouse In a statement on Tuesday, the BOC said that shipment from Mexico was initially flagged using X-ray

• DPWH to repurpose Discaya-awarded project in Taguig; to finish by 2028 (2026-04-28 18:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is eyeing to complete a terminated Discaya-awarded in Taguig City by late 2027 or early 2028 as it is being repurposed into a Hall of Justice, its secretary Vince Dizon said on Tuesday. According to the Dizon, the project was awarded to the controversial

• Dangerous heat index hits 11 areas, peaks at 45°C in Pili, Camarines Sur (2026-04-28 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The heat index reached the danger level in eleven areas on Tuesday and peaked at 45°C in Pili, Camarines Sur, according to the state weather bureau. Heat index refers to how hot it actually feels to the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here's how to protect yourself

• Garin: Expel Kiko Barzaga over 'repetitive' disruptions (2026-04-28 18:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Cavite Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga should be expelled from Congress for "repetitive" acts disruptive to lawmaking and unbecoming of a legislator, a congressional leader said on Tuesday. Deputy Speaker and Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin said Barzaga, a 27-year-old neophyte lawmaker twice suspended for 60 days over social media posts, should be dropped

• Nartatez vows action vs 'few' bad cops in PNP amid CIDG-linked case (2026-04-28 18:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. maintained that there were "only a few" erring police officers in the agency after a Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) official was linked to crimes in Negros Occidental. "This kind of police officer symbolizes termites that threaten to destroy what we

• 2 wounded in QC road shooting (2026-04-28 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Two individuals aboard a car were shot and wounded by by two motorcycle-riding suspects along Timog Avenue in Quezon City on Tuesday afternoon. Responding police officers "discovered one victim lying on the road and another in the passenger seat of the vehicle," according to the Quezon City Police District. "The victims were

• Ex-MMDA exec, wife vow to return P5.3-M 'unexplained wealth' to gov't (2026-04-28 18:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sidewalk clearing operations group director, Roberto Esquivel, and his wife, Marissa, vowed to return over P5.3 million of "unexplained wealth" to the government. This development came after the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division, in an April 21 resolution, granted the respondents' Motion to Withdraw the Appeal and instead

• Last Duterte impeach hearing, voting on April 29? Luistro says possible (2026-04-28 18:13)

MANILA, Philippines — There is a possibility that the April 29 meeting of the House of Representatives' committee on justice regarding the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte will be its last clarificatory hearing, as some members believe probable cause has been established already. In an online interview on Tuesday, committee chairperson and Batangas Rep. Gerville

• Groups renewing calls for wage hike, tax exemptions in Labor Day rally (2026-04-28 18:11)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Wage Coalition, composed of the country's major labor groups, will hold a protest on Labor Day, May 1, to renew calls for a P200 daily minimum wage hike, the expansion of income tax exemptions, and the arrest of corrupt government officials. In a press conference on Tuesday, Trade Union Congress of

• Some Manila roads to be closed ahead of Labor Day protests — police (2026-04-28 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Some roads in the City of Manila will be temporarily closed ahead of this year's Labor Day protests, the local police said on Tuesday. In an advisory, the Manila Police District (MPD) announced the following roads will be temporarily closed starting 9 p.m. on Thursday, April 30: READ: KMU to lead nationwide

• Groups to renew calls for wage hike, fight vs corruption on Labor Day (2026-04-28 17:40)

MANILA, Philippines—The National Wage Coalition, composed of the country's major labor groups, will be holding a protest on Labor Day (May 1) this coming Friday. The demonstrators intend to renew calls for a P200 daily minimum wage hike, the expansion of income tax exemptions, and the arrest of corrupt government officials. In a press conference

• Man nabbed for faking PCSO lotto ticket to claim P172-M prize (2026-04-28 17:33)

MANILA, Philippines — A man was arrested for allegedly faking a Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) lottery ticket to claim a P172-million jackpot prize, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said on Tuesday. The suspect, whom the NCRPO did not immediately identify, had presented the supposed winning ticket at the PCSO office along Shaw

• Luistro: Justice panel may approve Sara Duterte impeach report by May 4 (2026-04-28 17:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' committee on justice may approve a report on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte by May 4 should the panel be able to wrap up its hearings on Wednesday, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said. Luistro relayed this on Tuesday during an online interview with reporters, after being asked about

• Aglipayan Church bishop to VP Duterte: We want to hear the truth (2026-04-28 16:48)

MANILA, Philippines – Aglipayan Church Bishop Alvin Valera on Tuesday reiterated his plea for Vice President Sara Duterte to attend Wednesday's final hearing of the House committee on justice and answer the impeachment charges against her. Valera told a news conference at the House of Representatives with House Committee on Public Accounts Chair Terry Ridon

• Dela Rosa still waiting for his day in court, says Alan Cayetano (2026-04-28 16:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The government's continued lack of assurance that Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa will be given his day in court has forced him to remain in hiding, according to Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano. Cayetano clarified that dela Rosa himself would have wanted to report for work, contrary to perceptions that he

• 2 Marikina City Hall employees nabbed for alleged extortion (2026-04-28 16:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Marikina City Hall employees were arrested for allegedly demanding protection money from a junk shop owner, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said on Tuesday. Identified only as a 38-year-old woman and a 59-year-old man who are administrative aides, they were entrapped in Barangay Fortune on Monday afternoon, the NCRPO

• Former ALS learner returns as mobile teacher to inspire students (2026-04-28 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines – For learners whose lives are suddenly derailed by illness or poverty, the Alternative Learning System (ALS) serves as a vital sanctuary where dreams are salvaged and rebuilt. It is within this flexible framework that former ALS student Aldwin Balintec, once sidelined by a debilitating health crisis, returned as a licensed professional to

• Curlee Discaya to be taken out of Senate detention to undergo surgery (2026-04-28 16:23)

MANILA, Philippines — Government contractor Pacifico “Curlee” Discaya is scheduled to temporarily be taken out of Senate detention to undergo surgery on his shoulder, Senate Secretary Mark Llandro “Dong” Mendoza said on Tuesday. Discaya has been under Senate custody after he was cited in contempt during the flood control probe in September 2025. “He requested

• Ex-law dean: AMLA targets criminals, not shield gov’t execs from impeachment (2026-04-28 15:59)

MANILA, Philippines – Far Eastern University (FEU) law dean Mel Sta. Maria pushed back against attempts to hold the House Committee on Justice liable under the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) and Data Privacy Act, saying the panel is simply carrying out its constitutional mandate in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte. Sta. Maria

• Aquino, Hontiveros seek probe into Meralco fees (2026-04-28 15:53)

MANILA, Philippines – Senators Bam Aquino and Risa Hontiveros on Tuesday pushed for an urgent investigation on Meralco’s recent power rate increase, and why middle-class consumers are made to shoulder the electricity subsidies of low-income households. Meralco increased its rates for the third month, but later defended its actions, saying some of its charges stem from government-mandated

• PNP: No validated ‘military-backed People Power’ threat; alert up (2026-04-28 15:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday that there is no validated information about a looming “military-backed People Power” movement, but the force remains on a high level of alert. In a press release, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the organization has found no basis for public alarm over

• BI: ‘No recent travel’ by Romualdez, Escudero, Ngu; PHDO implemented (2026-04-28 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines – The Bureau of Immigration (BI) on Tuesday said it has not logged any recent travel by Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Sen. Chiz Escudero, and businessman Maynard Ngu, who are subject to a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO). The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division issued a PHDO against Escudero and Ngu on Monday, while the same

• Stop electricity disconnections, group asks gov’t (2026-04-28 15:35)

LUCENA CITY – The Power for People Coalition (P4P) on Tuesday urged the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to prohibit electricity disconnections amid the economic hardship Filipinos now face due to the high cost of living. “It’s plain cruel to cut the electricity connection of any consumer who is unable to pay bills at this time,”

• Senate ethics panel: 1 complaint, so far, sufficient in form, substance (2026-04-28 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines – One complaint received by the Senate ethics committee was found sufficient in form and substance, panel head Sen. JV Ejercito said on Tuesday. After the first ethics committee hearing since its rules were published, Ejercito spoke to the media about the existing complaints against senators. “We have already discussed docket number one…

• Solons: Support seniors, green power, but people shouldn’t bear costs (2026-04-28 14:44)

MANILA, Philippines — While it is good to have electric power subsidies for senior citizens and lifeline users, along with support for clean energy, the costs needed for these advocacies should not be passed on to consumers who are also struggling, two lawmakers said. Amid netizens’ scrutiny of their electric bills, Murang Kuryente party-list Rep. Arthur Yap said

• Pasig orders closure of hotel tied to Defensor for alleged trafficking (2026-04-28 14:41)

MANILA, Philippines – The Pasig City government has ordered the shutdown of a hotel linked to the wife and son of former Rep. Mike Defensor in connection with alleged human trafficking and prostitution. In a closure order dated April 27 and made public on Tuesday, the local government said operatives from the National Bureau of

• DENR, SolGen mull legal move vs operator of Navotas landfill (2026-04-28 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Office of the Solicitor General are considering a punitive action against the operator of the fire-hit Navotas Sanitary Landfill in Navotas City. “We have been discussing with the Office of Solicitor General to study legal remedies we can avail moving forward,” Environment

• Lawmaker calls for PNOC tweaks amid oil deregulation law amendment push (2026-04-28 14:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Minority Leader and APEC Rep. Sergio Dagooc on Tuesday said that authorities should look beyond proposals to amend the oil deregulation law, calling for a more comprehensive approach to the oil shock that has sent fuel prices spiraling. “It’s not only the oil deregulation law that we need to amend,” he

• NIA ramps up El Niño preparations in Western Visayas (2026-04-28 14:14)

ILOILO CITY — Anticipating a prolonged El Niño and severe dry spells forecast by the state weather bureau, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Western Visayas is rolling out comprehensive measures to safeguard agricultural water supply and support farmers across the region. During the recent Kapehan sa PIA Western Visayas forum, NIA Western Visayas officials

• Roque claims BIR case meant to ‘harass’ Duterte allies, supporters (2026-04-28 13:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the tax evasion case against him and co-respondents is part of what he called a “continuing pattern” to “harass” those seen as supporters of the Duterte administration. On Monday, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) filed before the Department of Justice a tax evasion complaint against

• Hot, mostly fair weather to persist across Visayas through May 2 (2026-04-28 13:28)

ILOILO CITY — Warm and generally fair weather will continue across the Visayas from April 28 to May 2, with only isolated rainshowers expected, according to the latest regional outlook issued Tuesday by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). The five-day forecast covers Western, Central, and Eastern Visayas and shows a prevailing

• 2 cops, 4 others nabbed over transport of mineral ores in Misamis Oriental (2026-04-28 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Two active police officers and four other individuals were arrested for allegedly illegally transporting P290,000 worth of suspected mineral ores in Misamis Oriental, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday. The six suspects were caught aboard an Isuzu L300 at a checkpoint in Sitio Mahayahay in Barangay Limonda, Opol town late

• PH leads region in pension coverage, but long-term viability questioned (2026-04-28 13:00)

The Philippines is emerging as one of Asia’s “stronger performers in pension coverage,” based on data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). “It is a sign that more workers are being brought into formal social protection systems,” said Dr. Alicor Panao, an Inquirer data scientist and associate professor at the University of

• Leaders of academe, church say Duterte’s impeachment must push through (2026-04-28 12:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment attempt against Vice President Sara Duterte must push through and must not be hampered by “efforts to derail” the proceedings through technicalities, leaders from the academe and church said on Tuesday. In a statement, Dr. Melba Maggay, president of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture, said they “take

- ‘Chaos in the best possible way’: The Dempsey Reyes his friends knew (2026-04-28 12:43)

Dempsey Cyden Reyes, who died Sunday, April 26, is remembered not only for his fearless, comprehensive journalism but also for the kind of friend he was long before the bylines and headlines. A reporter for the INQUIRER since 2021, Reyes died of respiratory failure after a brain hemorrhage. He would have turned 30 on Oct.

- UP: Withhold judgment on slain students’ presence in Negros clash (2026-04-28 12:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines (UP) urged the public to withhold judgment over the presence of Alyssa Alano and Maureen Santuyo in underserved communities following their deaths in the April 19 Negros clash. Alano and Santuyo were among the 19 fatalities killed during a series of encounters between soldiers of the 79th

- PNP: 2 cops relieved for traffic violation in Manila (2026-04-28 12:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A patrolman driving a police vehicle and his immediate superior, a police major, were administratively relieved from their posts for a supposed traffic violation in Manila, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday. The Land Transportation Office (LTO) had summoned the two police officers after they were seen transporting two wooden

- Benguet execs probe toxic spill behind Amburayan River fish kill (2026-04-28 12:14)

BAGUIO CITY — Authorities are investigating the poisoning of a section of the Amburayan River in Barangay Taba-ao, Kapangan, Benguet, after a fish kill was discovered on April 25, alarming residents. Barangay officials said the perpetrators have yet to be identified, although the suspected dumping site of the toxic substance has already been located. Village

- Over 67,000 Eastern Visayas seniors get P3,000 Q1 pension (2026-04-28 12:01)

TACLOBAN CITY — Over 67,000 indigent senior citizens across Eastern Visayas have received their first-quarter social pension for this year, as the government continues its support for vulnerable elderly residents in the region. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regional office, in coordination with 36 local government units (LGUs), distributed P3,000 each to

- Agent tagged for brandishing gun in Taguig-Makati road crash (2026-04-28 12:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) identified a licensed protection agent as the man who was seen brandishing his gun outside a pickup truck after it crashed in separate instances in Taguig City and Makati City. In a press briefing in Camp Crame on

Tuesday, PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño said the

• DOE finalizes drafted changes to oil deregulation law (2026-04-28 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Energy (DOE) is finalizing a draft of amendments it wants Congress to change to the oil deregulation law and will submit the proposed changes to lawmakers "soon," an Energy department official said on Tuesday. "[We] have completed a draft amendment," Energy department Director Rino Abad told a congressional hearing.

• Lacson: At least P26M available for Sara Duterte impeachment trial (2026-04-28 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate could tap at least P26 million from last year's budget to fund the possible impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, according to Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson. Lacson heads the Senate committee on accounts, which oversees the funds for the expenses and activities of the chamber. "There's at

• Civilians surrender guns, explosive to Army in Maguindanao town (2026-04-28 11:44)

COTABATO CITY – Civilians and local officials in Talitay, Maguindanao del Norte, surrendered 10 assorted high-powered firearms and a fragmentation grenade, an indication that the Army campaign against loose firearms is gaining headway. Talitay Mayor Sedik Ameril said civilians and village officials turned over the weapons to the local government in support of the military's

• Dela Rosa's camp considering waiving salary due to absences – Ejercito (2026-04-28 11:38)

MANILA, Philippines – The camp of Sen. Ronald 'Bato' dela Rosa is already considering waiving the senator's salary and allowance amid his absences, Senate ethics committee chairperson Sen. JV Ejercito said on Tuesday. After the panel's closed hearing, Ejercito was asked if Dela Rosa had replied to appeals requesting the latter to voluntarily forgo his salaries.

• Eastern Samar university lands first paid global internship in Visayas (2026-04-28 11:29)

TACLOBAN CITY — Students of Eastern Samar State University (ESSU) are set to gain access to paid international training opportunities after the university forged a landmark partnership with Bixter Academy, marking the first such agreement in the Visayas region. The collaboration, formalized through a memorandum of agreement signed on Monday, allows ESSU students—particularly those in

• Almost half of Navotas landfill fire put out – Dizon (2026-04-28 11:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Almost half of the fire that hit Navotas Sanitary Landfill in Navotas City has been extinguished but there is still no definite timeline when it will be totally put out, Public Works and Highways Sec. Vince Dizon said on Tuesday. Dizon gave this development almost two weeks since he, along with Navotas

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: Cavite City still under ‘danger’ heat index at 44°C (2026-04-28 11:15)

LUCENA CITY — Cavite City is expected to remain under a “danger” heat index level on Tuesday and Wednesday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on Pagasa’s 5 p.m. bulletin on Monday, the city is forecast to record a heat index of 44°C on both days. READ: HEAT INDEX

• Bohol cops get P95 million in mobility, ICT equipment boost (2026-04-28 11:07)

TAGBILARAN CITY — The Bohol Police Provincial Office (BPPO) received over P95 million worth of mobility and information technology equipment on Monday during the inaugural command visit of newly designated Police Regional Office 7 (PRO-7) Acting Director Arnold Abad. Abad led the turnover ceremony alongside Bohol Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado and Provincial Director Patricio Degay

• Bangsamoro chief minister to focus on service over politics (2026-04-28 10:54)

COTABATO CITY—Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua announced on Monday that he will temporarily step back from partisan political activities to focus on delivering public service in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Macacua was earlier endorsed as the 3rd district representative of Maguindanao del Norte by the Bangsamoro Federalist Party (BFP),

• Brawner bids farewell to Wescom in final visit as AFP chief (2026-04-28 10:35)

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY — Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. bid farewell to the Western Command during a Change of Command Ceremony he presided over at the Tactical Operations Wing West headquarters on Sunday. Brawner, who is set to retire in July, said the occasion may be his

• Power outages seen in Catanduanes amid fuel shortage (2026-04-28 10:12)

LEGAZPI CITY — The Sunwest Water and Electric Co. (SUWECO), the main power supplier in Catanduanes, may shut down its diesel generator sets due to fuel supply constraints, raising the risk of a province-wide power outage. SUWECO spokesperson Lorenza Rojas, in a local radio interview on Monday, said soaring diesel prices have made operations unsustainable,

• Ombudsman clears Rep. Benitez, 18 others in Bacolod land deal (2026-04-28 09:58)

BACOLOD CITY—The Office of the Ombudsman has dismissed the criminal and administrative complaints filed against Bacolod Rep. Alfredo Abelardo Benitez and 18 other city officials and private individuals in connection with the city’s purchase of a 74.7-hectare property in Hacienda Conchita, Barangay Granada in this city. The complaints, which alleged violations of the Anti-Graft and

• BFAR eyes bigger fuel aid for fisherfolk (2026-04-28 09:38)

ILOILO CITY — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is proposing an expanded and increased fuel subsidy program to cushion the impact of the ongoing oil crisis across all sectors of the country's fisheries industry, a top official said Monday. Speaking after the inauguration of a new aquaculture feed mill plant at the

• SC clears mom of parricide due to legal insanity (2026-04-28 09:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has overturned the parricide conviction of a mother who killed her five-year-old daughter after jumping off a bridge. In a 14-page decision written by Associate Justice Samuel H. Gaerlan, the SC's Third Division granted a mother's appeal and overturned her parricide conviction on the ground of legal insanity due

• Drug suspect yields P2.1M worth of shabu in Lucena City (2026-04-28 09:15)

LUCENA CITY — Police seized more than P2.1 million worth of suspected shabu (crystal meth) from a female drug suspect during a buy-bust operation in this Quezon provincial capital on Monday, April 27. Lt. Col. Ryan Hernandez, Lucena City police chief, said Tuesday that anti-drug operatives arrested the suspect, identified only as "Collen," 32, at

• MRT-3, LRT-2 to offer free rides for workers on May 1 (2026-04-28 08:32)

MANILA, Philippines — In line with Labor Day, the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT-3) will offer free rides to workers for a specific period of time on May 1, the train line announced on Tuesday. In an advisory, MRT-3 said that workers may avail of free rides from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 28, 2026 (2026-04-28 08:17)

MANILA, Philippines – Motorists are getting fresh relief as oil companies implement another round of price rollbacks Tuesday, continuing a downward trend highlighted in recent Oil Price Watch reports. Diesel prices, in particular, are seeing another significant cut, extending a series of reductions after earlier weeks of steep increases triggered by the conflicts in the

• Hot, humid weather to prevail in most of PH on Tuesday due to easterlies (2026-04-28 07:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The easterlies will continue to bring hot and humid weather across most of the Philippines on Tuesday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. According to the state weather bureau's 5 a.m. forecast, the easterlies will affect most of the country except for a portion of Mindanao. "The easterlies,

• BSP, AMLC defend House testimony against VP (2026-04-28 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Top officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and its mother agency, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Monday they were acting within their mandate and in accordance with law when they disclosed in a congressional hearing the bank records of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband Manases "Mans"

• PNP targets people who leaked identities of Ombudsman probers online (2026-04-28 05:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police has started an investigation to identify the people who leaked online the identities of the Office of the Ombudsman's investigators. "The investigation will not be limited to external actors … Possible internal involvement within the Ombudsman is also being examined as part of the cyber probe," PNP chief

• Searing heat, dry spell grip provinces amid 'super' El Niño threat (2026-04-28 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Parts of Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao are experiencing a dangerous combination of extreme heat, unstable weather, water shortages, and early El Niño-related impacts, as the state weather bureau and local disaster response offices issued a series of warnings and special forecasts across the country. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

• BIR sues Harry Roque, wife, associate for tax evasion (2026-04-28 05:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on Monday filed a tax evasion complaint against former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, his wife and an associate for tax deficiencies totaling P3.35 million. Members of the BIR went to the Department of Justice to file the complaint against Roque, his wife Mylah Reyes Roque and

• 2 SK chairs suspended for misconduct – DILG (2026-04-28 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Monday reiterated his call for the abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) after two Makati youth leaders were suspended after the city council found them guilty of misconduct. At a press briefing at Trece Martires City in Cavite, Remulla identified the SK officials as Natalia Georgianna Tupaz

• Sandiganbayan bars Escudero, trader from leaving PH (2026-04-28 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero and his alleged bagman, businessman Maynard Ngu, are now barred from leaving the country after the Sandiganbayan's Sixth Division on Monday issued a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against the pair. The antigraft court also directed the Bureau of Immigration to include the names of Escudero and Ngu

• PH gains new access to Russian oil as price drops continue (2026-04-28 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines has gained new access to Russian crude and petroleum products after the United States granted an extension to Russia's supply, which it had sanctioned before the Iran war. The local market is thus expected to receive a monthlong supply boost, as the country marks its third consecutive week of fuel

• Police vehicle undergoes checks after accident leaves 5 dead (2026-04-28 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The manufacturer of the police vehicle that figured in an accident that killed five persons under police custody (PUPCs) last week is conducting checks to figure out what caused it. “Toyota is conducting a technical inspection to find out if something went wrong with the vehicle,” Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement

• NTF-Elcac flags ‘widening NPA recruitment’ after Negros clash (2026-04-28 04:50)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) has raised concern over what it described as a “troubling shift” in the recruitment practices of the New People’s Army (NPA), citing the alleged involvement of foreign nationals and minors in recent armed encounters in Negros Occidental and

• Rare plant found in Bicol Natural Park (2026-04-28 04:45)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — A rare plant species has been documented in Bicol Natural Park in Camarines Norte province, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Bicol said. The species, identified as Amorphophallus caudatus, is endemic to the Philippines and classified as “critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature

• Zamboanga raid draws scrutiny after child among 3 killed (2026-04-28 04:40)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — An independent investigation is being sought into a joint police and military operation in Zamboanga City that left three people dead, including a 12-year-old boy, amid allegations of human rights violations and conflicting accounts of the raid. In a statement on Monday, the Mindanao-based interfaith organization Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance

• P7-B wind project to rise in Northern Samar (2026-04-28 04:35)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — Northern Samar continues to attract major clean energy investments, as a new P7.08-billion wind power project is set to rise in the municipality of Victoria, reinforcing the province’s position as an emerging renewable energy hub in Eastern Visayas. Econergy Renewable Power Philippines Inc. presented updates on the project during a

• 3 suspects linked to Maguindanao ambush slain in Army operation (2026-04-28 04:30)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Three alleged members of the Dawlah Islamiyah (DI) group linked to the March 28 ambush of five police officers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao del Sur, were killed in a surgical military operation on Sunday in Barangay Tuayan, Datu Hoffer, the Army said. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson,

• Mans Carpio camp slams ‘fishing expedition’ in VP’s impeachment probe (2026-04-28 03:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The lawyer of Manases “Mans” Carpio on Monday called a “fishing expedition” the House of Representatives committee on justice’s move to disclose his bank transactions and tax returns as part of the impeachment complaint proceedings against his wife Vice President Sara Duterte. Carpio’s counsel Peter Paul Danao insisted that his client’s bank

- Missing docs, not politics, delay aid to Batangas barangays (2026-04-28 02:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Almost a hundred barangays in Batangas province have yet to receive their assistance from the national government—not because of political differences, but due to lacking documents necessary to comply with auditing rules. In a statement on Monday, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto denied the claim of Batangas First District Rep. Leandro Leviste that

- Blanket ban on social media may push minors to riskier platforms (2026-04-28 01:43)

MANILA, Philippines — A consumer advocacy group on Monday called on Congress to adopt “balanced and proportionate” regulation on social media rather than a blanket ban on minors, as it may simply push them away to riskier platforms. CitizenWatch Philippines made the call after warning lawmakers that broad prohibitions may not fully address how young

- Old war bombs found, recovered in Naia – PNP (2026-04-28 00:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Bombs, suspected to be World War II remnants, were recovered along a taxiway within the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Complex in Pasay City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday. According to the PNP, the bombs were recovered at the Naia Complex on Sunday, April 26 after receiving a report that

- ‘Difficult news’: DOJ chief says Zaldy Co is out of Czech hands (2026-04-28 00:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida confirmed that former Congressman Zaldy Co is no longer in the custody of the Czech Republic. “I have to share difficult news mga Kababayan, the Czech authorities have confirmed to us that Mr. Zaldy Co is no longer in their custody,” Vida said in a press briefing held

- PNP coordinating with agencies for crowd management at subsidy rollout (2026-04-27 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is now coordinating with government agencies concerned for better crowd management at the rollout for subsidies for the transport sector. “Our priority is the safety and security of our kababayan and we want to prevent any tension among our beneficiaries and those who are distributing the ayuda,”

- Cop, driver may face admin raps over alleged traffic violation (2026-04-27 23:49)

MANILA, Philippines — A police officer and the driver of a mobile patrol unit they were riding may face administrative sanctions over an alleged traffic violation, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Monday. In a statement, the PNP slammed the purported incident as an

“[action] that posed a risk to public safety and [a

• KTV raid case in Pasig ‘far from closed’ – NBI (2026-04-27 23:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Monday said the released customers of Chicago Family KTV operation during a recent raid may still be charged should evidence gathered during further investigation warrant it. NBI made the pronouncement in a statement, where it clarified what transpired during the raid on the KTV operation

• 2 players hit Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on April 27 (2026-04-27 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines—Two ticket holders won the Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday, April 27, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The winning Mega Lotto 6/45 combination is 06-04-05-27-34-11, with a jackpot prize of ₱45.57 million. Meantime, no player won the P69.51 million jackpot in the Grand Lotto 6/55 draw, which came up with the

• CPP releases names of casualties in ‘Toboso 19,’ including 9 civilians (2026-04-27 21:02)

BACOLOD CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Monday, April 27, identified 19 of the casualties in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso, Negros Occidental, claiming that 10 were armed revolutionaries and nine were civilians. The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have yet to release the names of the 19 casualties, whom

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: 13 areas may hit danger levels on Tuesday, April 28 (2026-04-27 20:27)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 13 areas are expected to reach “danger” level peak heat indices on Tuesday, April 28, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said. According to Pagasa, heat index refers to how hot it feels to the human body when air temperature and humidity are combined. READ: Here’s how

• Hold departure order vs Romualdez can be challenged, says lawyer (2026-04-27 20:24)

MANILA, Philippines — The precautionary hold departure order (HDO) against Leyte Rep. amd former House speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez can still be challenged as the Office of the Ombudsman made this bid without properly informing the lawmaker’s side, a lawyer said on Monday. In a radio interview, transcripts of which were released to the media, lawyer

• 84 Batangas barangay captains ready to testify on aid distribution ‘discrimination’ (2026-04-27 20:22)

MANILA, Philippines – Eighty four barangay captains from Batangas are prepared to face Congress to shed light on the non-release of ₱200,000 promised to their barangays under the “Bawat Barangay Makikinabang” program last April 24. According to the barangay captains, they have submitted complete requirements and were never told not to snub the distribution ceremony.

• 2 suspects nabbed, P7.4 M shabu seized in Tagbilaran buy-bust (2026-04-27 20:07)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Anti-illegal drug operatives arrested two drug suspects and confiscated more than P7.4 million worth of suspected “shabu” (crystal meth) in a midday operation on Monday in Barangay Dampas in this city. The joint operation took place at around 12:56 p.m. in Purok 3, where authorities seized about 1,096.9 grams of the

- LTO warns vloggers breaking traffic rules for video content (2026-04-27 20:05)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Monday warned content creators against spreading videos that show them violating traffic rules, noting that it recently issued show cause orders to several vloggers. In a briefing, LTO chief Markus Lacanilao called on content creators and vloggers to be more responsible with the videos they post

- 4 Cafgu members hurt in Dawlah Islamiyah attack in Maguindanao del Sur (2026-04-27 20:04)

COTABATO CITY—Four members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) were wounded following an attack by suspected Dawlah Islamiyah militants on military positions in Labu-labu II village in Datu Hoffer Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur, late Sunday night, April 26. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division (ID), told Inquirer that authorities

- DILG: Kickbacks, forgery for SK projects ‘standard’ in 2 Makati villages (2026-04-27 19:43)

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) revealed on Monday a pattern of corrupt practices in two barangays in Makati City involving youth officials. In a press briefing, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said such practice should be stopped as he said he will file a case before the Office

- Dangerous 46ºC heat index hits Puerto Princesa City, Dagupan City Monday (2026-04-27 19:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A dangerous heat index of 46ºC was recorded in Puerto Princesa, Palawan and Dagupan City, Pangasinan on Monday, the state weather bureau said. Fourteen other areas nationwide were likewise gripped by dangerous heat indices. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said heat index refers to how hot it actually

- Remulla names CIDG Bacolod chief as protector of criminal syndicate (2026-04-27 18:35)

BACOLOD CITY – Interior and Local Government Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla has named Maj. Edgar Tonico Jr., chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Bacolod City, as the alleged protector of a criminal syndicate operating in Negros Occidental. READ: Atong Ang, police major linked to Chinese triad in Negros In a press

- BIR files tax evasion case vs Harry Roque, wife, associate (2026-04-27 18:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) filed a tax evasion complaint before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, his wife, and an associate for a tax deficiency amounting to P3.35 million. Members of the BIR appeared before the DOJ office around 10 a.m. on Monday to file

• Court issues precautionary hold departure order vs Escudero, Ngu (2026-04-27 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Monday issued a precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) against Sen. Francis “Chiz” Escudero and businessman Maynard Ngu, preventing them from leaving the country. This meant the anti-graft court division granted the Office of the Ombudsman’s verified ex parte application, which cited complaints of plunder, graft, and indirect

• Carpio probed by House panel due to marriage to VP Duterte – solons (2026-04-27 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Manases Carpio and his financial dealings were touched on by the House Committee on Justice because he is married to Vice President Sara Duterte, two lawmakers said Monday. In separate interviews, Mamamayang Liberal party-list Rep. Leila de Lima and Akbayan party-list Rep. Chel Diokno pointed to Duterte and Carpio’s relationship as

• Manila solon files libel, cyberlibel raps vs Baligod, 18 ‘ex-Marines’ (2026-04-27 18:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila 3rd District Rep. Joel Chua on Monday filed libel and cyberlibel complaints against 18 alleged former Marines—who claimed to be bagmen of resigned Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Elizaldy “Zaldy” Co and their counsel, Atty. Levito Baligod. The complaint filed before the Manila City Prosecutor’s Office still stems from the allegations of

• Flood control probe progress to be presented in May – Lacson (2026-04-27 18:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo “Ping” Lacson is set to present in May a progress report on the Senate blue ribbon panel’s flood control probe. The Senate session will resume on May 4 after a break that started on March 20. “I will present it via a privilege speech entitled ‘The Chairman’s

• LTFRB speeds up fuel subsidy rollout for transport sector (2026-04-27 17:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Monday said measures are currently being implemented to expedite the distribution of fuel subsidies for the transportation sector. This is part of the LTFRB’s commitment to complete the distribution by next week to ensure beneficiaries receive their P5,000 aid as soon as possible

• Cops tracking down armed man in Taguig – Makati road crash (2026-04-27 17:34)

This screengrab of a video circulating online shows a man brandishing his firearm outside a pickup truck that rammed another vehicle along Chino Roces Avenue in Barangay Magallanes, Makati City on Friday night, April 24, 2026. (Screengrab from video courtesy of Makati City Police Station) MANILA, Philippines — The police are now in pursuit of

• Marcos, Angara lead oath-taking of 8,009 newly promoted W. Visayas educators (2026-04-27 17:30)

ROXAS CITY, Capiz – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Friday led the historic mass oath-taking of 8,009 newly promoted public school teachers and school heads from Western Visayas at the Villareal Stadium. This monumental event marks the largest mass promotion ceremony under the Expanded Career Progression (ECP) system to

• Ombudsman asked to probe Laguna vice mayor over alleged ghost employees (2026-04-27 17:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman was asked on Monday to investigate the vice mayor of San Pablo City in Laguna for allegedly employing at least 200 ghost employees. San Pablo City Mayor Arcadio Gapangada Jr. went to the office of the anti-graft body to submit a complaint-affidavit against Vice Mayor Justin Colago

• Ridon breaks down ₱6.77B AMLC-flagged transactions linked to VP Duterte (2026-04-27 17:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Even THOUGH Vice President Sara Duterte's husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, filed a complaint questioning the disclosure of Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) records and the flagged bank transactions themselves, the absence of any clear denial of these figures raised deeper and unanswered questions on the financial activity in the accounts of the couple,

• Palace: NBI subpoenas 3 vloggers over false claims on Marcos' health (2026-04-27 17:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has issued subpoenas to three vloggers who allegedly spread false information regarding the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Monday. "The document provided by the PCO (Presidential Communications Office) for an immediate, in-depth investigation into vloggers who spread false information

• Palace: Destabilization plot vs gov't not new; calls for probe (2026-04-27 16:41)

MANILA, Philippines — A reported destabilization plot against the government, allegedly backed by retired military officers, is not new but should still be investigated by the proper authoritiesn, Malacañang said on Monday. On Sunday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said some groups are attempting to gain support from uniformed personnel for a possible military-backed "people power revolution."

• Legarda pushes reform measures to boost colleges, CHED, TESDA (2026-04-27 16:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda, chairperson of the Senate committee on higher, technical, and vocational education and co-chair of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), last week presided over the public hearing on six priority bills aimed at

modernizing governance in higher and technical education, strengthening professionalstandards and quality assurance, and

• Palace: Gov't prepared for El Niño (2026-04-27 16:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Concerned government agencies are prepared for the looming El Niño phenomenon, Malacañang said Monday. The Department of Agriculture (DA) last Friday warned of the possibility of a "super" El Niño toward the end of 2026. READ: Agriculture officials fear 'super' El Niño "El Niño is something we have already experienced—it is not

• Palace denies forthcoming Cabinet revamp (2026-04-27 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Palace press officer Undersecretary Claire Castro on Monday denied circulating reports that several Cabinet officials, including herself, are set to be replaced. "For now, there's none," Castro said in Filipino at a briefing. READ: Palace: No impending Cabinet revamp When asked to confirm reports that she is among the officials who will

• Luistro: Panel's actions all for public interest, complies with laws (2026-04-27 16:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Actions taken by the House of Representatives' committee on justice regarding the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte were all for public interest and complied with existing laws, panel chairperson and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said on Monday. In a statement, Luistro said she had not received a copy of the complaint

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: Pangasinan sizzles as heat index hits 46°C (2026-04-27 15:59)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan — The province continued to experience intense heat on Monday, with the heat index reaching 46°C at 2 p.m., according to the Pangasinan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO). The reading rose by two degrees from 44°C at 1 p.m., the agency said. READ: HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle

• PNP also probing Atong Ang's links to alleged Tondo e-sabong (2026-04-27 15:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is investigating whether gambling tycoon Atong Ang is also connected to an alleged online cockfighting (e-sabong) in Tondo, Manila, which authorities busted last month. Over the weekend, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla told the Inquirer that Ang was linked to another e-sabong operation in Talisay City, Negros Occidental,

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: Olongapo City scorches as heat index hits 45.7°C (2026-04-27 15:49)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — Residents of Olongapo City experienced dangerously high heat index levels on Monday afternoon, according to the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. As of 2:30 p.m., the Automated Weather Station (AWS) in Barangay Old Cabalan recorded a heat index of 41.2°C, placing the area under the "extreme caution" category. READ:

• LRT-2 to offer free rides for workers on Labor Day (2026-04-27 15:20)

MANILA, Philippines — LRT-2 will offer free rides for Filipino workers on Labor Day, May 1, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) said. In a Facebook post on Monday, the LRTA said the free rides will be available from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. To avail of the

• Palace: No politics involved in Batangas barangays aid distribution (2026-04-27 15:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The exclusion of at least 84 barangays from the cash aid distribution in Batangas last week was due to incomplete documentary requirements and not political reasons, as claimed by Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste, Malacañang said on Monday. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. led the distribution of P200,000 to 1,078

• Marcoleta urges Lacson to invite Romualdez to flood control probe (2026-04-27 15:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez should be invited to the Senate blue ribbon committee's inquiry into the flood control scandal, former panel chairperson Sen. Rodante Marcoleta said on Monday. Romualdez was among those linked to the alleged anomalous flood control projects, in what his former colleague Elizaldy Co said

• Lawmakers dismiss Carpio complaint, cite impeachment exemption (2026-04-27 14:55)

MANILA, Philippines – Lawmakers on Monday downplayed the complaint filed by lawyer Manases Carpio over the alleged violation of bank secrecy laws during impeachment hearings against his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, saying such proceedings are exempted from these restrictions. In an online interview, Mamamayang Liberal (ML) party-list Rep. Leila de Lima said she is

• Baguio grandkids told to remember stories of World War II vets (2026-04-27 14:00)

BAGUIO CITY — The descendants of World War II veterans who took part in freeing Baguio City from its Japanese occupiers 81 years ago should preserve, study, and share the heroes' stories with their own children in the future, to honor the freedom they now have. The son of an Igorot fighter issued the reminder

• PNP stands by Tondo e-sabong bust amid allegations of anomalies (2026-04-27 13:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday defended the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group's (CIDG) bust of an alleged online cockfighting (e-sabong) operation at the Coliseo de Manila in Tondo last March amid allegations of anomalies. "This is a legal operation and abides by the proper processes," PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf

• 2 endangered sea turtles safely released in Tacloban (2026-04-27 13:20)

TACLOBAN CITY — Two green sea turtles accidentally caught by local fishermen were safely released back into the waters of Cancabato Bay on Sunday after being turned over to authorities in this city. Fishermen Enjie and Ernesto Soyosa, residents of Barangay Rawis Anibong, caught the turtles while using a longline or "kitang" near the Leyte

• Bukidnon forest firefighters battle blazes amid dry spell (2026-04-27 13:00)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — Forest firefighters here are trekking steep, slippery, and mountainous terrain to contain grassland and forest fires as the dry season intensifies, local officials said. The Malaybalay City Environment and Natural Resources Office (City ENRO) reported that the hardest-hit areas since February include Barangays Can-ayan, Natid-asan in Casisang, Kalasungay, Patpat, Kibalabag, and

• Dy: Global conflict stresses need for women leaders' strengths (2026-04-27 12:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Conflicts across the world only stress the importance of women leaders' strength, House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III said on Monday as the Women Parliamentarians of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) meet virtually. During the 5th meeting of the WAIPA coordinating committee, Dy stressed that even though the supposed in-person meeting of

• Extreme heat dries up rice fields in Mlang, Cotabato (2026-04-27 12:47)

MLANG, Cotabato — Prolonged extreme heat has begun to take a toll on agriculture in this town, where rice fields have dried up as the heat index climbed to as high as 40°C. Farmers in several areas reported that their paddies have turned into parched land, with grasses browning due to lack of water. The

• Carpio sues AMLC, solons for 'illegal, felonious' disclosure of bank records (2026-04-27 12:44)

MANILA, Philippines—Criminal complaints were filed by Atty. Manases "Mans" Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office on Monday against officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and several high-profile lawmakers. The charges stem from the "illegal and felonious" public disclosure of his confidential bank records that the respondents reportedly

• Marcos assures continued support, career growth for teachers (2026-04-27 12:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday assured teachers of sustained government support, citing efforts to strengthen career growth, welfare, and working conditions. Speaking during the oathtaking of over 8,000 newly promoted teachers and school heads from Western Visayas at Villareal Stadium in Roxas City, Capiz, Marcos laid out ongoing efforts to help

• Police mobile undergoes inspection after crash that killed 5 detainees (2026-04-27 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The police mobile that crashed in Quezon City, killing five persons under police custody (PUPCs), is now undergoing a technical inspection. "Toyota is conducting a technical inspection to find out if something went wrong with the vehicle," Quezon City Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit (QCPD TEU) chief Lt. Col. Josef Geoffrey Lim

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of April 27, 2026 (2026-04-27 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines – Diesel prices are expected to drop this week, a development that could bring fuel costs to an average of P100 per liter after the relentless double-digit increases following the Iran war which broke out on Feb. 28. The new petroleum prices on Tuesday, however, may still be far from prewar levels —

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: Zambales swelters as heat index soars to 42°C (2026-04-27 12:12)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — Extreme heat continues to grip Zambales after the heat index reached “danger” levels on Monday, with the province’s Iba Station recording a peak of 42 degrees Celsius. Authorities advised residents to take extra precautions as temperatures climbed to hazardous levels, raising risks of heat-related illnesses. READ: HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas

• DPWH: Edsa-Ortigas Interchange now open to light vehicles (2026-04-27 11:58)

MANILA, Philippines — The Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa)-Ortigas Interchange has reopened to light vehicles, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced on Monday, April 27. The interchange was temporarily closed on Friday evening, April 24, after a passenger bus caught fire on the southbound lane of the Edsa-Ortigas flyover. READ: MRT-3

• Carpio rap confusing, no info on where Duterte’s ‘billions’ come from – Ridon (2026-04-27 11:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The complaint from lawyer Manases Carpio on the alleged violation of bank secrecy laws allegedly committed during the impeachment hearings of his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, is only meant to cause confusion, Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said. Ridon, in a statement on Monday, said that Carpio’s complaint also has no

• 3 linked to Shariff Aguak ambush killed in Army operations (2026-04-27 11:53)

COTABATO CITY — Three members of the Dawlah Islamiyah group, allegedly behind the March 28 ambush of five police officers in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao del Sur, were killed in a military operation on Sunday, April 26, the Army said. Lt. Col. Ronald Suscano, spokesperson for the 6th Infantry Division, said the suspects were killed during

• KMU to lead nationwide Labor Day protests vs war, wage issues (2026-04-27 11:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) on Monday announced coordinated Labor Day protests across the country to call for an end to the United States-Israel war on Iran and hold the Marcos administration accountable for allegedly failing to address demands for higher wages, lower prices, and adequate subsidies. KMU, alongside

• Agusan del Sur returns to 5-day workweek for Palarong Pambansa preps (2026-04-27 11:37)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The provincial government of Agusan del Sur has reverted to a five-day workweek starting Monday as it steps up preparations for hosting the Palarong Pambansa 2026. Gov. Santiago Cane Jr. announced the return to its regular workweek during the flag-raising ceremony at the Provincial Capitol, saying the move is

• Marcos, Angara to lead mass oath-taking of teachers in Roxas City (2026-04-27 10:34)

ROXAS CITY, Capiz—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to attend the mass oath-taking of newly promoted public school personnel in Western Visayas on Monday, in this city. Thousands of education officials and teachers from across the region have started gathering at the city's stadium, marking the formal induction of 8,566 newly promoted school heads and

• Heat, thunderstorms expected across Visayas -Pagasa (2026-04-27 10:13)

ILOILO CITY — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has issued special forecasts for parts of the Visayas, warning of extreme heat and possible afternoon thunderstorms from April 27 to May 1. The advisories, released Monday by the Visayas Pagasa Regional Services Division, cover Northern Cebu, areas around Mt. Kanlaon in Negros

• PNP probes into leak of Ombudsman investigators' identities (2026-04-27 09:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is now investigating the leak of the Office of the Ombudsman's investigators' identities online. "The investigation will not be limited to external actors… Possible internal involvement within the Ombudsman is also being examined as part of the cyber probe," PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said

• Rights group seeks probe into Zamboanga raid that killed 12-year-old (2026-04-27 09:49)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A Mindanao-based rights group is calling for an independent investigation into a joint police-military raid in Zamboanga City on April 23 that left three people dead, including a 12-year-old boy, citing alleged human rights violations. READ: 3 family members killed in Zamboanga police raid; probe underway Interfaith organization Moro-Christian Peoples

• Sandiganbayan starts hearing on bid to block Escudero from leaving PH (2026-04-27 09:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan Sixth Division on Monday began the hearing on the precautionary hold departure order (PHDO) petition for Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero and his alleged bagman Maynard Ngu. This proceeding was prompted by the Office of the Ombudsman's verified ex parte petition over complaints of plunder, graft and bribery filed before the anti-graft court

• Tricycle driver nabbed with P1.2-million 'shabu' in Iloilo sting (2026-04-27 09:26)

ILOILO CITY — A 33-year-old tricycle driver listed as a high-value individual was arrested in a buy-bust operation that yielded over P1.2 million worth of suspected "shabu" (crystal meth)

in Barangay Naslo, Pototan, Iloilo, on April 25. Operatives from the Iloilo Police Provincial Office's Drug Enforcement Unit, along with the Pototan police and provincial intelligence

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: 10 areas to sizzle at 'danger' level Monday (April 27) (2026-04-27 08:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices are forecast to soar in 10 areas across the country, while Metro Manila is seen to reach 40°C to 41°C on Monday, April 27, according to the state weather bureau. The heat index, as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) defined, measures the level of an

• Hot, humid weather to prevail with chances of rains due to easterlies (2026-04-27 07:21)

MANILA, Philippines — A hot and humid weather with chances of isolated rain showers is expected to prevail across the country on Monday, April 27, due to the continuous effects of easterlies, according to the state weather bureau. In its morning forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies, or

• 2 Fil-Ams, 2nd UP student among slain 'Negros 19' (2026-04-27 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Filipino Americans and a second University of the Philippines (UP) student have been identified as among the "Negros 19"—the fatalities in a series of clashes between government troops and alleged New People's Army (NPA) members in Taboso town, Negros Occidental, on April 19. In a statement on Sunday, the Commission on

• Dempsey Reyes, Inquirer reporter; 29 (2026-04-27 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Inquirer reporter Dempsey Cyden Reyes passed away on April 26 at the Commonwealth Hospital and Medical Center in Quezon City, where he was rushed the day before. Reyes died at 4:25 a.m. of respiratory failure following a brain hemorrhage, according to his death certificate provided by the hospital. He would have turned

• VP spouse to charge AMLC, lawmakers over bank 'leaks' (2026-04-27 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawyer Manases "Mans" Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, will file a criminal complaint today against officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and members of the House of Representatives for allegedly violating bank secrecy and privacy laws during the clarificatory hearings on Duterte's impeachment last week, according to Carpio's lawyers

• Manila prelate pushes collection drive for biodiesel (2026-04-27 05:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula is calling on the public to donate used cooking oil to the Archdiocese of Manila, which will process it into biodiesel. Advincula, who said that this will reduce waste and promote alternative sources of sustainable energy, said the diocese's Ministry of Integral Ecology is capable of producing

• Submit response plans, landfill operators told (2026-04-27 05:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered all sanitary landfill operators to submit contingency plans outlining emergency response measures two weeks after a landfill fire broke out in Navotas City. In a memorandum dated April 22 and made public on Sunday, the agency's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) directed its regional

• Marcos eyes longer amnesty program (2026-04-27 05:00)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved in principle the extension by two years of the amnesty that the government is offering to communist rebels and other insurgent groups as the government attempts to end the longest communist insurgency in the world. The proposal was endorsed by the National Amnesty Commission (NAC) to

• PNP nabs 15 in online scam; 36 financial accounts closed (2026-04-27 04:55)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 15 were arrested and 36 financial accounts involved in fraudulent transactions intercepted during coordinated anticybercrime operations nationwide April 1 to April 15. The Philippine National Police said in a news release over the weekend that the 15 were engaged in the illegal online sale of financial accounts, including automated

• Atong Ang, police major linked to Chinese triad in Negros (2026-04-27 04:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla confirmed on Sunday that the Philippine National Police is looking into claims linking fugitive businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang and a police major in Bacolod City to a Chinese triad operating in Negros Island. "It's a great possibility because [Atong Ang] used to frequent that place,"

• Fishing ban during 'Balikatan' strains livelihoods in Zambales (2026-04-27 04:45)

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — For 69-year-old Ranny Agasa, a fisherman in Barangay San Miguel, the sea has been both a workplace and a lifeline since he was 10 years old. But in recent years, he said that the rhythm of daily fishing has become increasingly uncertain, especially during large-scale military exercises that temporarily close

• Oil spill in Guimaras town raises alarm over environmental damage (2026-04-27 04:40)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — The shoreline of Barangay Hoskyn in Jordan town, Guimaras, was hit by an oil spill early on Saturday, triggering warnings over threats to marine life and the immediate closure of affected coastal areas to residents. Villagers reported the incident around 7 a.m. after observing oil slicks near the barangay covered court

• Dry spell ruins P38-M crops in Maguindanao del Sur (2026-04-27 04:35)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — The dry spell affecting Maguindanao del Sur for the past three months has damaged about P38.39 million worth of rice and corn plantations, the

agriculture office in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) said.According to Abunawas Maslamama, minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries andAquatic Resources

- Firm offers 100 electric taxis for Baguio (2026-04-27 04:30)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — An electric vehicle (EV) distributor has offered to supply up to 100 electric taxis for the city's mass transport system amid concerns over global oil supply disruptions. The proposal of Device Design Green and Smart (DDGNS) Corp. comes in the wake of geopolitical tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran,

- No jackpot winner in Ultra Lotto, Super Lotto draws on Sunday, April 26 (2026-04-26 21:46)

MANILA, Philippines – No player won the jackpot prize in both the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Super Lotto 6/49 draws on Sunday, April 26, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 result: 48-56-29-39-55-45 Jackpot prize: ₱75 million Super Lotto 6/49 result: 44-48-09-33-01-34 Jackpot prize: ₱27.51 million Minor games Draw schedule Ultra Lotto

- Dangerous heat index grips 14 areas on Sunday (2026-04-26 19:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Dangerous heat indices gripped fourteen areas on Sunday, according to the state weather bureau. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that Guiuan, Eastern Samar and Dumangas, Iloilo both logged the highest recorded peak heat index on Sunday at 45°C. Pagasa defines heat index as the "measure of the

- Ombudsman pursuing raps vs those behind investigators' identity leak (2026-04-26 19:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Sunday condemned the unauthorized leak of its investigators' identities online, adding that it is now working with the authorities to identify those behind the leak to pursue legal action. In a statement, the Ombudsman committed to pursue maximum legal penalties under the Data Privacy Act and

- Ridon to Carpio: You never denied P6.7 billion flagged transactions (2026-04-26 19:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Atty. Manases Carpio, Vice President Sara Z. Duterte's husband, did not deny any of the Anti-Money Laundering Council's (AMLC) findings on the P6.7 billion in covered and suspicious transactions flagged in their bank accounts—and his planned complaint against House lawmakers and agencies involved in the disclosure only makes that more apparent, Committee

- Marcos assures uninterrupted gov't services amid energy emergency (2026-04-26 18:50)

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assured the public that government services will continue uninterrupted despite the ongoing national energy emergency. In his latest vlog released Sunday, Marcos emphasized that the government cannot afford to slow down or halt

operations, even as the country faces external pressures on fuel supply and prices stemmingfrom

• Fuel subsidy for taxi drivers completed, P135 M distributed – LTFRB (2026-04-26 18:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Sunday announced that the distribution of the P135 million fuel subsidy for taxi drivers has been successfully completed. The LTFRB issued the announcement after the conclusion of the second day of the distribution where a total of 5,440 taxi drivers received P5,000. READ:

• DENR orders landfill operators to submit emergency response plan (2026-04-26 17:55)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ordered all sanitary landfill operators to submit a contingency plan outlining their emergency response measures nearly two weeks after a landfill fire broke out in Navotas City. In a memorandum dated April 22 and made public on Sunday, the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) directed its

• Gutierrez to educators: Uphold safety, accountability, justice in schools (2026-04-26 17:18)

MANILA, Philippines – More than 1,200 educators and education personnel gathered in Quezon City for this year's Regional Assembly of Education Leaders, where Department of Justice (DOJ) Undersecretary Margarita Gutierrez underscored the need to strengthen safety, accountability, and justice in schools. Gutierrez stressed that many justice issues begin not in courts, but in classrooms—where students

• Villar pushes 24/7 public libraries for students in major cities (2026-04-26 16:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Mark A. Villar is seeking the establishment of round-the-clock public libraries in highly urbanized cities and first-class component cities to give students and lifelong learners free, safe, and accessible study spaces. Villar filed Senate Bill No. 2050, or the Anytime Learning Access Act, which mandates the creation and operation of at

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of Sunday, April 26, 2026 (2026-04-26 16:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists face fresh fuel price adjustments this week as diesel prices are expected to drop further by P8 to P10. This decrease could bring fuel costs to an average of P100 per liter. The new price adjustments come after the relentless double-digit increases following the Middle East war which broke out on

• Sara Duterte's husband filing raps vs BSP, AMLC, solons over bank secrecy (2026-04-26 16:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Manases Carpio, husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, is set to file criminal complaints against officials of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) and several House lawmakers over alleged violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, bank secrecy laws and the Data Privacy Act. READ: AMLC confirms

suspicious

• Dempsey Reyes, Inquirer reporter; 29 (2026-04-26 15:11)

Inquirer reporter Dempsey Cyden Reyes passed away on April 26 at Commonwealth Hospital and Medical Center in Quezon City, where he had been rushed the day before. Reyes died at 4:25 a.m. of respiratory failure following a brain hemorrhage, according to the death certificate issued by the hospital. Reyes would have turned 30 on Oct.

• Rare jade vine found in Cagayan highlands; conservation pushed (2026-04-26 15:07)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The rare jade vine (Strongylodon macrobotrys) known for its striking turquoise flowers, has been sighted in the highlands of Baggao, Cagayan, prompting renewed calls for its conservation. According to Frederic Tomas, information officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-CENRO) in Alcala, some residents have

• Training on Mindoro hornbill monitoring boosts conservation efforts (2026-04-26 15:01)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A multi-day training on monitoring the critically endangered Mindoro hornbill has concluded at a sanctuary in Mindoro, conservation groups said Sunday. The training, held from April 21 to 24, 2026 at the Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro, was aimed at strengthening biodiversity tracking efforts across the island.

• N. Samar bishop backs austerity push, calls for simpler celebrations (2026-04-26 14:50)

TACLOBAN CITY — Bishop Nolly Buco of the Diocese of Catarman is urging the public to scale down lavish celebrations and embrace simplicity, aligning the Church with a recent austerity drive by local government leaders amid ongoing national energy emergency. In a circular dated April 21, 2026, the church leader appealed to priests, church workers,

• Man wanted for 56 counts of murder collared in GenSan (2026-04-26 14:43)

COTABATO CITY – Police arrested a national-level most wanted person facing 56 counts of murder in a law enforcement operation in Barangay Apopong, General Santos City, on Saturday. Brig. Gen. Arnoldo Ardiente, regional director of the Police Regional Office (PRO) Soccsksargen, said the suspect, identified only as alias “Jared,” 45, a resident of Barangay Apopong,

• PNP steps up crackdown on illegal cigarette trade after P799 M Negros bust (2026-04-26 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) is intensifying intelligence operations against illegal cigarette manufacturing after several facilities were raided recently in Negros island, which led to the discovery of almost P800 million worth of materials and equipment. PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. visited the Negros Island Region (NIR) on April 24 with Interior

• Luistro: Sara Duterte defense team conceded impeach case will reach trial stage (2026-04-26 14:35)

MANILA, Philippines – House of Representatives justice committee chairperson and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro said Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team has effectively conceded that the impeachment case will reach the Senate. By announcing they will only respond to the allegations at the Senate trial, Luistro said, the defense team is all but acknowledging that

• 5 nabbed in Bataan for alleged sale of tampered LPG cylinders (2026-04-26 14:07)

MARIVELES, Bataan — Five men were arrested for allegedly distributing tampered liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders during a buy-bust operation in this town on Friday, April 24.. In a belated report on Sunday, police said the operation was launched following complaints from residents about the rampant refilling and alteration of LPG cylinders in the area.

• Midnight fire razes homes, boarding house in Bukidnon town (2026-04-26 14:02)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — A fire that broke out past midnight on Sunday, April 26, destroyed several structures in Purok 1, Barangay Dologon here, forcing residents to flee their homes. Shouts of "Fire! Fire!" woke the community as flames rapidly spread, catching some residents asleep and prompting families to rush outside and salvage what belongings they

• Archdiocese of Manila: Collect used cooking oil for biodiesel conversion (2026-04-26 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines —The Archdiocese of Manila has called on its parishes to gather used cooking oil for conversion into biodiesel amid an ongoing fuel crisis driven by escalating military tensions in the Middle East. The metropolitan see came up with the initiative after recent projections indicated that global oil demand would continue to increase. READ:

• Another UP student among killed in Negros clash; UPOU calls for probe (2026-04-26 13:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Another UP student has been identified among those killed in a military encounter in Negros Occidental, as the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) called for a transparent investigation of the incident and its circumstances. In a statement on Saturday, UPOU said that one of the fatalities was Maureen Keil Santuyo,

• CHR launches independent probe into Negros clash that killed 19 (2026-04-26 12:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), through its office in the Negros Island Region, launched an independent investigation of the April 19 armed clash in Negros Occidental that left 19 people dead. Among those killed were University of the Philippines Diliman student leader Alyssa Alano and Altermidya Network community journalist RJ Ledesma. READ:

• P8.2-M shabu seized, 2 nabbed in Leyte drug den bust (2026-04-26 12:35)

TACLOBAN CITY— Authorities dismantled a suspected drug den and seized more than P8.2 million worth of shabu in a joint anti-drug operation in Barangay Damulaan, Albuera, Leyte on Saturday, April 25, police said. Operatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) conducted a coordinated buy-bust that led to the arrest

• Samar town alerts residents vs alleged ‘Maharlika’ investment fraud (2026-04-26 11:59)

TACLOBAN CITY — The municipal government of Paranas in Samar has warned residents against a suspected investment scam after several locals reported losing money to a group calling itself the “Royal Kingdom of Maharlika” (RKOM). According to local officials, the group has been selling colored “membership cards” priced from ₱150 up to P5,500, claiming investors

• PNP: ‘Full investigation’ into vehicle crash that killed 5 detainees (2026-04-26 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine National Police (PNP) has ordered a “full investigation” of the vehicle crash in Quezon City that killed five persons under police custody (PUPCs), the PNP announced on Sunday. This came after a police vehicle carrying six PUPCs and four police officers crashed into a wall along Payatas road en route

• Edsa-Ortigas interchange to reopen on Monday — DPWH (2026-04-26 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines – The Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa)-Ortigas Interchange will reopen to light vehicles on Monday, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said. According to the DPWH, the temporary closure was implemented to give way to repairs scheduled until Sunday, following the bus fire that occurred at the interchange. “The EDSA-Ortigas Interchange

• HEAT INDEX ALERT: Danger level expected in Cavite, Batangas (2026-04-26 09:05)

LUCENA CITY — Two areas in the Calabarzon are expected to experience danger-level heat index levels on Sunday and Monday, April 26 and 27, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on Pagasa’s 5 p.m. monitoring on Saturday, Sangley Point in Cavite City is forecast to reach a heat index

• Taal Volcano logs two minor eruptions, 48 seismic events in 24 hours (2026-04-26 08:59)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano showed renewed activity as two minor phreatic eruptions and a spike in seismic events were recorded over the past 24 hours, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) reported Sunday, April 26. In its morning bulletin, Phivolcs logged two steam-driven eruptions, locally known as “pusngat,” which lasted 10 minutes,

• Oil spill hits coastal village in Guimaras; residents warned (2026-04-26 08:49)

ILOILO CITY — An oil spill was reported along the shoreline of Barangay Hoskyn in Jordan town, Guimaras early Saturday (April 25), prompting officials to warn residents and fisherfolk to stay away from the affected coastal areas. The spill was detected at 7:05 a.m. near the barangay hall and covered court, affecting parts of Sitio

• Rains possible across PH on Sunday due to easterlies, frontal system (2026-04-26 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines – Many areas in the Philippines are forecast to have cloudy skies with a chance of rain on Sunday due to the easterlies and the frontal system, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the frontal system will

• Ombudsman: Asset freeze vs Romualdez, HDO bid vs Escudero (2026-04-26 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — After obtaining a freeze order on the assets of former Speaker Martin Romualdez and stopping him from leaving the country, the Office of the Ombudsman on Saturday sought to prevent the departure of former Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero who is under investigation for alleged plunder, graft and bribery. The antigraft court,

• State witness a billionaire? Bernardo vows to return P1B to gov’t (2026-04-26 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Public Works Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo has pledged to return around P1 billion to the government coffers as part of his restitution of kickbacks he received to be admitted into the witness protection program. During Friday’s Sandiganbayan Third Division hearing on the malversation case against former Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr., Bernardo

• With Duterte going on trial, focus shifts to dela Rosa, et al (2026-04-26 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Former high-ranking police officials identified as co-perpetrators in the case against ex-President Rodrigo Duterte in the International Criminal Court (ICC) may face charges aside from crimes against humanity. Based on what was revealed during the pretrial hearing, they may also be charged over the questionable arrest of hundreds of thousands of individuals

• DBM orders agencies to report savings made amid oil crisis (2026-04-26 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has directed all government agencies to identify their savings, which can be pooled to fund relief measures in response to the Iran war and its ensuing oil crisis. National Budget Circular (NBC) No. 602, issued by the DBM on April 23, said all agencies must

• Jobseekers, entrepreneurs flock to Go Negosyo fair (2026-04-26 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — As hundreds of jobseekers and small entrepreneurs flocked to SM City Fairview on April 25 for Go Negosyo’s Trabaho at Negosyo job fair and MSME mentoring event, Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion said increased effort will be poured into more

nationwide events for the massive movement of providing jobs and livelihoods for

• DA readies changes in land conversion rules (2026-04-26 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is aiming to release the revised guidelines for the issuance of a certification on the reclassification of agricultural lands within June, its official said. “We need to finalize the guidelines before the end of the six-month moratorium,” Agriculture Undersecretary Asis Perez told the Inquirer in a Viber

• Lawmaker seeks probe of Negros Island battle (2026-04-26 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — ACT Teachers Rep. Antonio Tinio on Saturday urged a congressional panel to investigate a military operation last week that left 19 people dead in Negros Occidental, including a 22-year-old student of the University of the Philippines (UP). “We cannot accept a blanket ‘encounter’ narrative that automatically justifies the deaths of 19 people

• BOC distributes abandoned ‘balikbayan’ boxes to OFWs (2026-04-26 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) said on Saturday it has facilitated the release of abandoned “balikbayan” boxes previously held at the Manila International Container Port, returning the shipments to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) after delays linked to freight forwarding issues. The distribution was carried out on Tuesday as part of ongoing efforts

• Pagasa warns of 42°C heat index in 14 areas (2026-04-26 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned the public of dangerous heat levels in 14 areas around the country as local governments stepped up measures to deal with their dwindling water supply. The state weather bureau considers heat index levels between 42°C and 51°C as dangerous and suggests significant risks

• Green barriers take root in Zambales town (2026-04-26 05:17)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — At low tide along the coast of Masinloc, volunteers wade through muddy flats, carefully pushing slender mangrove propagules into the ground. Each seedling, planted by hand, is meant to grow into something larger than a tree — part of a living shield protecting communities along the province’s vulnerable shoreline. The planting

• This week’s milestones: April 26 to May 2 (2026-04-26 05:15)

April 27, 1871 Montalban in the province of Rizal was established as a pueblo when Governor-General Rafael Gerónimo Cayetano Izquierdo y Gutiérrez issued a decree separating Balite, Burgos, Marang, and Calipahan from San Mateo. Prior to this, the whole territory was known among the natives as Balite. In 1901, Montalban was incorporated into the province

• Inmates in Mimaropa region receive aid from Dole (2026-04-26 00:56)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A total of 1,239 inmates in the Mimaropa (Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) region received financial assistance amounting to P6,825 each from the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) through the 15-day Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) program. The aid was distributed through the partnership

Source: The Manila Times

• Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite to have water interruptions this week (2026-05-03 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite will have water interruptions this week due to maintenance works and high demand, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said. Manila Water said that in Metro Manila, some areas in the villages of Rosario, Manggahan, and Maybunga in Pasig City will have water interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities to detect leaks. In Quezon City, some places at Teachers Village East, Teachers Village West, UP Campus, San Vicente, and Old Capitol Site will have no water on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to step testing works at Maginhawa St. corner Masaya St. Parts of Brgy. Culiat and Brgy. Vasra in Quezon City will also have water interruptions on May 5-7 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities. Some areas in Brgy South Triangle in Quezon City will have service interruptions on May 7-8 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing works along Timog Ave. corner T. Morato Ave. In Marikina City, some portions of Brgy. Marikina Heights will have water service interruptions on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. also due to step testing activities. In San Juan City, some locations in the villages of Balong-Bato, San Perfecto, Progreso, Rivera, and Pedro Cruz will have no water on May 7-8 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities along F. Roman St. corner Aurora Blvd. In Taguig City, some areas in Brgy. Central Signal will have service interruptions on May 7-8 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due also to step testing works at Cuasay St. cor. Sto. Niño St. In Rizal, some portions of Brgy. Sto Domingo in Cainta will have water interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to a line meter replacement along Imelda Ave. corner VCS Homes. Some areas in Brgy. San Roque and Brgy. San Andres in Cainta, Rizal will have service interruptions on May 6-7 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to step testing activities at A. Rodriguez Ave. In Antipolo, some places in Brgy. Mayamot will have no water on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to leak repair along Soliven Ave. Some areas in Brgy. San Jose in Antipolo and Brgy. Pinugay in Baras, Rizal will have water interruptions on May 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing works along Marcos Highway. Maynilad said in Metro Manila, some areas in the villages of Gen. T. De Leon, Karuhatan, Malinta, Marulas, Maysan, and Parada in Valenzuela City will have service interruptions on May 4-8 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of network maintenance activities. In Manila City, some locations at the villages of 313, 314, 329, 330 and 335 will have service interruptions on May 3-10 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of leak

exploration works. In Santa Cruz district, some places in the villages of 306, 307, 308, 309, 310 311, 313 and 315 will have water interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Also, some locations in the villages of 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 430, 457 and 460 will have service interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works. In Tondo, some areas in the villages of 124, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 177, 179, 180, 181, and 182, will have no water on May 3-10 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Some places in the villages of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 74, 75, 76, 78, 81, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 163, 168, 169, 170, 171, and 172 will have service interruptions on May 4-10 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration. Some portions of Brgy. 649 will also have water service interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration. Also, some places in the villages of 17, 18, 19, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55 will have no water on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of network maintenance activities. In Binondo, some areas in the villages of 292, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 304 and 305 will have service interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. due to leak exploration. Some parts of the villages of 524, 525, 529, 532, 533 and 535 in Sampaloc will have no water on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works. In Pandacan, some places in the villages of 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840 and 865 will have water interruptions on May 4-11 between 11:01 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration activities. Some areas in the villages of 36, 39, 40, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197 in Caloocan City; and also some locations in the villages of 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216 217, 218, 219, 220 and 202-A in Manila City will have water interruptions on May 4-10 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works at Rizal Ave. Some portions of Brgy. 167 and Brgy. 169 in Caloocan City, and some areas in Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon and Brgy. San Agustin in Quezon City will have service interruptions on May 4-5 between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to a water audit to identify real and apparent losses, such as leaks and inaccurate meter readings. Some parts of Brgy. 188 will have water service interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of the insertion of a valve in a water system at Dr. Puno Road, Caloocan City. Some portions of Brgy. 174 will have water service interruptions on May 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of the pullout of a pressure reducing valve. In Imus City, Cavite, several places in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II- B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI will have no water on May 4-5 between 5 a.m. and 12 a.m. because of high water demand at the Patindig Araw pumping station.

- Flights to Bicol canceled as Mayon unrest intensifies (2026-05-03 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines—Flights at the Bicol International Airport (BIA) were canceled on Sunday, May 3, due to Mayon Volcano's continued unrest.The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) suspended specific flights as a safety precaution. CAAP confirmed that as of 5:30 a.m., Cebu Pacific flights 5J321 (Manila-BIA) and 5J322 (BIA-Manila) were canceled.A total of 231 passengers (134 incoming and 97 outgoing), were affected by Sunday's disruptions.Mayon remains under Alert Level 3, indicating intensified unrest and a potential for a hazardous eruption.CAAP advised affected passengers to coordinate with their airlines for rebooking or refund options.

- Motorcycle taxi riders push bill granting franchises to individuals, not platforms (2026-05-03 03:18)

MANILA, Philippines — A motorcycle taxi riders' group urged Congress to pass the long-delayed Motorcycle Taxi Bill, calling for a framework that would grant franchises directly to riders rather than to digital platforms.In a statement, the Motorcycle Taxi Community said the measure should recognize riders as independent transport service providers and align regulations with the realities of gig work.The group maintained that riders, not platforms, deliver the actual service and should therefore hold the franchise tied to their registered motorcycles.Romeo Maglunsod, the group's chairman, said the current platform-based slot system is outdated and failed to reflect how the sector operates. He argued that similar to jeepney and tricycle operators, motorcycle taxi riders should have transport rights attached to them and their units. "The franchise should be given to the individual rider and their motorcycle — not to the platforms. Riders are the actual providers of the transport service," Maglunsod said.The group also pressed for greater flexibility, saying riders should be free to choose which platform to use and when to operate, a setup it described as central to gig-based livelihoods. "As freelancers, we deserve respect, freedom, and protection as Filipino workers," Maglunsod said. The group challenged motorcycle taxi companies to improve rider support systems, including insurance coverage, provide fair incentives, and stronger demand-generation mechanisms. It said riders should be treated not only as partners but also as customers of the platforms they use. "Every day, riders endure heat, rain, and traffic to serve passengers. It is only right that platforms provide us with the best possible systems that protect our welfare," Maglunsod said. The Motorcycle Taxi Community warned that continued delays in passing the bill will prolong uncertainty for thousands of riders grappling with rising costs and unstable incomes. "Every day of delay is another day of uncertainty for our livelihood. Government must prioritize people's livelihoods," he said. While expressing willingness to comply with reasonable regulations, the group cautioned against excessive rules that could restrict earning opportunities or reduce service availability for commuters. "We understand the need to protect every sector in transport, but policies must also consider the welfare of workers and the convenience of passengers," Maglunsod said.The group said it remained hopeful that lawmakers would enact a measure that provides riders with clear rights, security, and recognition as part of the country's public transport system.

- Asean, EU leaders meet in Cebu to push sustainable growth (2026-05-03 03:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Government leaders from Southeast Asia and European business executives will gather in Cebu on May 7 for the Asean-EU Sustainability Summit, ahead of the 48th Asean Leaders' Summit, to address economic resilience and sustainable growth amid ongoing regional challenges.The inaugural summit comes as the region faces mounting pressures, including an energy crisis and broader economic strain.More than 200 representatives from government, business, development institutions, and civil society are expected to attend the event organized by the European Union (EU)-Asean Business Council (ABC) and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP).The summit will feature discussions on sustainability priorities under the Philippines' Asean chairmanship, including energy transition, green finance, circular economy development, sustainable trade, and climate-resilient agriculture.Among the participants are Finance Secretary Frederick Go, Indonesia Deputy Minister Leonardo A. A. Teguh Sambodo, EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro, and Climate Change Commission Vice Chairman Robert E.A. Borje."We're facing multiple crises at once – energy, economic and supply chain challenges that no party can address alone. Asean and the EU should look to each other for a reliable, long-term partnership built on shared ambitions for sustainable economic growth," Chris Humphrey, executive director of EU-ABC, said."The Council has emphasized the same message in our recent meetings with the European Commission in Brussels, and this Summit serves as an important platform to deepen that conversation."The summit is also seen to drive the EU and Association of Southeast Asian Nations cooperation towards practical outcomes for the region's sustainable development.Paulo Duarte, president of ECCP and a member of the EU-ABC's Executive Board, said the Asean-EU partnership has grown significantly, but the "priority now is to turn that momentum into practical collaboration." "The EU has channeled significant resources towards sustainable development through the Global Gateway and other initiatives –the Summit will explore how these can support that next phase of cooperation," he said.Private sector participation will also be highlighted, particularly in strengthening supply chains and sustainability practices.

- Alex Zanardi, auto racing champ who won Paralympic golds between life-altering accidents, dies at 59 (2026-05-03 02:54)

ROME — Alex Zanardi, the Italian auto racing champion-turned-Paralympic gold medalist whose career was marked by two life-altering accidents, has died. He was 59.Zanardi's family announced his death on Saturday, saying that he passed away on Friday night."Alex died peacefully, surrounded by the affection of those closest to him," the family said in a statement without providing a cause of death.In 2020, Zanardi was seriously injured in a handbike accident after crashing into an oncoming truck during a relay event in Tuscany. Zanardi suffered serious facial and cranial trauma in the crash and was put in a medically induced coma.Nearly 20 years earlier, Zanardi lost both of his legs in an auto racing crash."Italy loses a great champion and an extraordinary man, capable of turning every challenge of life into a lesson in courage, strength, and dignity," Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said on X."Alex Zanardi knew how to bounce back every time, facing even the toughest challenges with determination, clarity,

and a strength of spirit that was truly exceptional," Meloni added. "He gave all of us much more than a victory: he gave hope, pride, and the strength to never give up. ... Thank you for everything, Alex."Zanardi won two championships in CART — 1997 and 1998 — in the United States before a brief return to Formula One. He returned to America and was racing in Germany in a CART event in 2001 when both of his legs were severed in a horrific accident the weekend after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. CART raced only because the series was already in Germany at the time of the attacks and could not return to the U.S.After the 2001 crash, Zanardi was in a coma for three days and his heart stopped at least once.NASCAR driver Max Papis, who knew Zanardi from childhood in Italy, recalled visiting his friend in the hospital, where Zanardi glanced at Papis' new shoes."He said, 'Look at the positive side of this. For a long time I will not have to spend money buying those,'" Papis said.During his recovery, Zanardi designed his own prosthetics — he joked that he made himself taller — and learned to walk again. He then turned his attention to hand cycling and developed into one of the most accomplished athletes in the world. He won four gold medals and two silvers at the 2012 and 2016 Paralympics, competed in the New York City Marathon and set an Ironman record.When he won a Paralympic race in 2012 at Britain's Brands Hatch circuit where he had competed as a young driver, Zanardi celebrated the full-circle moment by holding his bike aloft one-handed as he sat on the track."Probably a lot of people watching me doing (this) to some degree against all odds maybe they are going to say, 'Bloody hell, if Zanardi did this, I can try. I can try,'" he told The Associated Press at the time. "A good attempt always brings a result."His spirit, will, and determination gave the beloved Italian a larger-than-life persona. When he returned to the U.S. in 2019 to compete for BMW at the Rolex 24 of Daytona without his prosthetics, he was the most revered driver in a field that included F1 champion Fernando Alonso.Drivers from around the world sought out Zanardi for photographs and were transfixed as he told elaborate tales of his adventures in the nearly two decades since many had seen him.Zanardi used specially adapted cars with hand controls for gas and brake to take up racing again after the 2001 accident — and well enough to win races in various series.Stefano Domenicali, the president and CEO of F1, said he was "deeply saddened by the passing of my dear friend," calling Zanardi " truly an inspirational person, as a human and as an athlete.""He faced challenges that would have stopped anyone, yet he continued to look forward, always with a smile and a stubborn determination that inspired us all," Domenicali added. "While his loss is profoundly felt, his legacy remains strong."Zanardi's death came on the same day — May 1 — that fellow driver Ayrton Senna died in a crash during an F1 race in Imola in 1994.The International Automobile Federation (FIA) said on X that Zanardi's racing career and "journey from life-changing accident to Paralympics gold medalist made him one of sport's most admired competitors and an enduring symbol of courage and determination."Noted for his infectious smile and fanciful storytelling, Zanardi was praised by Pope Francis after his 2020 crash as an example of strength amid adversity. Francis penned a handwritten letter of encouragement assuring Zanardi and his family of his prayers.Zanardi's family added that it "thanks everyone who is sharing their support right now and asks for respect during this time of mourning."The funeral will be held Tuesday in Padua.A moment of silence was observed in Zanardi's honor before Saturday's F1 sprint race in Miami Gardens, Florida. Also, the Italian Olympic Committee called for a minute

of silence to be observed at all sports events in Italy over the weekend.Zanardi, who was born in Bologna, is survived by his wife, Daniela, and son, Niccolò.

• Trump says US will reduce number of troops in Germany 'a lot further' than withdrawal of 5,000 (2026-05-03 02:35)

WEST PALM BEACH— President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the U.S. will significantly reduce its troop presence in Germany, escalating a dispute with Chancellor Friedrich Merz as he seeks to scale back America's commitment to European security.The Pentagon on Friday had initially announced it would pull some 5,000 troops out of Germany, but when asked Saturday about the reason for the move, Trump didn't offer an explanation and said an even bigger reduction was coming."We're going to cut way down. And we're cutting a lot further than 5,000," Trump told reporters in Florida.Earlier on Saturday, Germany's defense minister appeared to take in stride the news that 5,000 U.S. troops would be leaving his country.Boris Pistorius said the drawdown, which Trump has threatened for years, was expected, and he said European nations needed to take on more responsibility for their own defense. But he also emphasized that security cooperation benefited both sides of the trans-Atlantic partnership."The presence of American soldiers in Europe, and especially in Germany, is in our interest and in the interest of the U.S.," Pistorius told the German news agency dpa.The plan faces bipartisan resistanceThe planned withdrawal faced bipartisan resistance in Washington, with swift criticism from Democrats and concern from Republicans that it would send the "wrong signal" to Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose full-scale invasion of Ukraine recently entered its fifth year.Trump's decision comes as he seethes at European allies over their unwillingness to join his campaign with Israel against Iran. He has lashed out at leaders like Merz, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.Merz last week criticized the war in Iran, saying the U.S. is being "humiliated" by the Iranian leadership and calling out Washington's lack of strategy.In another sign of friction, Trump accused the European Union of not complying with its U.S. trade deal and announced plans to increase tariffs next week on cars and trucks produced in the bloc to 25%, a move that would be particularly damaging to Germany, a major automobile manufacturer.At least one EU lawmaker called the tariff hike " unacceptable" and accused Trump of breaking yet another U.S. commitment on trade.US increased troops after Russian invasion of UkraineA pullout of 5,000 soldiers from Germany would amount to about one-seventh of the 36,000 American service members stationed in the country. The Pentagon offered few details about which troops or operations would be affected. When contacted after Trump's announcement of more cuts on Saturday, the Pentagon did not offer any additional details and referred back to its earlier statement.The withdrawal of the 5,000 troops is scheduled to take place over the next six to 12 months, according to the Pentagon. Trump previously said he would pull 9,500 troops from Germany during his first term, but he didn't start the process and Democratic President Joe Biden formally stopped the planned withdrawal soon after taking office in 2021.More broadly, around 80,000-100,000 U.S. personnel are usually stationed in Europe — depending on operations, exercises and troop rotations. The U.S. increased its European deployment after Russia launched its full-scale war

on Ukraine in February 2022. NATO allies like Germany have expected for over a year that these troops would be the first to leave.Pistorius, in his comments to dpa, said, "We Europeans must take on more responsibility for our security," while stressing recent efforts by Germany to boost its armed forces, accelerate procurement and develop infrastructure.NATO spokesperson Allison Hart, in a post Saturday on X, said the trans-Atlantic alliance was "working with the U.S. to understand the details of their decision on force posture in Germany.""This adjustment underscores the need for Europe to continue to invest more in defense and take on a greater share of the responsibility for our shared security," she added, noting "progress" toward a target among NATO allies to each invest 5% of their economic output to defense.A 'thorough review' prompted drawdown decisionPentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell said in a statement that the "decision follows a thorough review of the Department's force posture in Europe and is in recognition of theater requirements and conditions on the ground."A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters, said the branches of the U.S. military didn't have prior knowledge of the decision to draw down the 5,000 troops and learned about it "in real time."In response, the Defense Department reiterated that it conducted a thorough review of its force posture in Europe."The decision to withdraw troops in Germany follows a comprehensive, multilayered process that incorporates perspectives from key leaders in EUCOM and across the chain of command," acting Pentagon press secretary Joel Valdez wrote in an email, using the abbreviation for U.S. European Command.Most U.S. troops in Germany come from the Army and Air Force.Germany hosts several American military facilities, including the headquarters of the U.S. European and Africa commands, Ramstein Air Base and a medical center in Landstuhl, where casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were treated. U.S. nuclear missiles are also stationed in the country.Withdrawal of 5,000 troops — the size of a brigade combat team — from Germany would likely have limited impact on combat power, but " in terms of messaging of U.S. commitment though, it's very different," another U.S. defense official said.The only permanent brigade combat team in Germany is the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, alongside an aviation brigade and other assets, which is considered to have an important role in America's — and NATO's — ability to deter threats.GOP lawmakers voice concern about withdrawal planAfter swift pushback from Democrats on Friday, Republican leaders of both armed services committees in Congress said Saturday they were "very concerned" about the troop withdrawal.Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama said the decision risked "undermining deterrence and sending the wrong signal to Vladimir Putin."They also said the Pentagon had decided to cancel the planned deployment of the Army's Long-Range Fires Battalion. Parnell's statement made no mention of that.Wicker and Rogers said any significant change to the U.S. force posture in Europe warrants review and coordination with Congress."We expect the Department to engage with its oversight committees in the days and weeks ahead on this decision and its implications for U.S. deterrence and trans-Atlantic security," they said in a joint statement.They also noted that Germany has heeded Trump's call to shoulder more of the burden of defense spending in Europe, while giving U.S. forces access to its bases and airspace in the war against Iran.

- Drugmaker asks US Supreme Court to restore abortion pill access (2026-05-03 02:11)

WASHINGTON, United States — A key manufacturer of the United States' most widely used abortion pill asked the Supreme Court on Saturday to restore access to the drug, a day after a lower court halted mail delivery of the medication.Mifepristone, which prevents pregnancy progression, is used alongside misoprostol, which empties the uterus, in the majority of abortions in the United States. It is approved for use up to 10 weeks into a pregnancy.Danco Laboratories, which manufactures mifepristone and is one of two companies distributing the drug in the United States, asked the top court to stay a Friday decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that temporarily blocked abortion providers from prescribing and shipping the drug nationwide.The lower court ordered that women seeking abortions anywhere in the United States had to obtain mifepristone at a clinic, rather than by mail order or through a pharmacy.That decision, "injects immediate confusion and upheaval into highly time-sensitive medical decisions," the drugmaker wrote in its filing with the Supreme Court."The resulting chaos for patients, providers, pharmacies, and the drug-regulatory system is a quintessential irreparable harm that underscores the need for emergency relief from this Court."Mifepristone has been approved since 2000 and is also routinely used for managing early miscarriages.Anti-abortion activists, however, have called the drug's safety into question, with some citing a study conducted by a conservative think tank that never underwent formal peer review.In 2024, the Supreme Court rejected a bid to restrict the drug, ruling that anti-abortion groups and doctors calling for greater limits lacked legal standing to bring the case.Since a 2022 Supreme Court decision that struck down a nationwide right to abortion, some 20 states have banned or restricted it.Polls show a majority of Americans support legal access to abortion even as activists push to limit or ban it outright.

- Easterlies to prevail; Ilocos, Pangasinan, La Union to sizzle at 43 degrees Celsius (2026-05-03 01:17)

MANILA, Philippines —The warm and humid weather brought by the easterlies will continue to affect most parts of the country in the next three to four days, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said on Sunday.A heat index of 42 degrees Celsius in the Capital National Region is likely on Sunday. The highest temperature could be recorded in Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan and La Union at 43 degrees Celsius, weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said.Aurelio said the same weather system will bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms in Visayas, Caraga, Northern Mindanao, Zamboanga Peninsula, Sorsogon, Masbate, Palawan, Davao Oriental, Davao de Oro, and Basilan. “Flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains could be possible in these areas,” he warned in a 5 a.m. briefing.Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms due to the effects of the easterly winds.

- Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal and Laguna to have power interruptions due to maintenance works (2026-05-03 01:02)

MANILA, Philippines— Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal and Laguna will have power interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday.It said that in Brgy. Ugong, Valenzuela City, some places will have no power on May 4 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of line reconstruction works along Mindanao Ave.In Makati City, some areas in Brgy. San Lorenzo will have no electricity on May 5 between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. due to line maintenance works in Legaspi Village.Also, some locations near Piña Ave. in Sampaloc, Manila will have power interruptions on May 6 between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. because of line conversion works.Some areas in Punta, Sta. Ana will have no electricity on May 10 between 12:01 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. and between 4:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of line reconstruction works and line reconductoring works.In Caloocan City, some parts of Grace Park will have no power on May 6-7 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of hazardous wood electricity poles along 11th Ave., 8th and 9th Sts.In Taguig City, several locations in the villages of Katuparan, Ugong, Pinagsama, and North Signal Village will have short power interruptions on May 6-8 because of line reconstruction works. Some areas in the villages of Pinagsama and North Signal will also have power interruption on May 6 between 11:30 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. due to line reconstruction work.Also, some places in the villages of Katuparan, Ususan and North Signal will have no electricity on May 7 between 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m., between 2:15 a.m. and 2:45 a.m., and also between 11:30 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. due to line reconstruction works along 8th St.Some locations in the villages of Katuparan, and North Signal will again have short power interruptions on May 8 between 1:30 a.m. and 2:30 a.m., and between 3 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. because of line reconstruction works. In Laguna, some areas in Brgy. Botocan, Majayjay and in Brgy. San Rafael and Brgy. San Roque in Luisiana will have no electricity on May 8 between 10:30 and 3:30 p.m. due to line reconductoring works along Majayjay–Luisiana Road.Toshiba Storage Device Philippines Inc. and Sercomm Philippines Inc. in Carmelray Industrial Park 1 in Brgy. Canlubang, Calamba City will have no power on May 9 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to line reconductoring works along Innovation Drive in Carmelray Industrial Park 1.In Rizal, a portion of Eastwind Homes Village and Eastwood Greenview Subd. Phase 3 will have no electricity on May 6 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of the installation of electricity facilities along Centella St. in Eastwind Homes Village, Brgy. San Rafael, Rodriguez.Also, some places in the villages of Calumpang Sto. Cristo and Dulumbayan in Teresa, Rizal will have power interruptions on May 8 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to line reconstruction works along La Trinidad and Pantaleon Sts.

- King Charles grasped 'opportunity' on US trip, palace says (2026-05-03 00:37)

LONDON, United Kingdom — King Charles III's US state visit was a "risk and challenge" that he " grasped in both hands", a palace aide said Sunday as the monarch returned from a widely praised trip.Charles left for the UK from Bermuda Saturday following what a senior royal aide called a "historic" visit to the United States, aimed at healing strained ties between Washington and London.The highlight of the four-day visit was the 77-year-old king's speech to US Congress on Tuesday -- the first such address since his mother, queen Elizabeth II spoke there after the Gulf War in 1991.The speech, marking 250 years since American independence, was "high

stakes", the aide involved in the visit told reporters.The king urged the importance of NATO and called for a "just and lasting peace" in Ukraine, despite US President Donald Trump's critical stance on the bloc and Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky.This was "a measure of how much he personally cares" and proves that he "will always be guided by the truth", the royal aide said.

'Warmth and laughter' His words won praise from Trump's opponents, with senior Democrat Gregory Meeks hailing the king's "impassioned call for a renewed commitment to NATO".And the speech appeared to have gone down well with Trump, too.The president told journalists Friday that Charles "is just a great person. He's a high quality person. I love the job he did in Congress".The rapport between the king and president continued as they met behind closed doors in the Oval Office, the royal aide said with "an awful lot of warmth and laughter" amid serious topics.By contrast, Trump has repeatedly lambasted Prime Minister Keir Starmer, particularly over his stance on Iran.The palace aide denied any awkwardness over the differences in warmth of relationship, stressed the king's visit was on the government's request and there is "not a competition" between the monarchy and Downing Street.On the contrary, the king and queen "have been able to help the government", the aide said, and the king himself viewed the US leg of his trip as particularly "positive"."What looked like risk and challenge was also a phenomenal opportunity. One that was grasped in both hands by the King," the aide said.

'A personal triumph' British media lavished praise on the visit: The Daily Telegraph called it "a triumph" and a "reassertion of our shared values", while for The Times, it was a "star-spangled success"."I think it was a personal triumph," for Charles, royal commentator Richard Fitzwilliams told AFP, citing the king's "superb" speech to Congress, with " brilliant jokes"."He got it right and every nuance seemed perfect. It pleased everybody," Fitzwilliams said of the address.The visit proved a "boost" at a "very difficult time for the monarchy," the royal expert said.Undergoing cancer treatment and after a bitter rift with his son, Prince Harry, Charles this year saw his brother, the former prince Andrew, arrested over ties to the late US sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.Trump reacted to the royal visit by lifting whisky tariffs, a major trade concession, in honour of Charles.But Fitzwilliams urged caution on future consequences for the UK, citing Trump's "unpredictability".Trump "loves all things British royal. But not necessarily the British government," he said.

- Lacson to bare flood control probe findings this week (2026-05-02 16:13)

EFFORTS to suppress the findings of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee’s investigation into the alleged flood control scandal will ultimately fail, as public memory and demand for accountability remain strong, Senate President Pro Tempore and committee chairman Panfilo Lacson said Saturday.Lacson said he is set to deliver a privilege speech this week — possibly on May 4 or 5 — to present the committee’s Chairman’s Progress Report after a partial report failed to secure enough signatures for transmission to the Senate plenary. “As Blue Ribbon Chairman, I owe it to the Filipino people to update them on what happened after seven to eight hearings,” he said in a radio interview in a mix of English and Filipino.He added that the report aims to correct what he described as “false narratives” suggesting bias or cover-ups in the committee’s work.Lacson warned that attempts to downplay or stall the issue would not

succeed, citing strong public outrage. “Our people are angry and will not forget the issue. It will take decades before the issue is gone from the public’s memory,” he said.He described the controversy as even more serious than the earlier pork barrel scandal involving Janet Lim-Napoles, referencing alleged kickbacks in ghost infrastructure projects in the early 2010s.He said the flood control issue allegedly involves the loss of lives and livelihoods, making it a matter of greater public concern.Lacson noted that a partial Blue Ribbon Committee report prepared last February was not transmitted to the plenary due to the lack of required signatures.He expressed disagreement with some colleagues who declined to sign the report due to disagreements with portions of its content. “It is our duty as members of committees... to sign a committee report and indicate whether we will interpellate, amend, have reservations, or submit a separate report,” he said. “We should not refuse to sign just to block the report.”Once delivered, Lacson said the contents of the Chairman’s Progress Report may be forwarded to investigative agencies, including the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman, to support case build-up.He also said the privilege speech would include additional documents and evidence not previously discussed during hearings.Lacson said Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearings may resume in the latter part of the first regular session, or before Congress adjourns sine die on June 6.He said future hearings may include key public officials and witnesses, including former speaker Martin Romualdez, former Ilocos Sur governor Luis “Chavit” Singson, and at least six former military personnel who allegedly claimed to have delivered large sums of cash to unnamed individuals.He noted that Singson has yet to submit a draft affidavit requested by the committee.Lacson acknowledged that the committee’s schedule may be affected by the anticipated impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, if the articles of impeachment are transmitted to the Senate.He said adjustments may be made to accommodate both legislative and quasi-judicial functions.

- Ukraine unhappy PH buying Russian crude (2026-05-02 16:12)

UKRAINIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko said Ukraine was “not happy” with some countries’ move to import crude oil from Russia amid the oil crisis, but the Philippines managed to explain its situation.The Philippines has asked the United States for an extension of a sanctions waiver to allow it to buy more Russian oil and petroleum products, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin recently said. “Of course, we are not happy that some country uses Russian crude oil. We understand specific situation,” Mischenko said in an interview. “We reiterate that any cooperation with the aggressor, it brings the possibility to prolong the existence of this aggressor, because Russians gain money through this oil only for war; that means that you supply the aggressor,” he added.Mischenko said Ukraine asked their partners, or the countries that supported Ukraine, “to look for diversity and to escape from dependence on Russia because if you have a deal with the aggressor, you become theoretically part of this situation.” “But fortunately, the leadership of the Philippines fully understands the situation, and they’re looking for other possibilities,” Mischenko said. “We understand that it is a small quantity. But nevertheless, as I mentioned, Russia tried to use the conflict in Gulf to [gain funds to use in its] war with Ukraine,” he added.

• China slams Atin Ito, justifies WPS actions (2026-05-02 16:11)

CHINA said over the weekend that it is committed to defending its territorial claims following reports that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel shadowed a Philippine civilian mission in the West Philippine Sea on Friday morning.In a statement, the Chinese Embassy criticized the Philippine civil society coalition Atin Ito, saying it has “repeatedly attempted to carry out provocative activities under the pretext of safeguarding the Philippines’ territorial sovereignty,” adding that such efforts have “ended in failure.”The embassy said China “will continue to resolutely safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.”The statement came after Atin Ito reported that a CCG vessel, bearing bow number 3103, was observed trailing the Philippine-flagged vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca, which was en route to Pag-asa Island.Atin Ito spokesman Emman Hizon said the Chinese vessel was monitored at about 7:20 a.m. at a distance of about 3.2 nautical miles from the civilian mission ship.At the time of the sighting, the MV Kapitan Felix Oca was estimated to be about 90 nautical miles from Manila and about 60 nautical miles west of Mindoro.The civilian mission is part of ongoing initiatives to assert the Philippine presence and support communities on Pag-asa Island, a key Philippine-held feature in the disputed West Philippine Sea.The latest encounter underscores continuing tensions in the area, which forms part of the broader South China Sea — an increasingly contested maritime region involving overlapping claims by China and several Southeast Asian nations, including the Philippines.

• 170 Pinoy workers home from Kuwait (2026-05-02 16:10)

SOME 170 Filipinos returned to the country from Kuwait, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said Saturday.The Filipinos arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 in Pasay City at 7 a.m. on Saturday, through Kuwait Airways Flight KU 417.Representatives from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), OWWA, and other agencies assisted the returning Filipinos.“Appropriate coordination was also carried out for their return to their respective provinces through domestic flights and land transportation assistance, ensuring their safe journey back to their families,” OWWA said in Filipino.“As OWWA marks another year as an agency dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of OFWs, it continues to provide unwavering service to our fellow Filipinos — proof that even amid the celebration, promptly addressing their needs remains a priority,” they added.In a related development, the DMW late on Friday said 18 Filipino seafarers arrived home on separate commercial flights on Thursday and Friday.The seafarers were on board the Liberian ship MV MSC Ishyka.“The seafarers exercised their right to refuse sailing when the ship set sail to India, which required passage through the Strait of Hormuz. This is in accordance with DMW Advisory No. 09 issued on March 1, 2026, reiterating imposition of the seafarer’s right to refuse sailing in high-risk areas in the Gulf region,” the DMW said in a statement.All crew members met with DMW Assistant Secretary Venecio Legaspi and Al Khobar Migrant Workers Office Labor Attache Solaiman Mutia in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, who assured them of government support and assistance.The crew’s repatriation was also facilitated by their agency.The ongoing war in the Middle East has prompted many Filipinos working in the region

to return home.

• Delayed national ID rollout affects aid distribution (2026-05-02 16:09)

HOUSE Transportation Committee chairman and Quezon City Rep. Franz Pumaren said on Saturday that the delayed implementation of the National ID system should be investigated as it is stalling the delivery of assistance to transport workers affected by rising fuel prices resulting from the war in the Middle East.Pumaren added that government initiatives such as fuel discounts, per-kilometer subsidies and fare incentives hinge on accurate identification and targeting of beneficiaries.He said that because only 50 percent of national IDs were distributed, many transport workers, particularly in the informal sector, lack valid government-issued IDs, limiting their access to assistance.”They do not have passports or licenses, that’s why they don’t get aid,” Pumaren said in a forum in Quezon City.He added that the absence of a unified ID system continues to cause inefficiencies, data mismatches and duplication.”What is important here is the correct data. If we do not have a proper identification system, the government will have problems with targeting,” Pumaren said.Pumaren said he will file a resolution seeking a House inquiry into the rollout of the national ID system under the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).”I will file a resolution to investigate what is happening at the PSA; they have a huge budget, almost P700 million, but the output is lacking,” he said.Pumaren called on regulators to exhaust government support for the transportation sector before approving any fare increase.While fare increases fall under the jurisdiction of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Pumaren stressed the need to “revisit the whole scenario” amid ongoing petitions to raise fares by as high as P25 and called on maximizing the existing interventions.”With what we are currently doing — we have fuel subsidies, discounted fuel, per-kilometer payments provided to jeepney and bus operators and drivers, plus a 20-percent discount — I think we can bank on those first,” Pumaren said.He warned that any untimely fare hike could have significant consequences on low-income households.

• Expert warns of health risks during menopause (2026-05-02 16:09)

A HEALTH expert warned Friday of potential health consequences of neglecting proper nutrition during menopause.Dr. Rowena Auxillos, former president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, said women should be aware of the health challenges during menopause.”While these changes are normal, they do not have to limit a woman’s quality of life. Midlife is a critical window for women to prioritize their muscle health,” Auxillos said in a statement.Menopause, which often occurs around the average age of 48, is a natural biological process marking the end of menstrual cycles. In this stage, estrogen levels decline, affecting muscle mass, strength and tissue repair.Because of this, women may experience slower physical activity recovery, lower energy levels, and increased risks of osteoporosis and cardiovascular conditions.”By intentionally building and maintaining strength, women can protect their independence and mobility, even long after their reproductive years,” Auxillos said, highlighting the importance of adopting better lifestyle choices. Dr. Gamaliel Tayao,

Abbott's head of Medical Affairs in the Philippines, emphasized that muscle health cannot be supported by physical activity alone, especially during menopause." During this transition, women's nutritional needs increase, even as appetite and nutrient absorption may decline. Without adequate intake of high-quality protein and essential micronutrients, muscle loss can accelerate," Tayao said.He added that Ensure Gold contains calcium beta-hydroxy-beta-methylbutyrate, which supports muscle repair and helps maintain muscle mass, as well as yeast beta glucan, which may help strengthen immunity when combined with proper diet and exercise." Clinically formulated nutritional supplements such as Ensure Gold are designed to help address these nutritional gaps, supporting muscle mass and functional strength as women age," said Tayao.Tayao said that despite the challenges women face during menopause, they should view it as an opportunity to grow into healthier, stronger versions of themselves.

• SC voids Duterte firing of deputy ombudsman (2026-05-02 16:09)

THE Supreme Court has voided the dismissal of former overall deputy ombudsman Arthur Carandang, ruling that then-president Rodrigo Duterte exceeded his authority in ordering the penalty.In a 28-page decision written by Associate Justice Maria Filomena Singh, the Court's Third Division affirmed an earlier ruling of the Court of Appeals declaring Carandang's dismissal void from the outset, describing the move as a breach of the constitutional principle of checks and balances.The tribunal held that the Office of the President has no power to impose administrative sanctions on officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, which the Constitution designates as an independent body.Carandang had been dismissed in 2018 after he was accused of disclosing alleged bank records of the Duterte family purportedly showing billions of pesos in wealth.At the time, then-ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales inhibited herself from handling complaints involving Duterte due to her relation by affinity to his daughter, Sara Duterte, leaving Carandang to act on the case.The complaint, filed on May 5, 2016, by then-senator Antonio Trillanes IV, accused Duterte of malversation, violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, plunder, and possession of unexplained wealth. "To ensure the enduring existence and effectiveness of the Office of the Ombudsman, the Constitution expressly labeled it as independent," the Court said.The Supreme Court ruled that Carandang is entitled to full retirement benefits upon the expiration of his term, as well as back salaries covering the period of his preventive suspension and dismissal.

• PH retirement sector an economic driver (2026-05-02 16:08)

THE Philippine government is ramping up efforts to develop a more structured retirement sector, said Commission on Filipinos Overseas Secretary Dante Ang II.Ang said the country's emerging retirement industry should be treated not simply as a lifestyle option but as a strategic economic driver." This is a win-win situation," Ang said at a recent Retirement and Reintegration Forum attended by stakeholders from the United States and Australia. He noted that retirees benefit from a higher quality of life due to the Philippines' relatively low cost of living and favorable exchange rates, while the domestic economy gains from increased

investments and job creation.Ang emphasized that expanding retirement communities could generate employment across multiple sectors, particularly in health care and eldercare services. He cited opportunities for nurses, physicians, physical therapists and caregivers, highlighting the Philippines' established reputation as a global source of health care professionals.The initiative, he said, aligns with broader government efforts to stimulate inclusive growth, especially in provincial areas where retirement developments could spur local economies through infrastructure, housing and service-related investments.Ang said the move is in line with the vision of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make migration a matter of choice rather than necessity." Structured reintegration programs provide a viable pathway for overseas Filipinos to return home and invest in their future locally," Ang said.Government data show that millions of Filipinos live and work abroad, making reintegration programs a continuing priority for policymakers aiming to harness diaspora resources and expertise.Ang said the country's health care workforce is a major advantage in attracting both foreign retirees and returning Filipinos. He said the Philippines offers not only highly trained medical professionals but also a level of care and hospitality that is globally competitive.This combination, he added, positions the country as an attractive destination for retirement living, particularly in Asia, where demand for affordable, quality eldercare is rising.Among the projects Ang cited was a retirement development by Atikha in San Pablo City, noting the area is ideal for active retirees because of its proximity to beaches, golf courses and other leisure destinations.The forum was organized in partnership with the Philippine Retirement Authority and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. J

- AI eases educational policies research (2026-05-02 16:08)

THE Department of Science and Technology (DOST) said it has launched a pilot artificial intelligence (AI)-driven process of accessing institutional policies for students.The digital hub, built in partnership with the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC) and launched on April 30, houses a collection of documents about university policies. By using AI, students without technical or legal knowledge can access the database.The platform eliminates the need to manually sift through lengthy files by using a Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers model.Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the new hub will help prevent confusion among students and democratize information." Policies that are hard to access or understand may result in confusion and inefficiency, but with the University Policy Hub, we address this challenge head on. With this new hub, we are taking a step forward in strengthening transparency, accessibility and good governance in higher education," said Solidum.The system was developed by CSPC researchers led by Joseph Jessie Oñate.It received P1 million in funding under the Good Governance through Data Science and Decision Support Systems program of the DOST's Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (Pcieerd).The project was intended as a model for other educational institutions to follow in modernizing policy management systems through AI." We are looking forward to many HEIs (higher education institutions) and SUCs (state universities and colleges) in the Philippines to work together and adopt this innovation to improve academic

and administrative efficiency," said DOST-Pcieerd Deputy Executive Director Niñaliza Escorial.

• KOJC leader convicted of resisting authorities (2026-05-02 16:06)

THE Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39 found a leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) guilty of resisting authorities and sentenced him to jail.In a seven-page decision dated April 23, which Metropolitan Manila Development Authority general manager Nicolas Torre III made public on his Facebook page on Friday, the court, through Presiding Judge Juvenal Bella, found Eduardo Sapar Corda guilty of violating Section 13(a) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 880, or the Public Assembly Act of 1985, which bans assemblies or rallies without a permit. Corda was sentenced to four months in prison. "Constitutional liberties do not exist in a vacuum. While the State protects the right to peaceful assembly as a cornerstone of democracy, it simultaneously holds the police power to regulate such activities to safeguard public safety and order," the ruling read. "When the exercise of free expression transcends the bounds of its legal authorization and encroaches upon the fundamental right of the public to safe and unobstructed passage, the law provides for a necessary reckoning. This case stands as a testament to that delicate balance between individual liberty and collective security," it added.The ruling read that Corda unlawfully commanded and held a public assembly and shouted in support of KOJC leader Apollo Quiboloy along the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway in Davao City, which led to a standoff on Aug. 26, 2024.Authorities at the time were trying to arrest Quiboloy. "Eduardo Sapar Corda testified that his presence was strictly ministerial and missionary in nature. He claimed he intended to ensure the safety of their members. He denied organizing the rally or blockade, asserting the megaphone use was limited to advising members to remain calm," the court said.However, Patrolman Joshua Acuña said that 30 people "illegally assembled along the national highway" and identified Corda as the leader of the rally. "They identified the accused as the leader directing the group with a megaphone, commanding the protesters to stay despite dispersal orders. They further noted that the crowd threw waste at the police line," the court said.Some policemen also said that the highway assembly was unauthorized, and members blocked the road, and burned tires.Torre, who served the arrest warrant on Quiboloy while he was Davao Regional Police Office chief, said it is neither a celebration nor revenge, but the implementation of the rule of law. "During the implementation of the warrant of arrest against Quiboloy, some people chose to break the law — setting up barricades, blocking roads and using chaos as a weapon," Torre wrote in Filipino. "Now, the court has decided. Guilty. There is punishment. There is accountability. This is how it should be. Noise cannot be used as a defense. Volume cannot be used as an exemption. And influence certainly cannot be used as a license. If it's illegal, it's illegal," he added. "And this is what everyone should understand: If ordinary citizens are required to follow the law, then those in power must do so even more," Torre said.Quiboloy, an ally of former president Rodrigo Duterte who is wanted by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, was arrested on Sept. 8, 2024, and is currently facing non-bailable charges of qualified human trafficking and sexual abuse.

• MPD condemns May Day protest vandalism (2026-05-02 16:05)

THE Manila Police District (MPD) condemned the acts of vandalism committed by protesters during the May 1 Labor Day protest.In a statement on Saturday, the MPD said in Filipino, “Every trace of vandalism is not only dirt on the wall but also shows a lack of respect for our community.” Several progressive groups led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno staged their annual Labor Day protest, calling on the government to raise the minimum daily wage to P1,200. They marched through several streets in España Boulevard to Mendiola, and to Kalaw Avenue.After the protest, several spray-painted slogans were seen on different walls with calls for a wage increase, accusing the police of terrorism and justice for the victims of the Toboso encounter, among others.Following the incident, the city government immediately began repainting and restoring affected walls and public areas across the city. “Trying to keep our city neat and clean is no joke. Despite the few who want to deface our public facilities through vandalism, our beloved Mayor Francisco ‘Isko’ Domagoso and the staff of the Manila city government continue to clean and restore order,” the MPD added.In previous protests held in the city, Domagoso condemned acts of vandalism. “Those protesters say that they are fighting for you. So while they are fighting for you, it’s OK for them to pollute the environment of Manila as their way of justifying it,” Domagoso said.Domagoso noted in a separate statement that keeping the city clean and orderly is a “shared responsibility.”

- Go pushes expanded fuel subsidy (2026-05-02 16:04)

SEN. Bong Go has reiterated his call for increased government assistance to tricycle drivers, operators, delivery riders and other transport workers amid fuel price hikes because of the ongoing war in the Middle East.Go said transport workers who rely on daily earnings are among the most vulnerable to rising oil prices. He stressed that they play a vital role in providing mobility for workers, students and other everyday commuters.Go recently visited the family of the late Ismael Sevilla, former president of the National Capital Region Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association, to offer condolences and recognize his contributions to advancing the welfare of tricycle drivers.Go recalled meeting Sevilla in 2018 at a roadside eatery in Pasay City — an encounter that eventually led to the holding of the Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association Summit in 2019. The event brought together government agencies and transport groups to tackle key issues such as regulation, livelihood opportunities, skills training, licensing and access to public services.He noted that many challenges faced by tricycle operators and drivers association members extend beyond regulatory concerns, including health care expenses, children’s education and the need for stable income sources.Go has consistently advocated for measures to cushion the effects of fuel price volatility, including relief from fuel excise taxes and targeted fuel subsidies for affected sectors. He noted that rising fuel costs also drive up fares and the prices of basic goods, further affecting ordinary Filipinos.

- SC acquits mom with schizophrenia of parricide (2026-05-02 16:03)

THE Supreme Court has acquitted a mother previously convicted of parricide over the death of her 5-year-old daughter, ruling that her schizophrenia rendered her legally insane at the time of the incident and exempted her from criminal liability.In a decision penned by Associate Justice

Samuel Gaerlan, the Court's Third Division granted the mother's appeal to reverse previous rulings by lower courts, finding that her mental condition deprived her of the capacity to understand the nature and wrongfulness of her actions.The case stemmed from an incident in which the mother jumped off a bridge into a river while holding her child. She was rescued by a passerby on a makeshift banca, but the child went missing and was found dead the following day.The mother testified she had no recollection of the incident, recalling only that she had been walking with her daughter before regaining consciousness in the water. A psychiatrist from the National Center for Mental Health diagnosed her with schizophrenia.A regional trial court had convicted her of parricide and sentenced her to reclusion perpetua, or up to 40 years of imprisonment, concluding she intended to harm the child.The Court of Appeals upheld the conviction.The high court, however, ruled that the requirements for legal insanity were met under Article 12 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines, which exempts persons from criminal liability if they are incapable of appreciating the nature or wrongfulness of their acts at the time of the crime.Citing jurisprudence, the Court reiterated that insanity must be present during the commission of the act, medically established and sufficient to deprive the accused of discernment.The Court found these conditions satisfied, giving weight to psychiatric evaluations and testimony that the mother exhibited paranoia and delusions, including perceived threats and hostility from others, at the time of the incident. "Schizophrenia is a chronic mental disorder marked by an inability to distinguish reality from fantasy," the Court said, noting that such a condition can impair judgment and awareness of one's actions.Despite the acquittal, the Court held the mother civilly liable and ordered her to pay the victim's heirs P75,000 in civil indemnity and P200,000 in combined moral, exemplary and temperate damages.The Court also directed her transfer from the Correctional Institution for Women to the National Center for Mental Health for treatment. Her release will depend on a regional trial court order, based on the recommendation of her attending physician.

- QC taps TikTok Shop to help MSMEs widen market reach (2026-05-02 16:02)

THE Quezon City government tapped TikTok Shop to help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) expand their market reach through digital platforms, as around 300 business owners and staff joined the Unlad Lokal Roadshow Caravan.The city government said on Saturday that the initiative enabled participants to explore platform-driven selling, including using TikTok's "Yellow Basket" feature to promote and sell products to online.The program was led by the Quezon City Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office in partnership with TikTok Shop and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry–Quezon City.Participants underwent hands-on training in e-commerce, digital marketing and live selling, with step-by-step guidance on setting up accounts and maximizing platform tools.Product sellers focused on platform operations and best practices, service providers learned to maximize advertising tools, while affiliates and creators developed skills in content production and live selling.The program allowed real-time onboarding, enabling participants to improve their online presence, expand market reach and strengthen their online selling capabilities.Mayor Joy Belmonte said guiding entrepreneurs in adapting to the changing

business landscape remains a priority amid the growth of e-commerce platforms. “We will work together, so you will have the opportunity to progress,” she said.The city government said it has conducted 130 training sessions under the program, benefiting 6,194 participants, as part of its continued push to accelerate MSME digital transformation.

• Marikina installs individual water meters in Tumana (2026-05-02 16:01)

MARIKINA City has begun installing individual water meters directly connected to Manila Water in Tumana, with more units set to be rolled out in the coming days.Mayor Marjorie Ann “Maan” Teodoro said some households have already been fitted with direct meters as part of the city government’s intervention. “Additional individual meters, directly to Manila Water for Tumana residents,” Teodoro said. “We have already paid for all the fees so that homes can be connected to direct water meters,” she added.The mayor said the city shouldered all installation costs to remove financial barriers for residents.She said the ongoing rollout aims to give households direct billing and service access from Manila Water.Tumana residents previously relied on a shared or bulk water system through village officials instead of individual connections.The arrangement led to disputes and service disruptions after unpaid obligations ballooned to over P37 million, resulting in a water service cutoff that affected around 3,000 residents.The city government stepped in late 2025 by paying an initial P15 million to restore supply and reconnect affected households.

• Enough votes seen to impeach VP Sara (2026-05-02 16:00)

A MEMBER of the House Justice Committee said they have "high confidence" they can reach the required 106 votes in a plenary vote to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte due to the overwhelming evidence presented during the committee hearings.In a press briefing in Quezon City on Saturday, Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said reaching the 106 votes needed to elevate the articles of impeachment to the Plenary is "not difficult to surmount," but added that they will let every House member decide for themselves based on their conscience and the evidence."But I am quite certain, based on the evidence of unexplained wealth, confidential funds, and the threats against the president — they can just choose from those. I think they will be convinced eventually," Ridon added.Ridon noted that the 53 members of the House Justice committee who voted for probable cause put them on track to secure an additional 53 more to reach the needed 106 votes — one-third of all House members — to impeach Duterte and send her case to trial before the Senate.Some House members told The Manila Times that the number remains fluid as some remain undecided or have already signified they will not vote for the articles to be transmitted to the Senate.The National Unity Party, the second-largest party in the House of Representatives with more than 55 members, said they will release their decision on May 5, once the congressional session resumes.One of its key officials. Manila Rep. Rolando Valeriano told The Manila Times that their original stand was a "conscience vote.""You will eventually find out if we will take a party stand or if it will be a conscience vote; however, historically, we in the NUP have never really been dictated to," Valeriano said.He added that no one in their party will be reprimanded if they choose to vote against the party's stand.The

Nationalist People's Coalition, another major party in the House with 34 members, said it will wait for the committee report before making a stand."We will await copy of final committee report and discuss soon," Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, a senior NPC official, told The Manila Times in a text message.Meanwhile, Quezon City Rep. Bong Suntay, a known Duterte ally, said the 106-vote threshold may be "achievable" but not without effort."A lot of factors will come into play: first, the political affiliation and political leanings of the person; [second], the sentiments of their constituency — whether they are for or against impeachment at this time, with only two years remaining and given the many controversies currently unfolding and surrounding our country," Suntay told The Manila Times.He said he believes many lawmakers will also question the articles during the plenary debates scheduled for May 11."As we all know, not all members of Congress were able to participate in the committee hearing where the members of the Committee on Justice presented their opinions. So, if they have questions they would like to ask, those would be addressed during the plenary debates once the Committee on Justice report is moved forward," Suntay said.It is also expected that the four-member Duterte bloc in Congress — led by Davao City Reps. Paolo and Omar Duterte and Isidro Ungab, along with Pwersa ng Pilipinong Pandaragat Rep. Harold Duterte — will vote against impeachment.Another lawmaker who publicly stated he won't vote for the impeachment is Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste, who said the proceedings are just a "waste of time."Meanwhile, Ridon said that the misuse of confidential funds, the P448 million that was being ordered to be returned by the Commission on Audit, and the P6.77 billion inflows, and the threats made by Duterte against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez will be consolidated into at least four articles of impeachment that would be approved by the committee on Monday.Ridon also said the composition of the House Prosecution Team is now being discussed, with several names being floated. Some of them were in the first team of prosecutors in the voided impeachment case of Duterte in the 19th Congress.These include House Justice Panel Chairman and Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, Reps. Joel Chua, Jonathan Keith Flores, Ramon Rodrigo Gutierrez, Ysabel Zamora, Lordan Suan, Jose Manuel Diokno, Leila de Lima, and Ridon himself.Ridon also challenged Davao Rep. Paolo Duterte to prove his claims that several lawmakers are being called to vote for the impeachment or they will be defunded."I don't think there's any reward needed to impeach the vice president (because) the evidence is clear," Ridon said.Impeachment courtAlso over the weekend, Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said the Senate may immediately convene as an impeachment court upon receipt of the articles of impeachment against the vice president, but the trial is unlikely to begin before June due to required pre-trial procedures.Lacson said Senate President Vicente Sotto III favors the immediate convening of the impeachment court once the articles are transmitted.However, he noted that standard procedures — including issuance of summons, submission of replies, and a preliminary conference — could take at least three weeks before the trial proper can begin. “Once the articles of impeachment are transmitted to us, if we follow the processes, we’re talking of at least three weeks before the actual trial starts,” Lacson said in a radio interview, speaking in English and Filipino.He said a preliminary conference, or pre-trial, would allow both prosecution and defense panels to define issues, stipulate facts, and mark possible evidence in

advance.Lacson cited the impeachment trial of the late Chief Justice Renato Corona as an example of why a structured pre-trial phase is necessary.He said the absence of such a process during that trial led to procedural confusion, including the introduction of so-called “surprise witnesses.” “It is better to have a preliminary conference where the prosecution and defense agree on which issues would be tackled and which would not before the trial,” he said.On the possibility of a temporary restraining order (TRO) from the Supreme Court, Lacson said the impeachment court would deliberate and decide collectively if such a situation arises.He maintained that unless a TRO is issued, the trial should proceed. However, he emphasized that any court order would be discussed and subjected to a vote among senator-judges. “The impeachment court is a constitutional body.... Its decision cannot be appealed even before the Supreme Court,” he said, while noting that compliance with legal processes would still be debated internally if needed.Lacson also disclosed that senators met last Thursday to prepare for the possible trial.During the meeting, members were reminded to act as impartial judges and avoid showing bias toward either the prosecution or the defense.Sen. Robinhood Padilla, a member of the minority bloc, attended the meeting and was asked to relay the reminder to his colleagues. “We must listen to the questions during direct and cross-examination, and base our decisions on the evidence,” Lacson said.BudgetLacson added that about P27 million may still be available for the impeachment proceedings under continuing appropriations in the 2025 national budget. Of the P27.544 million allocated for last year’s impeachment-related expenses, only about P512,000 has been spent, primarily for senator-judges’ robes, identification materials, and related items.He said unused funds may still be used this year, but will be returned to the National Treasury if not spent.The Senate, acting as an impeachment court under the Constitution, is tasked with trying impeachment cases once transmitted by the House of Representatives.Senator-judges are required to hear evidence, examine witnesses, and render a final judgment of conviction or acquittal, which is not subject to appeal.

- Lone bettor bags ₱35M Lotto 6/42 jackpot on May 2 (2026-05-02 15:46)

A lone bettor won the ₱35,467,492.71 jackpot in the Lotto 6/42 draw on Saturday, May 2, 2026, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office announced.The winning combination was 22-34-42-19-03-25.Meanwhile, the Grand Lotto 6/55 draw produced the combination 48-33-17-02-37-10, with a jackpot prize of ₱77,324,854.25.

- Quezon City taps TikTok Shop to expand MSME market reach (2026-05-02 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City government tapped TikTok Shop to help micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) expand their market reach through digital platforms, as around 300 business owners and staff joined the Unlad Lokal Roadshow Caravan.The city government said on Saturday, May 2, that the initiative enabled participants to explore platform-driven selling, including the use of TikTok’s “Yellow Basket” feature to directly promote and sell products to online audiences.The program was led by the Quezon City Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office in partnership with TikTok Shop and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry–Quezon City.Participants

underwent hands-on training in e-commerce, digital marketing, and live selling, with step-by-step guidance on setting up accounts and maximizing platform tools.Product sellers focused on platform operations and best practices, service providers learned to maximize advertising tools, while affiliates and creators developed skills in content production and live selling.The program also allowed real-time onboarding, enabling participants to immediately establish or improve their online presence, expand market reach, and strengthen online selling capacity.Mayor Joy Belmonte said guiding entrepreneurs in adapting to the changing business landscape remains a priority amid the growth of e-commerce platforms. “We will work together so you will have the opportunity to progress,” she said.The city government said it has conducted 130 training sessions under the program, benefiting 6,194 participants, as part of its continued push to accelerate MSME digital transformation.

- Court ruling on KOJC blockade affirms rule of law — Torre (2026-05-02 13:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Nicolas Torre III said a court ruling convicting a member of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) over a blockade during the arrest operations against Apollo Quiboloy underscores that the law applies to all.A Quezon City court recently found a KOJC member guilty of violating the Public Assembly Act after obstructing authorities during efforts to serve a warrant of arrest against Quiboloy.Reacting to the decision, Torre said it is not a cause for celebration or revenge, but a reminder that the law must prevail. “The decision is not a celebration or revenge, but a simple reminder that the law is the law,” Torre said in a social media post.Torre stressed that protest actions cannot justify illegal acts. “A protest cry cannot be used as a defense, and noise cannot be turned into an exemption,” he said, adding that influence should not be used as a license to violate the law.He added that while justice may take time, it will ultimately be served, and that both ordinary citizens and those in positions of power are equally bound by the law.Torre previously led police operations in 2024 to serve arrest warrants against Quiboloy at the KOJC compound in Davao City, which resulted in a standoff with followers who attempted to block authorities.The former PNP chief, who now serves as Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) general manager, reiterated that accountability and adherence to the law remain essential to maintaining public order.

- OP approves VP Sara's rescheduled trips, says Palace (2026-05-02 13:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the President (OP) has approved Vice President Sara Duterte’s rescheduled trips to several countries from May 2 to 15, Malacañang confirmed on Saturday.Duterte had earlier requested travel clearance but did not proceed with her initial plans after receiving what she described as a “last-minute” approval from the OP.The earlier approval, signed by Acting Executive Secretary Ralph Recto on April 22, authorized Duterte to visit The Netherlands, South Korea, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom from April 23 to May 15 while on leave of absence and at no cost to the government.

- Korean Air bans roosters on US-Philippine routes amid cockfighting outcry (2026-05-02 12:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Animal rights advocates were crowing on Saturday after Korean Air banned transporting roosters on flights from the United States to the Philippines, which has a huge cockfighting industry.Filipinos wager tens of millions of dollars daily by some industry estimates as they watch two roosters armed with metal spurs fight to the death in clashes that can end in less than a minute.The United States is an important source of roosters for these fights, according to activists as well as local breeder Eduardo Eugenio, who told AFP shutting down US imports would have a "huge impact".The South Korean carrier said in a statement sent to AFP on Saturday that it had "suspended the transportation of roosters of all ages on routes from the United States to the Philippines"."Korean Air is committed to the lawful and safe transport of live animals, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations," it added.US campaigner Animal Wellness Action said Korean Air was "in our estimation, the biggest global air carrier of illegally trafficked fighting birds".The company did not specifically mention cockfighting roosters in its statement, but animal rights groups said the ban was the result of their campaigning against what they describe as a cruel sport.Jana Sevilla, spokeswoman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals in the Philippines, told AFP that Korean Air's decision was "for sure" about cockfighting."We actually hope that other airlines will follow suit... We commend Korean Air for this move."She noted the Philippines was among a number of countries where cockfighting was still allowed, saying it "should be illegal all over the world".Animal Wellness Action took credit for the airline's action "after months of investigations, and more recent inter-corporate engagement" in a statement released this week."Korean Air... has agreed to our demand to halt all shipments of roosters to the Philippines," it said.The group said US suppliers who often pose as farmers or "benign breeders" have been sending fighting birds to the Philippines "by the tens of thousands" every year, on top of US-reared birds shipped by ground and air to Mexico.Eugenio, the Filipino breeder, said the local industry depends on US strains."Americans are second to none when it comes to propagation of breeding materials," said Eugenio, who runs a 300-bird farm in the southern city of Tagum.

- Mayon Volcano's southwestern slopes collapse due to lava flow — Phivolcs (2026-05-02 10:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano's southwestern slopes collapsed on Saturday due to a lava flow-led pyroclastic density current (PDC), according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).On its Facebook page, a 7-second video of the laval flow was captured by the Phivolcs Quick Response Team.Another post by the agency showed the density current on the Mi-isi gully on the volcano’s south-southwestern slopes.“Plume drift is currently going west-southwestward. Estimated PDC run-out is 4 kilometers,” according to Phivolcs.With alert level 3 in effect over Mayon, Phivolcs said entry into its 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone remained prohibited.

- Ashfall blankets Albay as Mayon Volcano spews pyroclastic materials (2026-05-02 10:57)

(UPDATE) LEGAZPI CITY — Mayon Volcano erupted on Saturday, spewing a big volume of pyroclastic materials from its crater that tumbled down the southwestern slopes and spread ash to severl areas in Albay as captured on videos by the Philippine Institute of Volcnology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and netizens.Ashfall was evident in Camalig, Guinobatan and Ligao City.Alert Level 3 remains in effect and entry into the 6-kilometer Permanent Danger Zone is prohibited. Doreen Abelinde, Mayon Volcano Observatory officer-in-charge, said that they were closely monitoring the restive volcano and advised evacuees to remain in their temporary shelters.Albay Gov. Noel Rosal called on residents to stay indoors, specifically in areas with ashfall, as protection against possible health hazards.Rosal said that the provincial government has coordinated with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), which was preparing 250 boxes of facemasks for distribution to the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices (MDRRMs) of Guinobatan, Camalig, Daraga and Ligao City.Based on the OCD's initial report , Mayon's pyroclastic density current (PDC) occurred at Mi-isi Gully where ashfall blanketed 18 villages (barangay) in Guinobatan, namely Minto, Malabnig, Mapaco, Doña Tomasa, Agpay, San Rafael, Maguiron, Calzada, Iraya, Muladbucad Grande, Inamnan Pequeño, Inamnan Grande, Bubulusan, Lomacao, Maninila, Travesia, Lower Binogsacan and Ilawod.In Camalig town, at least 17 villages were affected namely Cabangan, Salugan, Anoling, Sua, Quirangay, Tumpa, Villages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, a portion of Barangay Libod, portion of Barangay Ilawod, portion of Barangay Gapo and portion of Barangay Sumlang.In Ligao City, the OCD Bicol reported that 17 villages were affected namely Busac, Allang, Palapas, Francia, Abella, Malama, Paulba, Maonon, Balanac, Tupas, Tiongson, San Vicente, Tandarura, Pandan, Bacong, Cabarian, Pinamaniquian and Oma-Oma.Mayon Volcano has been in a state of "effusive eruption" since January 2026 but the strongest recorded was this Saturday.

- Court convicts Quiboloy follower for resisting authorities in Davao raid (2026-05-02 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 39 found a leader of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) guilty for resisting authorities and was given four months in jail sentence.In a seven-page decision dated April 23, 2026 but made public by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) General Manager Nicolas Torre III on Friday on his Facebook page, the court, through presiding judge Juvenal Bella, found Eduardo Sapar Corda guilty of violating Section 13(a) of Batas Pambansa Bilang 880 or Public Assembly Act of 1985, which bans assemblies or rallies without a permit.Corda was sentenced to four months in prison. “Constitutional liberties do not exist in a vacuum. While the State protects the right to peaceful assembly as a cornerstone of democracy, it simultaneously holds the police power to regulate such activities to safeguard public safety and order,” the ruling read. “When the exercise of free expression transcends the bounds of its legal authorization and encroaches upon the fundamental right of the public to safe and unobstructed passage, the law provides for a necessary reckoning. This case stands as a testament to that delicate balance between individual liberty and collective security,” it added.The ruling read that Corda unlawfully commanded and held a public assembly and shouted in support of KOJC leader Apollo Quiboloy along the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway in Davao City on Aug. 26, 2024.

• SC voids Duterte order dismissing Ombudsman Deputy Carandang, cites abuse of authority (2026-05-02 08:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has voided the dismissal of former Overall Deputy Ombudsman Arthur Carandang, ruling that then president Rodrigo Duterte exceeded his authority in ordering the penalty.In a 28-page decision penned by Associate Justice Maria Filomena Singh, the Court's Third Division affirmed a ruling by the Court of Appeals declaring Carandang's dismissal void from the outset, describing the move as a breach of the constitutional principle of checks and balances.The tribunal held that the Office of the President has no power to impose administrative sanctions on officials of the Office of the Ombudsman, which the Constitution designates as an independent body.Carandang had been dismissed in 2018 after he was accused of disclosing alleged bank records of the Duterte family purportedly showing billions in wealth.At the time, then Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales inhibited from handling complaints involving Duterte due to her relation by affinity to his daughter, Sara Duterte, leaving Carandang to act on the case.The complaint, filed on May 5, 2016 by then senator Antonio Trillanes IV, accused Duterte of malversation, violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, plunder, and possession of unexplained wealth. "To ensure the enduring existence and effectiveness of the Office of the Ombudsman, the Constitution expressly labeled it as independent," the Court said.The Supreme Court ruled that Carandang was entitled to full retirement benefits upon the expiration of his term, as well as back salaries covering the period of his preventive suspension and dismissal.

• AI-powered university policy hub to simplify student access (2026-05-02 05:51)

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched an artificial intelligence-driven university policy hub, aimed at simplifying access to institutional policies for students.The hub, in partnership with the Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges (CSPC), uses a collection of university policy documents designed to answer questions about university policies without requiring technical or legal knowledge from users.DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said the new hub would help prevent confusion among students and democratize information. "Policies that are hard to access or understand may result in confusion and inefficiency, but with the University Policy Hub, we address this challenge head on. With this new hub, we are taking a step forward in strengthening transparency, accessibility, and good governance in higher education," said Solidum.

• House can muster required 106 votes to impeach Sara, says lawmaker (2026-05-02 05:06)

MANILA, Philippines — A member of the justice committee of the House of Representatives said they have "high confidence" they could reach the required 106 votes to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte following the overwhelming evidence presented during the hearings."That is a number that is not difficult to surmount; in the end, we will let the members decide for themselves based on their conscience and the evidence presented. But I am quite certain, based on the evidence of unexplained wealth, confidential funds, and the threats against the president—they can just choose from those. I think they will be convinced eventually," Bicol

Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said in a mix of Filipino and English during a press briefing on Saturday.Ridon also added that the misuse of confidential funds—the P448 million ordered returned by the Commission on Audit and the P6.77 billion inflows—and the threats Duterte made against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez will be consolidated into at least four articles of impeachment approved by the committee on Monday.Ridon also said the composition of the House Prosecution Team was now being discussed, with several names being floated, some having been included in the first team of prosecutors in the voided impeachment case of Duterte in the 19th Congress.These include Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, justice panel chairman, and Representatives Joel Chua, Jonathan Keith Flores, Ysabel Zamora, Lordan Suan, Jose Manuel Diokno and Leila de Lima.Ridon also challenged Davao Rep. Paolo Duterte to prove his claims that several lawmakers were being called to vote for the impeachment or they will be defunded." I don't think there's any reward needed to impeach the vice president (because) the evidence is clear," Ridon said.

- Expert warns of health risks during menopause (2026-05-02 02:23)

MANILA, Philippines—A health expert warned about the potential health consequences of neglecting proper nutrition and supplements during menopause.In a statement on Friday, Dr. Rowena Auxillos, former president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, highlighted the challenges women face during menopause, noting the importance of maintaining strength at this stage of life. “While these changes are normal, they do not have to limit a woman’s quality of life. Midlife is a critical window for women to prioritize their muscle health,” Auxillos said.Menopause—which often occurs around the average age of 48—is a natural biological process marking the end of menstrual cycles. In this stage, estrogen levels decline, affecting the muscle mass, strength, and tissue repair.Because of this, women may experience slower physical activity recovery, lower energy levels, and increased risks of osteoporosis and cardiovascular conditions. “By intentionally building and maintaining strength, women can protect their independence and mobility, even long after their reproductive years,” she explained, highlighting the importance of better lifestyle choices.

- PH, Olympic Council of Asia to boost sports development cooperation (2026-05-02 01:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) have agreed to advance regional cooperation on sports development, Malacañang said. The commitment was made during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s meeting with Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al-Thani, president of the Olympic Council of Asia and the Qatar Olympic Committee, in Malacañang on Friday. During the meeting, the two officials discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in sports development, including athlete training, institutional collaboration, and opportunities for the Philippines to host future regional and international competitions. Both sides underscored the importance of deepening engagement with the Olympic Council of Asia to expand access to programs and resources that support Filipino athletes."More opportunities for Filipino athletes to train, compete and win on the world stage. I welcomed His Excellency Sheikh Joaan bin

Hamad Al-Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia, as we strengthen cooperation in sports development and future hosting opportunities for the Philippines," Marcos said in a Facebook post. "This shows growing confidence in the Philippines as a regional sports partner. We will keep investing in our athletes so they can carry our flag with pride and inspire the next generation," he added.

- China reaffirms maritime claims after shadowing PH mission in WPS (2026-05-02 01:14)

MANILA, Philippines — China reiterated its commitment to defending its territorial claims following reports that a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel shadowed a Philippine civilian mission in the West Philippine Sea on Friday morning. In a statement, the Chinese Embassy criticized the Philippine civil society coalition Atin Ito, saying it has “repeatedly attempted to carry out provocative activities under the pretext of safeguarding the Philippines’ territorial sovereignty,” adding that such efforts have “ended in failure.” The embassy stressed that China “will continue to resolutely safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.” The statement came after Atin Ito reported that a CCG vessel, bearing bow number 3103, was observed trailing the Philippine-flagged vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca, which was en route to Pag-asa Island.

- PH, Japan intensify energy ties amid crisis (2026-05-01 16:15)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former Japanese prime minister Kishida Fumio reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation on energy security and accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, as global instability continued to disrupt supply chains.Kishida, who is now supreme adviser to the Parliamentary Association of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), paid a courtesy call on the president in Malacañang on Thursday.Marcos said Kishida’s visit underscored the importance of sustained cooperation with Japan in the face of global energy uncertainty driven by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. “I understand that you are here to promote AZEC, a very important initiative, especially at this time. It was already very important before, but it has become especially pressing and critical with all of the events that are transpiring in the Middle East and the effects that it has had on the entire energy system of the world,” he said.The president said energy supply disruptions highlighted the urgency to step up the country’s shift toward cleaner and more resilient energy systems. “We hope that we can continue our work in moving our countries away from fossil fuels and absorb more of the renewables technology that we have been trying to shift to,” he added.The president also expressed gratitude for Japan’s continued support, particularly its commitment to honor and maintain existing supply contracts for various fuels.Marcos expressed hope that tensions in the Middle East would ease soon, citing the Philippines’ vulnerability, given the presence of around 2.5 million overseas Filipino workers in the regionKishida reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to advancing the initiative of AZEC, which he proposed in 2022 to push regional decarbonization and energy cooperation across Southeast Asia and the broader Asian region.He thanked Marcos for participating in the AZEC Plus Online Summit last April 15, and emphasized the importance of strengthening economic

and energy resilience with the Philippines.Kishida also conveyed the intention of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to work closely with President Marcos particularly on the Philippines' hosting of the 4th AZEC Leaders' Meeting in November.He said Takaichi hoped to advance joint leadership with the Philippines in promoting zero-emission initiatives.Kishida, who is in the Philippines from April 30 to May 2 as special envoy of the prime minister, will participate in high-level talks focused on advancing AZEC initiatives.His visit follows the announcement of Japan's $10-billion energy cooperation framework, Partnership on Wide Energy and Resources Resilience (Powerr Asia), during the recent AZEC Plus Online Summit.Present during Kishida's call were Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Finance Secretary Frederick Go, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin, Trade and Industry Secretary Cristina Roque, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Dave Gomez and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Maria Andrelita Austria.Kishida was joined by members of Japan's House of Representatives and House of Councilors, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and key AZEC representatives.Kishida also handed over a letter from Takaichi to Marcos stating Takaichi's "desire" for closer Philippine-Japan cooperation on energy resiliency under the Powerr Asia.He told reporters he also expects that the Philippines will be one of the first countries to receive the assistance or the support from Powerr Asia.The $10-billion Powerr Asia is a procurement and cooperation scheme aimed at supporting states in strengthening their energy supply.Japan envisions AZEC to create a new decarbonization market in Asia to attract capital from around the world.Kishida said AZEC is looking to "actually optimize" the platform to fit each of its 11-member countries' needs against the backdrop of the Middle East crisis that has disrupted the global energy market.He said there are at least 30 initiatives on renewable energy, biotechnology and liquefied natural gas in the Philippines "steadily progressing" through various public and private investments under AZEC.Garin reaffirmed Manila's full support for AZEC and Japan's vision of advancing the platform as a tool to ensure energy resilience in Asia.

- Marcos vows better jobs, worker protection (2026-05-01 16:15)

REFERRING to the country's workforce as the "backbone of our Republic," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed on Labor Day Friday to expand job opportunities and strengthen labor protections.In his message, Marcos said the working class continued to drive the country forward despite economic challenges and changing industries. "Today, we honor every member of our workforce whose hands carry the weight of our shared future-whether at sunrise, beneath the noonday heat, or in the long hours when the nation sleeps," he said. "Through your grit and sacrifice, families find stability, and the country finds strength. You are, and will always be, the backbone of our Republic," he said.Marcos stressed the need to build a system where "hard work is rewarded, and opportunity is real." He said this included protecting livelihoods, respecting honest labor and ensuring that progress reaches ordinary families.Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the president would spend most of Labor Day in General Santos City, where he was to lead government job-generation and aid distribution activities.Marcos was scheduled to return to Malacañang on Friday afternoon.In Manila, human

rights groups joining a Labor Day protest march called on the government to raise the minimum wage to P1,200 and to scrap the value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax on fuel amid the ongoing oil crisis.Thousands of marchers from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), and other human rights groups and student organizations converged on España Boulevard and were to proceed to Mendiola Street.But Mendiola, the entry point to Malacañang, had been heavily barricaded by police, so the protesters ended their march at Morayta Street.Later in the day, they moved to Kalaw Avenue to continue their demonstration near the United States Embassy.The protesters condemned the US and Israel's war on Iran, which led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the spike in global fuel prices.Gabriela Women's Party Rep. Sarah Elago told The Manila Times that mass action — especially the annual staging of the Labor Day demonstrations — is important, noting that many human rights gains were achieved through collective protests.Elago stressed that raising the minimum wage would help workers cope with the oil and energy crisis.Leody De Guzman, chairman of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, echoed Elago's sentiments, saying that many of the demands raised in the protests have remained unchanged since the 1970s. "What I have been shouting in protests since 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 until now is still the same: to increase the wages and keep prices on goods low; to make the water cheap, the electricity cheap. Yet, the government has done nothing to solve this," said De Guzman.The Philippine National Police (PNP) announced it would deploy 14,000 officers to maintain peace throughout the protest.KMU Chairman Jerome Adonis had assured that the demonstration would remain peaceful.Mong Palatino, Bayan secretary-general, accused the president of allowing the expansion of US military bases in the country. "That's why today's protest will end near the US Embassy — to condemn the US' war of aggression, to condemn Marcos Jr.'s war of aggression, and to show that the Filipino people stand against imperialism," Palatino said.The protesters also assured public transport drivers that demonstrations will continue until their demands are met.During a minor altercation, Police Lt. June Abrazado confronted protesters who burned effigies of Marcos, US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu near the embassy.The protesters condemned the members of the Bureau of Fire Protection for putting out the fire.Abrazado explained that they were only trying to prevent ashes from reaching Rizal Park. "I hope you could see how big the fire was. We are concerned for the rallyists because they could get burned. They could have been injured. Their safety was our priority. That's why we prepared for the water," Abrazado said in Filipino.Police also accused a protester of stealing a cell phone from an officer. Abrazado said the individual involved will be charged.Abrazado said that some officers were punched and struck with sticks by protesters, an accusation denied by Nito Luces, a KMU official.The PNP said overall, the celebration of Labor Day nationwide was peaceful and orderly.At least nine rallies were held in different parts of the country, drawing an estimated 3,410 participants.In his Labor Day message, Speaker Faustino Dy III described Filipino workers as the "strength and life" of the country and "the true lifeblood of our nation." "Through your diligence, perseverance and sacrifice, the industries, services and development of the Philippines continue to move forward," Dy said.He also recognized the challenges workers face every day, from wages and benefits, job security and working conditions.Dy said the House of Representatives continues to uphold the welfare of the

workforce by promoting bills and measures that “strengthen the protection, opportunity and dignity of the worker.” To mark Labor Day, the Department of Education, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) opened dedicated green lanes for senior high school (SHS) graduates at job fairs to accelerate their entry in the workforce.Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the partnership fulfills the mandate of the president to improve the lives of the underprivileged.The green lanes are part of the job fairs held by DOLE in 70 sites across the country, offering over 230,000 employment opportunities.The strategy was first showcased at the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair rollout last March, where over 1,400 SHS and Alternative Learning System graduates were hired on the spot. “Through green lanes and removal of fees for documents, we are removing the burden for parents and give graduates the opportunity to help their families,” Angara said.Sen. Bam Aquino on Friday called on the government to expand assistance to the working and middle classes, who continue to bear the brunt of rising fuel and commodity prices while remaining largely excluded from state aid.In his Labor Day statement, Aquino said these sectors comprise about 80 percent of Filipinos and should be prioritized amid the ongoing economic strain.Aquino warned against sidelining the sector and reiterated proposals to suspend excise taxes on fuel and cut the VAT from 12 percent to 10 percent to ease costs.He cited Senate Bill 2047, which seeks to reduce VAT across goods and services, including petroleum products, by amending provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997. Aquino also co-authored Republic Act 12316, granting the president authority to suspend or reduce fuel excise taxes during emergencies.CATHERINE VALENTE, ALLEN LIMOS, IZEL ABANILLA, RED MENDOZA AND JAVIER JOE ISMAEL

- Controlling inflation Filipinos’ most urgent concern – survey (2026-05-01 16:14)

NEARLY half of Filipinos consider controlling inflation or the prices of basic goods and services as the most urgent national concern in the first quarter of 2026, according to a survey by OCTA Research.The survey, conducted from March 19 to 25, found that 45 percent of the respondents pointed to inflation as their biggest concern, an increase of 4 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2025.The second most urgent concern at 33 percent is increasing wages of workers, down 12 percentage points from the previous quarter, when it topped the list.Fighting graft and corruption in government came in third at 26 percent, a 6 percentage points drop, and access to affordable food such as rice, vegetables and meat at 24 percent.Other notable concerns include reducing poverty (20 percent) and providing free quality education (17 percent).OCTA noted that the findings reflect sentiments before the oil price shock due to the war in the Middle East set in. It said the findings should be understood as a pre-shock baseline that captured public sentiment before high costs exerted pressure on household welfare, purchasing power and food security.Inflation is the highest concern among respondents in the Visayas (54 percent) and Mindanao (51 percent), as well as for socioeconomic Class E (56 percent) and ABC (54 percent).Wages are also among the highest concern among respondents in the Visayas, the National Capital Region and Mindanao, with Visayas respondents the highest at 46 percent.NCR respondents are worried most about corruption in government (36 percent), while food affordability is the biggest concern in the Visayas (32 percent).OCTA said the results

suggest that public sentiment in the first quarter of 2026 are being shaped primarily by economic strain and the rising cost of living. “Inflation has once again emerged as the dominant national issue, indicating that day-to-day affordability has become the most immediate pressure facing Filipino households,” it said.It also noted that public concern has shifted away from longer-term structural issues such as education and poverty, and toward more immediate cost-of-living pressures, particularly inflation and purchasing power of income.Meanwhile, 67 percent of respondents said staying healthy is their most urgent personal concern, followed by having enough to eat daily (46 percent), having a secure and well-paying job (42 percent), having able to have savings (41 percent), and finishing schooling or being able to provide schooling for children (39 percent).The survey polled 1,200 respondents and has a nationwide margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

- Diesel, gasoline prices up next weekDiesel, gasoline prices up next week (2026-05-01 16:13)

THE price of fuel will go up yet again next week following a series of rollbacks as uncertainty over when the war between the United States and Iran continues.Local oil industry sources said on Friday they see diesel going up by P1 to P2 per liter, and gasoline by P2 to P3 per liter.The estimates are based on the trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia.The sources said that geopolitical risks are pushing up the price of oil again as the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, and the US and Iran struggling to reach a peace deal.This week, the per-liter price of diesel dropped by P12.94, and gasoline by 53 centavos per liter.

- US issues alert after Negros clashes (2026-05-01 16:12)

THE United States Embassy in Manila has issued a security alert to American citizens in the Philippines following intensified military operations against communist rebels in several parts of the country.In an advisory posted on its website, the embassy said recent offensives by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) against the New People’s Army (NPA) have led to violent encounters, including an April 19 clash that resulted in the deaths of two US citizens. “US citizens have been present during recent military actions against the NPA,” the embassy said.The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by both the US and Philippine governments.The embassy identified rural and mountainous areas in Leyte, Mindoro, Negros and Samar as areas of heightened concern, citing recent fatal clashes between government troops and insurgents.It advised Americans to avoid any association with insurgent or terrorist groups and to immediately leave areas where armed individuals not affiliated with police or military are present.It also cautioned that some nongovernmental organizations may have links to insurgent groups. US citizens planning to do humanitarian or volunteer work were urged to partner only with organizations registered with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency and to coordinate with local government units for security guidance. “Foreign terrorist organizations actively recruit Americans to participate directly in terrorist activities and/or

provide financial support," the embassy said.On Friday, a ranking official of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said the US Embassy security alert warning is a recognition that Americans are drawn into violence by organizations linked to the communist insurgents. "This is perhaps the first direct and explicit recognition by the United States government that its own citizens are being drawn into violence by organizations linked to the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front)," NTF-Elcac Executive Director Undersecretary Ernesto Torres Jr. said in a statement.Torres said the warning highlights a "critical reality" that has long been denied or downplayed, which is "foreign terrorist organizations actively recruit Americans to participate directly in terrorist activities and/or provide financial support." "This acknowledgment affirms what Philippine authorities have consistently exposed — that the insurgency is not merely a domestic security concern but part of a broader transnational network of recruitment, radicalization and terrorism," he said.Torres expressed the NTF-Elcac's appreciation to the National Federation of Filipino American Associations for its statement on the loss of lives, including of US citizens Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. "This development strengthens the shared commitment of the Philippines and the United States to combat terrorism in all its forms. It also sends a powerful signal to those who continue to enable, justify or obscure the activities of the CPP-NPA-NDF: the international community is taking notice, and the truth is becoming undeniable," he added.Former members of the government's exploratory and negotiating teams in past peace talks with communist rebels called for an independent investigation into the intense fighting in Toboso, Negros Occidental, which left 19 people — including the two Americans — dead.In a joint statement on Friday, former Transportation secretary Hernani Braganza, lawyer Efren Moncupa, economist Jaime Aristotle Alip, academic Francisco Lara Jr. and Roberto Ador said the clash highlighted the urgency of resolving the decadeslong communist insurgency.The signatories, who were involved in back channel and formal negotiations from 2014 to 2020 under the administrations of former presidents Benigno Aquino III and Rodrigo Duterte, said a "functioning and serious peace process" had made significant progress.They said negotiations at the time were close to securing a truce and an interim peace agreement, including the possible return from exile of CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, who died in 2022. "The Toboso tragedy compelled us to break our silence," the group said.The military said the encounter dealt a major blow to the Northern Negros Front. However, the former negotiators said the killings could deepen the cycle of violence, particularly as public reaction — especially among younger Filipinos — has been marked by grief and heightened concern.They called for the creation of a fact-finding commission by Congress, with participation from executive agencies and independent civil society groups, to investigate what they described as the deadliest incident involving civilians in recent years.The group said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s statement that he would not obstruct an investigation by the Commission on Human Rights was a positive development. "Accountability and justice... is not optional, it is imperative," they said, stressing that addressing human rights violations must go hand in hand with tackling the root causes of armed conflict, including landlessness, poverty and lack of access to basic rights.The group also urged the administration to resume peace talks with the communists "without precondition," saying a comprehensive and final peace

agreement remains achievable. “We know, from our own experience at the table, that a lasting settlement is possible,” they said.

• Sonza arrest ‘warning’ to fake news peddlers (2026-05-01 16:11)

MALACAÑANG on Friday said the arrest of former broadcaster Jay Sonza should serve as a warning to those spreading fake news.In a statement, Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acted promptly in filing charges and arresting Sonza over posts with alleged false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “It shows the government’s continuing effort to guard the truth, protect the public from deception and preserve a free but responsible democratic space,” Gomez said.He said the case sent a strong signal to those spreading false information online. “Misinformation undermines public trust, endangers lives and will be met with swift, lawful consequences,” he said.Gomez said the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) would continue its crackdown on fake news peddlers to ensure they were held accountable under the law. “We will continue to work with law enforcement, the media and responsible online platforms to identify, investigate and prosecute those who disseminate falsehoods,” Gomez said.The PCO recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Information and Communication Technology to stop the spread of fake news.The PCO has already submitted several cases of fake news to the DOJ for prosecution.According to NBI Director Melvin Matibag, Sonza was arrested Thursday night after being charged with violating Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, in relation to the Cybercrime Prevention Act, for spreading a fake medical bulletin about the president.Sonza, a veteran media figure, had yet to issue a statement.In April, Gomez personally filed complaints against those behind the Facebook page “Malasakit News Pilipinas” for allegedly posting false stories about a supposed energy lockdown while the country was under a state of energy emergency.

• 'No payoff in unanimous votes on probable cause' (2026-05-01 16:10)

DEPUTY Speakers Paolo Ortega V of La Union and Janette Garin of Iloilo on Friday dismissed as baseless and diversionary the claim that the House Committee on Justice’s finding of probable cause in the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte was the result of any “payoff” or political inducement.A report from a news website claimed that members received the funds in two tranches of P650 million each in an office at the basement of the Batasang Pambansa complex.The report's source also claimed that there will be another fund release once the articles of impeachment are voted on at the House plenary once session resumes May 4. “What payoff? The record speaks for itself. The Committee’s unanimous vote was anchored on overwhelming documentary evidence — official records, sworn testimonies, and verifiable financial documents presented in open hearings,” Ortega said in a statement.He said the proceedings of the House Committee on Justice were transparent, with members from political parties independently assessing the evidence laid before them. “No amount of spin can erase the fact that congressmen, regardless of affiliation, were confronted with hard numbers, official audit findings, and financial trails that demand accountability. The vote was

not coerced; it was compelled by evidence,” he added.Ortega said allegations of bribery or coercion are a "disservice to the institution and an affront to the integrity" of House members. “To suggest that lawmakers abandoned their oath for a ‘payoff’ is not only false, it is an insult to the collective judgment of the Committee. These are elected representatives who understand the gravity of impeachment. They voted based on what was proven, not on what was peddled outside the halls of Congress,” he said.Ortega challenged opposition lawmakers and critics repeating the bribery narrative. “If you have evidence of a ‘payoff,’ then name names. Identify the members. Present the proof. Execute sworn statements. File the appropriate charges. Otherwise, stop maligning the entire House with reckless accusations,” Ortega said.The House leader, meanwhile, reminded that a finding of probable cause does not determine guilt, but merely affirms that sufficient basis exists to elevate the matter to the plenary and, ultimately, to the Senate for trial. “This is the constitutional process at work. The House determines probable cause. The Senate tries the case. That is the rule of law. That is accountability,” Ortega said.In a separate statement, Garin categorically declared there were no payoffs and no coercion in the move by the House panel, saying the unanimous vote of its 53 members was driven by evidence against the country’s second-highest official.The Iloilo lawmaker issued the statement in response to a report alleging a supposed 1.3 billion peso “appearance fee” fund for Justice panel members. “There is no truth to the appearance fee, nor any coercion,” Garin said. “The evidence presented against the Vice President was strong and she didn’t answer it because she chose to remain absent in all the hearings, so, it’s not surprising that the vote was unanimous for probable cause,” she added.Garin said the unfounded allegations against committee members were an attempt to discredit the outcome and shift attention away from the evidence on record. “This narrative is meant to distract from the evidence. But the record is clear — the vote was based on facts, documents, and sworn testimony,” Garin said. “There was no pressure, no directive, and no money involved. What we saw was an independent body doing its constitutional duty,” she added.Voting 53-0 with zero abstentions, the Justice panel found probable cause to impeach Duterte after weeks of hearings that built a detailed evidentiary record on alleged fund misuse, unexplained wealth, and threats against top officials.The committee is set to approve its report recommending impeachment, which will be submitted to the plenary before possible transmittal of the articles of impeachment to the Senate for trial.Meanwhile, the vice president's elder brother, Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte, claimed that the Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) is now being used "not for the sake of transparency, but for the sake of timing.""Supposedly, some of my colleagues in Congress only 'remember' these records when someone isn't following the script. Coincidence? Of course, a 'coincidence.' If these stories are true, it seems we have a new system: vote wisely... or we’ll look closely at your SALN," Duterte claimed.He also said that even in the Senate, people are being approached to fix votes to convict his sister."An impeachment vote is not a raffle ticket, it is not a command, and it certainly should not be the product of pressure. It is a mandate from the people," Duterte said.He called on his fellow lawmakers to "stand on principle" rather than to "follow whispers.""Listen to the cries of your constituents... if you were promised any aid, remember the people who contributed to those funds," Duterte said.

• Lacson vows to escalate flood control scam probe (2026-05-01 16:09)

SENATE President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson said Friday he would elevate flood control scam investigation to the plenary.Lacson, who chairs the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, said he plans to deliver a privilege speech outlining the panel's accomplishments after seven to eight hearings. The move comes as the committee's partial report has yet to secure enough signatures for formal filing and sponsorship. "The Filipino people not only deserve to be updated but more so properly and accurately informed amid the false narratives being floated," Lacson said, adding that presenting the findings in plenary would allow debate, amendments, and eventual adoption.He emphasized that signing a committee report does not necessarily mean full agreement, and acknowledged differing views among senators. "While I disagree with those who do not want to sign, I respect and understand their individual decisions," he said.Lacson credited the hearings with surfacing evidence that contributed to case buildups and ongoing investigations by agencies such as the Ombudsman, Department of Justice, Sandiganbayan, and Anti-Money Laundering Council. He said the probe was partly driven by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s call in his previous State of the Nation Address to hold erring officials accountable.Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano called for a more comprehensive approach to the investigation.He warned that focusing too heavily on the draft risks narrowing the scope of the inquiry, which he emphasized is still in progress. Cayetano noted that several senators have already reviewed the document but expressed disagreements over certain portions. "In fact, many of us have read it, and we don't agree with the report. It's not that we don't want to sign it, we just have a lot of disagreements there," he said, adding that differing views among lawmakers are part of the legislative process.Cayetano stressed that the investigation is ongoing, with more testimonies, evidence, and potential cases expected in the coming hearings. He raised concerns about early narratives surrounding the probe, saying initial claims that all questioned projects were "ghost projects" have since been qualified. "Not all of them were ghost [projects]," he said, warning that premature conclusions based on partial findings could distort the broader picture.Cayetano emphasized that the Senate inquiry should ultimately expose systemic issues. "Corruption is systemic. It is not isolated," he said.

• 4 Filipino crew members of MT Aqua 1 repatriated (2026-05-01 16:08)

FOUR Filipino crew members of MT Aqua 1 returned to the country Wednesday, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) said.On April 1, 2026, the Panama-flagged oil tanker MT Aqua 1 was struck by an Iranian cruise missile approximately 17 nautical miles north of Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial Hub, resulting in damage above the waterline but no environmental leaks or oil spills. Despite the strike and a subsequent onboard fire, all 21 Filipino crew members remained uninjured and successfully extinguished the flames.The DMW said in a statement Friday that the four seamen arrived via an unspecified commercial flight at Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 1 in Pasay City.They were the final batch of Filipino crew members to be repatriated. The four were greeted by staff of the DMW and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.The first batch of repatriated crew members arrived April 15, followed by

another batch a week later. “A total of 21 Filipino crew members were aboard a Panama-flagged oil/product tanker that was hit by a missile near the Ras Laffan Industrial Hub in Qatar on April 1, 2026. Despite the incident, none of the crew members were injured,” the DMW said. “The government, led by the DMW, assured that the crew members will continue to receive the necessary support to help them restart their lives,” it added.The DMW said around 1,200 seamen aboard various ships have already crossed out of the Strait of Hormuz. “The DMW also continues to ensure the safety and welfare of Filipino crew members on vessels that remain in the Persian Gulf due to the closure of the said passage,” it added. ARIC JOHN SY CUA

- Go honors Filipino workers on Labor Day (2026-05-01 16:07)

SEN. Bong Go paid tribute Friday to Filipino workers as the country commemorates Labor Day.In a statement, Go recognized the vital role of workers in sustaining families, communities, and the country’s ongoing development. He highlighted the contributions of employees across various sectors, including laborers, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), transport workers, farmers, fisherfolk, informal workers, and small entrepreneurs. “This Labor Day, I salute every Filipino worker. You are the strength of our families, our communities, and our country,” Go said in Filipino.The senator emphasized that beyond symbolic recognition, workers need concrete support, particularly amid rising living costs and economic uncertainty. He underscored the importance of accessible government programs that address basic needs, healthcare, and stable livelihood opportunities — especially for vulnerable sectors that often struggle to access aid during emergencies.Go is currently advocating measures aimed at improving workers’ welfare in the 20th Congress of the Philippines. Among these is Senate Bill (SB) 175, which proposes a nationwide daily minimum wage increase of 100 pesos. The measure seeks to cushion Filipino families from the effects of inflation and the increasing cost of essential goods.Labor groups have long pushed for wage adjustments, citing that current minimum wages in several regions fall short of the estimated family living wage. Economic analysts note that while wage hikes may provide immediate relief to workers, they must be balanced with support for small businesses to mitigate potential impacts on employment. “Work is not just a job. For many Filipinos, it is a way to support their families every day. That is why we must continue to ensure that public service cares for our workers,” Go added.Labor Day in the Philippines is traditionally marked by rallies and calls from labor organizations for higher wages, job security, and stronger protections for workers’ rights.

- NLEX moves May 4 reopening of QC road project (2026-05-01 16:05)

NORTH Luzon Expressway Corp. pushed back the May 4, 2026 reopening of a road in Quezon City that would have eased traffic in the area where construction works on the NLEX-C5 project were ongoing.The Quezon City government announced that the Katipunan Kaliwa Street/Lokaria Street from Mindanao Avenue to King Alexander Street would not reopen as scheduled to allow for the four-day curing process to ensure road integrity.Under the traffic scheme, Class 1 vehicles will be allowed to pass through the affected stretch only under a stop-and-go setup.Class 1 vehicles usually include cars, vans, motorcycles, and sport utility

vehicles.Motorists passing through the area near Mindanao Avenue and King Alexander Street were advised to take alternate routes and plan their trips.Traffic enforcers will be deployed to help manage vehicular traffic, while directional signs will be placed to guide motorists.The Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A is the first 2-kilometer section of the China-funded NLEX-C5 project serving as an east-west 24/7 truck route to decongest Mindanao Avenue and Quirino Highway. It will add entries and exits in the Quirino Avenue area.Its construction started on Feb. 15, 2025, and was targeted for completion on Feb. 14, 2026.The NLEX-C5 North Link Project is part of the Strategic Projects under the 10-point Agenda of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) Road to 100B Revenue by 2030.

• 11 NCR policemen sacked over ‘kidnappings’ (2026-05-01 16:05)

THE National Police Commission (Napolcom) has dismissed 11 police officers from the National Capital Region Police Office’s Regional Drug Enforcement Unit (RDEU-NCRPO) over alleged kidnapping cases.In a news release Friday, Napolcom said the officers were found administratively liable for two counts of grave misconduct and two counts of conduct unbecoming of a police officer.The commission identified the 11 as LtCol. Ryan Jay Orapa, Maj. Mark Phillip Almedilla, SMS Mark Anthony Manrique, SSg. Edmon Muñoz, SSgt. Robert Allan Raz Jr., SSgt. Denar Roda, Cpl. Alric Natividad, Cpl. Reynaldo Seno Jr., Cpl. Ronald John Lanaria, Pat. Rufino Miguel Panghulan, and Pat. Develyn Tapalla.Orapa, Almedilla, Manrique, and Muñoz have been linked to the missing “sabungeros” (cockfight enthusiasts) case and were charged and dismissed from service in January.The 11 officers were accused of involvement in two abduction incidents on Feb. 17 and March 24, 2021, allegedly under the guise of anti-drug operations.The case stemmed from complaints filed on Sept. 3, 2025. “The respondents’ actions, carried out while they were in active service and acting under the color of authority, seriously dishonored the Philippine National Police (PNP) and demonstrated a corrupt and unworthy moral character incompatible with public service,” Napolcom said.Given the gravity of the violations, Napolcom imposed the maximum penalty of dismissal, with accessory penalties.Napolcom Commissioner Rafael Vicente Calinisan stressed that due process was observed in handling the cases. “May due process tayo dito sa Napolcom. Hindi natin puwedeng paghaluin ang mga kaso. Kailangan nating tingnan nang hiwa-hiwalay, base sa ebidensya (We have due process here in Napolcom. We can’t combine the cases. We have to look at them separately based on evidence),” he said.

• SHS grads hired at Marikina job fair on Labor Day (2026-05-01 16:03)

SENIOR high school graduates were among those hired on the spot during the Marikina City Labor Day job fair, with officials urging them to continue their education even after entering the workforce, on Friday, May 1.Marikina City Mayor Marjorie Ann “Maan” Teodoro said the first applicant hired during the fair was a senior high school graduate from Jesus Dela Peña National High School.She said she talked with several newly hired applicants and observed that many had not yet pursued a college education.Teodoro urged them to continue studying while working to improve their long-term career prospects. “To those hired on the spot,

congratulations. I was able to talk to many of you. Many of them are senior high school graduates. And what I always say is, go to college. Your learning should not end once you already have work," she said.Teodoro, a former educator, said continued education helps workers expand their knowledge and enhance their skills, which can lead to better employment opportunities.She said the city established the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to provide residents with access to free college education. "That is why we established the Pamantasan to allow you to receive free college education," she said.The Marikina City government organized the job fair, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment and SM Supermalls, as part of 2026 Labor Day 2026 activities.A total of 45 public and private-sector partners joined the event, which also featured a one-stop shop for government services.

- DOTr halts onboarding of new TNVS, riders (2026-05-01 16:02)

THE Department of Transportation (DOTr) has ordered an immediate suspension of onboarding for new Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) and motorcycle taxi drivers after regulators uncovered widespread violations of fleet caps, prompting a broader probe into ride-hailing firms.Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez issued the directive following findings that several Transport Network Companies (TNCs) and Motorcycle Taxi Platform Providers (MTPPs) had exceeded the number of drivers allowed under government regulations.In a memorandum, Lopez instructed the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to stop all onboarding activities for new drivers and riders, except those already holding valid franchises or provisional authority.The move came after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered an investigation into alleged abuses by ride-hailing firms, including their failure to comply with limits set on accredited drivers.Authorities said discrepancies surfaced during the distribution of government cash aid to transport workers, when the number of individuals claiming benefits exceeded the official lists submitted by companies.Subsequent checks revealed deeper irregularities, including the presence of so-called "ghost riders" — unregistered drivers included in subsidy records. The DOTr estimated about 30,000 questionable entries in four-wheel services and more than 200,000 in motorcycle taxi operations.Lopez said some firms continued onboarding drivers despite already reaching their authorized caps, effectively bypassing LTFRB rules. He also flagged reports that applicants were being charged onboarding fees ranging from P25,000 to P90,000 even without proper permits.The DOTr has likewise banned on-the-spot or same-day onboarding conducted without prior LTFRB approval, citing weak screening processes and compliance lapses.Officials said the agency is evaluating possible sanctions, including fines and other penalties, against companies found to have violated regulations. The review also covers potential accountability among regulators who may have allowed the practices to continue.Meanwhile, the DOTr and LTFRB are studying a possible amnesty program for so-called "tempo drivers" — those operating without full authorization — to help them regularize their status and continue earning a livelihood.Lopez said the suspension forms part of efforts to restore order in the ride-hailing sector, enforce franchise limits, and safeguard both drivers and commuters from risks associated with an unregulated system.

• MOA roads to close for ‘Star Wars’ run (2026-05-01 16:01)

MAJOR roads around the SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City will be closed overnight on Saturday, May 2, for the “Star Wars Night Run 2026,” affecting traffic flow in the area.The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said the road closures would run from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. the following day to ensure the safety of participants.Affected roads are SM MOA Blocks 16/20, Seaside Avenue, Diokno Avenue, Buendia Extension, Jalandoni Street, and Sotto Street with a zipper lane on the Philippine International Convention Center and Star City side.Portions of Roxas Boulevard heading toward Manila, as well as Atang Dela Rama Street with a zipper lane near the PICC area, will also be closed.Motorists were advised to expect congestion and take alternative routes during the six-hour closure window.Event organizers said participants claimed their race kits at the SM Mall of Asia Main Atrium ahead of the run, with no distribution allowed on race day.The themed night run, organized by Runrio, is known for drawing runners in costume and staging activities around the MOA bay area.

• Sonza arrest ‘warning’ to fake news peddlers (2026-05-01 16:00)

MALACAÑANG on Friday said the arrest of former broadcaster Jay Sonza should serve as a warning to those spreading fake news.In a statement, Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acted promptly in filing charges and arresting Sonza over posts with alleged false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. “It shows the government’s continuing effort to guard the truth, protect the public from deception and preserve a free but responsible democratic space,” Gomez said.He said the case sent a strong signal to those spreading false information online. “Misinformation undermines public trust, endangers lives and will be met with swift, lawful consequences,” he said.Gomez said the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) would continue its crackdown on fake news peddlers to ensure they were held accountable under the law. “We will continue to work with law enforcement, the media and responsible online platforms to identify, investigate and prosecute those who disseminate falsehoods,” Gomez said.The PCO recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Information and Communication Technology to stop the spread of fake news.The PCO has already submitted several cases of fake news to the DOJ for prosecution.According to NBI Director Melvin Matibag, Sonza was arrested Thursday night after being charged with violating Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code, in relation to the Cybercrime Prevention Act, for spreading a fake medical bulletin about the president.Sonza, a veteran media figure, had yet to issue a statement.In April, Gomez personally filed complaints against those behind the Facebook page “Malasakit News Pilipinas” for allegedly posting false stories about a supposed energy lockdown while the country was under a state of energy emergency.

• Expanded private education subsidy eyes 2.4M beneficiaries (2026-05-01 16:00)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) will continue providing subsidies for underprivileged learners in private schools for the upcoming school year, with more than 2.4 million beneficiaries targeted under the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in

Private Education (E-Gastpe).Nearly 990,000 junior high school students will be covered by the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) program, while around 1.47 million senior high school learners will benefit from the Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS-VP) for school year (SY) 2026-2027.Education Secretary Sonny Angara said the program will allow families to enroll their children in private schools, easing financial pressure while helping to decongest public classrooms. “President Bongbong Marcos' priority is to ease the burden of Filipino families when it comes to tuition and other school fees,” Angara said, as quoted in a news release Friday. “A child's education should not stop just because of lack of money. Government assistance should reach the families who need it most. These subsidies are meant to keep children in school,” he added.DepEd has also rolled out revised guidelines for the E-Gastpe, which now unifies the implementation of ESC, SHS-VP, and the Teachers’ Salary Subsidy under a single framework.The new rules place stronger emphasis on prioritizing learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, including those in low-income households, Indigenous peoples communities, and geographically isolated areas — groups that are often most vulnerable to dropping out due to financial constraints.While the bulk of beneficiaries are learners, DepEd said support for private school teachers through the TSS, which has increased from P18,000 to P24,000, remains part of the overall system to sustain education delivery, particularly in schools serving subsidized students.Angara said the changes respond to a persistent problem: The cost of staying in school — including transport, uniforms, and private school fees — continues to strain household budgets, particularly among families just above the poverty line.The department also linked the subsidy program to broader system pressures, noting that congestion in public schools often forces students into overcrowded classrooms, affecting learning outcomes.By supporting enrollment in private schools, the government not only redistributes students but also preserves education quality across both sectors.The revised policy introduces a more systematic targeting approach, including stricter screening and monitoring systems to ensure subsidies are directed to learners who need them most, particularly those from low-income and vulnerable sectors.DepEd maintained that the role of private schools remains critical in this effort, describing the partnership as a practical way to expand access without overextending public infrastructure.The updated guidelines under DepEd Order 11, s. 2026, will take effect in SY 2026–2027.

- NTF-ELCAC backs US warning on alleged NPA recruitment of Americans (2026-05-01 15:27)

The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) on Friday welcomed a security alert issued by the United States Embassy in Manila warning American citizens about alleged recruitment efforts by the New People’s Army (NPA).In a statement, the task force described the advisory as a “timely and significant” development, saying it marked one of the first explicit acknowledgments by US authorities that American nationals may be drawn into activities linked to the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People’s Army–National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF).The US Embassy advisory reiterated that the NPA is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by both the United States and the Philippine governments. It also warned that such groups “actively recruit Americans to

participate directly in terrorist activities and/or provide financial support.” NTF-ELCAC said the alert reinforced long-standing concerns about recruitment and alleged links between insurgent groups and some civil society organizations. The Embassy, in its notice, cautioned that certain non-governmental organizations may have affiliations with armed groups, though it did not name specific entities.The advisory urged Americans in the Philippines and elsewhere to comply with local laws and avoid high-risk areas, particularly rural and mountainous locations in Leyte, Mindoro, Negros, and Samar. These areas, it noted, have seen recent clashes between government forces and suspected NPA fighters.It also cited a reported April 19 incident in which two Americans were killed during an armed encounter, warning that individuals in proximity to NPA elements face risks of arrest, injury, or death.The task force expressed condolences over the deaths, including those of US nationals identified as Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. It also acknowledged the statement of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), which called for clarity, justice, and respect for the dignity of all lives affected.NTF-ELCAC said the incident highlights the risks posed by what it described as “deceptive recruitment and ideological manipulation,” adding that foreign nationals are not immune to being drawn into violent extremism.The group backed the Embassy’s directive for individuals to avoid affiliating with insurgent or terrorist organizations, stressing that the warning applies to both foreign nationals and Filipinos.It added that the advisory highlights what it described as the transnational dimension of the insurgency, involving recruitment and support networks beyond Philippine borders.The NTF-ELCAC called for continued vigilance and cooperation, saying recruitment into armed groups leads to violence and exploitation.

- No winners in Ultra Lotto 6/58, Mega Lotto 6/45 draws for May 1 (2026-05-01 15:13)

There were no winners in the Ultra Lotto 6/58 and Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Friday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.The winning combination for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 53-37-16-45-05-29, with a jackpot prize of P75,000,000.00.There were also no winners in the Mega Lotto 6/45, which had the winning combination 19-08-23-41-04-11 and a jackpot prize of P15,000,000.00.

- PH to donate 40 generator sets to Ukraine as humanitarian aid (2026-05-01 13:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is donating 40 generator sets to Ukraine as humanitarian aid as some of the country's infrastructure were damaged in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Visiting Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko on Friday expressed gratitude to Sen. Erwin Tulfo for his assistance to supply Ukraine with 40 generator units.In an interview with select group of reporters, Mischenko said the generator units would be used "for heating in time when Russia shell our critical infrastructure."Ukrainian Ambassador to Manila Yuliia Fediv said the embassy and Tulfo's office are "finalizing the process of shipment.""So, hopefully within the second half of May they will be leaving Manila for Ukraine. So, we are really thankful as a country for this generous support," Fediv said."And it's a good timing because it will arrive end of summer. So, it's beginning of autumn when the cold season will start," she added.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro met with Mischenko wherein

they held the second political consultations between the two countries."We hope to continue the positive trajectory of our bilateral relations and move forward concrete initiatives in sectors of mutual interest," Lazaro wrote on X.

• SHS graduates to benefit from job fair "green lanes" (2026-05-01 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) have opened dedicated green lanes for Senior High School graduates at the government's Labor Day job fairs to accelerate their entry in the workforce.The collaboration of the two agencies, according to DepEd, aims to provide SHS graduates with immediate employment pathways to help more Filipino families rise out of poverty.Education Secretary Sonny Angara said that the initiative fulfills the mandate of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to uplift the lives of the underprivileged. “It is our duty to bring government services and genuine opportunities closer to our students, in line with President Bongbong Marcos's dream of lifting every Filipino family out of poverty.” Angara said.The green lanes are part of the ongoing job fairs held by DOLE in 70 sites across the country with over 230,000 employment opportunities.The strategy was first showcase at the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) rollout last March, where over 1,400 SHS and Alternative Learning System (ALS) graduates were hired on the spot.

• Labor day rallies proceed peacefully - PNP (2026-05-01 13:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday provided an initial assessment of the nationwide observance of Labor Day that as of 9 AM, activities remain generally peaceful and orderly, with no major untoward incidents recorded across monitored areas.Initial reports show that at least nine rallies were held in different parts of the country, drawing an estimated 3,410 participants. Of these, eight are ongoing while one has already concluded. Activities largely centered on labor-related concerns, including wage adjustments, fuel prices, and worker protection, reflecting the continuing dialogue between sectors on socio-economic issues.More than 106,000 police personnel were deployed nationwide supported by force multipliers and partner agencies. Police presence has been focused on maintaining visibility, managing traffic, securing key entry points, and ensuring orderly conduct of public assemblies. Coordination with rally organizers remains active to uphold the right to peaceful assembly while keeping communities safe.PNP Chief, Police General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., commended the public and participating groups for their cooperation. “As of now, our Labor Day activities nationwide are peaceful and orderly. We are thankful to our countrymen for being ,” he said.He added, “The PNP will remain on full alert throughout the day. We will continue to watch—not just to ensure security, but to support the safe and peaceful expression of our people’s concerns.”

• SHS grads hired on Labor Day at Marikina job fair, urged to pursue studies (2026-05-01 13:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Senior high school graduates were among those hired on the spot during the Marikina City Labor Day job fair, with officials urging them to continue their education even after entering the workforce, on Friday, May 1.Marikina City Mayor Marjorie Ann “Maan” Teodoro said the first applicant hired during the fair was a senior high school graduate from Jesus Dela Peña National High School.She said she was able to speak with several newly hired applicants and observed that many had not yet pursued college education.Teodoro urged them to continue studying while working to improve their long-term career prospects. “To those hired on the spot, congratulations. I was able to talk to many of you. Many of them are senior high school graduates. And what I always say is, go to college. Your learning should not end once you already have work,” she said.Teodoro, a former educator, said continued education helps workers expand their knowledge and enhance their skills, which can lead to better employment opportunities.She said the city established the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to provide residents with access to free college education. “That is why we established the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Marikina to give you the opportunity to receive free college education,” she said.The job fair was organized by the Marikina City government in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment and SM Supermalls as part of Labor Day activities.A total of 45 public and private sector partners joined the event, which also featured a one-stop shop for government services.The Marikina job fair is one of 18 sites across the National Capital Region for the Labor Day celebration led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

- Ukraine 'unhappy' with crude importation from Russia, but understands Philippines' situation (2026-05-01 13:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Olexandr Mischenko said Ukraine is " not happy" with some countries' move to import crude oil from Russia amid the oil crisis but the Philippines managed to explain its situation.The Philippines has asked the United States for an extension of a sanctions waiver to allow it to buy more Russian oil and petroleum products, Energy Secretary Sharon Garin recently said."Of course, we are not happy that some country uses Russian crude oil. We understand specific situation," Mischenko said in an interview with a select group of reporters."We reiterate that any cooperationwith aggressor, it brings the possibility to prolong the existence of this aggressor, because Russian gain money through this oil only for war, that means that you supplyaggressor," he added.Mischenko said Ukraine asked their partners, or the countries which support Ukraine "to look for diversity and to escape from dependence with Russia because if you have deal with aggressor, you became theoretically part of this situation, supporting.""But fortunately, the leadership of Philippines fully understand the situation and they're looking for other possibilities," Mischenko said."We understand that it is a smallquantity. But nevertheless, as I mentioned, Russia tried to use conflict in Gulf to increase benefit and use it only for war with Ukraine," he added. Garin said the Department of Energy has coordinated with the Department of Foreign Affairs for the request of an extension or another window for the Philippines to import oil from Russia."They have communicated this with our ambassador in the US. We are awaiting their response, but we are very positive on

getting this other window," she said.The Philippines' sole oil refinery, Petron, secured nearly 2.5 million barrels last month after seeing at least four million barrels in shipments canceled since the start of the US-Israeli war on Iran.Washington in March eased some sanctions tied to Russia's war on Ukraine to allow countries to purchase Russian oil that was already at sea until April 11 to stabilize energy markets, following the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for the world's crude trade.

• Chinese forces jam media drone ops in Pagasa Island - report (2026-05-01 13:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Drone operations by members of the media as well as volunteers were reportedly jammed by Chinese forces as Atin Ito Coalition makes its fourth voyage to Pagasa Island across the West Philippine Sea (WPS) from April 30 to May 5. Atin Ito, a civilian-led coalition asserting Philippine sovereignty and conducting supply missions to the WPS, made a series of Facebook posts detailing how they were shadowed by Chinese maritime forces all throughout their trip. "Pati ba naman ang airspace natin, inaagaw ng Tsina?" (Is our airspace being invaded by China as well?), Atin Ito said. "Chinese presence is reportedly jamming drone operations used by media and volunteers of the Atin Ito during their 4th civilian mission to the West Philippine Sea. Currently, the civilian mission is 310 nautical miles away from Pag-asa Island. "We are still well within our EEZ (exclusive economic zone), yet China's illegal presence is now felt not only in our seas but also in our airspace," they said. In an earlier post, the Atin Ito coalition said that at 7:20 am, they were being shadowed by a Chinese Coast Guard vessel (3103) about 3.2 nautical miles away from their vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca. "This mission sends a clear message to Asean leaders: the West Philippine Sea is an integral part of our nation and a zone of peace and solidarity, not one of military aggression," David said aboard the vessel MV Kapitan Felix Oca. "It is also an act of bayanihan, as we extend much-needed support to the residents of Pag-asa Island and its fishers, who are reeling from the effects of the global oil crisis," David said.The advanced party, led by ML Chowee, has already arrived at the island and reported encountering a Chinese vessel bearing bow number 525, believed by the crew to be a Chinese navy ship estimated to be about an hour away from Pag-asa Island. The mission also coincided with the Multinational Maritime Events happening in the WPS as part of the ongoing Exercise Baliaktan 41-2026 which heavily focuses on defending the Philippine territory from external threats. Present during the send-off were Akbayan Reps. Perci Cendaña and Dadah Kiram Ismula, as well as former Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Erin Tañada.Atin Ito will also hold a symbolic jet ski flag ride - a famous promise of former President Rodrigo Duterte to assert Philippine sovereignty amid continuing tensions in the disputed waters. "The promised jet ski ride that never happened—we will be the ones to fulfill it. Where one Mindanaoan failed and betrayed the West Philippine Sea, I, another Mindanaoan and a woman, will step forward to deliver," Ismula said. .

• Pasay to close MOA roads for 'Star Wars' night run (2026-05-01 07:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Major roads around the SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City will be closed overnight on Saturday, May 2, for the "Star Wars Night Run 2026," affecting traffic flow

in the area.The Pasay Traffic and Parking Management Office said the road closures would run from 10 p.m. until 4 a.m. the following day to ensure the safety of participants.Affected roads are SM MOA Blocks 16/20, Seaside Avenue, Diokno Avenue, Buendia Extension, Jalandoni Street, and Sotto Street with a zipper lane on the Philippine International Convention Center and Star City side.Portions of Roxas Boulevard heading toward Manila, as well as Atang Dela Rama Street with a zipper lane near the PICC area, will also be closed.Motorists were advised to expect congestion and take alternative routes during the six-hour closure window.Event organizers said participants claimed their race kits at the SM Mall of Asia Main Atrium ahead of the run, with no distribution allowed on race day.The themed night run, organized by Runrio, is known for drawing runners in costume and staging activities around the MOA bay area.

• Arrest of ex-broadcast journalist Jay Sonza should serve as warning to fake news peddlers (2026-05-01 07:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday welcomed the arrest of former broadcaster Jay Sonza, saying it should serve as a warning to those spreading fake news.In a statement, Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez said the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) acted promptly in filing charges and effecting Sonza’s arrest over posts alleging false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Gomez said the NBI’s actions showed the administration’s firm and lawful response to alleged online abuse, especially where false information was published and circulated as legitimate news."It shows the government’s continuing effort to guard the truth, protect the public from deception, and preserve a free but responsible democratic space," Gomez said.Gomez said the case sent a strong signal to those spreading false information online. “Misinformation undermines public trust, endangers lives, and will be met with swift, lawful consequences,” the Palace official said. “Public discourse must remain free, but it must also be truthful, fair, and orderly. Speak freely, but not falsely,” he added.

• Govt stops onboarding of new TNVS, motorcycle taxi drivers over cap violations (2026-05-01 06:15)

MANILA, Philippines — Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez has ordered an immediate halt to the onboarding of new drivers and riders by Transport Network Companies (TNCs) and Motorcycle Taxi Platform Providers (MTPPs) after several firms were found to have exceeded government-imposed limits.The directive came following reports that some companies had gone beyond the maximum number of accredited drivers, leading to the emergence of so-called “tempo drivers” — individuals operating without proper authorization under the system.In a memorandum, Lopez directed the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to enforce the suspension of onboarding activities for Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) and motorcycle taxi drivers, except for those with valid franchises.The order also prohibits on-the-spot and same-day onboarding activities conducted without prior approval from the LTFRB.Lopez said the Department of Transportation (DOTr) is studying possible penalties and fines against TNCs and MTPPs that will be proven to have violated onboarding

limits.The DOTr has yet to release details on the number of companies involved and the extent of the alleged violations.

• Controlling inflation most urgent concern of Filipinos in 1st Quarter — survey (2026-05-01 05:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly half of Filipinos say that controlling inflation is the most urgent national concern in the first quarter of 2026, according to a survey by OCTA Research,In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from March 19-25, 45 percent cited inflation, followed by increasing wages of workers at 33 percent, fighting graft and corruption in government at 26 percent, and access to affordable food such as rice, vegetables, and meat at 24 percent.Other concerns include reducing poverty at 20 percent and providing free quality education at 17 percent.However, OCTA noted that the findings reflected household conditions prior to the inflationary effects of the oil price shock due to the war in the Middle East and stated that these findings should be understood as a pre-shock baseline before high costs exerted pressure on household welfare, purchasing power, and food security.Inflation is the highest concern among respondents in the Visayas at 54 percent and Mindanao at 51 percent, as well as socioeconomic class E at 56 percent and ABC at 54 percent.Meanwhile, wages are also among the highest concerns among respondents in the Visayas, National Capital Region and Mindanao, with Visayas respondents the highest at 46 percent.NCR respondents had the highest concern about corruption in government at 36 percent, while Visayas led in food affordability at 32 percent.OCTA said that these results suggested that public sentiment in the first quarter of 2026 were shaped primarily by economic strain and the rising cost of living."Inflation has once again emerged as the dominant national issue, indicating that day-to-day affordability has become the most immediate pressure facing Filipino households," it said.Meanwhile, 67 percent of respondents said that staying healthy was their most urgent personal concern, followed by having enough to eat daily at 46 percent, having a secure and well-paying job at 42 percent, having savings at 41 pecent, and finishing schooling or being able to provide schooling for children at 39 percent.The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a nationwide margin of error of plus or minus three percent.

• Workers demand P1,200 wage hike, tax relief in Labor Day protests (2026-05-01 02:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Labor groups and human rights organizations staged their annual Labor Day protest in Manila on Friday, calling on the government to raise the minimum wage to P1,200 and to scrap the value-added tax (VAT) and excise tax on fuel amid the ongoing oil crisis.The groups, led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Kilusang Mayo Uno, converged along España boulevard to unite for the mass action.During the protest, Gabriela Women’s Party Representative Sarah Elago told The Manila Times that sustaining mass action was important, noting that many human rights gains were achieved through collective protests.

• Diesel, gasoline prices up next week over supply worries (2026-05-01 02:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Diesel and gasoline prices are expected to increase again next week due to supply worries as a result of the war between US and Iran, local oil industry sources said on Friday.They said that diesel prices would go up by around P1 to P2 per liter, while gasoline will increase by around P2 to P3 per liter.These estimates are based on the 3-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia.Sources had said that geopolitical risks were being cited as a reason behind the rise in oil prices as the Strait of Hormuz remained closed and that both US and Iran have yet to reach an agreement.Diesel prices dropped this week by P12.94 per liter, while gasoline prices slightly went up by P0.53 per liter.

- Philippines, Japan forge energy cooperation amid global crisis (2026-05-01 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation on energy security and accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, as global instability continued to disrupt supply systems.Kishida, now serving as Supreme Adviser to the Parliamentary Association of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), paid a courtesy call on the president in Malacañang on Thursday.During the meeting, Marcos stressed the growing urgency of energy security, citing the war in the Middle East that continued to affect the global energy system."It has become especially pressing and critical with all of the events that are transpiring in the Middle East and the effects that it has had on the entire energy system of the world," the President said."We hope that we can continue our work in moving our countries away from fossil fuels and absorb more of the renewables technology that we have been trying to shift to," he added.For his part, Kishida reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to advancing the initiative of AZEC, which he proposed in 2022 to promote regional decarbonization and energy cooperation across Southeast Asia and the broader Asian region.He thanked Marcos for participating in the AZEC Plus Online Summit held last April 15 and emphasized the importance of strengthening economic and energy resilience with the Philippines. “We would like to promote cooperation with the Philippines on economic and energy resilience,” Kishida said.Kishida, who is in the Philippines from April 30 to May 2 as special envoy of the Prime Minister, will participate in a series of high-level engagements focused on advancing AZEC initiatives and strengthening Philippines-Japan bilateral relations.

- Marcos vows better jobs, worker protection on Labor Day (2026-05-01 01:11)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. vowed to expand job opportunities and strengthen labor protections, as he led the nation on Labor Day in paying tribute to the contributions of Filipino workers to the development of the country.In his message on Friday, Marcos called the Filipino workforce the "backbone of our Republic" who continued to drive the country forward despite economic challenges and changing industries."Today, we honor every member of our workforce whose hands carry the weight of our shared future-whether at sunrise, beneath the noonday heat, or in the long hours when the nation sleeps," Marcos said."Even as technology advances and industries transform, one truth endures: it is the Filipino

worker who drives the Philippines forward and keeps the world in motion," he added.For the part of the government, the President said his administration was working to generate jobs and providing more opportunities for success."Together, let us fulfill this promise by fostering an environment that respects honest labor, safeguards livelihoods, and ensures that progress is accessible to ordinary families," Marcos said."As we face changing economic pressures, rest assured that this administration stands firm in defending the dignity of every Filipino by creating more and better jobs, boosting worker protection, and broadening pathways for all to succeed," he added.

- PH, Singapore ink landmark carbon credits deal (2026-05-01 00:59)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippines and Singapore have formally signed a landmark agreement creating a legal framework for the generation and transfer of carbon credits, the Singapore Embassy in Manila announced Thursday evening.The embassy said project developers could soon leverage this deal to develop high-quality carbon credit projects that were aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.Carbon credits are units obtained from entities that remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.One tradable carbon credit equals one ton of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas reduced.The United Nations Climate Change said companies or individuals could purchase and use carbon credits to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions or to simply support climate action.The Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry said adjusted carbon credits authorized under the deal could be used to offset up to 5 percent of a company’s taxable emissions.Singapore, it said, would then channel 5 percent share of proceeds from authorized carbon credits towards climate adaptation measures in the Philippines.Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna and Singaporean Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu signed the deal during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Climate Week in Manila on April 30, in a virtual ceremony.Cuna said Manila’s entry into this agreement is a "strategic decision," and is grounded on national priorities, development goals, and “commitment to global climate action.” Fu said the deal signals the strong partnership between Singapore and the Philippines, and their commitment to develop and implement regional and bilateral initiatives. “This Agreement will deepen collaboration between our two countries, channel climate finance towards impactful projects in the Philippines and unlock new opportunities in carbon markets for businesses and local communities,” she said. “Together, Asean can lead the way in building a low-carbon future that delivers tangible benefits across the region,” she added.Singaporean Ambassador to the Philippines Constance See added that there was “strong interest” from Singapore companies in the Philippines, and that the embassy looks to work closely with Filipino partners to bring good projects and investment to market. “The Philippines is one of the most mega-biodiverse countries in the world. It is richly endowed with natural capital, and the Philippine government has shown clear leadership and commitment to climate action. The Philippines is exceptionally well-positioned to be a major player in the global carbon market,” she said. “It is especially meaningful that this signing comes during the

Philippines' Asean Chairship, which underscores the Philippines' leadership on climate action issues and the region's growing focus on practical cooperation in sustainability and resilient growth," she added.Projects facilitated under the deal, the embassy said, would create more jobs in local communities, and drive innovation in the growing carbon market ecosystem.The embassy said the process for authorization of projects and eligible carbon crediting methodologies under the deal would be announced in due course.

- NLEX pushes back May 4 reopening of Quezon City road project (2026-05-01 00:14)

MANILA, Philippines — North Luzon Expressway Corporation pushed back the May 4, 2026 reopening of a road in Quezon City that would have eased traffic in the area where construction works on the NLEX-C5 project.were ongoing.The Quezon City government announced that the Katipunan Kaliwa Street/Lokaria Street from Mindanao Avenue to King Alexander Street would not reopen to the public as scheduled to give way to the curing process that would take about four more days to ensure road integrity.Under the traffic scheme, Class 1 vehicles will be allowed to pass through the affected stretch only under a stop-and-go setup.Class 1 vehicles usually include cars, vans, motorcycles and sport utility vehicles.Motorists passing through the area near Mindanao Avenue and King Alexander Street were advised to take alternate routes and plan their trips ahead.Traffic enforcers will be deployed to help manage the flow of vehicles, while directional signs will be placed to guide motorists.The Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A is the first 2-kilometer section of the China-funded NLEX-C5 project serving as an east-west 24/7 truck route to decongest Mindanao Avenue and Quirino Highway. It will add entries and exit at the Quirino Ave. area.Its construction started on Feb. 15, 2025 and was supposed to have been completed on Feb. 14, 2026.The NLEX-C5 North Link Project is part of the Strategic Projects under the 10-point Agenda of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) Road to 100B Revenue by 2030.

- Most Filipinos believe VP Sara has hidden wealth — survey (2026-04-30 16:11)

A NATIONWIDE survey found that a majority of Filipinos believe Vice President Sara Duterte holds billions of pesos in undisclosed bank accounts, with public opinion sharply divided along political lines.The noncommissioned survey, conducted by Tangere from April 29 to 30 with 1,200 respondents, showed that 58 percent of Filipinos believe the allegations, following recent legislative inquiries and reports from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).Survey results indicated that belief in the allegations varied significantly depending on political affiliation.Among supporters of the current administration, 82 percent said they believe Duterte possesses hidden wealth, despite her alliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during the 2022 elections.Similarly, 81 percent of respondents aligned with the Liberal Party or supporters of former vice president Leni Robredo said they consider the allegations credible.Neutral or independent voters also leaned toward believing the claims, with about 67 percent expressing the view that the vice president holds undisclosed funds.In contrast, Duterte's core supporters — who make up about 40 percent of the population in the survey — largely rejected the allegations. Only around one-third of this group said they believe the claims, while the majority

described the issue as a politically motivated smear campaign.The findings point to a deeply polarized public, with analysts noting that belief in the allegations extends beyond traditional opposition groups and into independent and administration-leaning voters. “The high level of belief among neutral and administration supporters suggests that recent AMLC disclosures have gained traction beyond the usual political blocs,” the report said.At the same time, the survey indicated a strong base of Duterte supporters who remain unconvinced, reflecting what the report described as an entrenched “defender” bloc that may view the controversy through the lens of the 2028 elections.The survey also measured public awareness and perception of the AMLC, which has been at the center of the financial disclosures.Results showed that 90 percent of Filipinos are aware of the AMLC and its functions. Among those aware, 51 percent expressed trust in the agency, while 30 percent said they distrust it. Satisfaction levels were similarly moderate, with 52 percent saying they were satisfied with the AMLC’s performance, compared to 28 percent who were dissatisfied.The survey used a mobile-based application and employed stratified random sampling with quota-based distribution across regions. Respondents were drawn from across the country, including 12 percent from the National Capital Region, 23 percent from Northern Luzon, 22 percent from Southern Luzon, 20 percent from the Visayas and 23 percent from Mindanao. The margin of error was ±2.77 percent at a 95-percent confidence level.Tangere, the firm behind the survey, described the study as noncommissioned and aimed at capturing Filipino sentiment on current national issues.

- Explainer: How impeachment works (2026-04-30 16:10)

IMPEACHMENT is one of the most powerful mechanisms in Philippine democracy, designed to hold the country’s highest officials accountable for serious offenses while in office. Enshrined in the 1987 Constitution, the process blends legal standards with political judgment, placing key roles in both houses of Congress, the House of Representatives and the Senate.What is impeachment?Impeachment is a constitutional process that allows for the removal of high-ranking public officials. Unlike criminal proceedings, it does not impose prison sentences. Instead, it determines whether an official should be removed from office and barred from future government service.Who can be impeached?The Constitution limits impeachment to a select group of top officials: the president; the vice president; members of the Supreme Court; members of constitutional commissions; and the Ombudsman.These positions are considered critical to governance, which is why they are subject to this extraordinary accountability mechanism.What are the grounds?Officials may be impeached for culpable violation of the Constitution; treason; bribery; graft and corruption; other high crimes; and betrayal of public trust.Among these, “betrayal of public trust” is the broadest and most debated ground, often interpreted based on the political and ethical expectations of public office.How the process unfoldsThe impeachment process begins in the House of Representatives and ends in the Senate.Any member of the House — or a citizen with a lawmaker’s endorsement — may file a complaint. The case is then evaluated by the House Committee on Justice, which determines whether it is sufficient in form and substance.If the complaint passes committee review, it is brought before the full House. A vote of at least one-third of all members is required to approve

the articles of impeachment. Once this threshold is met, the official is formally impeached.Senate trialThe Senate then convenes as an impeachment court. Senators take on the role of judges, while prosecutors from the House present the case. When the president is on trial, the chief justice presides.Conviction requires a two-thirds vote of all senators. If convicted, the official is removed from office and may be disqualified from holding future public office. However, criminal liability may still be pursued in regular courts.Key limitationsThe Constitution also sets safeguards: An official cannot face more than one impeachment proceeding within a year.Impeachment is not equivalent to a criminal conviction.Past casesThe Philippines has seen several high-profile impeachment proceedings.President Joseph Estrada faced trial in 2000, which was cut short by mass protests that led to his ouster.Chief Justice Renato Corona was convicted by the Senate in 2012.Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno faced impeachment proceedings in 2018, though she was ultimately removed through a separate legal action.Why it mattersImpeachment underscores a central principle of Philippine democracy: no public official is above the Constitution. By giving Congress the power to initiate and decide such cases, the system ensures that accountability remains a political as well as a legal responsibility.

- Who are the ICC judges in Duterte's trial? (2026-04-30 16:09)

THE HAGUE, the Netherlands — Former president Rodrigo Duterte’s lawyers have filed an appeal in a bid to prevent the Filipino ex-president’s crimes against humanity trial at the International Criminal Court, The Hague-based tribunal said on Thursday. His defense team have appealed against the ICC’s decision last week to confirm the charges against Duterte for crimes allegedly committed during his “war on drugs,” which is believed to have led to the deaths of thousands of people. Prosecutors have charged the 81-year-old former Philippines strongman with three counts of crimes against humanity, accusing him of involvement in at least 76 killings linked to the crackdown. Following a weeklong hearing in February, the pretrial judges concluded there were substantial grounds to believe that Duterte had been behind those murders.According to an ICC statement Thursday, the Philippines ex-president’s lawyers argued that the court had taken an “impermissibly ‘flexible’ approach to the formulation of the charges.” The court had also failed “to articulate a reasoned evidentiary basis for confirming the charges,” his Duterte’s lawyers argued. Should his appeal fail, Duterte will be the first former head of an Asian state to appear before the ICC. The court tries individuals for the world’s most serious crimes, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity. While the ICC has already appointed a three-judge panel for the case, it will likely take several months before the trial begins.JudgesThe International Criminal Court (ICC) has designated British jurist Joanna Korner as presiding judge of Trial Chamber III, which will hear the case against former president Rodrigo Duterte.In a decision issued on Wednesday, the chamber said Korner will lead the three-judge panel tasked with trying Duterte. The panel also includes Keebong Paek of South Korea and Nicolas Guillou of France.The designation was made after the ICC Presidency referred Duterte’s case to Trial Chamber III on April 24.Korner brings more than five decades of legal experience to the role, including over 45 years focused on criminal law as both a barrister and a judge. Born on July 1, 1951, she was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1974

after studying at the Inns of Court School of Law in London.Her legal career spans domestic and international jurisdictions. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel — now King’s Counsel — in 1993, served as a recorder beginning in 1994, and in 2012 became a judge of the Crown Court of England and Wales, where she presided over complex criminal trials involving serious offenses such as fraud and murder.Korner is also known for her work in international criminal justice. She served for eight nonconsecutive years as a senior prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, where she handled high-profile cases involving Bosnian Serb political and military leaders accused of atrocities during the Balkan conflicts, including Mico Stanisic and Stojan Zupljanin.She also worked as Senior Legal Adviser to the chief prosecutor of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2004 to 2005, helping establish the country’s War Crimes Section, and has trained judges and legal practitioners from more than 25 countries in international criminal law.Elected to the ICC in December 2020, Korner assumed full-time duties in September 2021 for a nine-year term set to end in March 2030. She previously chaired the chamber that convicted Sudanese militia leader Ali Kushayb, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur.She was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 2004 in recognition of her contributions to international law.Who are the other judges? Having begun his legal career in 1992, Paek served as public prosecutor of the Republic of Korea, and also served as a deputy director and later as a director at the Ministry of Justice. “In these roles, he was responsible for managing ICC-related matters, drafting the implementation bill for Korea’s ratification of the Rome Statute and representing the country at ICC Preparatory Commission sessions and the Kampala Review Conference,” the ICC’s website said. “In addition to his work in Korea, Judge Paek served at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (HQ and SEAP Regional Office). He provided crucial support to member states in implementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, focusing on strengthening law enforcement capacities,” the website said.Paek studied law at the Seoul National University, having obtained his Master of Laws from Columbia Law School and a PhD from Hanyang University. “His doctoral dissertation focused on the law of evidence in ICC proceedings, and he authored numerous books and articles on international criminal law,” the ICC said.Elected to the ICC on Dec. 6, 2023, Paek joined the tribunal on March 11, 2024 and will serve until March 10, 2033.He is assigned to the Trial Division, and handles Trial Chamber IV, Trial Chamber V, Trial Chamber VI and Trial Chamber X.Meanwhile, before joining the ICC, Guillou served as pre-trial judge at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers for four years and worked as a Chef de Cabinet to the President of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon from 2015 to 2019 and as Liaison Prosecutor at the United States Department of Justice 2012 to 2015.Between 2006 and 2012, Guillou also held several positions in the Ministry of Justice in France as a deputy head of the Commercial Law Section, as adviser to the Minister on Criminal Affairs and as diplomatic adviser to the minister.Having started as an investigative judge, Guillou has a Master’s degree in International and European Criminal Law from Sorbonne University and also graduated from the French National School for the Judiciary.He joined the ICC on March 11, 2024, having been elected to the tribunal on Dec. 5, 2023. He currently handles Trial Chamber II, Trial Chamber IV and Pre-Trial Chamber I.Duterte’s hearing will be held at the ICC Trial Chamber III, following the confirmation of

charges against the former president last week. “Trial Chamber III will be in charge of the conduct of the trial in this case. The chamber will hold status conferences, confer with the parties and participants in order to set the date of the trial and adopt the procedures necessary to facilitate the fair and expeditious conduct of the proceedings,” the ICC said.

• Discaya in hospital for shoulder surgery (2026-04-30 16:08)

PACIFICO “Curlee” Discaya II was taken to a hospital on Thursday for a surgery on his right shoulder, Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Rene Samonte has confirmed.Samonte said the transfer was made on the recommendation of the Senate’s Medical and Dental Bureau, and Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson, who chairs the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, and was approved by Senate President Vicente Sotto III.Discaya, who has been under Senate custody in connection with an ongoing legislative inquiry, was escorted to ensure both his safety and compliance with established procedures for detainees requiring medical attention, according to Senate officials.The Senate leadership has yet to release more details on the operation, but sources said the procedure had been scheduled in advance following a medical evaluation of Discaya’s condition.Authorities said appropriate security measures remain in place during his confinement in the hospital, in line with Senate protocols governing high-profile detainees.No additional information was immediately available about how long the surgery will last or Discaya’s recovery period.

• DOLE rolls out P260M in livelihood aid nationwide (2026-04-30 16:08)

THE Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is rolling out more than P261.5 million in livelihood assistance nationwide on Labor Day, targeting 11,257 beneficiaries under its Kabuhayan Program in a major push to strengthen long-term income opportunities.Timed with the country’s 124th Labor Day celebration today, the initiative goes beyond short-term aid, aiming to equip workers with sustainable sources of livelihood that can support families well after the holiday.Labor officials said the funding will be coursed through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), one of the agency’s flagship interventions designed for informal workers, vulnerable sectors, and community-based groups.DOLE said the program reflects the government’s broader strategy of pairing immediate financial relief with long-term economic resilience, especially for those most affected by unstable or low-income work.Instead of one-time assistance, beneficiaries will receive support that allows them to build or expand small enterprises tailored to local demand and available resources.These livelihood grants come in the form of starter kits or materials for projects such as sari-sari stores, negokarts, farming, livestock raising, fishing ventures and other community-driven businesses.The assistance is flexible and scalable, with individuals eligible for packages worth up to P50,000, while organized groups or associations can receive as much as P3 million depending on their approved proposals.Among the standout success stories is the Hinatuan Seaweed Farmers Fishermen Cooperative, a previous Kabuhayan Program beneficiary and one of the 2025 DOLE Kabuhayan Awards winners.The group transformed its livelihood model from environmentally harmful practices — such as illegal mangrove cutting — into sustainable seaweed farming. “Now,

because of seaweed farming, the illegal cutting of mangroves has stopped," the cooperative shared, noting a major shift in both income and environmental awareness.Today, the cooperative supports 107 community members, providing them with a stable and eco-friendly source of income.DOLE said that what was once an uncertain and destructive livelihood has evolved into a reliable economic activity that benefits both families and the local ecosystem.

- Go calls for unity amid energy concerns (2026-04-30 16:07)

SEN. Bong Go on Thursday renewed his call for national unity, warning that ongoing challenges such as energy uncertainties and rising living costs could further strain ordinary Filipinos and public services.Go, vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, said cooperation across sectors is critical as the country navigates inflationary pressures and the broader impact of global and domestic economic headwinds. "My prayer for today is for everyone to be united. When politics is chaotic, the people are affected. Service is sacrificed," Go said in Filipino.His remarks came as concerns persist over the stability of energy supply and its ripple effects on household expenses, transport costs and the delivery of essential services.Analysts have noted that fluctuations in energy prices often translate to higher electricity rates and fuel costs, which in turn contribute to inflation.Go emphasized that these pressures disproportionately affect vulnerable sectors, particularly those dependent on government assistance and public health services. He stressed that political divisions could further complicate efforts to respond effectively to these issues.JAVIER JOE ISMAELBy underscoring unity, Go linked governance stability to the continuity of key programs, including health care access, social protection and disaster response initiatives.Go reiterated that public service should remain the central priority of the government, especially during periods of uncertainty. He pointed out that disjointed leadership and political infighting risk disrupting programs designed to assist low-income families.Alongside his policy statements, Go highlighted recent outreach activities conducted by his office and partner agencies.Over the past week, his team extended assistance to fire victims in Cebu City as well as in the municipalities of Jagna and Carmen. Aid was also distributed to affected residents in Pavia.

- Asean to ratify petroleum security deal – Roque (2026-04-30 16:06)

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) is pushing forward the ratification of a framework agreement on petroleum security, Trade Secretary Cristina Roque said on Thursday."APSA, or the Asean Petroleum Security Agreement, is being pursued to enable coordinated emergency fuel sharing and collective responses to supply disruption," she said during an online briefing.Roque said advancing the ratification of the oil-sharing deal will strengthen regional energy resilience and fuel sharing.She said the Philippines will also prioritize the implementation of an Asean-wide power grid to improve energy sharing.She also said that Asean will keep trade open and predictable and avoid trade restrictive measures, including export bans on essential goods during periods of uncertainty.She said the regional bloc will strengthen and accelerate existing free trade agreements, including Asean's free trade agreement with China and South Korea.Asean will strengthen food security and supply chain

coordination to ensure more reliable access to food across the region, she added.Memberstates will also safeguard energy supply for essential services, including health care, hospitals,emergency systems and critical care facilities during times of crisis, Roque said.Asean willintensify support for micro, small and medium enterprises by improving access to financing andliquidity to help protect jobs during economic shocks, she said.

- Marcos to pursue legal, diplomatic means to bring Co home - Palace (2026-04-30 16:05)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will pursue legal and diplomatic means to bring fugitive former lawmaker Zaldy Co home to the Philippines, Malacañang said Thursday.The statement was issued after Marcos received confirmation from Chargé d' Affaires of Czech Republic Eva Tenzin that Co had indeed been detained by Czech authorities due to invalid travel documents, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said. "The president reaffirmed that the government will exhaust all legal and diplomatic means to bring back fugitive Zaldy Co back to the Philippines so he can face the graft and malversation cases filed against him here in the Philippines," she added.Castro said Marcos has expressed the government's readiness to fast-track extradition agreements and strengthen law enforcement cooperation mechanisms with concerned countries to expedite Co's return.Marcos on Wednesday summoned Tenzin and French Ambassador to the Philippines Marie Fontanel to seek clarification on Co's case.While he stressed that other countries should not become safe havens for individuals facing charges, the president reaffirmed the Philippines' strong relations with both the Czech Republic and France, anchored on democratic values and respect for the rule of law.Co, who is facing criminal charges as one of the central figures in the public works corruption scandal, is in France seeking asylum on grounds of political persecution.

- Tulfo warns vs rising exploitation of Filipino job seekers (2026-04-30 16:04)

SEN. Raffy Tulfo on Thursday raised concerns over the growing exploitation of Filipinos seeking work overseas, warning that worsening economic pressures are pushing job seekers into the hands of illegal recruiters.Speaking during a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor, Employment, and Human Resources Development, Tulfo said job displacement and the sudden return of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) affected by the Middle East war intensified vulnerabilities among workers. "Many of us are seeking opportunities abroad to have a stable job. But when people are in need, they accept illegal jobs; they are either forced into it, or they easily fall for the job offers of illegal recruiters," Tulfo said in Filipino.He presented several cases involving Filipino workers who were allegedly misled, including women recruited as massage therapists for jobs in Malaysia but who reportedly ended up in exploitative conditions.He also cited instances of applicants enticed by high-paying offers in Japan and Canada only to face abusive or fraudulent arrangements upon arrival. "With the desperation of people today, opportunities have opened up for those who want to abuse Filipino workers' needs and to hire them for illegal jobs," the senator said.Emphasizing the need for stronger deterrence, Tulfo urged a review of accountability mechanisms for illegal recruiters and traffickers. He suggested that current penalties may be insufficient to curb the persistence of

such crimes. “It seems lacking,” he said, pointing out that illegal recruitment cases continue to surface despite numerous laws and policies already in place.

- Motions to dismiss Dengvaxia case junked (2026-04-30 16:02)

A QUEZON City trial court judge has rejected the petitions filed by former Health secretary and now Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin and her co-accused to dismiss the Dengvaxia case.In an April 28, 2026 order, a copy of which was obtained by The Manila Times, Judge Michael Ken de Jesus of Regional Trial Court Branch 102 denied several motions to quash filed by the defense lawyers for lack of merit. “In sum, the attempt to shoehorn (‘to force to be included or admitted’) the Dengvaxia mass immunization program into the narrow confines of the Ivler doctrine is factually unavailing and legally untenable,” de Jesus said.The defense panel had argued that the 35 cases being handled by de Jesus were no different from the first batch of eight cases which were earlier dismissed by another family court judge, hence, its claim of double jeopardy.The prosecution panel had insisted that the cases were separate and distinct as the over 100 children who died after they were vaccinated with the anti-dengue vaccine had different medical conditions.Illustrating the "glaring factual" difference between a vehicular collision in the Jason Ivler v. Modesto-San Pedro case and "multiple, distinct acts of medical inoculate" in the Dengvaxia case, the judge said Ivler committed a singular act of driving his vehicle recklessly at a specific moment in time.But in the Dengvaxia case, there were " continuous repeated acts" and while the policy of mass vaccination was singular, the proximate acts of negligence, the alleged indiscriminate administration of the vaccine without proper screening, were repeatedly committed with every individual injection, the family court judge said. “The alleged reckless imprudence did not solely materialize in a room or place during the procurement or licensing phase; it materialized upon the actual administration of the vaccine to an unsuspecting child,” de Jesus said.Aware that the rule against double jeopardy was intended as a safeguard to protect an accused from vexatious and repetitive prosecutions, however, he said “the doctrine was never meant to serve as a shield against accountability for separate acts of negligence committed against different victims at different times.” Explaining that a motion to quash is neither a mini-trial nor a proper vehicle to evaluate medical findings, weigh expert opinions or determine the cause of death, de Jesus said that it would be a matter of evidence “that must be rigorously tested during a full-blown trial on the merits.” The vaccine, procured by the Department of Health for P3.5 billion for a nationwide jab campaign in 2015, was not evaluated thoroughly for safety and efficacy, leading to the deaths of many children, according to the findings of several health experts and the Forensics Laboratory Division of the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO).Under the leadership of Persida Rueda-Acosta, PAO provided legal assistance to the parents and relatives belonging to the Samahan ng mga Magulang ang mga Anak ay Biktima ng Dengvaxia, particularly in the civil cases.

- Barzaga joins Duterte party (2026-04-30 16:02)

CAVITE 4th District Rep. Francisco Barzaga has joined the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino (PDP), the party of former president Rodrigo Duterte.He took the oath on Wednesday alongside other

new members of the party at its headquarters in Sta. Mesa, Manila, led by PDP leaders Joy Encabo, Penny Belmonte, Yvette Contacto and JV Frech Marigondon.PDP deputy national spokesman Ferdinand Topacio welcomed Barzaga to the party, calling him a “perfect fit” for the PDP.Barzaga has “shown exceptional and admirable principles of nationalism and the relentless pursuit of justice in the face of overwhelming resistance from the majority in the House which is trying to cover up unprecedented levels of corruption and dysfunctional governance,” Topacio said.Barzaga used to belong to the National Unity Party, which counts his father, the late Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, as a key party leader.He was expelled from the party after an ethics complaint was filed against him for “conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker.” On Monday, Deputy Speaker and Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin filed a new ethics complaint against Barzaga, saying he has not changed even after being suspended twice by the House of Representatives. RED MENDOZA

- Japanese builders tapped for 4PH housing (2026-04-30 16:01)

DEPARTMENT of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling announced Thursday a collaboration with Japanese firms in building housing projects under the expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program.Aliling said that Kizuna Communities, composed of Japanese developers, was picked to ensure zero corruption in the flagship housing program of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.The announcement comes following a meeting with the Japanese group earlier this week at DHSUD’s central office in Quezon City.Kizuna Communities vowed efficiency and transparency as they undertake the construction of two socialized housing projects.The head of the 4PH program, Undersecretary Eduardo Robles Jr., pledged to assist the Japanese in the endeavor.“As long as the Expanded 4PH Program is corruption-free, more investors will participate. The high credibility of DHSUD should always be maintained to make the national housing program sustainable,” Aliling said.

- Bus firm ordered to pay for flyover fire damage (2026-04-30 16:01)

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has ordered bus company LS8 Tourist Transport Corp. to shoulder the expenses for rehabilitation works at the EDSA-Ortigas Interchange.The order was signed by Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon.The demand stems from an April 24, 2026 incident in which a bus caught fire while traversing the interchange, one of the busiest road links in Metro Manila. The blaze reportedly lasted around an hour, raising concerns over potential structural damage.Initial inspections by DPWH engineers revealed visible deterioration in key sections of the bridge. Among the findings were concrete spalling on the soffit, exposure of reinforcing steel bars and discoloration underneath the structure — signs consistent with high-temperature exposure.Authorities said the damage was concentrated at Span 7 of the interchange, a critical segment that supports heavy daily traffic. Engineers warned that while the bridge remains passable, repairs are necessary to ensure long-term safety and integrity.Based on these findings, DPWH held the bus operator liable, citing provisions under civil law that make companies accountable for damage caused by vehicles under their

ownership or control.In its formal demand, the agency directed the company to cover all costs related to repair, rehabilitation and any engineering interventions required to restore the structure. It also required reimbursement for additional expenses that may arise after further structural assessments.The letter emphasized that the demand is “without prejudice” to any administrative, civil or criminal liabilities that may be pursued in connection with the incident.The DPWH underscored the urgency of the matter, calling for the company’s “prompt attention and immediate compliance” to prevent further risks to motorists using the interchange.The EDSA-Ortigas Interchange is a vital artery connecting key business districts, making any disruption or structural issue a significant concern for traffic flow and public safety.The incident adds to growing scrutiny over road safety and vehicle maintenance standards, particularly for public utility vehicles operating along major highways.LS8 Tourist Transport Corp. has yet to respond to the demand, while DPWH continues to monitor the condition of the bridge pending full rehabilitation. WILLIAM DEPASUPIL

- Bus operator summoned over fare discounts violation (2026-04-30 16:01)

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has summoned a bus operator and its driver for allegedly failing to provide mandated fare discounts under the government’s service contracting program.In a statement issued Thursday, the LTFRB said the show cause order (SCO) was served on Cemtrans Services Inc. after a complaint surfaced online accusing one of its conductors of not granting required fare reductions and failing to return change to passengers.Under program rules, passenger buses are required to extend a 20-percent discount to regular commuters and up to 40 percent to students, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.The LTFRB said the conductor involved in the reported incident did not issue tickets, failed to apply the prescribed discount, and did not give the correct change for a trip from Alabang to Ayala. “This is not how the program works and there is no excuse for failure to provide the necessary discount to all passengers,” LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said.Mendoza warned that the agency would take action against operators and personnel who disregard program guidelines.The SCO directs the bus operator to submit a written explanation on why its franchise should not be suspended or revoked for noncompliance with service contracting rules. The driver and conductor were also ordered to appear at a hearing scheduled on May 11.Failure to attend the hearing or submit a response will be treated as a waiver, which could result in the imposition of a 5,000 peso penalty, the LTFRB said. FRANCO JOSE BAROÑA

- Workers, party-list group push wealth tax (2026-04-30 16:01)

WORKERS and a party-list group called for a wealth tax that would fund health, calamity aid and certain research initiatives.The groups, who made the push ahead of Labor Day, are also for increasing workers’ wages. “The ongoing energy crisis highlights the necessity of a wealth tax . .. Establishing and enforcing a wealth tax would help ensure that workers, regardless of working status, can be afforded the necessary social protections,” said Secretary-General Josua Mata of the Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa in a statement on Thursday.House Bill 4304 was filed last Sept. 3 by Akbayan Representatives Perci Cendaña, Jose Manuel “Chel”

Diokno, Dadah Kiram Ismula and Dinagat Islands Rep. Kaka Bag-ao. “Coincidentally, the timing is perfect to push for a wealth tax in our country. Amid [the] crisis, we saw the need for more resources to address and ease the impact of the crisis on our countrymen,” Cendaña said in a press conference on Thursday.Oil prices in the country have risen following the war in the Middle East, although price rollbacks have been implemented over three weeks.Last March, Malacañang issued Executive Order 110 declaring a state of national energy emergency.The bill aimed to amend the National Internal Revenue Code to add a section on solidarity contribution rates.A taxpayer with a net worth of over P300 million must pay solidarity contribution “which shall reflect the total assets, liabilities, net worth of the previous year.” The taxpayer shall pay 25 percent of the amount due on or before Aug. 31, and the remaining 25 percent on or before Nov. 30.The contribution shall exclusively fund expenditures under the Republic Act 11223, or the Universal Health Care Act, including the construction of new hospitals and medical facilities and the improvement of existing ones, the education and training of medical students in public universities and the hiring of additional doctors for public hospitals.The contribution will also be used for the People’s Survival Fund, the Calamity Fund and the Quick Response Fund, to fund research on climate change adaptation, public health innovation and disaster risk reduction, and as financial aid for evacuees displaced during a climate disaster. “We are not saying that the rich are enemies. What we are saying is all Filipinos deserve to prosper. All Filipinos deserve a comfortable life,” Cendana said.He said Marikina 2nd District Rep. Miro Quimbo, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means or the House of Representatives’ tax panel, vowed that the committee would tackle the bill when session resumes.The House is on a break and will resume session on May 4. REINA TOLENTINO

- Senate set to form impeachment court (2026-04-30 16:00)

THE Senate might convene as an impeachment court as early as May 13 if the House of Representatives impeaches Vice President Sara Duterte in a plenary vote on May 11, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said Thursday.The House Committee on Justice on Wednesday found probable cause to impeach Duterte arising from two complaints accusing her of misusing public funds and making a death threat against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.The committee is expected to meet on May 4 and produce its report, the resolution and articles of impeachment.Sotto on Thursday called for a senators’ caucus to discuss preparations amid the possibility that the articles of impeachment may soon be transmitted to the Senate.Present during the caucus were Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senators Pia Cayetano, JV Ejercito, Risa Hontiveros, Lito Lapid, Loren Legarda and Robinhood Padilla. “Let’s say they approve [the articles of impeachment] on May 11, [they will transmit it on] May 12. [The Senate should] discuss it already on May 13 and convene as an impeachment court,” Sotto said in a chance interview.In a separate interview, Lacson said it would be up to Duterte whether she would attend the trial “although the impeachment court may compel her to attend.” The Senate will resume session on May 4 after a monthlong break. “The Senate must be in session to receive [the articles of incorporation],” the senator said. “But as of now, everything is speculative. What we will be doing in caucus is

discuss agenda for this month and then possibility of receiving the articles of impeachment," he said. "Then, we will discuss the possibility of what should be done and the timetable — that is crucial," said Sotto, who will act as the impeachment court's presiding officer while the senators will serve as judges.Lacson said that just like Sotto, he was also preparing to act as judge.But he said Sotto has greater responsibility as the presiding officer. "He needs to act on the spot because [there might be a time] he has to rule or overrule the objections of both the defense and prosecution [panels]," Lacson said.Meanwhile, the chairman of the House Committee on Justice, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, said the House of Representatives is prepared to strengthen its legal team, including the possible engagement of seasoned private litigators, if the impeachment case against the vice president reaches the Senate for trial.In a radio interview, Luistro said a full trial setting calls for a specialized combination of legislative experience and active courtroom expertise to effectively present the case. "If I will be one of the panel of prosecutors, I will really recommend that we engage private prosecutors to help and aid the members of the House who will be joining the panel," she said.She noted that she and her lawyer-colleagues in the House of Representatives are no longer updated about litigation, whereas the defense team they would face would likely be made up of litigation specialists.Luistro said this makes outside support both practical and, in her view, necessary.She said the rules specify 11 public prosecutors who will be elected in plenary, while leaving the matter of private lawyers open.Luistro defended the proceedings conducted by the House Committee on Justice which has found probable cause to impeach Duterte.She also denied an accusation from Davao City 1st District Rep. Paolo Duterte that lawmakers were being pressured into supporting the impeachment. "I beg to disagree with that. I did not encounter anyone calling me or my chief of staff to support this impeachment process," Luistro said in Filipino and English in an interview on GMA Network's "Unang Hirit" on Thursday. "And I wish to add that in my capacity as chairman, we did not stand for either party. We stood for the process," she said. "During the clarificatory hearing of the Justice Committee, we were impartial, we were independent because we acted as investigators in a proceeding akin to a preliminary investigation. The mandate is very simple: to determine whether or not probable cause exists," she said.With 53 committee members voting unanimously, the committee last Wednesday declared the existence of probable cause in the two impeachment complaints against Duterte.Luistro said the committee will transmit the documents to the House on May 4 and that "we anticipate that the plenary will be transmitting these documents to all the members of the House." "So after giving them reasonable time to study the articles of impeachment and all the documents, the plenary should be ready to vote. As to when, it will depend on the plenary," she said.Copies of the documents would also be sent to Duterte.Luistro said she was "anticipating a heated debate" at the plenary before the House votes on whether to send the impeachment articles to the Senate.No foundationAlso on Thursday, lawyers for the vice president said the evidence presented at the House Committee on Justice is not a foundation for probable cause.The statement came after National Bureau of Investigation Director Melvin Matibag said that Duterte's threats against President Marcos, first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and former speaker Martin Romualdez has already been established and that there is a "reasonable certainty of conviction" for cases of grave threat

and inciting to sedition.In a statement sent to The Manila Times, Duterte's counsel, Paul Lawrence Lim, said the presentation "reveals the paucity of the charges" against the vice president. "Evidence is curated, even spliced. Context is ignored. Opinion is substituted for facts. Guesswork is presented as investigation results. These cannot be the foundation for probable cause, much less a prima facie case with reasonable certainty of conviction. Simply repeating a conclusion, no matter how vehemently, does not make it true," Lim added.He added that the attempt to create a causal link between the vice president and alleged comments against the president "demands a gigantic leap in logic and abandonment of basic evidentiary principles."

• Torre echoes Trillanes claim Quiboloy became Duterte money-laundering front (2026-04-30 15:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Philippine National Police chief Nicolas Torre III took to social media on Thursday, April 30, to echo former senator Antonio Trillanes IV's claim that Apollo Quiboloy was propped up as former president Rodrigo Duterte's alleged "natural money laundering machine." Torre, now general manager of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, cited Trillanes' television interview where the former senator claimed that private jets and helicopters bought by Quiboloy actually belonged to Duterte. "So, what we uncovered, the private jets or helicopters bought by Quiboloy, those were his, Duterte's. Because if you look at it, he used them more often than the true owner. More than Quiboloy," Trillanes said.Trillanes also claimed that Quiboloy was used to make the alleged transactions harder to question because of his religious organization. "And Quiboloy, they propped him up precisely so he could become his natural money laundering machine. Because you cannot question religion. But then, if you look at Quiboloy's church, it does not have the capacity to raise that amount of money," Trillanes said.Torre said he believed Trillanes' statement. "We do not need a big investigation to see the obvious. If Quiboloy's followers were really very strong and very many, why was it not seen on the ground?" Torre said.Torre said authorities saw the reality inside the Kingdom of Jesus Christ compound during the 16-day police operation to serve the warrant of arrest against Quiboloy in Davao City.He cited KOJC's 39th anniversary on September 1, 2024, which he said was attended by the Vice President and known personalities in Davao, but only drew around 2,400 attendees.Torre also claimed that many of those who attended were merely brought in. "The actual estimate of their membership in the Philippines? Far from the image being shown," Torre said.Torre said that if Quiboloy truly had a wide base of influence and support, large rallies should have continued while authorities were enforcing the warrant of arrest against him. "But there was none. Sometimes, we do not need to believe propaganda. We only need to look at reality," Torre said.Torre said Quiboloy's wealth must be explained if it did not come from the size of KOJC's membership. "If the wealth did not come from the number of members — where did it come from? That is what must be answered," Torre said.

• No winners in Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws for April 30 (2026-04-30 15:05)

There were no winners in the Super Lotto 6/49 and Lotto 6/42 draws on Thursday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.The winning combination for the Super Lotto 6/49 was 40-41-24-23-46-42, with a jackpot prize of P33,781,767.72.There were also no winners in the Lotto 6/42 draw, which had the winning combination 07-24-41-42-29-40 and a jackpot prize of P31,621,223.97.

- Kalanggaman Island ranks 25th in Global Beach List (2026-04-30 14:47)

PALOMPON, Leyte — Kalanggaman Island secured the 25th spot in the 2026 edition of The World's 50 Best Beaches, marking its first appearance in the annual list of the world’s premier beach destinations.The list is produced by a global media group (50 Best Beaches) founded by beach travelers and enthusiasts that curates rankings based on research, firsthand experiences and insights from travel professionals worldwide.The recognition placed Kalanggaman Island among internationally acclaimed coastal sites and highlighted a significant achievement for Leyte and the national tourism industry.Palompon Mayor Mary Dominique Onate described the citation as “a proud moment not only for the Municipality of Palompon and the Province of Leyte, but for the entire Philippines”.Known for its powdery white sandbars stretching into clear turquoise waters, Kalanggaman Island has long been regarded as one of Eastern Visayas’ leading island attractions.The island was recognized for its scenic shoreline, tranquil environment and expansive ocean views, as well as conditions suitable for swimming and day excursions.“What locals and visitors alike have cherished for years: a destination defined by natural beauty, tranquility, and careful preservation,” Onate said.She added that the honor reflected the sustained efforts of the local government, community stakeholders and tourism partners to preserve the island’s fragile ecosystem.Also included in the 2026 rankings was Entalula Beach, which claimed the top position after ranking second in 2025 and fourth in 2024.The inclusion of two Philippine destinations underscored Philippines’ continued standing as a premier source of world-class beach tourism.

- Manila landfill fire leaves locals gasping (2026-04-30 14:14)

OBANDO, Philippines — Filipino ferry dispatcher Dave Delos Reyes has been handing out N95 masks for nearly three weeks to protect passengers against the smoke that a landfill fire has sent billowing above a stretch of Manila Bay.The fire at Metro Manila's Navotas landfill is largely invisible to the naked eye, combusting as deep as 15 meters (50 feet) below the surface and releasing a toxic brew of methane as well as carbon dioxide.Nearly 500 people who lived on islands near the site have been evacuated to the town center of Obando municipality, about 2.5 kilometers (1.6 miles) away, but it is not nearly far enough to escape the smoke."Honestly, sometimes the smell is so strong that it can still seep through the N95 masks. It hurts our throat and heads," Delos Reyes told visiting AFP reporters on Thursday.At its peak, smoke from the underground fire was affecting air quality across Metro Manila, where an "acutely unhealthy" reading was recorded in multiple areas, according to a local monitor.Those numbers are finally returning to normal, the Philippine Space Agency's Ernest Macalalad told AFP, the result of around-the-clock efforts to snuff out the fire by covering it with tons of soil, depriving it of

oxygen.But in Obando, residents and evacuees alike said the smoke was still impacting their health and livelihoods.AFP journalists who traveled to the landfill site by boat saw billows of thick, gray smoke completely enveloping houses on Salambao -- one of the islands from which people were evacuated."The smoke from the landfill comes and goes. We can feel it for around 20 minutes, then it will be gone," said Monica Verses, who sells candy and drinks from the open window of her tiny convenience store."Every time the smoke reaches my store, my chest tightens, and I cough a lot," the 62-year-old said.The US government's disaster agency has linked emissions from landfill fires to cancer, liver damage, rashes and reproductive disorders.Multiple residents told AFP the smoke from the landfill, which stopped receiving trash last August, only gets thicker at night.'Not a typical fire' Fires like the one at Navotas pose a different set of challenges from aboveground blazes, said Superintendent Anthony Arroyo, a spokesman for Manila's fire bureau."It's not a typical fire with surface combustion or a blaze... there's layers of rubbish in a mountainous area, and below that... methane gas," he said.Fires that start below the surface often begin spontaneously, as organic matter decomposes and creates heat, fueled by oxygen that sneaks in through the cracks.Flooding the area with water had not been considered, as it risked compromising the liner that prevents chemicals from leaking into the ground below, Arroyo said.Instead, firefighters and public works employees were covering the site inch by inch with soil dredged from a nearby site."The soil itself absorbs heat. At the same time, it serves as a smothering method, removing the oxygen from the subsurface fire."While about 50 percent of the affected area has now been covered, work has been slow-going, Arroyo added, with heavy equipment unable to be used in some parts of the landfill due to its sloping walls of refuse.For evacuees like Ramon Adino, 68, who is living in a cramped school classroom with 12 other families, a return to "normal life" is now just a matter of waiting."I'm slightly better now, but I'm still struggling to breathe normally... It's like I'm always catching my breath," he said, adding he hoped the fire would "be extinguished soon".Food vendor Marissa Gusi, 62, said that while living conditions at the evacuation site were difficult, she planned to priorities her health."I'd rather stay here indefinitely than lose my life because of that smoke," she said.

- ‘Toboso probe must yield laws to prevent deaths’ (2026-04-30 14:09)

MANILA, Philippines—The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) on Thursday said a planned congressional inquiry into the April 19 clash in Toboso, Negros Occidental should lead to concrete legislation to prevent similar incidents.The statement followed the filing of House Resolution 968 seeking an investigation into the encounter between government forces and members of the New People’s Army (NPA).NTF-Elcac Executive Director Ernesto Torres Jr. welcomed the move but said that its value lies in outcomes, not rhetoric. “Legislative inquiries, when conducted in good faith, are an important part of democratic governance,” Torres said, adding that lawmakers’ efforts to “establish facts, clarify circumstances, and determine whether policy or measures are needed are important exercises of oversight.” Torres said the inquiry must be “anchored on evidence, objectivity, and the commitment to truth.” He reiterated that the Toboso incident was “an armed

encounter between government forces and the NPA’s North Negros Front,” triggered by civilian information and confirmed by intelligence reports, including the recovery of weapons and the presence of an armed formation. “These are the conditions of an active conflict environment,” he said, noting that even the Communist Party of the Philippines admitted that a “tactical defeat” occurred. “You cannot claim a ‘tactical defeat’ and, in the same breath, insist that those involved were merely unarmed civilians,” Torres added.He warned that such contradictions “risk distorting the facts surrounding what was clearly a combat situation.” “The pursuit of ‘balanced narratives’ should not lead to false equivalence between state forces operating under the Constitution and armed groups that function outside the rule of law,” he said.Torres said that accountability mechanisms exist within government operations, citing the Armed Forces of the Philippines’ rules of engagement, adherence to international humanitarian law, and chain of command.He said the focus of the inquiry should be on prevention, particularly addressing how armed groups recruit individuals, including the youth “Addressing these conditions requires more than hearings. It requires sustained governance, development, and community engagement,” he added.Torres warned against politicizing the issue, saying the loss of life should not be reduced to competing narratives. “In the end, the measure of any inquiry is not how many narratives are presented, but whether it leads to better protection for communities, greater accountability, and a clearer path toward lasting peace,” he said.

- Graft complaint filed vs DoH undersecretary Baggao (2026-04-30 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Concerned health workers filed a complaint on Thursday before the Office of the Ombudsman against Undersecretary Glenn Matthew Baggao of the Department of Health (DoH).The complaint was for alleged violation of: Section 3(e) and (i) of Republic Act (RA) 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act; and Sections 2, 3(i), and 7(a) of RA 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.It was also filed for alleged: grave misconduct, conduct prejudicial to the best interest of public service, and gross inefficiency.On July 18, 2025, based on the complaint, Baggao was assigned, at the Universal Health Care–Health Services Cluster (UHC-HSC) to oversee several DoH Centers for Health Development, health facilities, and Treatment Rehabilitation Centers. Based on the complaint, he was designated as head of the Health Facilities Enhancement Programs on Feb. 5, 2026."In 2025 alone, EGB Construction secured five health projects worth P140.99 million, including the Maconacon Super Health Center and Divilacan Super Health Center in Respondent's immediate area of influence as head of the UHC-HSC" at that time, the complaints said.In the complaint, EGB Construction was linked to Baggao's brother, Erni Baggao, who was not a respondent in the complaint.In the complaint's table on the five projects totaling P140.99 million, 2025 was indicated under "Year" for each of these projects. The table did not indicate a full date.The complainants said it "also bears stressing that while Respondent served as Chief of the Cagayan Valley Medical Center, EGB Construction was awarded a Php 28.91 million COVID-19 facility through negotiated procurement".

- PNP on full alert for Labor Day protests (2026-04-30 13:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday (April 30) announced full alert status deploying 106,633 police persoonel as part of heighting its security measures for the upcoming Labor Day protests on Friday (May 1). The PNP earlier said it would only be increasing security measures to "heightened alert" in anticipation of protest action but Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño, PNP Public Information chief said the police force is now going on "full alert." "PNP Chief General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. decided that all units must cancel their leaves so that, if we need to deploy them, they're there. We'd be able to deploy more easily," Tuaño said. Nonetheless, the PNP has yet to monitor a security threat for Labor Day, he said. The full alert level status came into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, April 30, and will lapse at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, May 2. Tuaño however noted that the full alert level status would only be lifted in Central Visayas at 11:59 p.m. on May 10 for security preparations for the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. Tuaño earlier said at least three groups applied for permits to rally at the United States Embassy in Manila, University of the Philippines Diliman, Welcome Rotunda and the Department of Social Welfare and Development office in Quezon City. But the PNP is yet to receive confirmation from respective local government units (LGUs) that the groups have been given greenlight. "If they are not granted a permit, we will consider their applications approved after three days," Tuaño said. According to the PNP spokesman, applications had been filed with respective LGUs last Monday, April 27. If the PNP's three-day rule were to be applied, the rally permit applications would be deemed on Labor Day on Friday, May 1, he clarified. Labor and sectoral groups Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), All Workers Unit and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan are expected to march to Mendiola on Friday to mark this year's Labor Day.

• Barzaga joins Duterte party (2026-04-30 13:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga has been sworn in as a new member of Partido Demokratiko Pilipino–Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), the party of former president Rodrigo Duterte.Barzaga took his oath on Wednesday at the party's headquarters in Sta. Mesa, Manila, alongside other new members. The ceremony was led by PDP officials Joy Encabo, Penny Belmonte, Yvette Contacto, and JV Frech Marigondon."Congressman Kiko Barzaga is now an official member of PDP-Laban #Duterte2028," he said in a Facebook post.PDP Deputy National Spokesman Ferdinand Topacio welcomed Barzaga, describing him as a "perfect fit" for the party."[He has] shown exceptional and admirable principles of nationalism and the relentless pursuit of justice in the face of overwhelming resistance from the majority in the House which is trying to cover up unprecedented levels of corruption and dysfunctional governance," Topacio said.Barzaga was previously a member of the National Unity Party (NUP), where his father, the late Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, had been a key figure.He was expelled from the NUP following the filing of an ethics complaint accusing him of "conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker."

• ICC orders status conference in Duterte case, sets 2026 trial preparation deadlines (2026-04-30 13:10)

Trial Chamber III of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has scheduled a first status conference on May 27, 2026, in the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte, issuing a detailed order on Thursday that seeks key submissions from parties and participants ahead of trial.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, together with Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou, directed the prosecution, defense, victim representatives, and the Registry to file written submissions by May 15, 2026. These submissions will address a broad range of procedural and evidentiary matters.The chamber's order primarily aims to determine a trial start date and define the scope of evidence.Prosecutors have been asked to estimate the number of witnesses, the expected hours of in-court testimony, and the anticipated volume of documentary evidence. They must also indicate whether expert witnesses or video-link testimony will be used.The defense is not required to provide similar details at this stage but may opt to do so.Judges also requested updates on whether the prosecution's investigations remain ongoing, as well as the timing and volume of outstanding disclosures required under the Rome Statute. Any issues related to transcription or translation must likewise be addressed.The chamber further directed parties to outline proposed witness protection measures, including redactions, delayed disclosure, or referrals to the court's protection program.The defense has been asked to state whether it intends to present a case under Rules 79 and 80. Meanwhile, all parties are invited to identify motions that must be resolved before trial, propose agenda items for the status conference, and flag any potential sources of delay.The Registry has been instructed to submit separate reports on language use, witness protection, and the status of pending victim participation applications.The status conference will be held at the ICC's headquarters in The Hague.

- Former broadcast journalist Jay Sonza arrested over alleged false claims on Marcos' health (2026-04-30 12:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday arrested former broadcaster and commentator Jay Sonza after a Pasay court issued a warrant over the alleged spread of false information about the health of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr..Sonza's lawyer, Mark Tolentino, confirmed the arrest, which took place in Quezon City. He said the former journalist was now under NBI custody as of posting time.The Pasay City Regional Trial Court issued the arrest warrant earlier in the day against Sonza and Eric Celiz for allegedly disseminating false or prohibited information to the public through the internet or other media platforms, specifically regarding the president's health condition.Sonza, a veteran media figure, had yet to issue a statement.

- Philippines, US lead 11 international vessels in enhanced maritime drills in West PH Sea for 'Balikatan' (2026-04-30 12:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines, United States and other allied forces deployed 11 vessels in complex naval drills as part of the ongoing Multinational Maritime Event (MME). The Japan Self-Defense Force, Australian Defense Force and the Canadian Armed Forces participated in the drills honing skills to detect and intercept threats from the sea and from the air, which

can be done through interoperability of various capabilities like radar sensors, command and control systems and air defense platforms — all designed to shoot information for swift decision-making. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deployed key maritime assets, including the BRP Miguel Malvar (FFG6), BRP Antonio Luna (FFG15), AW159, and an AW109 helicopter alongside Philippine Coast Guard’ s BRP Cape San Agustin (MRRV 4408). The US deployed its USS Ashland (LSD-48) and USCGC Midgett (WMSL-757), Japan, its JS Ikazuchi (DD-107), JS Shimokita (LST-4002), and JS Ise (DDH-152); Australia, its HMAS Toowoomba (FFH-156) and Canada, its HMCS Charlottetown (FFH-339) and MV Asterix. The exercises that started on April 20, 2026 featured a range of coordinated maritime activities, including Communication Checks, Photo Exercise (PHOTOEX), Coordinated Anti-Submarine Exercise (CASEX), Gunnery Exercise (GUNNEX), Air Defense Exercise through Integrated Air and Missile Defense (ADEX IAMD), Deck Landing Qualification (DLQ), Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), Maritime Cooperative Activity (MCA), and Replenishment at Sea (RAS), aimed at enhancing interoperability and operational readiness among participating forces.The drills, which will end on this Friday, are part of Exercise Balikatan 41-2026..

- Palace: House finding probable cause to impeach Duterte based on evidence (2026-04-30 11:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Thursday distanced itself from impeachment proceedings against Vice President Sara Duterte, insisting that it was the job of Congress.Palace Press Officer Claire Castro issued the statement after the Committee on Justice at the House of Representatives unanimously declared probable cause in the impeachment complaints filed against Duterte.In a press conference, Castro said that the House panel made its decision based on the evidence presented during the hearings."That is the job of Congress. If we look at the vote, they were able to see through the hearings that were conducted, and evidence was presented. So their decision is based on what they witnessed," she said.Castro also said that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s trust in active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines remained intact after the National Bureau of Investigation revealed that the contracted assassin to kill the chief executive and members of his family may have come from the military.

- Marcos to pursue legal, diplomatic means to bring Co home, says Palace (2026-04-30 09:46)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will pursue legal and diplomatic means to bring fugitive former lawmaker Zaldy Co home to the Philippines, Malacañang said Thursday.This, after Marcos received the confirmation from Chargé d’ Affaires of Czech Republic Eva Tenzin that Co had indeed been detained by Czech authorities due to invalid travel documents, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said."Aside from that, the President also requested additional statements or information from the Czech Republic, but this was not granted because the country is adhering to international law, as well as European and national laws," Castro said during a press conference."In the end, the President reaffirmed that the government will exhaust all legal and diplomatic means to bring back fugitive Zaldy Co back to

the Philippines so he can face the graft and malversation cases filed against him here in the Philippines," she added.Co, who is facing criminal charges as one of the central figures in the public works corruption scandal, is currently in France seeking asylum on the grounds of political persecution.

- House impeach proceedings defended (2026-04-30 07:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro defended the proceedings conducted by the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives which found probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte.Davao City 1st District Rep. Paolo Duterte posted on Facebook about an alleged effort to make lawmakers vote for impeachment. Allegedly, their district's budget would be removed if they did not."In as far as I am concerned, I beg to disagree [with] that. I do not encounter anyone calling me or my chief of staff concerning the support to this impeachment process," Luistro said in Filipino and English in an interview on GMA Network's Unang Hirit on Thursday."And I wish to add that in my capacity as chairperson, we did not stand for either party. We stood for the process," she said.Luistro is the chairman of the committee."During the clarificatory hearing of the Justice committee, we were impartial, we were independent because we acted as investigators in a proceeding akin to a preliminary investigation. The mandate is very simple: to determine whether or not probable cause exists," she said.

- What's next for OPEC after the UAE's withdrawal? (2026-04-30 07:38)

LONDON — The exit of the UAE from OPEC and OPEC+ starting in May has cast doubts over the Saudi-led cartel's future after losing its fourth largest producer and further strains ties between the two Gulf rivals.While the United Arab Emirates is not the first country to leave OPEC, it is by far the biggest oil producer to do so — dealing a massive blow to the group's hegemony and its ability to regulate oil prices and absorb shocks.What was the UAE's role in OPEC?Before Iran's blockade of Hormuz disrupted oil flows, the UAE was OPEC+'s fourth largest producer and accounted for nearly 13 percent of OPEC production.Others, including Qatar and Angola, have already left the group, but the UAE's departure is by far OPEC's most important loss.In February, it pumped 3.6 million barrels per day — making it a key asset for the cartel.Why did the UAE leave?The UAE has long been frustrated with the Saudi-led OPEC's quotas, which sought to cap Emirati production at 3.4 million barrels a day.Abu Dhabi seeks to expand its production capacity to five million barrels a day by 2027.Iran's Hormuz blockade gave the UAE an opportunity to leave OPEC without impacting prices while positioning itself to take market share once the Strait opens, said Neil Quilliam, an energy and geopolitics expert at Chatham House."The decision to leave was taken a long while go, so it was just a matter of timing," said Quilliam.The UAE did not want to be constrained by quotas once the Hormuz crisis ends, a source close to the UAE energy ministry told Agence France-Presse.This reflects clashing strategies between the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The UAE's already-diversified economy is better suited to weather lower oil prices, while Saudi Arabia relies heavily upon oil for the government's operating revenue and to fund diversification.The UAE's "optimal strategy for

extracting maximum value from the energy transition requires production freedom, carbon premium capture, and geopolitical independence from price politics, none of which OPEC's architecture permits," said Nadim Koteich, a Lebanese-Emirati commentator who previously headed UAE broadcaster Sky News Arabia.The added revenue would allow the UAE to step up its investments in artificial intelligence and other high-tech sectors.What about UAE-Saudi ties?The UAE's decision to exit the Saudi-led cartel puts added strain on Saudi-Emirati ties, analysts said, which have soured since a public falling out in December over Yemen.The pair is at odds over foreign policy, oil output and the Middle East war.The Emirates have signaled disappointment in traditional Arab allies over the war, including the Cairo-based Arab League but also the Riyadh-headquartered Gulf Cooperation Council.Its rift with Saudi Arabia has extended to divergences over Iran, with the UAE taking a more hawkish stance while Saudi Arabia has backed Pakistan's mediation efforts.UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei has insisted the decision was "not political."But analysts warned it would fuel their rivalry."No doubt this will further sour ties between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. It will not only intensify the competition for influence between them in the Red Sea but also in energy markets," Chatham House's Quilliam said.In an essay penned days before the OPEC exit, Tareq Alotaiba, a former UAE official and Harvard fellow, lambasted the "hollowness of Arab solidarity," which he warned could push Abu Dhabi out of OPEC or other Arab-led institutions.A UAE official told AFP that the country was "revising the relevance and utility of its role and contribution" in multilateral organizations but that is was "not considering any withdrawals."What impact on the market?The UAE currently has a production capacity of 4.3 million barrels a day, according to Francis Perrin, an energy expert at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs.If it flooded the market with all of this oil after the war ends it could sharply lower prices.With the UAE out of OPEC, Saudi Arabia now holds nearly all of the cartel's spare production capacity and must bear the burden of managing supply and limiting shocks, said Jorge Leon of Rystad Energy."Saudi Arabia is now left doing more of the heavy lifting on price stability, and the market loses one of the few shock absorbers it had left," he said.Could others follow suit?Kremlin spokesman Mitry Peskov told reporters Russia hoped the UAE's departure does not signal the end of OPEC.Iraq and Kazakhastan have been exceeding OPEC+ production quotas, but said they would not leave the group.If they were to exit, "that would raise alarm bells," Perrin said.

- Marcos inaugurates P1B irrigation project in Leyte (2026-04-30 07:36)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos on Thursday inaugurated the P1.1 billion irrigation project, a key infrastructure development expected to increase agricultural productivity in Leyte province.The Hibulangan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (HSRIP), considered one of the region’s largest irrigation facilities, is designed to provide a reliable water supply to 1,821 farmers covering 2,750 hectares of agricultural land in the towns of Villaba, Matag-ob, and Kananga."This is an example of a large-scale project across the Philippines. From having only one harvest per year, I was surprised to find out that they only planted once here, now there will be two, and if we manage the water properly, it might even reach three," Marcos said in his remarks.The irrigation facility was launched initially during the

administration of former president Benigno Aquino III in 2013 and has now become fully operational.Implemented by the National Irrigation Administration, the dam has a reservoir capacity of 9.01 million cubic meters and is expected to address the perennial challenge of water scarcity during the dry season.The project was first proposed in 2009 as a climate mitigation measure aimed at supporting farmers who rely heavily on rainfall and are vulnerable to prolonged dry spells.

- Govt unveils microsite for Middle East crisis response (2026-04-30 07:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Thursday unveiled the "Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport" (UPLIFT) microsite, which reflects the government's efforts to cushion the impact of surging oil prices driven by the war in the Middle East.In a press conference in Malacañang, Budget Undersecretary Goddes Hope Libiran said the new "transparency tool" was a fulfillment of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s promise of "a coordinated, transparent and people-centered service for the Filipino people.""This sense of urgency comes from the fact that in any crisis, timing is crucial. People need to see that help is real, ongoing, and reaching them. Even the most extensive government action means little if people cannot understand or access it. So, the UPLIFT microsite solves this gap," Libiran said."So essentially, this micro site shows that this whole government response starts at the top and that our President is actively engaged, publicly accountable and squarely focused on the Filipino people," she added.When asked why there was a need to launch such a microsite, Libiran said the government wanted the public to have a "single source of truth" regarding its response to the Middle East crisis amid the spread of fake news."So, to sum it up, the UPLIFT microsite takes everything this administration is doing, to shield Filipinos from the effects of the Middle East crisis, it shows that we are present, we are mobilizing, we are here, united and under the leadership of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., we are moving forward together with every Filipino citizen in mind," Libiran said."So, this platform will continue to grow and improve. But we chose to make it available now, so that Filipinos can already see and understand and access the help meant for them when it matters most," she added.The public may access the site here: https://uplift.gov.ph.

- Majority of Filipinos believe allegations of VP Duterte's 'hidden wealth' — survey (2026-04-30 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Majority of Filipinos believe Vice President Sara Duterte holds billions of pesos in undisclosed bank accounts, with public opinion sharply divided along political lines, according to a nationwide survey following recent legislative inquiries and reports from the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).The non-commissioned survey, conducted by Tangere from April 29 to 30 with 1,200 respondents, showed that 58 percent of Filipinos believe the allegations although these vary significantly depending on the political affiliation.Among supporters of the current administration, 82 percent said they believed Duterte possessed hidden wealth, despite her alliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. during the 2022

elections. Similarly, 81 percent of respondents aligned with the Liberal Party or supporters of former vice president Leni Robredo said they considered the allegations credible.Neutral or independent voters also leaned toward believing the claims, with about 67 percent expressing the view that the vice president holds undisclosed funds.In contrast, Duterte's core supporters—who make up about 40 percent of the population in the survey—largely rejected the allegations. Only around one-third of this group said they believed the claims, while the majority described the issue as a politically motivated smear campaign.The findings point to a deeply polarized public, with analysts noting that belief in the allegations extends beyond traditional opposition groups and into independent and administration-leaning voters. "The high level of belief among neutral and administration supporters suggests that recent AMLC disclosures have gained traction beyond the usual political blocs," the report said.At the same time, the survey indicated a strong base of Duterte supporters who remained unconvinced, reflecting what the report described as an entrenched "defender" bloc that may view the controversy through the lens of the 2028 elections.The survey also measured public awareness and perception of the AMLC, which has been at the center of the financial disclosures.Results showed that 90 percent of Filipinos were aware of the AMLC and its functions. Among those aware, 51 percent expressed trust in the agency, while 30 percent said they distrusted it. Satisfaction levels were similarly moderate, with 52 percent saying they were satisfied with the AMLC's performance, compared to 28 percent who were dissatisfied.The survey used a mobile-based application and employed stratified random sampling with quota-based distribution across regions. Respondents were drawn from across the country, including 12 percent from the National Capital Region, 23 percent from Northern Luzon, 22 percent from Southern Luzon, 20 percent from the Visayas, and 23 percent from Mindanao. The margin of error was ±2.77 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.Tangere, the firm behind the survey, described the study as non-commissioned and aimed at capturing Filipino sentiment on current national issues.

- Dengvaxia trial looms after judge junks motions to dismiss case (2026-04-30 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The much-delayed Dengvaxia case will now likely go full blast after a Quezon City court judge turned down the motions filed by former Health secretary and now Iloilo Rep. Janette Garin and other co-accused to dismiss the multiple cases for reason of " double jeopardy," among others, according to the public prosecutors.In an April 28, 2026 order, a copy of which was obtained by The Manila Times, Judge Michael Ken de Jesus, of Regional Trial Court-Branch 102, denied several motions to quash (or to dismiss the case) filed by the defense lawyers for lack of merit. "In sum, the attempt to shoehorn ('to force to be included or admitted') the Dengvaxia mass immunization program into the narrow confines of the Ivler doctrine is factually unavailing and legally untenable," de Jesus said.The defense panel argued that the 35 cases currently being handled by de Jesus were no different from the first batch of eight cases which were dismissed by another family court judge, hence, its claim of double jeopardy.The prosecution panel had insisted that the cases were separate and distinct from one another as the over 100 children, who all died after they were vaccinated with the banned

anti-dengue vaccine, had different medical conditions.Illustrating the "glaring fact" between a vehicular collision in the Jason Ivler vs Modesto-San Pedro case and "multiple, distinct acts of medical inoculate" in the Dengvaxia case, the judge said Ivler committed a singular act of driving his vehicle recklessly at a specific moment in time.But in the Dengvaxia case, there were " continuous repeated acts" and while the policy (mass vaccination) was singular, the proximate acts of negligence, the alleged indiscriminate administration of the vaccine without proper screening, were repeatedly committed with every individual injection, the family court judge said. “The alleged reckless imprudence did not solely materialize in a room or place during the procurement or licensing phase; it materialized upon the actual administration of the vaccine to an unsuspecting child,” de Jesus pointed out.Aware that the rule against double jeopardy was intended as a safeguard to protect an accused from "vexatious and repetitive prosecutions," however, he said: “the doctrine was never meant to serve as a shield against accountability for separate acts of negligence committed against different victims at different times.” Explaining that a motion to quash is neither a mini trial nor a proper vehicle to evaluate medical findings, weigh expert opinions or determine the cause of death, the judge said that it would be a matter of evidence “that must be rigorously tested during a full-blown trial on the merits.” The vaccine, procured by the Department of Health for P3.5 billion for a nationwide jab campaign in 2015, was allegedly not evaluated thoroughly for safety and efficacy, leading to the deaths of many children, according to the findings of several health experts and the Forensics Laboratory Division of the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO).Aside from Garin, her other co-accused were top executives of vaccine maker Sanofi Pasteur Inc. and vaccine distributor Zuellig Pharma, and officials of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippine Children’s Medical Center, and Food and Drug Administration.Charged with multiple reckless imprudence resulting in homicide, Garin and her co-accused were also facing civil cases before the Quezon City court.The other respondents were Kenneth Hartigan-Go, Vincent Belizario, Gerardo Bayugo, Irma Asuncion, Julius Lecciones, Mario Baquilod, Sonia Gonzales, Lourdes Santiago, Melody Zamudio, Socorro Lupisan, Maria Rosario Capeding, Carlito Realuyo, Conchita Santos, Maria Joyce Ducusin and Rosalind Vianzon, said to be all medical practitioners.Under the stewardship of its chief, Persida Rueda-Acosta, PAO has been providing legal assistance to the parents and relatives belonging to the Samahan ng mga Magulang ang mga Anak ay Biktima ng Dengvaxia (SMABD) particularly in the civil cases.

- Preparations for BARMM parliamentary election in full swing (2026-04-30 05:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Preparations are in full swing for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) parliamentary election as national government agencies and partner institutions coordinate security, legal, and administrative measures to ensure orderly and credible polls.This was highlighted during a command conference held on April 28 at Camp Crame in Quezon City where key stakeholders reaffirmed that the electoral exercise was firmly moving forward under a “whole-of-government” approach.Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. led discussions with election stakeholders, underscoring coordination among agencies to secure the upcoming polls.The meeting gathered officials from

the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Office of the Special Assistant to the President, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, and civil society election monitors.Special Assistant to the President Anton Lagdameo stressed the importance of holding the first-ever elections in BARMM, highlighting the order of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to certify the election as urgent. “The first BARMM parliamentary elections will be a historic moment not just for the region but for the whole nation. It is an opportunity for the Bangsamoro to shape their parliament directly and to prove that the democracy here is strong,” Lagdameo said.Republic Act 12317, signed into law by Marcos, sets the first regular BARMM parliamentary elections on the second Monday of September 2026 and aligns succeeding polls with the national and local elections beginning May 2031.Authorities reiterated their commitment to ensure peaceful and credible elections under heightened coordination efforts, with the PNP emphasizing its operational readiness in line with its campaign for more responsive public service.Despite the momentum in preparations, the electoral process is being shaped by legal and political challenges.A petition has been filed before the Comelec opposing the registration of the United Bangsamoro Justice Party, the political wing of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).The petition raised allegations of election law violations, including gun ban breaches and alleged foreign funding, and called for the denial of the party’s accreditation as a regional parliamentary political party.UBJP President Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, however, maintained that the party’s participation is essential to the electoral process, citing its historical role in the creation of BARMM.At the same time, separate petitions have been filed before the Supreme Court and Comelec urging the swift resolution of disputes involving BARMM redistricting and party accreditation rules.The petitioners warned that delays could affect voter representation and create confusion ahead of the filing of certificates of candidacy.They also urged the poll body to intensify voter education efforts, stressing the importance of clarifying that the BARMM parliamentary elections will proceed as scheduled on September.The BARMM elections will mark the first parliamentary polls in the region, transitioning governance from the appointed Bangsamoro Transition Authority to a fully elected 80-member parliament.The exercise is widely seen as a key milestone in the implementation of the 2014 peace agreement between the Philippine government and the MILF.

- Sotto: Senate may convene as impeachment court on May 13 (2026-04-30 05:22)

MANILA, Philippines—The Senate might convene as an impeachment court (IC) on May 13 if the House of Representatives (HOR), in a plenary vote, impeaches Vice President Sara on May 11, Senate President Vicente Sotto III said.The House Committee on Justice on Wednesday found probable cause to impeach Duterte. The committee is expected to meet on May 4 and produce its report, the resolution, and articles of impeachment (AI).Sotto on Thursday called for a senators' caucus to discuss preparations amid the possibility of the HOR transmitting the AI to the Senate."Let's say they approve [the AI] on May 11, [they will transmit it on] May 12. [The Senate should] discuss it already on May 13 and convene as impeachment court," Sotto said in Filipino in a chance interview.The Senate will resume session on May 4 after a monthlong break. "

The Senate must be in session to receive [the AI]," the senator said."But as of now everything is speculative. What we will be doing in caucus is discuss agenda for this month and the possibility of receiving the articles of impeachment," he said."Then, we will discuss the possibility of what should be done and the timetable - that is crucial," said Sotto, who will act as the presiding officer of the impeachment court.

• Senators hold caucus to prepare for possible Duterte impeach trial (2026-04-30 04:37)

MANILA, Philippines — An all-senators caucus was convened Thursday by Senate President Vicente Sotto III to discuss preparations for the anticipated impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte.Sources said the closed-door meeting focused on the procedural framework the Senate would adopt once the House of Representatives transmits the articles of impeachment against Duterte.Under the 1987 Constitution, the House has the exclusive power to initiate impeachment cases, while the Senate acts as an impeachment court. Senators will serve as judges tasked with determining whether the vice president is guilty of the charges outlined in the complaint.

• Eastern police strengthen security preparations for Labor Day (2026-04-30 04:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Eastern Police District (EPD) is ramping up preparations for Labor Day on May 1, 2026 to ensure the safety and security.At least 1,139 personnel will be deployed in the eastern portion of Metro Manila, including major convergence points; about 350 will be deployed to Manila and 501 will be part of the Civil Disturbance Management within the perimeter of EDSA Shrine.BGen. Alden Lagradante, district commander, directed police personnel from Pasig, Mandaluyong Marikina, and San Juan to maintain their present positions " to heighten public awareness and prevent potential crimes during the celebration."

• DPWH orders bus firm to pay for EDSA-Ortigas flyover fire damage (2026-04-30 04:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) demanded payment from a bus company for repair costs following a fire that damaged a major Metro Manila flyover.In a letter issued by Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon, the agency ordered LS8 Tourist Transport Corporation to shoulder the expenses for rehabilitation works at the EDSA-Ortigas Interchange.The demand stemmed from an April 24, 2026 incident in which a bus caught fire while traversing the interchange, one of the busiest road links in Metro Manila. The blaze reportedly lasted around an hour, raising concerns over potential structural damage.Initial inspections by DPWH engineers revealed visible deterioration in key sections of the bridge. Among the findings were concrete spalling on the soffit, exposure of reinforcing steel bars, and discoloration underneath the structure—signs consistent with high-temperature exposure.Authorities said the damage was concentrated at Span 7 of the interchange, a critical segment that supports heavy daily traffic. Engineers warned that while the bridge remained passable, repairs were necessary to ensure long-term safety and integrity.

• Marcos convenes national, regional leaders to strengthen cooperation vs crime (2026-04-30 04:03)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. convened national and regional leaders to strengthen coordination in addressing key peace and security priorities.The President led the Joint National Peace and Order Council and Regional Peace and Order Council Meeting for the first semester of 2026 in Malacañang on Thursday.During the meeting, Marcos stressed the importance of stronger cooperation between the national and local governments to curb crime and ensure faster emergency response."When communities are safe, people can work, build businesses and come home to their families with peace of mind," the President said in Facebook post."At the joint National Peace and Order Council Meeting, we strengthened coordination between national and local governments to keep crime down and respond faster in emergencies," he added.Marcos said discussions centered on leveraging technology and enhancing community involvement to help prevent crime."We discussed strategies, such as expanding the use of technology and engaging communities in deterring crime. We want to ensure that people feel safe, stable and secure," he said.

- Inflation could hit 6% in April — BSP (2026-04-30 03:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Higher local fuel and electricity costs due to the Middle East conflict, along with a weaker peso, could have pushed inflation to a three-year high in April, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Thursday.Consumer price growth was forecast to have hit 5.6 to 6.4 percent, above the 2.0- to 4.0-percent target and higher than the 4.1 percent recorded in March.Inflation at the top end, if realized, would be the highest since April 2023’s 6.6 percent.Data for April will be released by the Philippine Statistics Authority on May 5.“Inflation risks have intensified amid upward price pressures from significantly higher domestic petroleum prices, rising prices of key food items such as rice, fish, and meat, increased electricity charges, and the peso depreciation,” the central bank said in the statement.“The anticipated decline in vegetable and fruit prices may help temper inflation, but sources of upside price pressures continue to warrant close monitoring,” it added.

- BI nabs alleged foreign scammers, money launderers in Pampanga crackdown (2026-04-30 02:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities arrested three foreigners in Pampanga for their suspected involvement in online scamming and money laundering, as part of the government’s intensified crackdown on transnational crimes.Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado on Thursday said the suspects, identified as Chinese, were nabbed during a late-night enforcement operation in a residential property at Pulu Amsic subdivision in Angeles City.Agents from the BI’s Fugitive Search Unit (FSU), working closely with the National Bureau of Investigation–Organized and Transnational Crimes Division (NBI-OTCD), carried out the raid.Arrested were Zhang Zheng, 42; Ren Yi, 28; and Zhang Shengjun, 31, who were reportedly caught in flagrante while operating computer equipment allegedly used in fraudulent online schemes targeting foreign victims.Investigators said the trio was believed to be part of so-called “breakaway” scam hubs—groups composed of former Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) workers who have resumed illegal operations outside regulated facilities.These groups

are known to relocate to residential areas to avoid detection, making enforcement more challenging for authorities.

• Who is ICC Judge Joanna Korner? (2026-04-30 02:46)

MANILA, Philippines — International Criminal Court (ICC) Judge Joanna Korner was selected by the tribunal to preside over the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte.According to her profile at the ICC website, Korner practiced criminal law for 45 years in the United Kingdom and from 2012 served as a Crown Court of England and Wales, which tries the most serious and complex criminal cases in Britain.She has also been part of the Queen’s Counsel since 1993, and prosecuted and defended in numerous cases in the courts of England and Wales.Korner also served eight years as a senior prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia from 1999 to 2004 and from 2009 to 2012.“As a renowned expert, Judge Korner has organized and taught on numerous training programs on international criminal law and advocacy for judges and lawyers from different regions. Between 2004-2005, she was Senior Legal Adviser to the Chief Prosecutor of Bosnia and Herzegovina, during the establishment of a War Crimes Section in the country's State Prosecutor's Office,” the ICC’s website wrote.She would join the ICC on March 11, 2021, having been elected from List A, which is a roster of qualified lawyers eligible to practice before the ICC, on Dec. 23, 2020.Korner is assigned to the trial division and is serving at Trial Chambers I and V of the ICC.

• LTFRB summons bus operator over failure to grant mandated fare discounts (2026-04-30 02:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has summoned a bus operator and its driver for allegedly failing to provide mandated fare discounts under the government’s service contracting program.In a statement issued Thursday, the LTFRB said the show cause order (SCO) was served on Cemtrans Services, Inc. after a complaint surfaced online accusing one of its conductors of not granting required fare reductions and failing to return change to passengers.Under program rules, passenger buses are required to extend a 20 percent discount to regular commuters and up to 40 percent to students, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.The LTFRB said the conductor involved in the reported incident did not issue tickets, failed to apply the prescribed discount, and did not give the correct change for a trip from Alabang to Ayala.“This is not how the program works and there is no excuse for failure to provide the necessary discount to all passengers,” LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said.Mendoza warned that the agency would take action against operators and personnel who disregard program guidelines.The SCO directed the bus operator to submit a written explanation on why its franchise should not be suspended or revoked for non-compliance with service contracting rules. The driver and conductor were also ordered to appear at a hearing scheduled on May 11, 2026.Failure to attend the hearing or submit a response will be treated as a waiver, which could result in the imposition of a P5,000 penalty, the LTFRB said.

• DOLE rolls out P260M livelihood aid nationwide for Labor Day (2026-04-30 02:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is rolling out more than ₱261.5 million in livelihood assistance nationwide this Labor Day, targeting 11,257 beneficiaries under its Kabuhayan Program in a major push to strengthen long-term income opportunities.Timed with the country’ s 124th Labor Day celebration this Friday, the initiative goes beyond short-term aid, aiming to equip workers with sustainable sources of livelihood that could support families well after the holiday.Labor officials said the funding would be coursed through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), one of the agency’ s flagship interventions designed for informal workers, vulnerable sectors, and community-based groups.DOLE said the program reflected the government’ s broader strategy of pairing immediate financial relief with long-term economic resilience, especially for those most affected by unstable or low-income work.Instead of one-time assistance, beneficiaries will receive support that would allow them to build or expand small enterprises tailored to local demand and available resources.These livelihood grants come in the form of starter kits or materials for projects such as sari-sari stores, negokarts, farming, livestock raising, fishing ventures, and other community-driven businesses.

- Evidence for threat, sedition not 'foundation for probable cause,' says Sara's lawyer (2026-04-30 01:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The counsel of Vice President Sara Duterte in the complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday said that the evidence presented at the House of Representtaives' impeachment hearing on Wednesday was not a foundation for probable cause.The statement comes after NBI Director Melvin Matibag said that Duterte's threats to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez has already been established and that there was a "reasonable certainty of conviction" for cases of grave threat and inciting to sedition.In a statement sent to The Manila Times, Duterte's counsel, Paul Lawrence Lim, said the presentation in yesterday's hearing " reveals the paucity of the charges against her.""Evidence is curated, even spliced. Context is ignored. Opinion is substituted for facts. Guesswork is presented as investigation results. These cannot be the foundation for probable cause, much less a prima facie case with reasonable certainty of conviction. Simply repeating a conclusion, no matter how vehemently, does not make it true," Lim added.He added that the attempt to create a causal link between the vice president and alleged comments against the president "demands a gigantic leap in logic and abandonment of basic evidentiary principles,"."The non-existent connection to the vice president is posed as a mystery still under investigation with no immediate answer, but strategically implies guilt. This excites judgment without evidence,". Lim said.Lim said that Wednesday's proceeding confirmed that it has been a "fishing expedition aimed at giving a semblance of substance to the defective impeachment complaints," echoing the vice pressident.He added that the issue of the alleged commission of crimes "will be addressed at the proper fora, where evidence is expected to support judgment, and the rule of law is expected to be respected,"

- UK judge to head ICC trial chamber in Duterte case (2026-04-30 01:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Judge Joanna Korner has been designated presiding judge of Trial Chamber III in the case against former president Rodrigo Duterte at the International Criminal Court (ICC).In a decision issued on Wednesday, the Chamber announced that Korner, a judge from the United Kingdom, will lead the three-judge panel hearing the case.The chamber, which also includes Judge Keebong Paek of South Korea and Judge Nicolas Guillou of France, elected Korner pursuant to Regulation 13(2) of the court's regulations. Her designation was confirmed following the official referral of the Duterte case to Trial Chamber III by the ICC Presidency on April 24.The decision formalizes the court's judicial leadership for the proceedings against the former Philippine leader.

- Fire hits residential building in Manila (2026-04-30 00:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Fire broke out from a residential building in Sta. Cruz Manila early Thursday morning, reaching the fourth alarm.According to the Bureau of Fire Protection–National Capital Region (BFP NCR) Manila city, the first alarm was raised at 2:42 a.m. It then reached the second alarm by 2:57 a.m., third alarm by 3:26 a.m., and fourth alarm by 3:53 a.m.Authorities quickly responded to the operation and by 5:06 a.m, the fire was declared "under control." The cause of the fire has yet to be determined.The incident comes a day after a five-hour blaze hit a residential village in Muninlupa City. Damage and cause have also not been established.

- Panel finds probable cause to impeach VP (2026-04-29 16:16)

(UPDATE) THE House Committee on Justice on Wednesday declared that it found probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte, setting the stage for a plenary vote in the House of Representatives with major implications for the 2028 presidential race.During the resumption of its hearing on the impeachment complaints filed against Duterte, the committee voted unanimously that evidence in a pair of complaints alleging Duterte misused public funds in office and made a death threat against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had successfully established probable cause to pursue impeachment.The two complaints will now be consolidated into one before being sent to the plenary for a vote.The committee is expected to meet on May 4 and produce its report, the resolution and articles of impeachment.Under the Constitution, an impeachment by the House of Representatives triggers a Senate trial, where a guilty verdict would ban former president Rodrigo Duterte's eldest daughter from elected office for life.Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, one of the complaints' endorsers, said the evidence showed an "alarming pattern of amassing unexplained wealth" as well as threats that struck "at the very heart of our constitutional order." "There's no question we have enough and valid reason for this process to move forward and impeach the vice president," de Lima told the committee before the vote.The threat against Marcos stemmed from a late-night press briefing in which Duterte claimed to have hired an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the speaker of the House at the time, should he have her cut down first.She later said her comments had been misinterpreted.On Wednesday, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) told the committee the vice president's alleged death threat qualified as

sedition.Bank records presented by the committee in previous hearings, meanwhile, suggested large discrepancies between the vice president's publicly declared net worth — P88 million as of 2024 — and hundreds of transactions involving P6.7 billion.The vice president declined to appear at any of the hearings, saying she would answer questions if the process reached the Senate.Duterte's defense team said the House Committee on Justice's finding was "not unexpected." "The finding of probable cause by the House Committee on Justice was not unexpected, given the direction the proceedings had taken," the team said in a statement. "We respectfully maintain that the proceedings before the committee departed from the constitutional design. Instead of confining itself to the verified complaints and their attachments, the process expanded into matters that properly belong to a full trial," the defense team said.Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the committee chairman, however said the clarificatory hearing was not a trial and was not aimed at determining the guilt or innocence of the respondent.Under the 1987 Constitution, the committee must submit a report "with the corresponding resolution" to the House of Representatives within 60 session days from referral to it of the impeachment complaint. Then the House must calendar the resolution for consideration within 10 session days from receipt. "A vote of at least one-third of all the members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the articles of impeachment of the committee, or override its contrary resolution. The vote of each member shall be recorded," the provision says.Only the House has the power to initiate impeachment cases and only the Senate can conduct an impeachment trial.The purpose of the committee's hearing on the impeachment complaints was to determine whether there was probable cause to impeach Duterte.On Wednesday, the panel tackled Duterte's kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "And just to let you know, we have leads already.... I apologize that we cannot name the names of those individuals that we are following, but we are zeroing [in] on several individuals already who might have been who she talked to," said NBI Director Melvin Matibag.The complaint filed by several people, including priests, alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayed public trust and committed high crimes "in contracting to murder or assassinate" Marcos, first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former speaker and Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The complaint cited a Nov. 23, 2024 briefing with the media wherein she said, "... may kinausap na ako na tao. Sinabi ko sa kanya kapag pinatay ako, patayin mo si BBM, si Liza Araneta, at si Martin Romualdez (I have spoken to someone. I told him if I am killed, kill BBM (Marcos), Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez)." Duterte denied that this was an assassination threat.The other complaint, filed by lawyer Nathaniel Cabrera, alleged that she "committed acts that constitute culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust and other high crimes, by publicly admitting the contracting of an assassin." Duterte's answer to these charges was that the complainants failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed. "Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact," the defense team said.Also on Wednesday, the committee, voting 38-6, decided not to open the box that contained the income tax returns (ITRs) of Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio.The committee had subpoenaed the ITRs for its hearing on the impeachment complaints.In the resumption of the hearing last week, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Charlito Mendoza cited

Article 20 of the National Internal Revenue Code. This provision mandates the BIR commissioner to provide a congressional committee upon request, with information and reports in aid of legislation. The same provision allows the committee to disclose such information only in executive session unless the taxpayer has consented to disclosure in writing.At the resumption of the hearing on Wednesday, de Lima moved to open the box. “To allow a provision of the tax code to override the constitutional power of impeachment is to invert the hierarchy of laws,” she said.Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno believed that the committee had the power to open the box but also believed that doing so would be unnecessary. “The question is in relation to the determination of probable cause and if we are talking about probable cause, for me the evidence is already there — that is already enough for us to make a determination even if we do not open that box,” Diokno said in Filipino and English.As in past hearings, Duterte stayed away from Wednesday’s proceedings.Political blackmail?Davao City Rep. Paolo Duterte, meanwhile, described as “political blackmail” a report from Politiko.com that lawmakers are being coerced by House Majority Leader Sandro Marcos to vote for the impeachment of the vice president in exchange for funds for their districts.According to the online report, Marcos was already calling lawmakers for a “head count” ahead of the plenary deliberations for Duterte’s impeachment.The report added that lawmakers are now anticipating the release of projects “for later release” to cover farm-to-market roads, school building projects and even medical assistance for indigent patients.In a statement on his Facebook page, Duterte said Marcos was calling congressmen’s chiefs of staff demanding that they vote for impeachment or “else the entire General Appropriations Act budget for their districts will be removed.” “This means everything, including funds for irrigation, schools, bridges, roads and other necessities, especially for provinces that are already struggling, would be lost. Beyond this, they say even funds intended for social services will not be provided. They want to punish the people just for their desperate attempt to eliminate a political rival. What are you afraid of?” Duterte said.He added that if the lawmakers are being threatened with the removal of their district funds if they do not toe the impeachment line, he said that this is no longer democracy, but political blackmail. “The national budget is not a weapon. It is not a tool for intimidation. It is not used to force elected representatives to bow to the whims of a few. I will repeat: it is the people you are punishing for your own ambitions,” Duterte said.The Manila Times reached out to the majority leader for comment on Duterte’s charge, but was unable to get a response in time for publication.Duterte and Marcos have been engaged in a high-stakes political brawl that erupted within weeks of their 2022 win in the presidential election, when the vice president was denied her favored Cabinet portfolios and instead named education secretary.The vice president, who in February formally announced plans to run for president, was impeached by the House last year only to see the Supreme Court toss the case out over procedural issues.The 2025 impeachment bypassed the committee process entirely when the necessary one-third of House members signed an impeachment complaint and sent it directly to the Senate.The House is currently in recess, meaning any new impeachment vote must wait until they return on May 4.WITH AFP

- Rice may hit P60 a kilo by September, DA says (2026-04-29 16:14)

RICE prices may reach P60 to P62 per kilo by September, primarily due to rising fertilizer costs and global supply pressures, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said Wednesday during a hearing of the Protect Ad-Hoc Committee at the Senate.Responding to questions from senators on whether agricultural prices are expected to rise in the coming months, Tiu Laurel pointed to a sharp increase in fertilizer prices as a key factor that will affect the next harvest season. “Fertilizer prices have jumped from around P1,650 to as much as P3,000. Because of this, rice prices are expected to increase by the next harvest season, which is around September,” Tiu Laurel said.Currently, the average retail price of rice stands at about P50 per kilo, up from P42 before the global disruptions caused by the war in the Middle East and the resulting supply chain issues. Based on Department of Agriculture (DA) projections, this could rise to between P60 and P62 per kilo if traditional farming practices continue and farmers remain dependent on urea-based fertilizers.Despite the projected increase, Tiu Laurel emphasized that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed the DA to find ways to stabilize and lower rice prices. “One of our priorities is to bring down the average price, while still allowing a range of options — from premium rice to more affordable varieties,” he said.Among the strategies being explored is a rice blending program that mixes imported and locally produced rice at a ratio of 70 percent local, 30 percent imported. The goal is to lower retail prices while supporting local farmers. By blending cheaper imported rice with more expensive local varieties, officials hope to reduce the overall market price without undermining domestic production.Another proposal involves mixing rice with white corn, which is significantly cheaper. The suggested ratio is 50 percent rice and 50 percent white corn. The estimated sustainable farmgate price for rice is P22/kg (wet) and P27/kg (dry). Tiu Laurel said initial trials within the DA have shown promising results. “I’ve been eating it personally for a week. If prepared properly, you can hardly tell the difference,” he said, adding that increasing water content during cooking improves texture and taste.The practice, while traditional in some regions like Cebu, has yet to gain widespread acceptance in Luzon.Officials acknowledged the challenge of balancing consumer affordability with farmer profitability. With rising input costs, farmers need higher farmgate prices to sustain production, which inevitably pushes retail prices upward. “We want both local and imported rice to move hand in hand,” Tiu Laurel said. “The goal is to stabilize prices while ensuring our farmers can still earn.”

- PH, allies hold live fire coastline defense drill (2026-04-29 16:13)

(UPDATE) THE Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), together with the United States Armed Forces, Australian Defense Force and New Zealand Defense Force, simulated coastline defense against enemy amphibious landings, the military said in a statement on Tuesday.Led by the Philippine Marine Corps’ 3rd Marine Brigade, the activity called Counter-Landing Live Fire Exercise (CLLFX-West) was held at the Apurawan Beach Landing Site in Aborlan, Palawan, as part of Exercise Balikatan 41–2026. “The exercise simulated a maritime threat involving an enemy amphibious landing along the coastline, showcasing combined forces’ capability to detect, disrupt and deny hostile elements from establishing a beachhead,” the AFP said. “The activity demonstrated strong coordination and interoperability among participating forces in a complex

littoral environment," the AFP said.The exercise highlighted a layered, multi-domain defense employing synchronized air, land and indirect fire assets. The Philippine Air Force (PAF) deployed its FA-50 fighter jets for air interdiction while US forces provided High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (Himars) capabilities.Ground forces executed mid- to close-range engagements using artillery, mortars, light armored vehicles, anti-armor systems, heavy machine guns and infantry weapons, supported by precision strikes and reconnaissance.Simultaneously, a simulated Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation was conducted at Sitio Bubusawin and Sitio Long Point, alongside a community outreach activity in coordination with the local government of Aborlan and Barangay Apurawan, underscoring the AFP's role in both defense and humanitarian operations.Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., AFP chief of staff, witnessed the live-fire exercise together with Vice Adm. Alan Javier, commander of Western Command.Anti-drone drillsThe PAF FA50 fighter jets, which were earlier confirmed to be participating in the anti-drone drills in San Antonio, Zambales, were a no-show at the exercise.At the Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui, San Antonio, Zambales, the PAF and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) held a four-day Integrated Air and Missile Defense demonstration from April 26 to 29 showcasing the combined capabilities of the two militaries to detect and intercept hostile aerial threats such as drones, helicopters and low-lying fixed wing aircraft.In the exercise, the USMC brought in powerful air defense capabilities such as the Marine Air Defense Integrated System, Vampire Laser System and the Avenger Air Defense System all designed to knock down threats in the airspace.The FA50s participated in the counter-landing live-fire drills held on the beaches of Aporawan, Palawan, on April 27 but were not seen in the Zambales airspace. "Due to the safety protocols, live aircraft will not be used since we are dealing with a live missile that shoots in the air," Maj. Richmond Jan Cayabyab, battery commander of the Philippine Air Force's Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby (Spyder) air defense system, told reporters covering the anti-drone war games.Col. Xerxes Trinidad, AFP Public Affairs chief, said that in an air defense or air missile defense scenario, safety protocols must be observed.

- Pag-IBIG loan releases up 9% to ₱32.92B in Q1 (2026-04-29 16:12)

(UPDATE) SOME P32.92 billion in housing loans have been released in the first quarter (Q1) of 2026, which was 9 percent more than last year's P30.22 billion in the same period, the Home Development Mutual Fund, or Pag-IBIG Fund, said on Wednesday.Expanding access to home financing for Filipino workers, Pag-IBIG has financed 20,926 homes from January to March 2026, also higher than the 20,315 homes financed in the first quarter of 2025, CEO Marilene Acosta said.Acosta said that out of the allocated funds, socialized housing loans accounted for P2.95 billion, which financed 3,439 homes, up 68 percent in amount and 92 percent in number of units from the same period last year.It reflects Pag-IBIG Fund's sustained push to serve members from lower-income sectors, Acosta said.She said the agency remains focused on helping members own homes through monthly payments they can afford while keeping the fund strong for future borrowers. "What the Pag-IBIG Housing Loan gives our members is a real chance to own a home through monthly payments that are often lower than rent. Instead

of spending on rent, our members are able to make payments toward a home they can call their own," Acosta said. "The amount they save from lower monthly payments can then go to food, education, daily needs, and even to their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings and MP2 Savings. This matters most for our members from lower-income sectors, which is why we are glad to see more of them benefit through socialized housing," she added.Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who accompanied President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when the latter visited housing projects financed by Pag-IBIG Fund last week, cited the continuing efforts of the administration to make decent homes more accessible to Filipino families under the expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program.Aliling noted that the higher home loan releases show the progress being made in carrying out the president's directive to expand access to homeownership while also helping stimulate economic activity through housing production. "The efforts of the Marcos administration are bearing fruit. More Filipino workers are now gaining access to decent homes, and this is a clear step forward in fulfilling President Marcos' directive to make homeownership within reach of more families," Aliling said. "Housing also creates jobs, supports construction and allied industries, and helps drive economic activity. As the expanded 4PH program continues to provide greater affordability, we expect even more opportunities for homeownership to open for our members, especially those from underserved sectors. This is 'Bagong Pilipinas' in action," the housing czar said.Acosta praised the responsible member-borrowers who have been cited for the continued growth of the agency. "We thank them for keeping their accounts updated, because through their discipline, we are able to help more Filipino families own a home," Acosta said.

- PhilHealth expands maternity benefits (2026-04-29 16:11)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday announced expanded maternity benefits under Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) starting April 30.In a video message, Marcos said the expanded coverage included higher benefits for normal and cesarean deliveries, prenatal checkups and postnatal care coverage.For normal deliveries, the president said PhilHealth coverage would be raised to P29,000 from P9,750.He said PhilHealth coverage for caesarean deliveries would also be increased from P37,000 to P58,000 up to P62,000. "In many cases, if a mother gives birth in a ward, even in a private hospital, there may be nothing to pay upon discharge," Marcos said.The president also said prenatal care coverage has been expanded from four to eight checkups, now including vaccines and laboratory tests.He said that postnatal care has also been improved, with three follow-up visits now covered. "Our goal is simple: to ensure that every mother can give birth safely without worrying about where to get money," Marcos said. "We want no life to be put at risk simply due to lack of money," he added.

- Cuneta urges Robredo to reconsider 2028 plans (2026-04-29 16:10)

ACTOR and singer Sharon Cuneta called on former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo to reconsider her plan not to run for president in 2028.Cuneta is the wife of Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Robredo's running mate in the 2022 national polls. "Dearest Ma'am Leni,

please reconsider... You are the one who can unite these different parties. You have proven that you can fight for the Philippines," she wrote on Instagram.Cuneta, known to her fans as "the Megastar," urged Robredo not only to run for president, but also to pick a "great" vice presidential candidate."Please choose a great VP, ideally from where you will garner more support than ever before, and Kiko and I will go all-out for you," she said.She said Robredo's supporters, known as the "kakampinks" because of the former vice president's fondness for the color, are waiting for her decision. Cuneta noted that support for Robredo is strongly gathering more than ever."We are all storming the heavens with our prayers for you to change your mind and run once more... just one more time, Ma'am, for President," Cuneta said.Robredo earlier said that she would not run for a higher position in 2028 and instead would be seeking reelection as Naga City mayor.

• Russian yacht, cruise ships ferry Filipino seafarers out of Gulf (2026-04-29 16:09)

(UPDATE) A RUSSIAN superyacht trapped in the Gulf by the Middle East war carried stranded Filipino seafarers out through the perilous Strait of Hormuz, the government said Tuesday.The Russia-flagged Nord, a 142-meter (466-foot)-long yacht reportedly linked to the Russian billionaire Alexei Mordashov, passed the strait on Saturday, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) said in a statement.On board the yacht and a bulk cargo ship that also passed that day " were 36 Filipino seafarers, bringing the total Filipino crew of vessels out of the Strait to close to 1,200," it added.The department's Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac earlier said that about 800 of them had been taken through the strait in cruise ships that escaped the strait with passengers.Maritime trackers indicated that several cruise ships managed to make it through the route on April 18, after Iran briefly announced it was lifting its closure of the strait in the war.Cacdac said 15 other Filipino seafarers were on board two container ships that were later seized by Iranian forces on April 22: the Epaminondas and the Francesca."We have been assured that all 15 Filipino seafarers are safe, unharmed, and it will be a matter of time for their ships to be cleared," he said.

• PhilHealth urged to offer free vaccines (2026-04-29 16:08)

A HEALTH expert urged the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) to consider offering free vaccinations to its members, stressing that preventive care could help reduce long-term health care costs.Brian Posadas, vice president of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, said the state insurer should expand its focus from covering specific vaccines to making immunization more accessible through free vaccination programs."We sincerely hope PhilHealth would start considering giving free vaccines as well to partners because that is how we can protect the country," Posadas said in a press briefing.Posadas noted that vaccination rates among adults in the country remain low, partly due to high out-of-pocket costs and limited access, especially in remote areas.Unlike childhood immunizations under the government's National Immunization Program, adult vaccination lacks comprehensive monitoring and support.Posadas said expanding preventive programs through PhilHealth could help address vaccine hesitancy and improve overall public health outcomes."Let's not just look at it as an

initial cost. Let's look at it as prevention for further complications that could cause more harm," he added.Posadas also highlighted the need for better health data systems, noting that there is no comprehensive data tracking of adult immunization in the country. "The sad reality is there's no statistical data that really monitors adult vaccination," Posadas said during a press briefing. "Even with pediatric vaccines, coverage is already low — much more so for adults." He attributed this gap to structural challenges, including limited access to vaccines and the absence of systematic reporting mechanisms for adult immunization. In many cases, even health care providers struggle to maintain consistent records.Meanwhile, Dr. Lulu Bravo, executive director of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, said that public interest in vaccines tends to rise only during health scares, such as disease outbreaks or high-profile deaths. "The vaccination rates are increasing if there's an alert. And then, it dies very slowly," she said.The health experts urged stronger preventive health care policies by reducing the out-of-pocket expenses of patients to drive up vaccination rates.

- Government boosts 110,000 Filipino workers with emergency aid (2026-04-29 16:07)

MORE than 110,000 disadvantaged and displaced Filipino workers are set to receive a timely boost on Labor Day as the government rolls out emergency employment assistance through the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).A total of 111,418 beneficiaries will receive over P797 million in wage payouts as part of nationwide Labor Day activities, providing immediate financial relief to workers and families affected by income disruption.The payout is part of Labor Day activities, which aim to give relief to workers and families grappling with job loss, underemployment and unstable incomes.For many, the assistance comes at a critical time — offering not just short-term work, but a lifeline amid rising living costs and economic uncertainty.The initiative underscores the government's push to bring government aid to vulnerable sectors, especially those hit hardest by recent disruptions.Among the beneficiaries are 538 drivers under the newly launched Tupad Tuloy Pasada Program to support transport workers affected by income losses linked to the energy emergency.The program has already reached hundreds of jeepney drivers, helping them cope with reduced earnings and rising fuel costs, the DOLE said.Beyond cash-for-work, DOLE is also backing the nationwide rollout of Kadiwa ng Pangulo in 47 sites, where affordable food and essential goods are sold directly from producers. The effort aims to ease the burden on both workers and consumers by cutting costs, and improving access to basic commodities, it added.To support these operations, hundreds of Tupad workers will be deployed, generating more than P1 million in additional wages.Also, the Labor department is strengthening interagency efforts, teaming up with the Department of Agriculture to assist 10,000 farmers affected by El Niño.Farmers in regions including the Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Zamboanga and Caraga will receive emergency jobs and livelihood support.The program not only provides immediate income but also helps rehabilitate irrigation systems and promote climate-resilient farming practices.Tupad remains DOLE's frontline response for vulnerable workers — offering short-term employment lasting 10 to 30 days to help beneficiaries meet urgent needs.

- QCPD hunts down suspects in deadly QC shooting (2026-04-29 16:06)

(UPDATE) THE Quezon City Police District (QCPD) confirmed on Wednesday that two victims in a Timog Avenue shooting incident died while undergoing treatment, prompting a manhunt for the motorcycle-riding perpetrators.QCPD director BGen. Glenn Randy Silvio identified the victims as alias Norberto, 51, and alias Ceferino, 75, both city residents. The latter was reportedly a businessman and the former the head of an organization involved with nightclubs and karaoke bars.Silvio said they are conducting a manhunt operation for the two men on a motorcycle who peppered the victims' white Suzuki sedan with bullets Tuesday afternoon at the corner of EDSA and Timog Avenue, Barangay Sacred Heart, in the city.LtCol. Zachary Capellan of QCPD Police Station 10 said investigators found at least 12 bullet holes in the windshield and the car's body during the crime scene investigation. “The QCPD is also coordinating with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, as our investigators are now reviewing available CCTV (closed-circuit television) footage,” Silvio said.An initial police investigation showed that the victims sustained multiple gunshot wounds in the attack by two motorcycle-riding men wearing helmets and casual clothing; the back rider was the triggerman.A manhunt and a thorough investigation are ongoing to catch the suspects and establish the motive for the crime.

- Filipino Hajj pilgrims to benefit from ‘luggage-free’ program (2026-04-29 16:05)

THE National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) has announced a major logistical improvement for Filipino pilgrims participating in the 2026 Hajj, introducing a “luggage-free” travel system in coordination with Saudi authorities.In an advisory dated April 27, the NCMF, through its Bureau of Pilgrimage and Endowment (BPE), confirmed that the initiative — officially known as the “Hajj Without Luggage” program — will be implemented in partnership with Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Hajj and Umrah.Under the new system, checked baggage will no longer need to be claimed at the airport upon arrival in Madinah. Instead, luggage will be collected directly from the airport and transported to the pilgrims’ designated hotels.Officials say the program will reduce congestion at arrival terminals and allow pilgrims to proceed more quickly to their accommodations, minimizing fatigue after long international travel. “This initiative allows pilgrims to focus more on their spiritual journey rather than logistical concerns,” the advisory noted.To ensure proper handling, each pilgrim will be issued two official luggage stickers corresponding to the two allowed checked bags. These stickers will contain essential identification details that Saudi authorities require.Pilgrims are instructed to place the stickers clearly and visibly on their baggage before check-in to avoid delays or misplacement.With luggage arriving separately, the NCMF emphasized the importance of keeping essential items in hand-carry bags. These include passports and visa documents, travel permits and official IDs, cash, wallets and credit cards, prescription medications and a change of clothes and basic toiletries. The Philippines sends thousands of Muslim pilgrims annually to participate in Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam. The new program reflects broader efforts by Saudi Arabia to modernize pilgrimage logistics and enhance the overall experience for international pilgrims.The NCMF expressed confidence that the initiative will contribute to a smoother, safer and more organized Hajj season for Filipino participants in 2026.Pilgrims seeking further information or clarification may contact the NCMF-BPE through its official

communication channels, including email and social media platforms.

• Go leads honoring PH para-athletes (2026-04-29 16:04)

SEN. Bong Go led Tuesday the recognition of Filipino para-athletes during the 13th Asean Para Games Official Awarding of Incentives at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.The event followed the country's strong performance at the Asean Para Games 2026, held from Jan. 20 to 26 in Thailand. The Philippine delegation secured a total of 134 medals, including 45 gold, 37 silver and 52 bronze." By returning home with 134 medals, you have proven once again that there is no obstacle to a heart that is determined, disciplined and willing to fight for the country," said Go in his keynote speech. "You are not just medal winners — you are an inspiration to the Filipino people." Go, who chairs the Senate Committee on Sports, emphasized the role of athletics in nation-building and youth development, calling for stronger collaboration among stakeholders to further elevate Philippine sports.Go stressed the urgency of passing Senate Bill (SB) 1743, which seeks to amend Republic Act 10699. It aims to upgrade and equalize incentives for para-athletes, aligning their benefits with those received by able-bodied athletes.The measure has already been approved on third reading in the Senate. Go urged the House of Representatives to act swiftly."This has already passed the Senate, so I call on our colleagues in Congress to pass this into law," he said. "The government should recognize and support them equally." The senator said equalizing incentives is a matter of fairness and a recognition of the sacrifices made by para-athletes who bring honor to the country.Go added that the Supreme Court had affirmed its ruling directing the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to remit a portion of their revenues to fund the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). The move is expected to strengthen financial support for national athletes.During the event, Go acknowledged key sports officials, including Michael Barredo, Godofredo Custodio II and PSC Chairman Patrick Gregorio, along with commissioners Olivia "Bong" Coo, Edward Hayco, Matthew Gaston, Walter Torres and Guillermo Iroy.Go is the author and co-sponsor of Republic Act 11470, which established the National Academy of Sports (NAS) in New Clark City. The institution provides a dual-track system combining secondary education with specialized sports training for student-athletes.Go also filed SB 171, or the proposed NAS Regional Expansion Act of 2025, which seeks to establish similar academies across the country.

• Gatchalian flags fuel aid anomalies (2026-04-29 16:03)

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian claimed that about P2.7 billion could have been misallocated under the guise of financial subsidy for the motorcycle taxi riders.Gatchalian made the allegation during a hearing of the House Committee on Transportation chaired by Quezon City Rep. Franz Pumaren earlier this week. He cited inconsistencies, which he called the presence of "ghost riders" on the beneficiary list.Lawmakers have pressed both the concerned government agencies and transport network companies (TNCs) to comment on the matter.Gatchalian stressed that the absence of a verified beneficiary list prior to payout was unusual.In the previous payouts, the dataset was sourced from external entities, including the

Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and TNCs.Gatchalian called for a return to enforced manual verification that requires beneficiaries to appear in person and present valid identification before disbursement.To date, the Department of Social Welfare and Development said that about 20 percent of listed beneficiaries have yet to claim their aid, fueling suspicions that some entries may not correspond to real individuals.Motorcycle rights advocate Jobert Bolaños, in an interview with the members of the Quezon City Press Club on Wednesday, challenged the explanation of mere data discrepancies, telling lawmakers that the scale points to deliberate over-declaration.Bolaños cited one platform that allegedly submitted over 200,000 rider entries despite having a declared cap of only around 15,000 — suggesting the presence of "ghost riders." He warned that if each questionable entry received P5,000, the potential exposure could reach P1 billion.Even after data cleaning, the number of listed riders still far exceeds platform limits, indicating systemic flaws in data submission and oversight, he pointed out.Pumaren called for a deeper probe to determine accountability.

- Number of indigent Filipinos the same — OCTA (2026-04-29 16:02)

THE number of Filipinos who said they are poor and hungry remained almost the same in the first quarter of 2026, a survey conducted by OCTA Research showed.In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from March 19 to 25, Filipinos who said that they were poor declined slightly to 35 percent, equivalent to 9.2 million families, down 2 percent from the 37 percent or 9.8 million families in the previous quarter.However, OCTA noted that the difference is not "statistically significant" and is within the survey's margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent, which suggests that overall poverty conditions remained stable.Broken down by regions, self-rated poverty declined in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Mindanao by 12 and 11 points, respectively, at 21 percent and 56 percent, while self-rated poverty increased in Balance Luzon and Visayas by 3 and 4 percentage points at 25 percent and 44 percent.Self-rated poverty remains more pronounced among lower-income households, with 58 percent of Socioeconomic Class E families considering themselves poor.Meanwhile, self-rated food poverty, or the inability of households to secure sufficient and nutritious food on a regular basis, rose slightly to 31 percent, or around 8.1 million families, from 30 percent in the previous quarter, which is also not statistically significant, according to OCTA.Mindanao had the highest incidence of self-rated food poverty at 53 percent, while the NCR is at the lowest at 12 percent, a 41-point regional gap.Self-rated hunger also increased slightly to 17 percent of Filipino families, compared to 16 percent in the previous quarter, but OCTA noted that 82 percent of affected families reported experiencing hunger only once or a few times, suggesting that hunger remained more episodic than chronic.Visayas had the highest self-rated hunger at 26 percent, followed by Mindanao and Balance Luzon.The results, OCTA said, point to a "pattern of shallow but fragile stabilization," with households appearing marginally less likely to describe themselves as poor, but not materially more food secure. "This suggests that while economic sentiment may have improved modestly, household resilience remained weak and highly exposed to price shocks, particularly in food and transport. The broader pattern is not one of broad-based recovery, but of fragile stabilization," OCTA said.It said that the findings

reflect household conditions prior to the wider inflationary effects of the oil price shock associated with the conflict in the Middle East. “As such, the March 2026 results may be best understood as a pre-shock baseline, before higher transport and food costs began exerting broader pressure on household welfare and food access,” OCTA said.The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

- No winners in Grand Lotto 6/55, Mega Lotto 6/45 draws for April 29 (2026-04-29 15:11)

There were no winners in the Grand Lotto 6/55 and the Mega Lotto 6/45 draws on Wednesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.The winning combination for the Grand Lotto 6/55 was 42-02-54-35-41-49, with a jackpot prize of P73,371,278.43.There were also no winners in the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw, which had the winning combination 27-35-23-22-43-33 and a jackpot prize of P15,000,000.00.

- NBI authenticates VP Duterte's 'kill' remark video (2026-04-29 13:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Wednesday authenticated the video wherein Vice President Sara Duterte made a kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former Speaker and Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.During the House Committee on Justice's hearing on the impeachment complaints against Duterte, NBI Agent John Mark Calilung confirmed that the Nov. 23, 2024 video was authenticated under the NBI's Affidavit of Authentication of Digital Evidence which was attached to its Affidavit of Investigation submitted to the committee."The authentication was an act of ensuring that the video was the same and true recording that happened. We ensured that it was not edited, spliced, or AI-generated", he said.AI stands for artificial intelligence.The verification process that Calilung outlined included coordinating with Meta Platforms to preserve the original uniform resource locator or URL, the livestream screen recording, and hash value computation."The has value calculation is like the fingerprint of a digital file. If the video gets edited, the hash value will change," he said.When asked to confirm whether the video played during the hearing was from the copy that the NBI authenticated, he said, "Yes, Your Honor. It is part of the authenticated video".The committee later declared there was probable cause to impeach Duterte.The complaint filed by several people including priests alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayed public trust and committed high crimes "in contracting to murder or assassinate" Marcos, First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos, and former speaker and Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The complaint cited a Nov. 23, 2024 briefing with the media wherein she said, "[...] may kinausap na ako na tao. Sinabi ko sa kanya kapag pinatay ako, patayin mo si BBM, si Liza Araneta, at si Martin Romualdez."Duterte has denied making an assassination threat against Marcos.The other complaint, filed by lawyer Nathaniel Cabrera, alleged that she "committed acts that constitute culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and other high crimes, by publicly admitting the contracting of an assassin".Duterte's answer to the complaints said the complaints failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed. "Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact", it read.The

complaint filed by priests also alleged that Duterte betrayed public trust over alleged unexplained wealth. This was the complaint field by priests and others.It also alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed public trust in connection with confidential funds allocated to the Office of the Vice President (OVP) for 2022 and 2023 and confidential funds allocated for 2023 to the Department of Education (DepEd) which she led as secretary before she resigned in 2024 from that post.Cabrera's complaint alleged that she " betrayed the public trust and committed acts of graft and corruption by grossly abusing discretionary authority over confidential funds appropriated to the" OVP and DepEd."Absent any statement of ultimate facts in any of these Impeachment Complaints, there is nothing for respondent to answer. Respondent thus only admits averments therein insofar as they allege her election, assumption to the Office of the Vice President, appointment as Secretary of Education, and her prior offices as Mayor and Vice Mayor of Davao City", Duterte's answer to the complaints read."The rest of the allegations, including the annexes and so-called evidence attached to the Impeachment Complaints, are specifically denied for being false, misleading, impertinent, and mere conclusions of fact and law", it read.

• Defensor seeks Ombudsman’s help to show ‘missing’ whistleblower in public (2026-04-29 13:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Anakalusugan party-list congressman Michael “Mike” Defensor on Wednesday sought the help of Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla to locate the whereabouts of ex-Marine Sergeant Orly Guteza, the surprise whistleblower on flood control corruption scandal.Defensor, who introduced Guteza to Sen. Rodante Marcoleta at the height of the Senate flood control inquiry, told the ‘Pandesal Forum’ at the Kamuning Bakery and Café in Quezon City on Wednesday that he and his family have been worried because they have lost contact with him since late last year.During the same press briefing, Defensor showed the copies of the criminal complaints that the anti-graft office was set to file reportedly next month before the anti-graft court, Sandiganbayan, against ex-House Speaker Martin Romualdez and fugitive – erstwhile Ako Bicol congressman Zaldy Co - for plunder, among others.Praising Remulla for his courage and determination to push through with the filing of cases against Romualdez - President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s first cousin and current Leyte representative – and Co, Defensor said that he was felt vindicated because the affidavits presented by Guteza as well as the former 18 Marine members form huge part of the plunder complaint. “I was really surprised upon reading it (complaint) that was already certified to be true to see their sworn statements, which indicated of their participation in bringing several suitcases loaded with money to Romualdez, form part of the Ombudsman’s complaints,” said Defensor, also a former environment and natural resources secretary.Technically, Defensor said, Guteza would be already on the Ombudsman’s side. “That is why, I am now appealing to Ombudsman Remulla to help us locate him (Guteza) as his family was already worried as he has no longer been communicating with them since the last time or several months ago when he was at the Senate for a supposed hearing that did not take place,” Defensor said.Asked about the whereabouts of the former 18 Marines, the former lawmaker - nephew of late senator Miriam

Defensor Santiago – said they have been in hiding with their respective family while receiving support and assistance from “our group.” Like Guteza, Defensor said he was told by them that they were also ready to come out again if the Ombudsman would ask for more details from them, specifically on their alleged involvement in delivering suitcases loaded with money to Romualdez.Back to Guteza, Defensor said the Ombudsman, at his disposal and influence, could be able to locate and protect him and his family. “For the longest time, I kept silent but I’ m now appealing to him (Remulla) and since his (Guteza) affidavits were already used by the Ombudsman in the complaints to be filed against Romualdez and Co, he must be shown in public to erase our suspicions and fears,” said Defensor, also a former Malacanang chief of staff.At the same press conference, Defensor played a phone conversation between Guteza and his wife, which happened late last year, with which he expressed fear of his life while revealing that he was made to sign another affidavit, apparently by government authorities, to say that he was paid by him (Defensor) and Marcoleta and that he never delivered suitcases of money to Romualdez.Asked about the case of his wife and daughter in connection with the raid conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation at the Bleu Hotel in Pasig City, Defensor maintained his position as per lawyer’ s advice not to comment about it since he was not the one that was directly involved. “It was already a legal matter and we let our lawyers do the job but life is really like that especially when you are talking about corruption involving those in the government, which are political matters, so to speak, but it was unfortunate that even personal matters like family are being involved,” he lamented.He, however, did not elaborate.

- PH, Thailand agree any border dispute must be resolved peacefully (2026-04-29 13:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and Thailand underscored the need to pursue peaceful means in resolving the border dispute between Bangkok and Phnom Penh, Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro said.Lazaro on Wednesday said she had a "productive meeting" with Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow in Brunei. " Together, we are working toward a more peaceful, stable, prosperous and resilient Asean community," Lazaro wrote on X.The two officials discussed the bilateral border issue between Thailand and Cambodia.Both members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Cambodia and Thailand share a 800-kilometer land border which has been a source of political tensions.Home to about 700 million people, the Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Thailand, and Vietnam.Thailand in July 2025 launched airstrikes against Cambodian military targets along their long-disputed border. Military clashes in multiple areas along the border killed civilians in Thailand."I emphasized the readiness of the Philippines as Asean chair[man] to offer its good offices to help create a space for constructive dialogue between Thailand and Cambodia," Lazaro said.In a statement last year, the Department of Foreign Affairs clarified that the Philippines "does not take any position on this dispute but underscores the importance of maintaining open lines of communication and ensuring the de-escalation of the situation."They also exchanged views on important regional issues, from Myanmar developments to combating transnational crime. "I underscored the Philippines’ commitment to play an active

coordinating role in the Asean Observer Team," Lazaro said.

• Imee Marcos presses DA to fast-track fuel support for fisherfolk amid rising fuel costs (2026-04-29 13:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Imee Marcos has urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to fast-track the rollout of fuel assistance for fisherfolk affected by the oil crisis triggered by the conflict in the Middle East.The senator made the appeal on Wednesday during the resumption of the Proactive Response and Oversight for Timely and Effective Crisis Strategy (PROTECT) Committee hearing on the government's readiness to address a potential fuel crisis.Marcos cited earlier discussions with the DA on a proposed P10-per-liter fuel voucher for agricultural transport workers and fisherfolk. "That discussion has already been running for almost two and a half months. Are we already acting on it?" Marcos asked DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.. "Last time, you said it was up for review. Two and a half months without sufficient income is a heavy burden for our fisherfolk," she added in Filipino.Laurel responded that requests for fuel assistance vary by region and sector, with some areas proposing targeted voucher programs while others are seeking alternative forms of support.He also cited ongoing coordination with other agencies, including discussions on possible price adjustments in the canned sardine industry in Zamboanga, as part of broader efforts to boost fisherfolk income.Laurel said the DA is awaiting the release of around P6 billion from the Department of Budget and Management to fund various agricultural assistance programs, including fuel subsidies.He assured Marcos that the program will proceed once funding is released, with implementation targeted in the coming weeks.

• Paolo Marcoleta attributes Piolo character quote to John Lloyd character (2026-04-29 13:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Sagip Rep. Paolo Henry Marcoleta mistakenly attributed a movie quote to a character portrayed by John Lloyd Cruz during the resumption of the House Committee on Justice hearing on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte.The incident occurred while the panel was discussing whether to open a box containing the income tax returns (ITRs) of Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio. "I dare the committee to open the box, but with a caveat: make sure you are not violating the law," Marcoleta said in a mix of Filipino and English. "And Popoy said in the movie, 'I deserve an explanation. I deserve an acceptable reason.' Make sure that if you open it, you have an acceptable reason that is in accordance with the law," he added.However, "Popoy" is a character played by Cruz in the film One More Chance, while the quote cited by Marcoleta actually comes from the character Marco Villanueva, portrayed by Piolo Pascual, in the film Starting Over Again.

• NBI says surveiling persons over VP kill remark vs Marcos (2026-04-29 13:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Director Melvin Matibag of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) told lawmakers on Wednesday that the bureau was surveiling several people in connection with Vice President Sara Duterte's kill remark against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr."And just to let

you know, we have leads already. ... I apologize that we cannot name the names of those individuals that we are following but we are zeroing [in] on several individuals already who might have been who she talked to...", Matibag told the House Committee on Justice.The committee was hearing the two impeachment complaints against Duterte to determine whether there is probable cause to impeach her.The complaint filed by several people including priests alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayed public trust and committed high crimes "in contracting to murder or assassinate" President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos, and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The complaint cited a Nov. 23, 2024 briefing with the media wherein she said, "[...] may kinausap na ako na tao. Sinabi ko sa kanya kapag pinatay ako, patayin mo si BBM, si Liza Araneta, at si Martin Romualdez."Duterte has denied making an assassination threat against Marcos.The other complaint, filed by lawyer Nathaniel Cabrera, alleged that she "committed acts that constitute culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and other high crimes, by publicly admitting the contracting of an assassin".Duterte's answer to the complaints said the complaints failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed. "Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact", it read.

- Marcos summons French, Czech envoys over Zaldy Co (2026-04-29 10:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday met with French Ambassador to the Philippines Marie Fontanel, and the Czech Chargé d'affaires Eva Tenzin to discuss the situation of fugitive former lawmaker Zaldy Co.In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said that Marcos expressed disappointment at the whole situation with Co and that despite the Philippines' earnest efforts, he remained at large in Europe.The PCO said Marcos requested for further information as to what transpired and why Co was released from custody by the Czech authorities."Nonetheless, the President is confident of the strength of our bilateral relations with France and the Czech Republic that is grounded on shared values, including respect for the rule of law," the PCO said."Moving forward, he remains hopeful of future police, legal and judicial cooperation, so that once and for all Zaldy Co is brought back to PH to face justice," it added.

- Metro Manila air quality returns to pre-landfill fire levels as pollution decreases —PhilSA (2026-04-29 09:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) reported that the air pollution reported across Metro Manila caused by the Navotas Sanitary Landfill fire has since decreased and air quality has returned to its pre-fire levels.In a statement Wednesday, PhilSA said the daily monitoring of its satellite data showed that since the fire broke out, the levels of nitrogen dioxide have decreased and were now comparable to baseline readings recorded before the fire. "Observations are consistent with measurements on the ground by EMB NCR (Environmental Management Bureau - National Capital Region) and Central Luzon that particulate matter or PM over Metro Manila has improved on Tuesday (28 April) and Wednesday (29 April)," the agency said.PhilSA further noted that, based on its satellite image captured on

April 26, the burnt area was estimated to be a total of 31.95 hectares.They noted, however, that the number did not account for the actively burning area.PhilSA added that it would continue to monitor the situation to assess response efforts and advised the public to follow updates from health authorities.

• House panel finds probable cause to impeach Duterte (2026-04-29 08:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives' Committee on Justice declared the existence of probable cause to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte.Fifty-three lawmakers supported the motion to declare that probable cause existed in the two impeachment complaints.The committee will prepare its report, the resolution, and articles of impeachment. The committee will have another hearing on May 4, 2026.Under the 1987 Constitution, the committee must submit a report "with the corresponding resolution" to the House within 60 session days from referral of the impeachment complaint. Under the Constitution, the House must calendar the resolution for consideration within 10 session days from receipt."A vote of at least one-third of all the Members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the Committee, or override its contrary resolution. The vote of each Member shall be recorded", the Constitution read.Under the Constitution, only the House has the power to initiate impeachment cases and only the Senate can conduct an impeachment trial.

• FA50 fighter jets no show in Balikatan anti-drone drills ‘for safety’ — Air Force (2026-04-29 08:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Air Force’s (PAF) FA- 50 fighter jets which were confirmed to be participating in the anti-drone drills in San Antonio, Zambales were a no-show at the exercise. Held at the at the Naval Station Leovigildo Gantioqui, San Antonio Zambales, the PAF and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) held a four-day Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) demonstration from April 26-29 showcasing the combined capabilities of the two militaries to detect and intercept hostile aerial threats such as drones, helicopters and low-lying fixed wing aircraft. In the exercise, the USMC brought in powerful air defense capabilities such as the Marine Air Defense Integrated System, Vampire Laser System and the Avenger Air Defense System all designed to knock down threats in the airspace. The FA50s participated in the counter-landing live fire drills held on the beaches of Aporawan, Palawan on April 27 but were not seen in the Zambales airspace. “Due to the safety protocols, live aircraft will not be used since we are dealing with a live missile that shoots in the air,” Maj. Richmond Jan Cayabyab, battery commander of the Philippine Air Force’s Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby (Spyder) air defense system told reporters covering the anti-drone wargames. Col. Xerxes Trinidad, AFP Public Affairs chief, further clarified that in an air defense or air missile defense scenario, safety protocols must be observed. “And as you could see, our presentation only [featured] adversarial drones flown over as targets of our weapon system, our missile defense system,” Trinidad said. He clarified that it was the planners who could best answer why the FA50s were not used in the exercise but stressed that the whole point of the IADM is basically

ground to air protection courtesy of the shore-based missile systems. The PAF currently operates the FA-50 and A-29 Super Tucano turboprop light attack aircraft. The FA-50s are a supersonic light combat aircraft that serves as its primary fighter providing air defense, interdiction and maritime patrol capabilities.

• Pag-IBIG Fund home loan releases up 9% to ₱32.92B in Q1 2026 (2026-04-29 07:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Some P32.92 billion in housing loans has been released in the first quarter of 2026, nine percent higher from last year's P30.22 billion in the same period, the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or Pag-IBIG Fund revealed on Wednesday.Actively expanding access to home financing for Filipino workers without let-up, Pag-IBIG has financed 20,926 homes from January to March 2026, also higher than the 20,315 homes financed in the first quarter of 2025, CEO Marilene Acosta said.Acosta said that out of the allocated funds, socialized housing loans accounted for P2.95 billion which financed 3,439 homes, up 68 percent in amount and 92 percent in number of units from the same period last year.It reflects Pag-IBIG Fund's sustained push to serve members from lower-income sectors, according to the top HDMF official.She stressed that the agency remained focused on helping members own homes through monthly payments they could afford while keeping it strong for future borrowers."What the Pag-IBIG Housing Loan gives our members is a real chance to own a home through monthly payments that are often lower than rent. Instead of spending on rent, our members are able to make payments toward a home they can call their own," Acosta said."The amount they save from lower monthly payments can then go to food, education, daily needs, and even to their Pag-IBIG Regular Savings and MP2 Savings. This matters most for our members from lower-income sectors, which is why we are glad to see more of them benefit through socialized housing," she added.Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who accompanied President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when he visited housing projects financed by Pag-IBIG Fund last week, cited the continuing efforts of the administration to make decent homes more accessible to Filipino families under the expanded 'Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino' (4PH) program.Aliling noted that the higher home loan releases would show the progress being made in carrying out the President's directive to expand access to homeownership while also helping stimulate economic activity through housing production."The efforts of the Marcos administration are bearing fruit. More Filipino workers are now gaining access to decent homes, and this is a clear step forward in fulfilling President Marcos' directive to make homeownership within reach of more families," Aliling said."Housing also creates jobs, supports construction and allied industries, and helps drive economic activity. As the expanded 4PH program continues to provide greater affordability, we expect even more opportunities for homeownership to open for our members, especially those from underserved sectors. This is 'Bagong Pilipinas' in action," the housing czar pointed out.Acosta, in a statement emailed to The Manila Times, was all praises for the responsible member-borrowers who have been cited for the continued growth of the agency."We thank them for keeping their accounts updated, because through their discipline, we are able to help more Filipino families own a home," Acosta said.

• Ateneo de Manila leads Philippine universities in 2026 Times Asia Rankings (2026-04-29 06:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Ateneo de Manila University led all Philippine universities in the latest Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings for 2026.Ateneo ranked 501-600th place, followed by De La Salle University, Mapua University, University of Santo Tomas, and University of the Philippines in the 601-800th place bracket.Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) was the only regional university to be ranked in the list, scoring at the 801+ bracket.Meanwhile, 42 Filipino universities attained "reporter" status, or those who reported their rankings to THE, a 121 percent increase from the previous year.According to the Commission on Higher Education, the high number of universities reporting their metrics to THE reflects a stronger participation in global benchmarking and more robust institutional data systems."These rankings affirm that Philippine higher education institutions are steadily gaining ground in the global academic community. More importantly, they highlight the growing commitment of our universities to quality, transparency, and international engagement," CHEd Chairman Shirley Agrupis said.

• PH, US, allies stage coastline defense wargames in Palawan (2026-04-29 06:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), together with the United States Armed Forces, Australian Defense Force, and New Zealand Defense Force, simulated coastline defenses against enemy amphibious landings.Led by the Philippine Marine Corps' 3rd Marine Brigade, the activity called Counter-Landing Live Fire Exercise (CLLFX-West) was held at the Apurawan Beach Landing Site in Aborlan, Palawan as part of Exercise Balikatan 41–2026. "The exercise simulated a maritime threat involving an enemy amphibious landing along the coastline, showcasing combined forces' capability to detect, disrupt, and deny hostile elements from establishing a beachhead," the AFP said in a statement on Tuesday. "The activity demonstrated strong coordination and interoperability among participating forces in a complex littoral environment," the AFP said, a day after the drills.The exercise highlighted a layered, multi-domain defense employing synchronized air, land, and indirect fire assets. The Philippine Air Force (PAF) deployed its FA-50 fighter jets for air interdiction while US forces provided High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) capabilities. Ground forces executed mid- to close-range engagements using artillery, mortars, light armored vehicles, anti-armor systems, heavy machine guns, and infantry weapons, supported by precision strikes and reconnaissance.Simultaneously, a simulated Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation was conducted in Sitio Bubusawin and Sitio Long Point, alongside a community outreach activity in coordination with the local government of Aborlan and Barangay Apurawan, underscoring the AFP's role in both defense and humanitarian operations.Gen. Romeo S. Brawner Jr, AFP chief of staff, witnessed the live fire exercises, together with Vice Admiral Alan M Javier, head of the Western Command.

• Marcos announces expansion of PhilHealth maternity benefits (2026-04-29 04:41)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday announced expanded maternity benefits under Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) starting April 30, 2026.In a video message, Marcos said the expanded coverage included higher benefits for normal and cesarean deliveries, prenatal check-ups and postnatal care coverage.For normal deliveries, the President said that PhilHealth coverage would be raised to P29,000 from P9,750.PhilHealth coverage for cesarean deliveries would also be increased from P37,000 to P58,000 up to P62,000, he added.

- House panel votes against opening boxes containing ITRs of Sara, husband (2026-04-29 04:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Voting 38-6, the justice committee at the House of Representatives decided against opening the boxes that contained the Income Tax Returns (ITRs) of Vice President Sara Duterte and her husband, Manases Carpio.The committee had subpoenaed the ITRs for its hearing on the impeachment complaints against the vice president but decided to leave the boxes unopened until it has determined whether there was probable cause to impeach Duterte.The vice president was a no show again at the resumption of the deliberations on the two impeachment complaints against her at the House of Representatives on Wednesday.Despite this, the Committee on Justice directed its secretariat to call Duterte's name " to extend to her the continuing opportunity to present her evidence, including counter-evidence and clarificatory questions through the Justice members," said Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the committee chairman.The committee is conducting the hearing to determine whether there is probable cause to impeach Duterte.The committee was set to tackle her kill" remarks against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and two others.The complaint filed by several people, including clergy, alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayed public trust and committed high crimes "in contracting to murder or assassinate" the president, first lady Liza Araneta Marcos, and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The complaint cited a Nov. 23, 2024 briefing with the media wherein she said, "[...] may kinausap na ako na tao. Sinabi ko sa kanya kapag pinatay ako, patayin mo si BBM, si Liza Araneta, at si Martin Romualdez (I have spoken to someone. I told him that if I were killed, to kill BBM, Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez)." BBM is the monicker for Bongbong Marcos.Duterte denied making the threat.The other complaint, filed by lawyer Nathaniel Cabrera, alleged that she " committed acts that constitute culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and other high crimes, by publicly admitting the contracting of an assassin".Duterte said the complaints failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed. "Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact," it read.The complaint filed by clergy and several others also alleged that Duterte betrayed public trust over alleged unexplained wealth.It also alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed public trust in connection with confidential funds allocated to the Office of the Vice President (OVP) for 2022 and 2023 and confidential funds allocated for 2023 to the Department of Education (DepEd) which she led as secretary before she resigned in 2024 from that post.Cabrera's complaint alleged that she "betrayed the public trust and committed acts of

graft and corruption by grossly abusing discretionary authority over confidential funds appropriated to the" OVP and DepEd."Absent any statement of ultimate facts in any of these Impeachment Complaints, there is nothing for respondent to answer. Respondent thus only admits averments therein insofar as they allege her election, assumption to the Office of the Vice President, appointment as Secretary of Education, and her prior offices as Mayor and Vice Mayor of Davao City," Duterte countered."The rest of the allegations, including the annexes and so-called evidence attached to the Impeachment Complaints, are specifically denied for being false, misleading, impertinent, and mere conclusions of fact and law," it read.Under the 1987 Constitution, only the House has the power to initiate impeachment cases and only the Senate can conduct an impeachment trial.Luistro has said that what the hearing was not a trial. In a press conference, she said that "this hearing, clarificatory hearing, is intended for the determination of probable cause, not for the purpose of determining the guilt or innocence of the respondent."

- Police launch manhunt for suspects in Quezon City shooting which left 2 dead (2026-04-29 04:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Wednesday confirmed that the two victims in a shooting incident the day before died while undergoing treatment as manhunt operations were launched against the motorcycle-riding perpetrators.BGen. Glenn Randy Silvio, QCPD director, identified the victims as alias Norberto, 51; and alias Ceferino, 75, both residents. Ceferino was said to be a known businessman and former head of an organization engaged in nightclubs and karaoke bars.Silvio said they have been conducting manhunt operations against the two assailants who shot at the white Suzuki vehicle with the victims on board on Tuesday afternoon at the corner of Edsa and Timog Avenue, Barangay Sacred Heart.At least 12 bullet holes in the windshield and the car's body were found during an inspection at the crime scene, Lt. Col. Zachary Capellan of the Police Station 10 said. “The QCPD is also coordinating with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority as our investigators are now reviewing available CCTV (closed-circuit television) footages,” Silvio said.Investigation showed that the victims sustained multiple gunshot wounds in the attack.The identities of the killers, their whereabouts and motive have not been established, the police chief said.

- Vico Sotto taps engineering students, civil society groups to help audit infrastructure projects (2026-04-29 02:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto launched a program tapping engineering students and civil society organizations to help audit local infrastructure projects for quality and transparency.Sotto said on Wednesday that the Citizen Monitoring of Infrastructure Projects would allow students from Rizal Technological University and CSOs to watch over both the city government and contractors handling Pasig projects. “Our CSOs and RTU engineering students will watch over the government and the contractors in the LGU’s projects, exciting right?” he said.Sotto said the program came after Pasig’s reforms lowered contract prices, raising a new challenge of guarding against contractors who submit very low bids but later deliver

substandard or incomplete work. “The next challenge, what if contractor-bidders dive, but their plan is actually to do substandard or insufficient work?” Sotto said.Sotto said third-party monitoring would help ensure that infrastructure projects were not only properly priced, but also responsive to public needs and built with the right quality.

- Fire hits residential area in Muntinlupa, reaches third alarm (2026-04-29 02:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Fire hit a residential area in Muntinlupa City reached third alarm as firefighters continued to battle the blaze on Wednesday morning.Mayor Ruffy Biazon said the blaze at Purok 2 in Barangay Sucat was raised to first alarm at 6:51 a.m., second alarm at 7:21 a.m., and third alarm at 8:05 a.m., according to the Muntinlupa City Department of Disaster Resilience and Management and the Bureau of Fire Protection.Biazon said village and BFP firefighters immediately responded to the fire after it was raised to first alarm.He said he was monitoring the emergency response operations of the concerned units, including the BFP, DRRMO, village officials, and volunteers, through the city’s operations center and direct communication.Under the city’s protocols, Biazon said the Social Service Department was also preparing assistance for affected residents.Authorities have yet to release details on the number of affected families, damaged houses, or possible injuries as of posting time.

- Most parts of PH would experience generally fair weather (2026-04-28 23:31)

MANILA, Philippines – The state-run weather agency said on Wednesday that most parts of the archipelago would be experiencing generally fair weather due to the easterlies.Weather forecaster Loriedin dela Cruz-Galicia of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that any formation of a low-pressure area inside or outside the country’s area of responsibility would be unlikely over the next two to three days. “The country would again be experiencing hot and humid weather throughout the day due to the prevailing easterly winds,” the Pagasa forecaster said.However, the same weather system would likely bring partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms over Metro Manila and the rest of the country, especially in late afternoon or evening, Pagasa said.On the heat index forecast, Pagasa said Metro Manila would likely experience 39 degrees Celsius on Wednesday, which falls under the extreme caution category, and the highest could be recorded over Sangley Point, Cavite, at 43 degrees Celsius, which falls under the danger category.It has been reminding the public to limit outdoor activities, particularly when the sun’s heat is at its peak, and stay hydrated.

- Pasig shuts Bleu Hotel tied to former Rep. Defensor kin after trafficking raid (2026-04-28 20:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Pasig City government ordered the immediate closure of Bleu Hotel Pasig, an establishment allegedly linked to the wife and daughter of former AnaKalusugan party-list Rep. Mike Defensor, after a National Bureau of Investigation raid over alleged human trafficking and prostitution.The city government confirmed the legitimacy of the closure order to The Manila Times on Tuesday evening, April 28. “Yes, this is legitimate,” the Office of the

City Administrator said.The order, dated April 27, was issued against Zerrin Dev't Corporation/Bleu Hotel Pasig, located at Cliffpoint Square in the Ortigas Home Depot Complex along J. Vargas Avenue in Ugong.The document said the April 21 NBI raid inside the premises resulted in the discovery of "serious illegal activities" involving human trafficking and the facilitation of prostitution.It said the alleged activities violated the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code.The city said the continuation of such unlawful activities inside the establishment constituted a grave violation of the conditions of its business permit and registration with the Business Permit and Licensing Department."Pending the resolution of the complaint by the Office of the City Prosecutor-Pasig and in the interest of public welfare and safety, this establishment, Zerrin Dev't Corp./Bleu Hotel Pasig, is hereby ordered closed," the order read.The closure order took effect immediately.Bleu Hotel drew public attention after the NBI raid, which led to complaints over alleged violations of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.Julie Defensor, wife of the former lawmaker, earlier denied the allegations and said her family had no connection to the targeted establishment or its operations.

• DFA: Co's regular and diplomatic passports had been canceled since December 2025 (2026-04-28 17:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said it cancelled one regular and one diplomatic passport of former representative Elizaldy Co by virtue of a court order in December 2025."This was immediately reported to Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization)," the DFA said in a statement on Tuesday.It issued the clarification as some quarters wondered about Co's ability to travel within Europe despite the reported cancelation of his passport."With regard to his other regular passport which expired in September 2022 and which may have been used by Mr. Co to cross to Germany from the Czech Republic, this need not be cancelled since its expiration rendered it unusable for international travel," the DFA said. The Department of Justice (DOJ) confirmed that Co is no longer under the custody of Czech authorities after he was held for immigration violations.Acting DOJ Secretary Fredderick Vida said the former Ako Bicol partylist representative was released after being accosted last April 16 and is now free somewhere in Europe.Vida said Co is believed to remain within the Schengen area, but Czech authorities declined to provide details on his whereabouts, citing data privacy rules and the bloc's open-border policies.Sen. Panfilo Lacson earlier said the government can tap a 2003 anti-corruption convention of the United Nations (UN) to locate and arrest Co.He said the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which the Philippine Senate ratified in 2006, is a legally binding treaty that provides a framework for international cooperation against corruption."One option the Philippine government may explore is to tap the UNCAC, where we are a signatory. Imagine, 192 countries signed the convention," Lacson said in Filipino and English."If we tap the resources of 191 other countries, you can imagine how our efforts to locate and arrest Co will be easier," he said in a radio interview last year.The UNCAC's Article 38 mandates cooperation between state parties in investigating and prosecuting criminal offenses.He said the Ombudsman, Department of Justice and the DFA can study this option in

seeking the help of other signatories to the convention.Lacson said this will complement the Philippines' request to the Interpol to issue a red notice against Co, whose passport had already been canceled by the DFA.

- ICC picks judges for Duterte's trial (2026-04-28 16:17)

(UPDATE) THE Presidency of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has constituted Trial Chamber III and referred the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte to it for trial, following the confirmation of charges issued on April 23.In a decision released Tuesday, the ICC Presidency said it acted pursuant to Article 61(11) of the Rome Statute and Rule 130 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, which require it to establish a trial chamber once charges have been confirmed and to transmit both the confirmation decision and the full record of proceedings to that chamber.The move came after Pre-Trial Chamber I confirmed charges against Duterte and committed him to trial on the specific counts detailed in its ruling.The Presidency said the complete case record, including the decision confirming the charges, had been transmitted by the ICC Registry in accordance with procedural rules governing the transition from pre-trial to trial stage.The Presidency said it took into account the court’s current and anticipated workload, the need for efficient case management, judicial availability, prior involvement of judges in cases, and the experience and expertise of each member of the bench.The newly constituted Trial Chamber III is composed of Judges Joanna Korner, Keebong Paek, and Nicolas Guillou.Judge Korner is a British jurist with extensive experience in international criminal law and prosecution. Before joining the ICC, she served as a prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), handling cases involving war crimes and crimes against humanity. She also held senior prosecutorial roles in the United Kingdom, where she worked on complex criminal cases. At the ICC, she is known for her trial advocacy and judicial experience in international proceedings.Judge Keebong, on the other hand, is a South Korean judge with experience in domestic judiciary service and international legal frameworks. His work has involved criminal adjudication and cross-border legal cooperation, with a focus on evidentiary standards and comparative criminal procedure. At the ICC, he contributes to both pre-trial and trial functions of the Court.Judge Guillou is a French jurist who previously served in the French judiciary, with experience in criminal law, judicial administration, and international legal cooperation. At the ICC, he has handled complex proceedings requiring detailed review of extensive evidentiary records and procedural issues.While the case has been moved to the Trial Chamber, an exact start date has not yet been announced by the ICC judges.Under the Rome Statute, Duterte’s presence at the trial is mandatory. While he waived his right to appear during the pre-trial and jurisdiction hearings, he will be required to be in the courtroom once the trial begins.The trial focuses on killings carried out between November 2011 and March 2019, covering his time as mayor of Davao City and his presidency. The prosecution has focused on 78 victims across 49 incidents, though they have said this is a non-exhaustive list and more evidence may be introduced during the trial.Duterte’s legal team may continue filing various procedural appeals, but these are no longer capable of stopping the case from moving to the full trial stage.

• Zaldy Co seeking asylum in France (2026-04-28 16:15)

(UPDATE) FUGITIVE and former congressman Zaldy Co is now seeking political asylum in France on the grounds of “political persecution,” Malacañang said Tuesday.Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, who is currently in Prague, had reported to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. that Co was no longer under the custody of the Czech Republic.“Based on their high-level engagements with officials of the Czech Republic and representatives of the European Union, it is clear that the steps being taken are anchored in respect for existing EU laws and those of their respective member states,” Castro said during a press conference.“Such matters require a thorough diplomatic process and coordination at the highest level, and this is exactly what we have been doing since it was determined that he was being held by Czech authorities in connection with the use of invalid documentation. At present, it has been confirmed that Zaldy Co is no longer in the custody of the Czech authorities,” she added.Citing a “highly reliable” information from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Castro said that Co has a pending petition for political asylum in France.“He is now under the jurisdiction of French authorities,” Castro said.“All missions in Europe have been instructed to obtain further official confirmation,” she added.Castro said Co was claiming that he was being politically persecuted, which she denied.The Palace official also said the President was “disappointed” when he learned that Co was no longer in Prague.“He said... we should have brought Zaldy Co home soon,” she said.But Castro maintained the government did what it could to bring Co back to the country.She said the president has summoned the French ambassador to the Philippines and Czech charges d’affaires to a meeting in Malacañang on Wednesday, to discuss what the Philippines could have done and could still do to bring Co back to Manila.“We will work with foreign governments through every legal channel available under international laws to bring Zaldy Co home and face the graft and malversation cases filed against him,” she said.“We will do all of this following the law and the diplomatic process,” Castro added.Co, who has been declared a fugitive and ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan, was accosted by Czech authorities on April 16 for violating immigration laws.Co, who chaired the House appropriations committee during Marcos’ first term, was charged by the Ombudsman in November 2025 with graft and nonbailable malversation over a multimillion-peso flood control project in Oriental Mindoro.He has been a fugitive since July 2025, when he left the Philippines purportedly for medical treatment in the United States.In a briefing from Prague that lasted nearly an hour, Vida said Co’s release was confirmed during a high-level meeting with officials from the Czech Ministry of Justice, Interior, and Foreign Affairs.“I have to share difficult news. Czech authorities have informed us that Mr. Co is no longer in their custody,” Vida said.Vida said Czech authorities clarified that Co had previously been under their jurisdiction, but had already exited custody by the time Philippine officials arrived in Prague.According to Vida, Czech officials pointed to the absence of an Interpol Red Notice as a critical factor behind Co’s release.The Philippine government had filed an application for a Red Notice in November 2025, but Interpol has not yet issued it.“A Red Notice would enable any member country to detain and return him through extradition or deportation. Without that, there are limitations,” Vida said.Under Interpol rules, a Red Notice

is not an arrest warrant but a request for law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally detain a subject pending extradition, subject to national law.With no active notice, Philippine officials said Co is now believed to be moving freely within the Schengen Area, where internal borders between member states are largely unregulated.Intelligence assessments suggest Co may have traveled by land after leaving Czech custody, potentially crossing into Germany, Austria, Poland, or Slovakia.Authorities also said they had information on a vehicle and its driver allegedly linked to Co's movements, but withheld further details, citing an ongoing operation.Vida stressed that Czech authorities declined to provide key details on Co's release, including the length of his custody, the exact circumstances of his exit, and his mode of travel, citing Schengen regulations and data privacy restrictions.Vida also revealed that Co was found carrying an expired Philippine passport that had lapsed in September 2022 when he was accosted by Czech authorities.He clarified that while Co's valid Philippine passport had already been canceled and reported to international law enforcement agencies, the fugitive was still in possession of an older expired document.Philippine officials acknowledged that enforcement within the Schengen Zone remains difficult in the absence of a Red Notice and a formal police cooperation agreement with Czech authorities.Vida said Czech officials indicated that the lack of a bilateral police cooperation framework between Manila and Prague limited real-time intelligence sharing.This prompted discussions on accelerating agreements on extradition, mutual legal assistance, and transfer of sentenced persons.Vida also acknowledged that the president's earlier announcement regarding Co's apprehension in the Czech Republic had been premature. "At that point, the fact available was that he was within Czech Republic and under their jurisdiction," Vida said, adding that Philippine officials believed Co remained in Czech custody until shortly before the Prague meeting.He said the government had relied initially on intelligence "listening posts" and operational sources, with formal confirmation from Czech authorities only provided during the recent dialogue.Despite the setback, Philippine authorities said efforts to secure a Red Notice are ongoing.Vida said additional documentation had been submitted to Interpol to strengthen the request, including case files from the Office of the Ombudsman, Commission on Audit, and Sandiganbayan proceedings.The Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC), acting as the country's Interpol National Central Bureau, said the revised submission was structured to meet Interpol requirements, including the principle of reciprocity, which requires that alleged offenses are punishable in both jurisdictions. "We gathered all official records and explained the cases he is facing, aligning them with anti-corruption laws recognized in Europe," said PCTC executive director Maj. Gen. Romeo Prestoza.Prestoza said the updated filing was based on previous successful Interpol applications to ensure compliance with procedural standards.Vida, however, clarified that the additional submission should not be interpreted as Interpol identifying deficiencies in the initial request.Vida also disclosed broader institutional gaps exposed by the case, including limited manpower, legal resources, and coordination capacity within the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime and its function as Interpol National Central Bureau.He said these issues would be included in a comprehensive report to the president, along with proposals to strengthen international law enforcement coordination.He is also expected to recommend faster negotiation of bilateral agreements with European counterparts.Co is facing charges of

corruption and malversation before the Sandiganbayan, filed by the Office of the Ombudsman in November 2025.The case stemmed from an alleged P289-million ghost flood control project in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.Also implicated in the case are officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Region 4B and executives of Sunwest Construction and Development Corp., based on case records submitted to the anti-graft court.Vida said Philippine authorities remain confident that Co will eventually be located and held accountable, although he acknowledged the difficulty of tracking a fugitive in a region without internal border controls and without a Red Notice in place. “This is not an easy task,” he said.He said he will submit a full report to the President upon returning to Manila and coordinate next steps with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Philippine National Police, and international counterparts. “There are many factors involved,” Vida said. “But we will pursue accountability through every legal channel available.” TransparentNavotas City Rep. Toby Tiangco, meanwhile, urged the government to be more transparent on why Co was set free by Czech authorities. “If there is no full information [by the government] or the information is sparse, people will speculate. They will be affected by different fake news because there is no detailed official announcement,” Tiangco said.Tiangco was the first lawmaker to expose the involvement of Co’s construction firm, Sunwest, in flood control projects that were either nonexistent or substandard.While he said that he appreciates the visit of Vida in Prague, Tiangco said that Filipino officials in Prague should have been more upfront on the situation of Co to prevent misinformation from happening.Other lawmakers said it was frustrating to learn that Co is again at large. “The administration officials should stop setting deadlines on when they will be able to catch big fish in this biggest corruption scandal in our history. Prove it and they should do immediately!” Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said.

- Dela Rosa considers giving up pay during his absence (2026-04-28 16:14)

THE camp of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, who has been absent from the Senate since November 2025, is reviewing a suggestion from the Senate ethics panel advising him to temporarily suspend his salary and allowances until he can physically attend sessions.The suggestion was raised during a recent meeting of the Senate Ethics Committee, chaired by JV Ejercito. Ejercito said representatives of dela Rosa informed the panel that the senator is considering the proposal.Dela Rosa has been absent from the Senate for more than five months, after unconfirmed reports said the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a warrant for his arrest for his role in the Duterte administration’s bloody war on drugs, when he was still chief of the Philippine National Police.The Ethics Committee earlier proposed that dela Rosa refrain from receiving compensation while he is unable to report in person to the Senate. The move is seen as a possible interim measure while ethical concerns raised against him are being reviewed.Ejercito said the senator’s camp has acknowledged the recommendation and is currently deliberating on the matter. A separate meeting is also being held within dela Rosa’s camp to discuss the implications.Sources said if dela Rosa agrees to suspend his salary and allowances, it could influence the outcome of the ethics complaints filed against him, potentially leading to their dismissal.The complaints are currently under preliminary evaluation by the

committee.During Tuesday’s session, the Senate Ethics Committee examined multiple complaints to determine whether they met the required form and substance. Ejercito said more than half of the complainants failed to respond to initial communications from the panel.As a result, those complaints will be returned to the complainants, effectively halting their progress unless refiled or completed.The committee is expected to proceed based on dela Rosa’s final stance regarding the recommendation. His decision could shape both the direction of the ethics proceedings and the broader handling of similar cases in the future.No timeline has been given for when dela Rosa will announce his decision.

- Senate ready to hold impeachment trial (2026-04-28 16:13)

THE Senate is ready and financially able to conduct an impeachment trial against Vice President Sara Duterte if the House of Representatives transmits the articles of impeachment to the chamber, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Tuesday.The statement came as Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco said the House Justice Committee should justify in plenary that its upcoming committee report on the impeachment of Duterte would translate to the articles of impeachment that would be transmitted to the Senate for trial."There’s at least P27 million under the 2025 GAA (General Appropriations Act), of which around P500,000 was spent when last year’s articles of impeachment against VP Duterte was transmitted to the Senate," Lacson said in a text message."Since the fund is good for two years under ‘continuing appropriations,’ the Senate is ready to conduct the trial," the Senate president pro tempore said.Senate President Vicente Sotto III earlier said he will act "forthwith" if the House transmits the impeachment complaint against Duterte to the Senate.The senator said he has been reviewing the rules of court and the Senate rules on impeachment so that he would be ready for any eventuality.The Senate serves as the impeachment court to try and decide on any complaint to unseat the president and vice president and other impeachable officers of the land.The Constitution states that "trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed" once an impeachment case is elevated to the upper house."I will act on it with dispatch. Definitely forthwith. I know what the meaning of forthwith is," Sotto said in recent a press briefing.Former Senate president Francis Escudero came under fire for slow walking the impeachment case filed against the vice president in 2025."As soon as the Senate receives it, I will inform the Senate and refer it to the Committee on Rules," he said.The Senate adjourned on March 21 for the Holy Week break. It will resume sessions on May 4."We have to convene as an impeachment court. So, technically, we may convene by May 4. That's just two weeks away. So, we may be able to do that," Sotto said.The Senate chief recently hosted a dinner with some fellow senators to discuss the ongoing impeachment proceedings against Duterte before the House Committee on Justice.He implored fellow senator-judges "to be impartial in and out of the court" as some of them are allied with Duterte."In the discharge of duties, a judge shall not only be impartial but must also appear to be impartial," Sotto said. He also advised fellow senators to brush up on the rules of court, which covers the official set of procedural rules that govern how Duterte’s case would be filed, heard, and decided."That was one of the intentions and reasons why I hosted a dinner with some senators to join us. I told them about it, just in case the matter reaches us. It's better that we’re prepared," he said."We

can’t be fumbling, because there may be issues the presiding officer will raise to the body, or objections from members that we should know how to properly address," Sotto said."It is part of the work of the Senate. It is part of the job order. In fact, even the Senate legal team is empowered to prepare with or without an impeachment, so we should be ready. We must always be prepared." "We are simply preparing just in case. Since the possibility is already there, it is part of the Senate’s responsibility. We are empowered to do so, and the relevant offices within the Senate are likewise authorized to prepare," he added."We are merely getting ready to ensure we are not caught off guard or forced into a rush should the House of Representatives transmit the articles of impeachment. If no such articles are sent, then that is well and good, and we will return our focus to legislation," Sotto said.Justify it Also on Tuesday, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco said the House Justice Committee should justify in plenary that its upcoming committee report on the impeachment of Duterte would translate to the articles of impeachment that would be transmitted to the Senate for trial.Tiangco's comments come as the panel is set to deliberate the impeachment cases' sufficiency for probable cause on Wednesday, the last day of the hearings, after hearing Duterte's threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romualdez.In an interview on The Manila Times Newsroom on Tuesday, Tiangco said the evidence presented during the hearings was " not enough" to make a judgment because they have not explained how these could either be a culpable violation of the Constitution or betrayal of public trust, two of the grounds for impeaching public officials."They should explain in the committee report that what [Duterte] did is equivalent to culpable violation of the constitution or betrayal of public trust," Tiangco said.He added that the Committee should be able to justify the report why its cases should fall under these two grounds."Even if there is wrongdoing, assuming there is wrongdoing, if it does not fit either culpable violation of the Constitution or betrayal of public trust, it should not be considered as a impeachable offense," Tiangco said.Meanwhile, Akbayan Rep. Perci Cendaña said the House Committee on Justice's hearing on the two impeachment complaints against the vice president were exempted from the Bank Secrecy Law.In a statement on Facebook, Cendaña said the members of the committee and Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) did not break any law."It is clearer than day that impeachment hearings are exceptions to the coverage of the Bank Secrecy Law and Anti-Money Laundering Act," Cendaña said.Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, the committee chairman, said in a DZBB interview that the panel did not violate a law in disclosing findings of AMLC, after Duterte's husband, Manases Carpio, filed a complaint on Monday at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against several people including Luistro, Cendaña, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno, and AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura over the disclosure."We remember that under the Bank Secrecy Law, it was expressly provided that impeachment cases should be an exception in the confidentiality in the Bank Secrecy Law. And applying the totality, it should be applied as well when it comes to AMLC," Luistro said in the radio interview.She said in the same interview that the AMLC did not report on the bank accounts but "covered transactions and suspicious transactions." She also said that "in our way to be conservative, in our way to be cautious, we opted not to subpoena the bank, including the bank records. Instead, we opted to subpoena the AMLC with its report of covered and suspicious transactions.” The committee is determining

whether there is probable cause to impeach Duterte.De Lima said in Filipino in a post on X that " I am not afraid to face any case, especially that we... are not violating any law."Meanwhile, Diokno said that anyone can file a complaint and that he respected that right, adding that he would "answer the allegations in the proper forum.""At the same time, I have to emphasize that the House Committee on Justice is merely fulfilling its duty," he said."Attorney Carpio is married to the vice president and under our laws, their properties are communal in nature. So, there should be every reason to look into the properties of both spouses. At the same time, we need to see, based on what was alleged in the complaint, what really is the basis for those claims of unexplained wealth," he said."It was clear that what the AMLC disclosed were covered and suspicious transactions. No specific accounts were disclosed," Diokno added.One of the two impeachment complaints alleged that Duterte betrayed public trust over alleged unexplained wealth. This was the complaint field by priests and others.It also alleged that she committed culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayed public trust in connection with confidential funds allocated to the Office of the Vice President (OVP) for 2022 and 2023 and confidential funds allocated for 2023 to the Department of Education (DepEd) which she led as secretary before she resigned in 2024 from that post.The other complaint, filed by lawyer Nathaniel Cabrera, alleged that she "betrayed the public trust and committed acts of graft and corruption by grossly abusing discretionary authority over confidential funds appropriated to the OVP and DepEd."Duterte's response to these complaints was simply that they must be dismissed. She has refused to attend the House hearings, and has tried to stop them by petitioning the Supreme Court.

- Ejercito convenes Ethics Committee (2026-04-28 16:12)

(UPDATE) SEN. JV Ejercito said the Senate Committee on Ethics and Privileges, which he leads, on Tuesday tackled the first of eight pending complaints against fellow senators.The senator on Tuesday convened the ethics panel to process pending complaints on a first-in, first-out basis (FIFO) following the constitution of its members and the effectivity of its rules.At least six senators were facing complaints on various grounds, including Ronald dela Rosa, Francis Escudero, Risa Hontiveros, and Ejercito himself.Ejercito declined to indicate the respondent of the complaint that was first discussed. He said two senators were facing more than one complaint. "We will follow the process. No complaint will be prioritized," Ejercito said in Filipino, citing the FIFO rule.The committee opened its first formal meeting to begin acting on pending complaints and distributed copies of "Docket No. 1," which met filing requirements.Ejercito said the panel will convene again on May 4 to "discuss formally [the first complaint] and hopefully dispose of Docket No. 1." He said some of the complaints "are not in compliance" with the panel rules. "We shall be returning them. But Docket [No.] 1 was found to be in form and substance. We will furnish the copy to the respondent." Ejercito said the panel also took up preliminary matters, including rules on inhibition to ensure impartial deliberations.He said any member facing a complaint will not take part in discussions on the case.Ejercito said he would inhibit when his own case is taken up by the committee.A replacement from the same bloc will be designated to maintain quorum and continuity in the

proceedings.A civil society group led by former Finance undersecretary Cielo Magno filed a complaint against dela Rosa for his continued absence from official duties for more than three months.Ejercito was facing an ethics complaint for his alleged failure to act immediately on the case filed against Escudero, who had been accused of accepting campaign funds from a contractor.Hontiveros has been accused of “witness tampering” in relation to her investigation on the alleged sexual and labor abuses of some members of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by its founder, Apollo Quiboloy.

- PAO logs 100% score in performance review (2026-04-28 16:11)

THE Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) has emerged as the only attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to achieve a perfect score in the 2025 Annual Agency Performance Review (AAPR) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).“It is a must that up until the last centavo is accounted for,” PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta said.Rueda-Acosta said the outstanding rating was not just the success of PAO but also the victory of all, especially the indigents and underprivileged members of society.“For this is an implication that PAO is a well-performing government agency, both in the physical and financial performances, that banks on transparency and accountability,” she added.Overall, the DOJ obtained a score of 4.15 or very satisfactory, taking into consideration its financial and physical performance and timeliness and quality of the report submissions, according to the DBM.Based on DBM documents, copies of which were obtained by The Manila Times, the DOJ for fiscal year 2025 registered obligation and disbursement budget utilization rates of 85.59 percent and 86.69 percent, respectively.“The PAO consistently achieved 100-percent utilization across all parameters,” Acting Budget Secretary Rolando Toledo said in a communication addressed to Acting Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida.In 2024, PAO was also declared top achiever for obtaining a perfect score of 5 for the same financial and physical performance review.The DBM likewise cited PAO for its nearly perfect rating on alternative dispute resolutions and public attorneys’ perfect attendance in court hearings.The AAPR report tracks how agencies use their allocated funds as it presents the results of the enhanced review, assessment, and evaluation of the annual performance of national government agencies, other executive offices, constitutional commissions, as well as state universities and colleges.An autonomous government agency under Republic Act 9406 (PAO Law), PAO remains attached to the DOJ only for policy and program coordination, meaning, it has no direct control over the former, especially on its day-to-day operations.

- Go hopeful on Court’s ruling on standby funds (2026-04-28 16:10)

SEN. Bong Go expressed confidence that the Supreme Court will uphold the law and the welfare of Filipinos as it continues its oral arguments on the legality of unprogrammed appropriations in the national budget.The high court is currently hearing consolidated petitions questioning provisions in the 2024, 2025, and 2026 General Appropriations Acts, focusing on the use of standby or unprogrammed funds. Oral arguments have so far been conducted on April 7 and April 21.“We have great respect for the Supreme Court, for the wisdom of our justices, and for

their careful deliberation on this issue," Go said. "We have full confidence that they will look at this not only in accordance with the law but also in accordance with the welfare of the Filipino people." While the issues under review are largely constitutional and technical, Go emphasized their real-world implications, particularly for Filipinos struggling with healthcare expenses such as hospitalization, maintenance medicines, and dialysis. "While discussing the technical and constitutional issues, I hope it remains clear to all of us that there are Filipinos who rely on every fund released by the government for their medical and daily needs," he said.The senator stressed that safeguarding public funds is essential to ensuring that government resources are directed toward critical services, especially in the health sector.The proceedings follow a December 2025 ruling by the high court ordering the return of P60 billion in funds transferred from Philippine Health Insurance Corp. to the National Treasury and permanently prohibiting the transfer of an additional P29.9 billion balance.Go reiterated his long-standing position that health-related funds must be used exclusively for healthcare services. "I have long said that health funds should go to health. When it comes to lives, treatment, and medical services, every penny counts," he said. "Many of our countrymen are already very poor, so it is very important to protect the funds for them." The senator expressed hope that the Court's continuing review will strengthen public confidence in the government's handling of funds and reinforce constitutional accountability. "We believe in the integrity of our Supreme Court. We hope that in their careful and fair handling of this matter, law, justice, and above all, the interests of the Filipino people will prevail," he added.

- 'Sara impeachment bid supported by records' (2026-04-28 16:09)

FORMER Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Domingo Cayosa said Vice President Sara Duterte's camp must answer for the billions of pesos in bank transactions flagged in the impeachment proceedings, saying the official records placed before the House of Representatives could no longer be dismissed as mere politics.Cayosa issued the statement following House Committee on Justice hearings where the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) reported covered and suspicious transactions involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio. "We can't just ignore the official report of the AMLC because it's not someone who just said it's mere politics. It's a government agency," Cayosa said during an interview on PTV-4's "Ulat ng Bayan."On Wednesday's hearing, the AMLC reported that bank transactions totaling P6.7 billion — classified as covered and suspicious — were recorded under the names of Duterte and her husband.The AMLC also confirmed that at least 18 bank transactions linked to Duterte and her family members — as cited in the affidavit of former senator Antonio Trillanes IV — matched its entries of covered and suspicious transaction reports.Duterte's camp questioned the way her bank transactions were presented, claiming that the figure appeared "bloated" because it was an aggregation of transactions spanning years.However, Cayosa said that line of defense missed the point. "It is up to them to explain because it seems like they don't question that it went through their bank accounts," he said.Cayosa said the inquiry has crossed an important evidentiary threshold because it now rests on documentary records from government agencies rather than on witness statements

alone. “It’s not just personalities speaking; it’s not just hearsay. There are receipts. There are official reports. You can’t say it’s not true,” he said.A separate point of contention raised in the proceedings is the vice president’s Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN), particularly the reclassification of cash and deposits — itemized in earlier filings — under the general category “others.” Cayosa said the change runs contrary to the implementing rules of the SALN law. “That’s why it defeats the purpose of the SALN law. So that’s a violation of the SALN law. Plus, people’s perception when you give the cash to others, it seems like you’re hiding the cash from others,” he said.Cayosa also dismissed the filing of criminal complaints against the AMLC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas over the release of financial records. “I think the criminal case against the AMLC or the Central Bank is weak or unfounded because it is clear that the AMLC has been tasked and has a duty under the law itself to record suspicious transactions,” he said.He added that Congress has constitutional subpoena powers, and government records properly summoned by a competent authority do not automatically expose officials to criminal liability.Cayosa also questioned the vice president’s claim that she was unaware of Commission on Audit notices of disallowance received by her office. “It’s unusual and irregular that the vice president’s office has already received it, but the sitting vice president doesn’t know about it,” he said. “It’s already been leaked to the public and the media already knows everything, but she doesn’t know about it yet.” Cayosa acknowledged that Duterte may choose to reserve her defense for an eventual Senate impeachment trial rather than engage with House subpoenas.But he said the strategy was exacting a political cost. “Unfortunately for her, because she didn’t respond properly to the subpoena, to the House investigation, she’s at odds with public perception,” Cayosa said. “And all of this has come out,” he said, adding that the importance of the case lies in what is at stake for public accountability. “This impeachment case is very important because the focus of the allegations is graft and corruption. Theft or embezzlement is not proper use of public money,” Cayosa said.Duterte has denied any wrongdoing. Her camp has maintained that the AMLC figures were presented in a misleading manner and should not be taken as proof of guilt.Mans Carpio on Monday filed a complaint against members of the House Committee on Justice, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor, and the executive director of the AMLC over the disclosure of his and his wife’s bank records.Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said the move effectively confirmed the P6.77 billion in transactions at the heart of the impeachment case.By contesting only the legality of the disclosure and not the figures themselves, Carpio has locked the vice president’s defense into the AMLC numbers, Ridon said during a radio interview on Monday.Ridon said the vice president’s defense faces a second, separate problem: her SALN from 2019 to 2024 contained no entries for cash on hand or cash in bank. Both are items the SALN law requires to be declared individually.Her lawyers have argued that the cash was lumped under “others,” but Ridon called the explanation untenable.He pointed to a sharp break in the records. From 2007 to 2018, the vice president’s SALNs carried separate cash line items. From 2019 onward, those entries disappeared. “So what changed from 2019 onwards that supposedly lumped these ‘others’?” Ridon said.The lawmaker also pressed on the gap between the scale of the bank transactions and the couple’s declared finances.The vice president’s declared net worth as of 2024 is P88 million. Her cumulative

income, net of taxes, is roughly P73 million. “By any sense of imagination, it doesn’t seem like it would really add up — P88 million in net worth, P73 million in income net of taxes — on a sheer scale of P6.77 billion transaction volume over the course of 20 years,” Ridon said.The House Committee on Justice is expected to vote on probable cause on Wednesday, April 29.A favorable vote moves the articles of impeachment to the plenary, where one-third of the 318-member chamber — 106 votes — must approve transmittal to the Senate.

- Stagger power rate increases, ERC urged (2026-04-28 16:08)

SEN. Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday urged the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to mitigate the impact of rising electricity rates by staggering increases, warning that consumers could face another round of “bill shock” in the coming months.Gatchalian issued the appeal following recent rate adjustments by Meralco, which he said were largely driven by foreign exchange fluctuations.The senator cautioned that the spike in electricity bills does not yet reflect the full impact of global energy market pressures, particularly those linked to the oil crisis.He said anticipated increases in the prices of coal, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and other fuel sources are likely to further drive up power generation costs. “The oil crisis has not yet been factored into the current rates. Once these higher fuel costs take effect, we can expect further increases in electricity bills,” Gatchalian said.The senator emphasized that the ERC has the authority to implement staggered or deferred adjustments to prevent sudden spikes in consumer bills.He cited the agency’s actions during the Covid-19 pandemic, when rate increases were distributed over time to cushion the financial burden on households. “We should not allow this to become a disaster for consumers. There are mechanisms to gradually ease the impact,” he said.Gatchalian defended the so-called lifeline rate, which provides discounted electricity to low-income households.He noted that the subsidy has been in place since the enactment of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) in 2001, and remains minimal at around one centavo per kilowatt-hour.The senator said the primary driver of rising electricity costs is not the subsidy but the increase in generation charges, which have climbed to about 75 centavos per kWh.With geopolitical tensions affecting oil and gas supply chains, Gatchalian warned that without proactive regulatory intervention, consumers could face sustained increases in power costs.He reiterated the need for timely action from regulators to balance the financial viability of power providers with the protection of consumers, especially global economic uncertainties.

- Marcos vows stronger support for Filipino inventors (2026-04-28 16:07)

(UPDATE) PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday vowed to strengthen technical and financial support for Filipino inventors and innovators, reaffirming his commitment to advancing innovation in the country.Speaking at the 2026 National Invention Contest and Exhibits Awarding Ceremony in Malacañang, Marcos underscored the crucial role of innovation in driving growth and improvement in the lives of Filipinos, stressing that promising ideas should not only be developed but also reach the market to benefit the public. “As president, I do not accept that there should be an uncertain future for our inventors. They have world-changing ideas, and we must watch them. We cannot watch them wither on the vine due

to lack of institutional support," Marcos said. "And this is why I have given instructions to the Department of Science and Technology and all other relevant government agencies to strengthen financial and technical support for our inventors," he added.Through DOST-Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI) programs and services, Marcos said that Filipino innovators now have better access to research and development grants, intellectual property protection, technology development, financing, commercialization, and pathways to global exposure.He said these programs aimed to ensure that their innovations would "move forward to create a real and lasting impact." The NICE Awards is organized by the DOST-TAPI and is anchored on Republic Act (RA) 7459, or the Inventors and Invention Incentives Act, which promotes Filipino innovation.For this year's NICE competition, the president said 28 finalists advanced from 764 entries nationwide.Winning inventions and innovations include a compact neutron radiation measuring device and an affordable herbal cream for treating viral skin conditions under the Tuklas Award for outstanding inventions; a multi-grain precision seeder with a fertilizer applicator under the Banghay Award for industrial design; and an on-site African swine fever detection system under the Likha Award for creative research.Another winning innovation was an AI-powered optical chick-counting device under the Sibol Award for outstanding student creative research. "These are precisely the kinds of innovations that we seek, ones that offer solutions to real-world challenges and improve the lives of our fellow Filipinos," the president said. "Please rest assured, your government will always stand with you, ready to support you on your journey," he added.Under RA 7459, the government provides incentives, technical support, and market linkage to Filipino inventors to help bring their products from concept to commercialization.The inventors and innovators behind the winning entries will also receive monetary prizes and accolades for their work.The president also called on Filipinos to continue fostering creativity and innovation, as their inventions can contribute to national development and change lives. "To every Filipino, let us all continue dreaming and follow their example. Continue dreaming and never stop creating," he said.

- Dizon, team inspect smoldering landfill (2026-04-28 16:06)

(UPDATE) PUBLIC Works Secretary Vince Dizon returned to the Navotas Sanitary Landfill on Tuesday, leading a high-level inspection team amid rising concerns over toxic emissions and persistent underground fires at the dumpsite.Dizon was joined by Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuyo Endo, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco, and a team of technical experts from Japan's disaster response units, signaling a stronger international collaboration to address the fire at the Navotas Landfill.The visit marks a critical follow-up effort by the government to assess the condition of the landfill, where smoldering methane pockets have continued to produce hazardous smoke, affecting not only Navotas but nearby cities as well.Authorities said the presence of Japanese experts is expected to fast-track technical solutions, particularly in controlling deep-seated fires that are difficult to extinguish using conventional methods.Dizon emphasized the urgency of the situation, noting that the deployed heavy equipment and mitigation measures in previous days must now be

evaluated for effectiveness, while identifying additional interventions to contain the blaze.Residents in surrounding communities have been grappling with deteriorating air quality, prompting health concerns, especially among vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.The DPWH, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is now working closely with international specialists to apply science-based approaches in suppressing the landfill fire.Japanese disaster response experts, known for their advanced technologies and experience in complex environmental emergencies, are expected to recommend strategies that go beyond surface-level firefighting.These may include oxygen suppression techniques, soil layering, and gas venting systems aimed at neutralizing methane buildup, which is one of the key drivers of the prolonged fire.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had earlier ordered all concerned agencies to exhaust every possible measure to resolve the crisis, including tapping foreign expertise to ensure a faster and more effective response.The directive underscores the administration's priority to safeguard public health and prevent further environmental damage caused by the toxic emissions.Local officials, meanwhile, expressed optimism that the intensified collaboration would lead to a breakthrough, as the landfill continues to pose both an environmental and public safety threat.With the combined efforts of national agencies, local government units, and international partners, authorities are now racing against time to fully extinguish the fire and restore safe air quality in affected communities.

- Zamora hits back at JV Ejercito over San Juan hospital (2026-04-28 16:05)

SAN JUAN CITY Mayor Francis Zamora defended his administration's handling of the San Juan Medical Center, saying the city's only public hospital remained at Level 1 status under the past leadership despite 18 years in office.Zamora made the statement in an interview after Sen. JV Ejercito raised concerns over the condition of the San Juan Medical Center and questioned whether the hospital had been neglected.Ejercito previously said he was saddened by what he described as the current state of the San Juan Medical Center, saying he had received complaints from residents.Zamora said the hospital's budget stood at P61 million in 2001, when Ejercito became mayor, and rose to P110 million in 2010, when Ejercito finished his term.He said the budget already reached P315 million when he assumed office in 2019, and had since increased every year to P644 million in 2026. "From here alone, in how we appropriate the budget for the hospital, we can see that we give importance to San Juan Medical Center because it is our only public hospital," Zamora said.He turned the criticism back on past administrations, saying the Ejercito-led leadership had 18 years to improve the hospital but left it at Level 1 status. "They sat for 18 years, and yet, they did not move away from Level 1 status. Now, we have been here for only seven years. In the first few years of our seven years, we raised that to Level 2 status, and we are pushing to complete the upgrade to Level 3 status," Zamora said.Level 1 status limited the types of procedures and services that the hospital could provide, while Level 3 would allow the hospital to expand its medical capability once it meets requirements for equipment, facilities and manpower.He said his target was to complete the hospital upgrade by June 30, 2028. "I have two years and two months to ensure that we will

really be able to upgrade the San Juan Medical Center. When I say upgrade, the medical equipment, the facilities, the manpower complement, and even the culture of the employees should be complete," Zamora said.Zamora said his administration inherited medical equipment that had been fully paid for but remained in boxes and crates because the areas where they were supposed to be installed had not been completed.He said he had sought help from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Health Secretary Ted Herbosa to address the hospital's remaining needs in equipment and facilities."Of course, I acknowledge there are still many things that need to be fixed. And that is where we are focused now," Zamora said.

- PHLPost vows improved employee welfare (2026-04-28 16:04)

THE leadership of the Philippine Postal Corp. (PHLPost) said it is stepping up efforts to improve employee welfare while addressing long-standing concerns over allowances, incentives and career advancement ahead of Labor Day.In an interview with The Manila Times, Postmaster General Maximo Sta. Maria and PHLPost Chairman Kristjan Vicente Gargantiel said the agency has begun rolling out immediate and long-term measures to support its workforce, from frontline letter carriers to office personnel.Sta. Maria said employee welfare goes beyond formal programs, stressing the need to recognize the daily efforts of postal workers who ensure mail and parcel delivery nationwide."As we mark Labor Day, our commitment is clear: we stand with our employees and will continue to improve their welfare," he said.Among the initiatives cited were health seminars on critical illnesses, free medical check-ups, and the institutionalization of sports activities aimed at promoting wellness and team engagement.Also, the agency is preparing for the rainy season by distributing raincoats and boots to letter carriers, acknowledging the risks faced by "karteros" delivering mail in hazardous weather conditions.At the same time, area-wide training sessions have been conducted, including a recent program in Northwest Luzon, to enhance customer service and clarify personnel policies such as leave benefits.PHLPost officials said employees have primarily raised concerns involving gasoline allowances, the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) incentive, and promotions.On the gasoline allowance, Sta. Maria acknowledged earlier implementation issues but said these have already been resolved."We know some of our letter carriers even use their own motorcycles just to complete deliveries. This is not just about an allowance — it is recognition of their daily sacrifice," he said, adding that the release of the allowance has already been carried out.On the CNA incentive, management said it supports granting the benefit but noted that government guidelines require certain conditions to be met.Gargantiel said some requirements have already been complied with, while others remain under evaluation, with ongoing discussions between management and union representatives aimed at reaching a "fair and sustainable solution."Addressing concerns over promotions, the officials said appointments are based on qualifications, not personal connections.They cited the regularization of 83 Contract of Service workers in November last year, which opened up positions and enabled personnel movement across various levels, particularly in operational roles.However, management acknowledged that perceptions of fairness remain an issue and said it is open to reviewing concerns to ensure transparency.Sta. Maria admitted that communication gaps

within the organization have contributed to persistent concerns. “There is progress, but if employees do not feel it or are not aware of it, then it is not enough,” he said, noting that efforts are underway to improve the clarity and consistency of internal communications.The PHLPost leadership said its approach centers on listening to employees and acting on their concerns, emphasizing that improved workforce support would translate to better public service. “We hear you. We are acting. And we will continue working through these concerns together,” Sta. Maria said in a message to employees.

- P249.83M worth of shabu from Mexico seized in Pasay (2026-04-28 16:03)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized a shipment of LED spotlights from Mexico, containing suspected shabu, during an inspection at a Pasay City warehouse on Tuesday.Port of NAIA District Collector Yasmin Mapa said the cargo was flagged after X-ray scans revealed suspicious images inconsistent with the declared goods. The shipment was immediately marked for a full physical examination.Mapa said that on April 17, 2026, a joint inspection was conducted by the Customs Anti-Illegal Drug Task Force and the Enforcement and Security Service.Following an alert from a K9 unit, the authorities uncovered concealed narcotics within the cargo.The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency confirmed the shipment contained 36,740 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, with an estimated street value of P249,832,000."The BOC will keep pushing forward in stopping illegal shipments at our borders. We are committed to making sure that these dangerous drugs never reach our communities," said Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno.He added that the successful operation reflects the bureau's strengthened risk assessment and coordination efforts with partner agencies.

- Media task force vows ramped up media protection (2026-04-28 16:02)

THE Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) vowed to uphold gender-responsive media protection, particularly of female journalists in the country.Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr., PTFOMS executive director, issued the statement as he acknowledged women journalists for being fact-checkers, detail-oriented and nurturers. “Women are indispensable to the practice of journalism and to the life of our democracy. Women journalists are not only reporters of events. They are witnesses to history, voices for the marginalized, and guardians of truth in times when facts are often challenged and misinformation spreads with alarming speed,” Torres said during the “Empowering Women Journalists" workshop held last April 23 and 24 at the Bayview Park Hotel in Manila. “The presence of women in media is essential because it ensures that the stories of our people are told with depth, balance and humanity. Your voices bring to the national conversation issues that might otherwise remain unheard, the struggles of families, the realities in communities, the concerns of women and children, and the lived experiences of those on the margins of society,” he added.Noting how gender-based safety is becoming more crucial for women journalists as violence is becoming prevalent both in local and global settings, Torres pointed out the need to further empower women in the industry to uphold a safe space in discharging their duties on the field or in the newsroom.Many women journalists continue to face threats that go beyond the usual risks of the profession. These

include gender-based harassment, intimidation, online abuse, workplace discrimination, and in some cases, direct threats to personal safety. These challenges “are unacceptable in any democratic society that values press freedom and human rights.” “The PTFOMS firmly upholds that the right of every journalist to work freely and safely is a fundamental pillar of democracy. More importantly, for women journalists, this protection must also be responsive to the specific vulnerabilities and pressures you face. Your welfare, your dignity, your safety, and your right to pursue your profession without fear are matters of national importance,” Torres said.He said that the government “remains committed to upholding press freedom and ensuring that government institutions work together to protect members of the media.” “We seek to strengthen systems of protection, access to support mechanisms, and channels for immediate response to threats and acts of harassment,” Torres added. KRISTINA MARALIT

- Unicef cites gaps in PH immunization program (2026-04-28 16:01)

THE United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) called for improved routine immunization in the Philippines during the observance of World Immunization Week.Results of the National Demographic Health Survey, it said, showed that achieving the global target of 95-percent immunization coverage is feasible. Unicef said data from Region 1 (Ilocos) is proof but added that targeted efforts are still needed in remote and underserved areas.The 95 percent is a global target that aims to reach herd immunity against highly contagious diseases, most notably measles. “Vaccines have protected generation after generation. But the next generation depends on whether we reach every child today, especially those who remain unvaccinated. We must close the gaps that leave children unprotected by ensuring reliable vaccine supply and quality services and by building trust and demand in communities so that families choose protection for their children,” said Kyungsun Kim, Unicef representative in the Philippines, on Tuesday.Unicef noted disparities in immunization coverage across income groups, with basic antigen coverage highest among the richest households at 88 percent and lowest among the poorest at 66 percent.It said this underscores the need to focus on targeted efforts to ensure that vaccines reach underserved communities. “Sustaining national gains will require closing persistent equity gaps across place and income. Parents may not have enough money to get their children to the health clinics for their vaccination." This year’s World Immunization Week theme, “For every generation, vaccines work,” underscores the need to sustain progress in protecting Filipino families from vaccine-preventable diseases, Unicef said. “Vaccines are among the most effective public health interventions, having saved an estimated 154 million lives over the past 50 years. Since 1976, the Philippines’ National Immunization Program has made substantial progress in policy and governance, disease elimination, and vaccination coverage,” it added.

- No winners in Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49, Lotto 6/42 draws for April 28 (2026-04-28 15:17)

There were no winners in the Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49, and Lotto 6/42 draws on Tuesday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.The winning combination

for the Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 09-47-32-39-45-33, with a jackpot prize of P75,000,000.No winners were also recorded in the Super Lotto 6/49 draw, which had the combination 27-09-34-05-16-42 and a jackpot prize of P30,227,489.87.Meanwhile, the Lotto 6/42 draw yielded the combination 15-09-12-16-37-35, with a jackpot prize of P27,872,450.50.

- DOST, UP launches new smart city hub for LGUs (2026-04-28 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) together with the University of the Philippines Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry (UP TCAGP) has launched a new system to improve governance and public services in the country.Called the Smart Metro or the Modern Geospatial and Collaborative Solutions for the Development of Smart Regions, the system aims to address issues on disasters and emergency responses, traffic, mobility, land use, flooding, health and environmental concerns, and economic planning.The system was launched during an event held in Iloilo City last April 17.The system has four platforms; Connect, which is used for citizens to report issues directly through mobile phones; Command, which is used for local government units to receive reports, track issues, and monitor responses; Collab, which is used for sharing tasks and announcements within LGUs, and Codex, a data and mapping platform that supports better city planning and data-based decision making.The system was developed by the UP TCAGP in partnership with theMetro Iloilo–Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC), and DOST Region VI.DOST-PCIEERD funded the project amounting to P28 Million.According to Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum, the DOST is now creating a support mechanism to "catapult and accelerate smart city initiatives in the Philippines," “To govern such a nation has always required not only vision, but the ability to see clearly across these distances, and to act with a shared understanding. Today, we are given new ways of doing exactly that,” Solidum added.Dr. Czar Jakiri Sarmiento, project lead of Smart Metro, said that the new system is not just a technology project but a governance ecosystem built through consultation, collaboration, and actual local government needs.

- Media task force vows ramped up gender-responsive media protection (2026-04-28 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) has vowed to uphold gender-responsive media protection, particularly for female journalists in the country.Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr., PTFOMS executive director, made the statement as he recognized women journalists for their roles as fact-checkers, detail-oriented storytellers, and advocates of truth. “Women are indispensable to the practice of journalism and to the life of our democracy. Women journalists are not only reporters of events. They are witnesses to history, voices for the marginalized, and guardians of truth in times when facts are often challenged and misinformation spreads with alarming speed,” Torres said during the “Empowering Women Journalists” workshop held on April 23 and 24 at the Bayview Park Hotel. “The presence of women in media is essential because it ensures that the stories of our people are told with depth, balance, and humanity. Your voices bring to the national

conversation issues that might otherwise remain unheard—the struggles of families, realities in communities, concerns of women and children, and the lived experiences of those on the margins of society," he added.Torres noted that many women journalists continue to face threats beyond the usual risks of the profession, including gender-based harassment, intimidation, online abuse, workplace discrimination, and, in some cases, direct threats to their safety. He stressed that such challenges are unacceptable in any democratic society that values press freedom and human rights.The administration, through PTFOMS, said it would ensure that Filipina journalists are protected from these threats. "The PTFOMS firmly upholds that the right of every journalist to work freely and safely is a fundamental pillar of democracy. More importantly, for women journalists, this protection must be responsive to the specific vulnerabilities and pressures you face. Your welfare, dignity, safety, and your right to pursue your profession without fear are matters of national importance," Torres said.

- Govt should be transparent on why Co was set free - Tiangco (2026-04-28 13:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Navotas City Rep. Toby Tiangco urged the government to be more transparent on why former Ako Bicol Rep. Zaldy Co was set free by Czech authorities amid the ongoing flood control scandal.It comes after Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida said that Co has already left the custody of the Czech republic after he was apprehended for using an expired passport last week.Speaking at The Manila Times' Newsroom program, Tiangco said that the government should explain the basis of Co's release if there are indeed regulations in the Schengen area."If there is no full information [by the government] or the information is sparse, people will speculate. They will be affected by different fake news because there is no detailed official announcement," Tiangco said.Tiangco was the first lawmaker to expose the involvement of Co's construction firm, Sunwest, to the millions of flood control projects that were either ghost or substandard.While he said that he appreciates the visit of Vida in Prague, Tiangco said that Filipino officials in Prague should have been more upfront on the situation of Co to prevent misinformation from happening.

- House justice panel should justify report would translate into impeach articles - Tiangco (2026-04-28 13:40)

MANILA. Philippines - Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco believes that the House Justice Committee should justify in plenary that its upcoming committee report on the impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte would translate to the articles of impeachment that would be transmitted to the Senate for trial.Tiangco's comments come as the panel is set to deliberate the impeachment cases' sufficiency for probable cause on Wednesday, the last day of the hearings, after hearing Duterte's threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Marcos, and former Speaker Martin Romualdez.In his interview on The Manila Times Newsroom on Tuesday, Tiangco said that the evidence that were presented during the hearings were "not enough" to make a judgment because they have not explained how these evidence could either be a culpable violation of the constitution or betrayal of public trust, two of the grounds for impeaching public officials."They should explain in the committee report that what [Duterte] did

is equivalent to culpable violation of the constitution or betrayal of public trust." Tiangco said.He added that the Committee should be able to justify the report why should its cases should fall under these two grounds."Even if there is wrongdoing, assuming there is wrongdoing, if it is not fit for either culpable violation of the constituion or betrayal of public trust, it should not be considered as a impeachable offense," Tiangco said.

- Marcos admin seeks to institutionalize UPLIFT (2026-04-28 13:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday threw its support behind the move to institutionalize the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) Committee.The move was discussed during the weekly meeting of the body, chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., where initiatives meant to cushion the effects of the hostilities in the Middle East were the focus of the discussions. “Regarding the UPLIFT meeting, the plan to make it a law was discussed. The proposal to make the UPLIFT Bill will be passed,” Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a press briefing.The proposed measure seeks to remove the two-year ban on the inclusion in the proposed budget of items declared as savings and provide a list of programs, activities and projects that can be funded from the allocated budgets. It likewise aims to give the government the ability to use the unreleased appropriations and unobligated allotment from 2025 and 2026 as stated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the said Fiscal Years (FY),The UPLIFT Committee was created through Executive Order (EO) 110 for a whole-of-government response to the national energy emergency triggered by the war in the Middle East and to stabilize food and fuel prices. It protects against high global oil prices by supporting drivers and farmers, ensuring supply, and implementing welfare programs.

- Co released from Czech custody due to lack of Interpol red notice — DOJ (2026-04-28 13:27)

Resigned Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co has been released by Czech authorities due to the absence of an Interpol red notice, Philippine officials said—a development that allows him to move freely within Europe’s Schengen area.Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said Czech officials confirmed during a high-level meeting in Prague that Co had been under their jurisdiction but was no longer in custody at the time of the Philippine delegation’s visit. “He was within Czech jurisdiction and under their custody, but is no longer there,” Vida said in a press briefing from Prague.Vida said the key factor behind Co’s release was the absence of a red notice from Interpol, which the Philippine government applied for in November 2025 but has yet to be issued. “A red notice would enable any member country to detain and return him through extradition or deportation,” Vida said. “Without that, there are limitations.” With no active red notice, Co is believed to be moving within the Schengen Area, where internal borders are largely open and movement between countries is less strictly monitored.Philippine officials said Czech authorities declined to provide details on the circumstances of Co’s release—including how long he had been held, how he exited custody, or his method of travel—citing Schengen regulations and data privacy restrictions. “What we can confirm is that

he is within the Schengen area," Vida said. "That is the workable intelligence that we have."Authorities said intelligence suggests Co may have traveled overland to neighboring countries such as Germany, Austria, Poland, or Slovakia, possibly using a vehicle identified by investigators. However, details about the vehicle and its driver were withheld due to an ongoing operation.Vida said Co was previously found carrying an expired passport dated September 2022 when he was accosted by Czech authorities, while his valid Philippine passport had already been canceled and reported to international agencies.Despite this, officials acknowledged that enforcement across Schengen borders remains difficult without a red notice, which serves as the primary international alert mechanism for coordinated arrests.Under Interpol procedures, a red notice is not an arrest warrant but a request for law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally detain a subject pending extradition, subject to national laws.Philippine authorities said the application for Co's red notice remains under review, with additional documentation submitted to strengthen the case file, including records from the Department of Justice, Office of the Ombudsman, Commission on Audit, and Sandiganbayan involving graft and corruption charges.Philippine Center on Transnational Crime executive director Major General Romeo Prestoza said the revised submission was structured to meet Interpol requirements, including the principle of reciprocity, which requires that the alleged offenses are punishable in both jurisdictions. "We gathered all official records and explained the cases he is facing, aligning them with anti-corruption laws recognized in Europe," Prestoza said during the same press briefing.He said the updated submission was based on a review of previously successful Interpol applications as part of efforts to strengthen the legal basis for issuing the red notice.Vida said the additional documentation should not be interpreted as Interpol having formally flagged deficiencies in the initial request. "Wala namang nagsabing kulang," he said.Still, he acknowledged that the absence of a red notice had effectively weakened enforcement options at a critical time when Co was still within Czech jurisdiction.The justice secretary also said Czech authorities indicated that the lack of a police cooperation agreement between Manila and Prague further limited information-sharing, prompting discussions on fast-tracking agreements on extradition, mutual legal assistance, and the transfer of sentenced persons.Both countries, he said, reaffirmed commitments under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, which provides a framework for international cooperation in corruption-related cases.Vida said Philippine embassies and law enforcement "listening posts" across Europe have been activated, but there have been no confirmed sightings of Co in other Schengen states as of the briefing.He added that it remains unclear whether Co sought political asylum or whether his interaction with Czech authorities was limited to an immigration-related stop prior to his release. "We don't know the exact nature," Vida said.Despite the setback, Vida said Philippine authorities remain confident of eventually locating Co but acknowledged the difficulty of tracking a fugitive without a red notice in a region with largely open internal borders. "This is not an easy task," he said.Vida said he will submit a full report to the President upon returning to Manila and coordinate next steps with law enforcement agencies, including efforts to strengthen international agreements and improve Interpol coordination.Asked about timelines, he declined to provide a specific estimate for Co's return to the Philippines. "Maraming factors involved," Vida said. "But we will pursue

accountability through every legal channel available."

• 36 Pinoys onboard two vessels safe (2026-04-28 13:15)

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) on Tuesday reported that 36 Filipino seafarers aboard two vessels safely exited the Strait of Hormuz on April 25 after being stranded in the Persian Gulf amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.In a statement, the DMW said the seafarers were on board the Omicron Nikos and Nord, which are Liberian- and Russian-flagged vessels, respectively.Their safe passage brings the total number of Filipino crew members who have left the area to nearly 1,200. "The DMW continues to closely monitor vessel movements in the region and maintain coordination with manning agencies and shipowners to ensure the safety and welfare of Filipino seafarers. The Department also keeps communication lines open with the affected seafarers and their families," the agency said.

• Tax audit ordered vs Duterte, husband, 9 firms linked to couple (2026-04-28 12:05)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has ordered a tax audit of Vice President Sara Duterte, her spouse Manases R. Carpio, and nine business entities linked to the couple.In a statement on Tuesday, the BIR said it had directed the issuance of Letters of Authority (LOAs) that would allow revenue officers to examine a taxpayer's books of accounts and other financial records as part of a formal audit investigation.The Bureau said the move followed a "careful determination" that probable cause exists to warrant a full audit to ensure that correct taxes are collected. "The end objective of this lawful exercise is to collect the correct taxes due to the government. This will be a rules-based approach in determining the truth," BIR Commissioner Charlito Martin Mendoza said. "Rights will be accorded to the audited entities. This will be fully compliant with all Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) protocols, the primary enforcement program of the Bureau for tax evasion and tax fraud," he added.

• Trump shooting scare renews 'staged' conspiracy theory (2026-04-28 11:57)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A flood of misinformation exploded online after US President Donald Trump escaped a weekend shooting scare, fueling renewed — and unfounded —claims that he has staged assassination attempts to boost his political fortunes.Trump and his top administration officials were evacuated Saturday from a media gala in Washington after gunfire erupted outside the ballroom, marking the third assassination attempt targeting the Republican in two years.AFP's fact-checkers identified a series of social media posts from anti-Trump accounts circulating an unsubstantiated theory that the White House staged the shooting to distract attention from unfavorable news, including the unpopular US-Israeli war with Iran.Posts advancing the claim garnered 80 million views on Elon Musk's platform X alone within two days of the shooting, according to the disinformation watchdog NewsGuard.Many of the same accounts previously claimed that two assassination attempts on Trump in 2024 — in Pennsylvania and Florida — were also staged.The narrative largely emanated from a left-wing conspiracy movement that researchers call "BlueAnon," a play on the right-wing QAnon cult."Many of the anti-Trump accounts baselessly claiming that the WHCD (White House

Correspondents' Dinner) shooting was staged made identical claims after the 2024 assassination attempts," NewsGuard's Sofia Rubinson told AFP."Some viral posts we've seen explicitly cite those earlier incidents as 'evidence' that staging shootings is part of Trump's playbook — to generate sympathy and distract from unfavorable coverage."'Cult of hatred'Fast-developing breaking news events such as shootings often trigger a frantic search for new information on social media, frequently allowing falsehoods to spread and intensifying online confusion.There is no evidence that the Trump administration orchestrated Saturday's attack.The White House on Monday blamed what it called a "left-wing cult of hatred" for the shooting and a 31-year-old suspect, Cole Allen, faces a potential life sentence if convicted of attempting to kill Trump.Following Saturday's shooting, state media in US adversaries — Russia and Iran —amplified further conspiracy theories, including claims that the attacker had ties to the Israeli military, according to the London-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue.In recent weeks, a growing number of MAGA influencers — shorthand for Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan — have also promoted the conspiracy theory that the Republican had staged the 2024 assassination attempt at a Pennsylvania campaign rally.The trend underscores how Americans on both sides of the political divide are prone to outlandish conspiracy theories, as many turn to partisan influencers for information amid mistrust of mainstream media, researchers say.'Monetization'"The staged assassination conspiracy theory has advocates on the left, particularly among liberal content creators. It's also starting to take off on the right as they lose faith in Trump," Mike Rothschild, a researcher who studies conspiracy theories, told AFP."The theory casts him (Trump) as a master manipulator," he said. "And it uses as 'evidence' either misconceptions, other viral videos, or things that people have just made up."The theory has gained traction as Trump faces backlash from Americans across the political spectrum — including segments of his MAGA supporters — over the war with Iran, which has driven up oil prices and raised concerns about American casualties.The military campaign has laid bare divisions within Trump's political base, with even longtime conservative supporters — such as former Fox News host Tucker Carlson — condemning the Republican's departure from his non-interventionist policy.The conspiracy theory continues to spread largely unchecked online, as many tech platforms have scaled back content moderation efforts that were once used to curb disinformation.Influencers are often incentivized to amplify sensational rumors, which can attract followers and increase earnings on revenue-sharing platforms like X."The more irresistible the claim the better in terms of the business of political commentary. The actual politics of a party is now secondary to the monetization of the political brand," Walter Scheirer of the University of Notre Dame told AFP."In the long run, this likely does weaken Trump's base."

- Expulsion of Rep. Barzaga pushed (2026-04-28 11:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco Barzaga should be expelled from the House of Representatives, a lawmaker said on Tuesday."With the numerous complaints already pending, yes, because nothing is changing," said Deputy Speaker and Iloilo 1st District Rep. Janette Garin in an interview with reporters when asked wheter Barzaga should be expelled. She said she was leaving the decision to the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges. She said she

could not vote in the proceedings because shefiled two complaints against him.Barzaga has been suspended pending an ongoing investigation.She said that "historically, in Congress, if you were already suspended and then you have another suspension, and in his case the second suspension had a very strong warning that if he repeats it..., it will proceed to a higher penalty."In the same interview, Garin said Barzaga he told her, "'Mommy, kasi'--because many of the congs call me that--'Mommy, kasi ang pusa palaaway so kung hindi ako mang-aaway ng mang-aaway, hindi ako posa...' (Mommy, because cats are quarrelsome so if I don't fight and fight, I am not a cat...)", she said."You know, sometimes, people, we look at it as funny. But you are representing... constituents who are being deprived of their representation simply because you are looking at your position as a game. So this cannot be", she said.Garin said further on in the interview that "even under suspension, wala (nothing), parang (it's like), his point is, that's his nature as a cat. But he's not a cat. He's a member of Congress, duly elected, who should demonstrate what is expected commensurate to his position."

- 2 men critically wounded in Quezon City shooting (2026-04-28 10:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Two men were critically wounded in a shooting incident in Quezon City, police said.Initial report showed that a riding-in-tandem blocked a white car at the corner of Timog Avenue and Edsa and fired repeatedly at the vehicle. Its two occupants, whose identities were not yet divulged, were immediately rushed to the nearby East Avenue Medical Center.Witnesses told police that the assailants fled toward the Edsa-Cubao area.Quezon City police told The Manila Times that it would come out with a statement regarding the incident.

- US, PH showcase anti-drone capability in military drills (2026-04-28 10:17)

NAVAL STATION LEOVIGILDO GANTIOQUI, Zambales — The United States Marines Corps (USMC) and the Philippine Air Force (PAF) on Tuesday conducted joint drills showing precise capability in intercepting drones and other aerial targets as part of the Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IADM) over the waters of San Antonio for this year’s Exercise Balikatan. The main objective of the drills is to enhance interoperability amongst participating countries particularly the US and the Philippines. It also aims to increase the PAF’s capability to patrol and defend Philippine airspace. During the exercise, three scenarios were played out, each featuring three different drones: the quadcopter, outlaw and banshee. The USMC showcased firepower with its Maritime Air Defense Integrated System (Madis), Vampire Laser System and the Avenger Air Defense System. The PAF meanwhile supported through system integration while Japanese forces observed the activity. The Madis is a short-range, surface-to-air defense system designed to detect and destroy low-altitude threats such as unmanned aerial systems (drones), helicopters and fixed-wing aircrafts. The short-range missile-mounted Avenger provided protection to ground troops against cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters while the Vampire laser system also detects, engages and destroys small drones. “The scenario started with a detection of unknown tracks through our early detection sensor, like the radars we have behind. Then the tracks will be reviewed and correlated through our tactical air control element,” Maj. Richmond Cayabyab,

battery commander of the PAF's Spyder Air Defense. "Once we detect it's hostile, then it will be distributed to our Spider defense system then [weapons such as] our MADIS, Vampire [and] Avengers and these weapon systems will shoot down the threat," Cayabyab added. The first two drones were hit by the Madis' .30 caliber machine guns while the bigger Banshee was destroyed by its.50 caliber stringer missile.

• House panel to tackle Sara's' kill' contract on Marcos (2026-04-28 09:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives will tackle allegations that Vice President Sara Duterte had threatened to kill President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when it resumes hearing the impeachment complaints against her on Wednesday.The hearing by the justice committee is expected to be the last before it determines whether there is probable cause to impeach DuterteOne of the two complaints alleged that Duterte committed culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayed public trust and committed high crimes "in contracting to murder or assassinate" Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos, and Leyte 1st District Rep. and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez. The complaint cited a Nov. 23, 2024 briefing with the media wherein she said, "[...] may kinausap na ako na tao. Sinabi ko sa kanya kapag pinatay ako, patayin mo si BBM, si Liza Araneta, at si Martin Romualdez I spoke to somene. I told him that if I am murdered, he should kill BBM, Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez)." BBM is Bongbong Marcos.Duterte has denied making an assassination threat against Marcos.The other complaint alleged that she "committed acts that constitute culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of public trust, and other high crimes, by publicly admitting the contracting of an assassin."Duterte said the complaints failed to show "any shred of proof" that a contract to kill ever existed. "Instead, complainants rely on exaggerated conclusions dressed up as fact," it read.

• ICC forms trial chamber for Duterte case (2026-04-28 09:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidency of the International Criminal Court (ICC) formed a trial chamber that would take on the case of former president Rodrigo Duterte, accordng to a decision released on April 24, 2026 but made public only on Tuesday.The move follows Pre-Trial Chamber I's confirmation of charges against Duterte on April 23.Under the latest decision, Trial Chamber III has been reconstituted and will be composed of Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek, and Judge Nicolas Guillou.The ICC Presidency noted that the chamber had previously been dissolved but was reactivated as part of measures to balance judicial workload, expedite proceedings, and improve overall court management.The Presidency acted pursuant to Article 61(11) of the Rome Statute, which requires the constitution of a trial chamber once charges have been confirmed. Rule 130 of the ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence further mandates the referral of the case and transmission of the confirmation decision and complete case record to the assigned chamber.In constituting the chamber, the Presidency cited several considerations, including statutory requirements, workload distribution across the court, the need to expedite proceedings, prior judicial involvement in related matters, and the judges' respective experience and expertise.

• Road closures set for Labor Day activities in Manila (2026-04-28 09:06)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila Police District (MPD) announced Tuesday that several roads in the city would be closed starting 9 p.m. on April 30, 2026, following the announcement that Labor Day activities will be held on May 1.In a Facebook post, the MPD said the affected roads included stretches of C.M. Recto Avenue from N. Reyes Street to Mendiola, as well as Legarda Street from Figueras Street to San Rafael Street.Road closures will also be implemented near Liwasang Bonifacio, particularly along Magallanes Drive from Jones Bridge to McArthur Bridge.Meanwhile, Ayala Bridge and the eastbound lane of Ayala Boulevard from San Marcelino Street to Romualdez Street will also be closed.The MPD urged motorists to take alternate routes to avoid inconvenience during the scheduled road closures.

• House bill seeks to increase yearly paid leave to 10 days (2026-04-28 08:00)

MANILA, Philippines — House Bill 6602 seeks to increase the minimum mandated yearly paid leave under the Labor Code to 10 days."The 5-day paid leave mandated under the present law is no longer suitable for today's working conditions," Parañaque 2nd District Rep. Brian Yamsuan, a member of the House Committee on Labor and Employment, said in a statement on Tuesday.Based on the statement, the minimum five-day yearly Service Incentive Leave (SIL) mandated by the Labor Code took effect over 50 years ago."While many large corporations already offer more than five days of SIL in the form of vacation and sick leaves, workers in companies without strong collective bargaining agreements have been left behind, making do with only the mandatory 5-day leave to rest or attend to personal concerns," Yamsuan was quoted in the statement.Under the bill, employees who have rendered at least a year of service would be entitled to the 10-day paid leave.

• Police major detained amid alleged Negros e-sabong links (2026-04-28 07:56)

MANILA, Philippines — A police major has been placed under restrictive custody amid alleged links to operations of illegal online cockfighting (e-sabong), as well as other illegal activities in Negros Island, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Tuesday. “The officer has since been relieved from his post and placed under restrictive custody as part of an expanding probe into the alleged gambling network,” the PNP said in a statement.The PNP however did not reveal the identity of the police official in question who was also relieved from his post, Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., PNP chief, said.Nartatez also ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in coordination with the Integrity Monitoring and Enforcement Group to conduct an intense case build-up and investigation to uncover all uniformed personnel involved in such activities. “This kind of police officer symbolizes termites that threaten to destroy what we all built for the PNP, Nartatez said. “We will not allow that to happen by exhausting all necessary measures to identify them and hold them accountable,” he said.Nartatez vowed to personally monitor the progress of the investigation to ensure that appropriate criminal and administrative charges would be filed while observing due process. “There are only a few of them in the PNP. Let us all work together to identify them and remove them from our organization to protect our badge and what we established so far in

winning the hearts and minds of our kababayan," he said.

• Palace: Zaldy Co seeking political asylum in France (2026-04-28 07:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ako Bicol Party-list representative Zaldy Co is now seeking political asylum in France, Malacañang said Tuesday.During a press conference, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said that Co was no longer in the Czech Republic and currently has a pending petition for political asylum in France. "He has been requested to be transferred to and is now under jurisdiction of French authorities," Castro said. She said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would meet with Philippine ambassadors in Czech Republic and France to tackle Co's status.

• NBI backs Pasig closure order vs hotel linked to trafficking probe (2026-04-28 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines. — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday expressed support for the closure order issued by the Pasig City government against Bleu Hotel, saying the move stemmed from serious allegations of human trafficking and prostitution uncovered during investigation.In a statement, the NBI said the shutdown was "not rooted in speculation or politics," but in alleged offenses that carry "grave legal and moral consequences." The hotel was among the establishments implicated in an earlier NBI-led entrapment and rescue operation in Ortigas, Pasig City, which resulted in the rescue of 54 women and the arrest of several individuals linked to a suspected trafficking network operating inside a nightclub–hotel setup.Authorities said the operation uncovered an alleged system where customers were entertained inside a nightclub before being brought to hotel rooms where sexual services were reportedly facilitated.Despite the closure order, the NBI stressed that the case has not been closed. "All parties are entitled to the full protection of the law, including the opportunity to answer the charges, present evidence, and undergo proper judicial proceedings before any final determination of liability is made," the bureau said.The agency described human trafficking as among the most serious crimes under Philippine law, noting that it exploits vulnerable individuals and turns them into commodities for profit.It added that establishments found to have been used as venues for such activities must be held accountable under existing laws.The NBI also said liability may extend beyond day-to-day operators, noting that owners, incorporators, and individuals with legal or beneficial control over establishments may be held accountable if their businesses are used in trafficking operations.The bureau said the Pasig City government's closure order reflects the state's firm stance against exploitation and reinforces that business permits and corporate structures do not shield individuals from possible liability.

• Filipinos abroad urged to respect national anthem after viral US party video (2026-04-28 06:26)

MANILA, Philippines —The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) on Tuesday called on overseas Filipinos to respect the national anthem following a viral video online where the national anthem was sung at a party in the United States.The incident, which

reportedly took place in December 2025, involved partygoers who were seen singing the Philippine National Anthem “in a rowdy and noisy manner” during what appeared to be an outdoor rave under a marquee.In a statement, the NHCP said it was constrained from taking legal action as Philippine laws could not be enforced abroad. Instead, they called on overseas Filipinos to uphold Republic Act 8491, which mandates respect and proper conduct when performing the country’s national symbols, including the anthem.

- NBI defends Pasig raid, says more charges to be filed against perpetrators (2026-04-28 06:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday stood by its operation against a business establishment that was suspected of trafficking women, saying the raid that led to the rescue of dozens of victims was carried out in full compliance with legal procedures and said that more charges would be filed in the coming days.In a statement, the NBI said its actions against the Chicago Family KTV and Bleu Hotel in Ortigas, Pasig City,were guided by the evidentiary standards required under the justice system and conducted in close coordination among government agencies.The clarification came after the bureau, through its Special Task Group, mounted an entrapment and rescue operation on April 21, 2026 targeting a suspected trafficking-in-persons network.The operation, conducted alongside the Department of Justice–Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and other partner agencies, resulted in the rescue of 54 women and the arrest of 15 individuals, including managers, facilitators, and customers.Investigators said the establishments allegedly employed a “line-up” system where customers selected women inside the nightclub before proceeding to hotel rooms where sexual services were consummated. Transactions were estimated to range from P10,000 to P20,000, with proceeds allegedly shared among those involved in the operation.Authorities said those arrested are facing charges for violations of Republic Act 9208, or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, as amended, and Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Recovered during the raid were marked money, suspected illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and documents linked to the alleged activities.The NBI said individuals found at the premises who initially appeared to have no involvement in the alleged crimes were released after proper identification and processing, citing constitutional protections against warrantless detention without probable cause. It added that its focus, consistent with Department of Justice Department Circular 20, was to build cases against operators and traffickers while ensuring the protection of victims.“The Chicago case is far from closed,” the NBI said, noting that additional charges would be filed against other individuals and entities in coordination with the DOJ anti-trafficking council.The bureau said it was exercising caution to ensure that cases filed in court would meet the “standard of certainty of conviction” and withstand legal scrutiny, avoiding dismissals that could prejudice victims.Corporate records obtained during the investigation showed that the registered owners of the establishments included the wife and son of former congressman Mike Defensor. Defensor's wife Juie denied her involvement in trafficking in a statement over the weekend.The NBI stressed, however, that the information forms part of an ongoing probe and does not in itself establish criminal liability, adding that all

parties are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.The rescued women have been turned over to social welfare authorities for care and assistance.The NBI reiterated its commitment to transparency, saying the outcome of its investigation would speak for itself as it moves to dismantle trafficking networks and hold those responsible accountable.

- Impeach complaint hearings exempted from Bank Secrecy Law, says House lawmaker (2026-04-28 04:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The ongoing hearings by the House of Representatives on the impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte are exempted from the Bank Secrecy Law, a lawmaker said on Tuesday."It is clearer than day that impeachment hearings are exceptions to the coverage of the Bank Secrecy Law and Anti-Money Laundering Act," Akbayan Rep. Perci Cendaña said in a statement.Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro, chairman of the justice committee that is presiding over the hearings, said on radio that the panel did not violate the law in disclosing findings of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), after Duterte's husband, Manases Carpio, filed a complaint on Monday at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against several people, including Luistro, Cendaña, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima, and Akbayan Rep. Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno over the disclosure.The committee is determining whether there is probable cause to impeach Duterte.De Lima said in Filipino in a post on X, "I am not afraid to face any case, especially that we... are not violating any law."Akbayan Rep. Chel Diokno said in Filipino and English in a statement that anyone could file a complaint and that he respected that right, adding that he would "answer the allegations in the proper forum." He then said, "At the same time, I have to emphasize that the House Committee on Justice is merely fulfilling its duty."

- PH can hit 95% immunization goal, but gaps remain—Unicef (2026-04-28 04:15)

MANILA, Philippines —The United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) Philippines called on the need to strengthen routine immunization systems and address challenges in vaccine supply and demand as part of the observance of World Immunization Week.In a statement Tuesday, Unicef Philippines cited the National Demographic Health Survey, noting that achieving the 95 percent immunization coverage is feasible—pointing to Region I (Ilocos) as its proof—but emphasized that targeted efforts are still needed in remote and underserved areas. “Vaccines have protected generation after generation. But the next generation depends on whether we reach every child today, especially those who remain unvaccinated. We must close the gaps that leave children unprotected by ensuring reliable vaccine supply and quality services and by building trust and demand in communities so that families choose protection for their children,” said Kyungsun Kim, Unicef representative in the Philippines.

- Former Duterte spokesman Roque rejects BIR's tax evasion complaint against him (2026-04-28 03:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Malacañang spokesman Harry Roque late on Monday denied the tax evasion complaint filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) against himself, his wife

Mylah, and his legal counsel, Percival Ortega.In a statement on his Facebook page, the former Palace official said the complaint alleged that Roque, his wife, and lawyer acquired tax deficiencies totaling P3.35 million. “These filings form part of a continuing pattern of actions which we believe are politically motivated and intended to harass and pressure individuals associated with, or perceived to be supportive of, the Duterte administration. We view these developments with serious concern as they raise fundamental issues regarding fairness, equal protection, and the impartial administration of justice,” he wrote. “There has been no issuance of shares whatsoever pursuant to any alleged increase in authorized capital stock. Absent actual issuance or subscription of shares, there is no taxable event that could give rise to liability under Philippine tax law,” he added.Roque said the allegations were “premised on a misunderstanding of basic corporate and tax principles.”

- Dizon returns to Navotas landfill with Japanese experts as govt ramps up response to toxic blaze (2026-04-28 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon returned to the Navotas Sanitary Landfill on Tuesday, leading a high-level inspection team amid escalating concerns over toxic emissions and persistent underground fires at the dumpsite.Dizon was joined by Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuyo Endo, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Navotas City Mayor John Rey Tiangco, and a team of technical experts from Japan’s disaster response units—signaling a stronger international collaboration to address the fire at the Navotas Landfill.The visit marks a critical follow-up effort by the government to assess the current condition of the landfill, where smoldering methane pockets have continued to produce hazardous smoke affecting not only Navotas but nearby cities as well.Authorities said the presence of Japanese experts was expected to fast-track technical solutions, particularly in controlling deep-seated fires that are difficult to extinguish using conventional methods.Dizon emphasized the urgency of the situation, noting that heavy equipment and mitigation measures deployed in previous days must now be evaluated for effectiveness, while identifying additional interventions to finally contain the blaze.

- Phivolcs pushes geologic hazard communication drive for Bicol residents (2026-04-28 02:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) is set to conduct a communication campaign aimed at enhancing the capacity of public information officers and media practitioners in reporting science-based information on geologic hazards.Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol in a Viber interview with The Manila Times on Tuesday said the information drive, which would focus on volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis, would be held on April 29, 2026 in Naga City, Camarines Sur.Bacolcol said the activity sought to boost the capability of media practitioners and public information officers based in Bicol (Region 5) to effectively communicate science-based information on geologic hazards.According to the state seismology bureau, Region 5 is home to active volcanoes, specifically Mayon in Albay province which is currently under Alert Level 3; and Bulusan in

Sorsogon, under Alert Level 1.These volcanoes pose recurring threats from ashfall, lava flows, and pyroclastic density currents, Phivolcs said.The region is also traversed by active faults capable of generating strong earthquakes that may result in ground shaking, liquefaction, earthquake-induced landslides, casualties, and damage to properties, it said.In addition, coastal areas remain vulnerable to tsunamis triggered by the movement of the Philippine Trench, Phivolcs added. “Given these situations, a clear and locally relevant hazard communication is essential. Misinterpretation or misreporting of geohazard information can lead to confusion or unnecessary panic among the public,” the Phivolcs chief said.He said Phivolcs and its mother agency – Department of Science and Technology (DOST) under the stewardship of former Phivolcs Director and now Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. – acknowledged the crucial role of information officers and media practitioners as key partners in the dissemination of accurate, reliable, and timely information before, during, and after significant geohazard events.Solidum, in separate interview, cited the importance of the information campaign as it promoted responsible science communication, enhances public education and supports informed decision-making of the concerned local government units. “It also contributes to efforts for disaster risk reduction in vulnerable communities across the Bicol Region,” the DOST chief said.Bacolcol said the "Phivolcs InfoPress" was organized in collaboration with DOST’s regional offices, Philippine Information Agency and Office of Civil Defense.

- Slippery Zaldy eludes PH authorities again, no longer in Czech custody (2026-04-28 01:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co is no longer under the custody of Czech authorities, the Department of Justice (DOJ) confirmed, complicating efforts by the Philippine government to bring him home to face corruption charges.Acting Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida disclosed the development following a meeting with Czech officials, saying authorities informed him that Co had been released. “I have to share difficult news. Czech authorities have informed us that Mr. Zaldy Co is no longer in their custody,” Vida said during a briefing.Vida said Co was believed to be staying within the Schengen area, but Czech authorities declined to provide details on his whereabouts, citing data privacy rules and the bloc’s open-border policies. “They’re citing Schengen rules and data privacy provisions,” he said.The justice chief added that Czech officials also pointed to the absence of a formal police cooperation agreement between the Philippines and the Czech Republic, although discussions to establish one are ongoing.Vida expressed frustration over the development after nearly an hour of talks with his counterparts. “I am disappointed by the lack of knowledge. They expressed that they understand the gravity of the case and the Filipino public. I am confused about the legal parameters from which this is coming,” he said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced on April 16 that Co had been arrested in Prague for allegedly entering the Czech Republic without proper documentation.Co is facing charges of corruption and malversation before the Sandiganbayan, filed by the Office of the Ombudsman in November 2025.The case stemmed from an alleged P289-million ghost flood control project in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, which also implicates officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways Region 4B and executives of Sunwest Construction and Development

Corp.Philippine authorities said efforts were ongoing to locate Co and secure his return to face trial.

• Public Attorney's Office gets perfect score anew for 100% budget use (2026-04-28 01:39)

MANILA, Philippines — The Public Attorney’s Office (PAO) under the stewardship of its chief, Persida Rueda-Acosta, has emerged as the only attached agency of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that achieved a perfect score based on the 2025 Annual Agency Performance Review (AAPR) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).Overall, the DOJ obtained a score of 4.15 or very satisfactory, taking into consideration its financial and physical performance and timeliness and quality of the report submissions, according to DBM.Based on DBM documents, copies of which were obtained by The Manila Times, the justice department for fiscal year 2025 registered obligation and disbursement budget utilization rates of 85.59 percent and 86.69 percent, respectively. “The PAO consistently achieved 100 percent utilization across all parameters,” acting DBM Secretary Rolando Toledo said in a communication addressed to acting DOJ Secretary Frederick Vida.In 2024, PAO was also declared DBM’s top achiever for obtaining a perfect score of 5 for the same financial and physical performance review.Describing PAO in its AAPR report as ‘outstanding’ in its financial performance, the DBM said it (PAO) has ensured that set goals were carried out within the allocated timeframe and budget.On physical performance, the DBM likewise cited PAO for its almost 100 percent rating on alternative dispute resolutions and public attorneys’ perfect attendance in court hearings, among others.PAO has consistently met and exceeded its performance targets for these indicators, according to the same DBM report.Elated by DBM’s "remarkable rating," Rueda-Acosta said this would result “in a more effective, organized, and streamlined approach in rendering service to the Filipino people.” The chief public attorney reminds her co-officials, lawyers, and staff on the importance of integrity in the agency's expenditures as these funds were from the taxes of the hard-working ‘juan dela cruz.’ “It is a must that up until the last centavo is accounted for,” Rueda-Acosta said.Rueda-Acosta said the outstanding rating was not just the success of PAO but also the victory of all especially the indigents and underprivileged members of society. “For this is an implication that PAO is a well-performing government agency, both in the physical and financial performances, that banks on transparency and accountability,” she added.The AAPR report tracks how agencies use their allocated funds as it presents the results of the enhanced review, assessment, and evaluation of the annual performance of national government agencies, other executive offices, constitutional commissions as well as state universities and colleges.An autonomous government agency under Republic Act 9406 (PAO Law), PAO remains attached to the DOJ only for policy and program coordination, meaning, it has no direct control over the former, especially on its day-to-day operations.

• Hot, humid easterly winds prevail over most parts of PH (2026-04-27 22:27)

The easterlies would continue to be a dominant weather system, affecting most parts of the archipelago at least until the weekend, the national weather agency said on Tuesday.Weather

specialist Chenel Domiguez of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in a 5 a.m. briefing that it has not monitored any low-pressure area forming inside or outside the country's area of responsibility in the coming days.Dominguez said the easterly winds would bring not only warm, humid weather but also cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao del Norte, Maguindanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Sur, and Misamis Occidental. "Even flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains would be possible in these areas," the Pagasa forecaster warned.The same weather system would bring partly cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms to Metro Manila and the rest of the country. "Generally, it would be another hot and humid day in the country, and it would be even hotter from late morning until mid-afternoon, so stay hydrated," Dominguez said.A heat index of 42 degrees Celsius could be felt over Metro Manila on Tuesday, and the highest could be recorded over Sangley Point, Cavite, both falling under danger category, under which heat cramps and exhaustion are likely, the state-run weather bureau said.

- VP's husband sue lawmakers, BSP, AMLC (2026-04-27 16:17)

THE husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, Manases Carpio, filed criminal complaints Monday before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against four lawmakers, the central bank governor and the head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), accusing them of violating the Bank Secrecy Law by divulging their bank transactions during a congressional hearing.Named respondents in his complaint were Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, and Reps. Gerville Reyes Luistro, Percival Cendaña, Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno and Leila de Lima and several unnamed others.Carpio's lawyer, Peter Paul Danao, said the respondents would be facing charges of violating Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act).Carpio, who did not deny that he and the vice president had P6.7 billion in bank transactions over a 20-year period, turned down interviews with the media.Reacting to the filing of charges, the central bank said the "BSP and the Anti-Money Laundering Council continue to perform their mandates in accordance with law, guided by independence, professionalism, and due process" and said it would issue an appropriate response before the proper forum upon receipt of the complaint.Luistro, chairman of the House Committee on Justice, said the case filed against lawmakers was "one of the options" by the defense "to suppress the disclosure of this information." "As far as the committee is concerned, we maintain the position that we did not violate any law," Luistro said.Carpio's lawyer said his client strongly objects to the "conspiratorial act of disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent." During last week's House Committee on Justice hearing on the impeachment complaint against the vice president, the AMLC revealed that it had received reports of "suspicious" and "covered" bank transactions amounting to P6.77 billion linked to Duterte and Carpio during a period of nearly 20 years.Carpio in the same complaint said that it was indisputable that the AMLC reports involving his and his wife's

banking transactions were sensitive information that should not be disclosed to anyone. “Neither I nor my wife were previously notified, let alone have consented, to this public disclosure of our confidential bank transactions. Yet, respondents openly divulged these banking transaction reports in a public hearing before the House Committee on Justice,” he said.Carpio maintained that the respondents have “criminally and feloniously” disclosed and unraveled the alleged transaction reports without his consent and despite his objection.In pushing through with the complaint, Danao said they believed that those involved, specifically the respondents, should be criminally penalized for divulging in public the couple’s bank transactions without their full consent. “The prohibition is absolute. There is no exception. In fact, even the media are not allowed to divulge any bank transaction reports,” Danao said. “That’s the same law that was passed and enacted by the members of the House of Representatives themselves,” he added.The BSP emphasized its adherence to due process and the rule of law, saying the central bank will respond once it receives a formal copy of the case. “The governor has yet to receive a copy of the complaint and will respond appropriately upon receipt, before the proper forum,” the central bank said.In an interview on radio DZMM, Luistro said their actions do not violate the Anti-Money Laundering Act, stressing that what they sought during the hearing were not bank records, but covered and suspicious transactions under the AMLA.She said the totality of all laws pertaining to transactions and bank records must be considered during an impeachment investigation. “This is an accountability mechanism and therefore the exception provided in the Bank Secrecy Law must be interpreted in such a way that it should cover any other confidentiality in other existing laws. Otherwise, no impeachment would continue on the ground of unexplained wealth,” Luistro said.Other lawmakers named in the complaint urged Duterte to face the final impeachment hearing on April 29. “My advice to the camp of VP Sara, instead of wasting paper and time in filing cases, they should just face the Committee on Justice hearing on April 29,” Akbayan Rep. Percival Cendana said.Malacañang on Monday said it respects the move of Carpio to file complaints and that it would be up to the court to decide whether or not they will hold. “Anyone has the right to file a lawsuit. The only question is, if it will prosper. So, the Palace and the president are no longer in control of what the court’s decision will be,” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino in a briefing. WITH NIÑA MYKA PAULINE ARCEO AND KRISTINA MARALIT

- Duterte still leads poll but margin narrowing (2026-04-27 16:16)

IF presidential elections were held today, Vice President Sara Duterte would win in a head-to-head battle with Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo, OCTA Research said Monday.In its Tugon ng Masa survey conducted March 19-25, 2026, Duterte had a voter preference score of 46 percent as opposed to Robredo, who had 35 percent. Some 19 percent were undecided.OCTA noted, however, that while Duterte retains a clear advantage in a direct head to-head scenario, the margin separating the two candidates is no longer as wide as in previous survey periods. “This suggests that while VP Duterte remains ahead, the race appears more competitive in Q1 2026 than in earlier quarters,” the pollster said.It also noted the 19 percent

who remain undecided was a “substantial segment” of the electorate and thus, remains movable. “This suggests that while the broad structure of the race is already visible, the current margin remains contestable and still open to movement as candidate positioning, alliances, campaign visibility, and national conditions evolve,” OCTA said.OCTA said that Duterte’s lead was due to strong regional concentration than national dominance, highlighting her supermajority lead in Mindanao at 88 percent and majority in Visayas at 53 percent.The pollster suggests that Duterte’s national advantage is reinforced by a strong southern and central regional base, giving her a strong national floor and a clear advantage in a direct two-candidate contest.Robredo, meanwhile, is strong in the National Capital Region at 52 percent and Balance Luzon at 47 percent, suggesting a geographically distinct support coalition centered in urban and northern areas.Duterte also led in Socioeconomic class E voters with 56 percent preference, followed by Classes ABC at 46 percent and Class D at 44 percent. Robredo, meanwhile, has 39 percent preference for Class ABC and 36 percent for Class D.In earlier OCTA survey with 26 names. Duterte led with 33 percent, followed by Robredo at 21 percent, then followed by Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso, and Sens. Raffy Tulfo and Bam Aquino.The survey had 1,200 respondents and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent nationwide.

- US extends window to buy Russian crude (2026-04-27 16:15)

THE Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the US has issued a new waiver that will allow countries to procure oil from Russia, a move that will benefit the Philippines. “There is a new waiver, effective from April 17 until May 16, which was issued by the US. Also to clarify, the waiver applies to the Philippines as well,” DOE Undersecretary Alessandro Sales said in a media briefing.The United States Department of the Treasury recently renewed a waiver allowing countries to buy sanctioned Russian oil at sea loaded on vessels from April 17 through May 16.This replaces a 30-day waiver that expired on April 11 and excludes transactions involving Iran, Cuba and North Korea.The DOE also announced that all four diesel shipments secured under the government’s Emergency Energy Security Program have arrived, delivering a total of 178,331,781 liters of diesel to help strengthen the country’s buffer amid continued volatility in the global oil market caused by the war in the Middle East.The DOE said that the first shipment, consisting of 142,531.23 barrels or 22,660,613 liters of diesel from Japan, arrived in Batangas on March 26, 2026. The second shipment, consisting of 329,650 barrels or 52,410,065 liters, arrived in Subic. This was followed by the third shipment, consisting of 319,576 barrels or 50,808,430 liters, also delivered to Subic, and the fourth shipment, consisting of 329,918 barrels or 52,452,673 liters, which arrived in Davao City.The department noted that timely fuel arrivals are critical not only to maintaining inventory levels, but also to supporting the uninterrupted operation of key sectors such as transport, logistics, power generation, agriculture, and industry. “The arrival of all four diesel shipments shows that the government is acting with urgency to protect the country’s fuel supply. As the Middle East conflict continues, our priority is to ensure that the Philippines remains prepared, adequately supplied, and able to respond swiftly to developments that may affect fuel availability and market stability,” Energy Secretary

Sharon Garin said. “We assure the public that we will continue to work closely with concerned government entities and industry stakeholders to monitor inventory, facilitate the timely distribution of fuel, and prevent supply bottlenecks that may disrupt essential economic activity,” she added.Also on Monday, the DOE said diesel and kerosene prices will go down, while gasoline prices will increase slightly on Tuesday, April 28, as the market reacted to recent developments in the Middle East.According to the agency, and based on the advisory bulletins of Shell, Seaoil, Jetti Petroleum, and Unioil, diesel prices are estimated to go down by at least P12.94 per liter, while gasoline prices are expected to go up by P0.53 per liter.The cost of kerosene is also expected to drop by at least P15.71 per liter.Last week, diesel prices dropped by around P24.94 per liter, gasoline by P3.41 per liter, while kerosene prices went down by about P2 per liter.

- Pag-IBIG Fund, DHSUD hold 2 housing fairs (2026-04-27 16:14)

THE Home Mutual Development Fund (HDMF) or Pag-IBIG Fund in partnership with its mother agency — the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) — announced a series of housing fairs in Southern Luzon and Visayas, aimed at bringing more housing options closer to Filipino workers and their families.Pag-IBIG CEO Marilene Acosta said the first of the twin events in Southern Luzon took place at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna and on April 28, the second housing fair. In the Visayas, it has been set for April 30 and May 1 at the IEC Convention Center Cebu.More than 20,000 housing units from partner developers and the agency’s acquired properties for sale were expected to be showcased during the series of events, the Pag-IBIG chief said.Housing Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs HDMF’s board of trustees, said both the housing department and Pag-IBIG continue to heed the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more accessible to Filipino families through the expanded “Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino” (4PH) program. “By continuing these housing fairs in South Luzon and the Visayas, Pag-IBIG Fund is bringing together leading private developers, Pag-IBIG Fund’s affordable financing programs, and government assistance in one accessible venue, so that more workers can move from simply hoping for a home to actually taking concrete steps toward owning one,” Aliling said.The series of housing fairs follow the earlier Central Luzon leg and forms part of the broader regional rollout of housing fairs aimed at making the path to homeownership easier and more accessible, according to HDMF.Acosta said that Pag-IBIG’s housing loans enable low-income and other qualified members, including overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), to access decent housing at monthly amortizations that are often lower than prevailing rental costs.She said that the housing fairs make these homeownership opportunities more accessible by bringing housing options and the agency’s financing assistance together in one venue. “Through Pag-IBIG Fund’s affordable housing loan programs, many families may now find that what they would otherwise spend on rent can already be used to start paying for a home they will eventually own,” Acosta said. “This allows members not only to realize possible savings on monthly housing costs, but also to build long-term household stability, equity, and a more secure future. Through these housing fairs, we are making that opportunity

more tangible by bringing housing options and financing guidance together in one venue, where members can compare choices and take clearer steps toward homeownership," she said.Aliling said the lowest monthly amortization offered in the fairs is in support to the poverty reduction effort of the Marcos administration by enabling families to shift from renting to homeownership.As a result, he said this would allow them to invest in long-term stability and redirect resources toward other essential needs such as education, health, and livelihood.The socialized housing units under 4PH that are being offered to the prospective homebuyers include the Pasinaya Heights in Laguna, where a unit priced at P1.404 million may be purchased at a monthly amortization of as low as P2,257.91 in the first year, and Asenso Yuhum Residences in Bacolod, where a 24-square-meter condominium unit priced at P1.059 million may be acquired at a monthly amortization of as low as P1,703.08 in the first year. "These affordable monthly payments are made possible through Pag-IBIG Fund's Housing Loan Program under the Expanded 4PH, which offers a subsidized 3 percent interest rate for the first five years of the loan term, with the possibility of extension for another five years for eligible borrowers," Acosta said.At the same time, the HDMF is still offering the Early Bird Promo, under which the first 30,000 qualified borrowers may enjoy the same 3 percent interest rate for the first 10 years of their loan, further easing the path to homeownership, she said.Aliling was joined by Acosta during the Calamba housing fair, underscoring the strong partnership to advance more inclusive housing programs, the DHSUD said.

- Dy to Asean women lawmakers: Push for change (2026-04-27 16:13)

SPEAKER Faustino Dy III called on women parliamentarians in Southeast Asia to push for "deeper, system-level change" and move from representation to real power in governance.In his speech at the 5th Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians of the Aseam Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) which was held virtually, Dy said parliamentarians must move beyond "gender-responsiveness toward true transformation — reshaping systems, dismantling barriers, and ensuring women have real decision-making power."
"Transformation must go beyond representation. It must create real opportunity — for women to lead, to build enterprises, and for marginalized voices to be heard. Inclusion is measured not by presence, but by impact," Dy said.He linked women's leadership to stronger institutions and lasting peace in the Southeast Asian region. "Peace is not just the absence of conflict — it is trust in institutions and in the future. When women lead, peace becomes more durable," Dy said.He highlighted the Philippines' National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security as part of efforts to promote inclusive and responsive governance. "At the core of all this is people-centered governance — laws grounded in real needs, budgets that reflect everyday realities, and institutions that are open and accountable," Dy said.In her speech, Deputy Speaker Rachel Arenas underscored the need for sustained leadership and cooperation among women lawmakers in the region. "Though we gather today through extraordinary circumstances, our presence here sends an extraordinary message: that even in uncertain times, leadership does not pause; cooperation does not weaken; and the work of building a better future must continue," Arenas said.She stressed that the global energy

crisis, driven in part by tensions in the Middle East, is a test of the region's collective resolve. "Yet even as challenges test our systems, they also reveal our character. Today, by choosing dialogue over delay and action over hesitation, we prove that Asean's spirit remains strong," Arenas said.In the session, House Committee on Women and Gender Equality chairman and Laguna Rep. Ann Matibag, who was appointed as the chairman of WAIPA, called on the region's lawmakers to strive for deeper institutional reforms to build gender-transformative, inclusive, and future-ready parliaments. "A future-ready parliament is one that is inclusive, adaptive, and responsive — able to anticipate change, enhance oversight, and ensure that legislation and public resources respond effectively to emerging risks and inequalities," Matibag said.The event gathered women lawmakers from across the region to advance cooperation on political participation, economic leadership, and inclusive governance.

- Scrap fuel taxes, raise wages, groups urge Marcos (2026-04-27 16:12)

A MAJOR labor organization renewed its demand to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for the immediate suspension of excise taxes and value-added tax (VAT) on fuel, and an increase in wages, saying that soaring prices and stagnant pay are squeezing workers dry.The Federation of Free Workers (FFW) on Monday said that while it welcomes the president's limited suspension of excise taxes on kerosene and LPG, the move barely scratches the surface.The FFW said the high cost of fuel continues to drive up transportation fares, food costs, and basic goods, while wages remain stuck. "If you have the power, use it. Don't use the law as a display while prices are skyrocketing and workers' belts are tightening," said Ma. Victoria Bellosillo of the FFW Women's Network.Bellosillo said the oil crisis must not become a government cash cow. "Taxes contribute to order. But it's a different story when the government makes money during a crisis. When VAT increases due to expensive oil, it's like a receipt for the people's suffering," she said. "As crude oil prices rise, the collection increases. The suffering of workers should not be turned into a piggy bank," she said.FFW urged the President to use his powers under Republic Act 12316 to expand excise tax relief and press Congress to suspend or cut VAT on petroleum products.At the same time, it called for tighter price controls and stronger action against profiteering. "Tax relief and price control must go hand in hand. Otherwise, the profiteers will just take back the comfort they were given. It's like being given an umbrella with a hole — there's still a price to pay," FFW said.Together with major labor coalitions, FFW is pushing for a legislated P200 daily wage hike nationwide. In Calabarzon, FFW unions are preparing a petition for a P1,200 per day regional minimum wage.

- More benefits for those with eye problems sought (2026-04-27 16:11)

SEN. Bong Go pressed for expanded benefits for people with eye problems.Go made the appeal on Saturday during the 76th National Convention of the Optometrists Association of the Philippines.He urged the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to expand patient benefits that would include visual care support such as reading glasses and prescription eyewear.Go earlier called for expanded benefit packages, higher case rates, improved outpatient and emergency coverage, and the removal of policies that limit access to benefits.He

said public health funds must be felt directly by patients through lower out-of-pocket expenses, wider coverage, and better support in hospitals. “I highly commend your organization for continuously striving to elevate the standards of eye care in our country,” Go said in a video message. “Sight is one of our most vital senses, and your profession plays a crucial role in ensuring that Filipinos can see the world clearly, allowing them to lead productive and meaningful lives,” he said.Go said optometrists form part of the wider healthcare workforce that helps protect the health and well-being of Filipinos, particularly through preventive, specialized, and community-based care. “As vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, my advocacy has always been centered on protecting the health and well-being of every Filipino,” he said.The OAP gathering carried the theme “Optometry and the Future of Care: The Hybrid Model of Practice,” to discuss developments in eye care and the evolving practice of optometry.Go expressed hope that the group’s national convention would serve as a venue for knowledge sharing, professional collaboration, and continued improvement in the delivery of eye care services.

- EU hopeful sea code would bring regional peace, stability (2026-04-27 16:10)

EUROPEAN Union Ambassador to Manila Massimo Santoro said the EU is hopeful that the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea being finalized this year would be "legally binding" to ensure peace and stability in the region.The Philippines, as chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in 2026, has expressed commitment to finalizing this year the COC between Asean and China, which has dragged on for 17 years due to some contentious issues.The Asean is composed of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Thailand, and Vietnam."Sometimes somebody asks me, why is the European Union so interested in the South China Sea?" Santoro said in an interview with a select group of reporters over the weekend."Well, if I move it to the trade dimension, almost 40 percent of the trade that goes to Europe passes from the South China Sea," Santoro pointed out.The envoy expressed confidence that "any side to this negotiation is interested in a code of conduct which is functional for its purpose.""From our side, we also hope a legally binding one. This is what the European Union likes," Santoro added."Clearly, we are supportive of a code of conduct. This is a good tool for all parties adhering to it, for ensuring stability, for ensuring predictability, for ensuring that no unilateral action occurs, for ensuring full respect of rights, the legitimate rights of each party," he said. “I think that if the code of conduct becomes a good, solid product, fully consistent with Unclos (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea), in my view, its potential goes well beyond the only parties to it," the envoy added.Santoro also said that "any negotiation which is multilateral depends on the willingness, on the participation, and on the genuine approach of all sides involved.""I think that it is not a surprise the Philippines is making so far an excellent job in this negotiation. I'm completely confident that the Philippines is an excellent actor for such negotiations," he said.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro earlier said the COC in the South China Sea, once finalized, would benefit both the Asean and China.

• Seafarers tired and worried after being stranded in Persian Gulf for weeks (2026-04-27 16:09)

NEW DELHI — For about eight weeks, Indian Capt. Rahul Dhar and his crew have been stranded on their tanker in the Persian Gulf, sometimes watching drones and missiles explode as the Strait of Hormuz remained effectively shut while the Iran war dragged on.The crew’s morale, he said, is holding as they carry on with their routines, but the strain is beginning to show.A shaky ceasefire between the US and Iran has brought “a careful sense of hope” for the crew, but there is still no clear end to the war. “Day to day, we try to keep things normal with open conversations and small team activities that help lift everyone’s spirits.”The crew sighted drones and missile interceptions several times, both near the ship and along the horizon during their watches.“Those moments were difficult and created real tension for the crew,” Dhar told The Associated Press.“None of us expected the warlike situation,” he said, noting that reliable internet has helped them stay in touch with families. “Those calls and messages really keep us grounded and give us strength.”About 20,000 seafarers are stranded in the GulfAround 20,000 seafarers on hundreds of vessels, including oil and gas tankers and cargo ships, have been stuck in the Gulf, unable to cross the Strait of Hormuz. Normally about a fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas transits the waterway.Roughly 80 vessels passed through the strait in the week of April 13–19, according to the maritime data firm Lloyd’s List Intelligence, compared to approximately 130 or more transits per day before the war.Dozens of ships have come under attack since the war started, and the UN says at least 10 seafarers were killed.Even as US President Donald Trump last week extended the ceasefire indefinitely, the US kept the blockade of Iranian ports. In response, Iran fired on ships in the strait and seized two.“Seafarers are the backbone of global trade, yet we are often the most affected by regional geopolitical conflicts,” said Capt. ArunKumar Rajendran, who also has been stranded with his tanker crew for around eight weeks.Some 'watched blasts from decks'Manoj Kumar Yadav of the Forward Seamen’s Union of India said thousands of Indian sailors were aboard the stranded vessels, enduring days of fear and isolation as ships lay anchored near Iranian ports such as Bandar Abbas and Khorramshahr. Explosions sometimes occurred just a few hundred meters (yards) away.“They were watching blasts from their decks,” he said, adding that his union has been fielding daily distress calls from crews and their families. “Many of them were on board a ship for the first time, and you can imagine what mental state they have gone through.”Yadav said many sailors reported acute shortages of food and drinking water, with some vessels forced to ration supplies. Communication with families in India was sporadic due to internet disruptions and signal jamming. When contact was possible, sailors often paid high roaming charges for just a few minutes of conversation, he said.Sailors' families are growing increasingly anxious, demanding the safe return of their loved ones.Mohamed Arrachedi, the International Transport Workers’ Federation's network coordinator for the Middle East, said earlier this month it had received hundreds of requests for assistance, including for food, from seafarers.Drones and uncertaintyStranded off Oman for more than a month, Reza Muhammad Saleh, an Indonesian chief officer aboard a Greek-owned cargo ship, said a drone exploded near the port shortly after they arrived March 3.At least two more

incidents followed, forcing repeated evacuations of the crew to bunkers, he said. No one was harmed. “The biggest problem is the uncertainty. We don’t know when Hormuz will be open again," Saleh told the AP.The vessel with 24 crew members from Indonesia, Arab countries, India and Ethiopia typically transports iron ore across Gulf states, transiting Hormuz once or twice a month. It now requires written clearance from Iran. “No company wants to take the risk without it,” he said.Though experienced in conflict zones, the crew has been rattled by missile strikes and GPS disruptions that forced it to use manual navigation, he said. “Sometimes we think it’s safe, then suddenly it’s not. Today we’re safe. Tomorrow, nobody knows," he said.Fleet Management Limited usually communicates multiple times a day with dozens of stranded ships that are staffed by more than 400 seafarers, its CEO Capt. Rajalingam Subramaniam said.Stock checks are regularly maintained for food supply, and pickups have been arranged to ensure availability by moving vessels to the nearest points where they can pick up fresh and dry provisions, he said.Some crew changes were still happening, but in limited numbers. “Who wants to go on the ship?” Subramaniam said. “The inbound crew has the right to refuse and we respect (that).” Most of the stranded mariners have been in the Gulf since the war began. “(For) mariners who did not sign up to be in warlike area, they also (need) to be respected so that they do not become the unintended collateral,” he said.Among the vessels attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz during the ceasefire, several were fired upon and others turned back. Vessels managed by Fleet Management did not attempt to cross, Subramaniam said.Germany’s largest shipping company, Hapag-Lloyd, has had around 150 sailors stranded near the strait, on six vessels. “These are difficult days and weeks,” Hapag Lloyd spokesman Nils Haupt told the AP earlier this month.He said Hapag-Lloyd was in contact with the captains and crews at least once a day. “We’ve been able to rotate some of them (crew) in the meantime, but you can easily imagine that after such a long time, monotony naturally sets in on board,” he said.Shortages of global seafarers to worsenThe International Maritime Organization, the UN's shipping agency, and others have called for a safe corridor for commercial vessels in the strait.Most ships are still unable to pass through, even though Iran had said the strait was open to vessels it perceived as non-hostile and demanded to collect tolls for passage.Iran was said to have placed mines in the waterway, and Trump said last week that the US was clearing Iranian mines and would “shoot and kill” boats laying mines in the area.Under heightened risks of mines and attacks on ships, “there is no safe transit anywhere in the Strait of Hormuz,” said IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez.

- Marcos leads teachers’ oath-taking in Capiz (2026-04-27 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the oath-taking of more than 8,500 newly promoted teachers and school heads from Western Visayas, marking the largest gathering so far under the Expanded Career Progression (ECP) System.first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos joined the president during the ceremony at Villareal Stadium in Roxas City, Capiz.Similar inductions were previously held in Cebu, Davao, and Eastern Visayas.In his speech, Marcos assured educators of continued government support, emphasizing efforts to improve career growth,

welfare and working conditions. “Rest assured that the government will not stop in ensuring you are being taken care of, given equal opportunity for growth and recognized,” he said.The president said the ECP system addresses the long-standing issue of limited promotion opportunities for teachers by providing clearer career pathways, whether in classroom instruction or school leadership.From August 2025 to date, a total of 79,230 teachers and school heads nationwide have benefited from promotions under the system.Marcos reiterated that his administration is working to ensure that no teacher retires at entry-level rank.He also cited reforms aimed at improving working conditions, including reducing administrative workload, creating more than 61,000 teaching positions, and providing a P10,000 teaching allowance for School Year 2025–2026.

- ‘Pets, farm animals must be included in disaster plan’ (2026-04-27 16:07)

AS the government begins its annual budget planning cycle, the Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) is calling for an urgent overhaul of national laws to ensure that the country’s animal population will not be left behind during catastrophes.Interviewed in the Alerto Siete-Tres-Ocho program at Radyo Pilipinas, AKF Project Director Heidi Marquez-Caguioa said they are leading a legislative push to amend the Animal Welfare Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act.The proposed amendments aim to institutionalize animal protection mechanisms, mandating that the welfare of livestock, pets and working animals be integrated into all phases of disaster response.The cost of neglect Caguioa pointed to the 2020 Taal Volcano eruption as a grim case study in logistical failure. During the crisis, thousands of animals — including horses vital to the local tourism industry — were abandoned in the danger zone because evacuation protocols lacked provisions for animals."The Taal disaster exposed a massive gap in our emergency framework," Caguioa said. "We saw farm animals and working horses left to fend for themselves, not due to lack of compassion, but due to a complete lack of policy-driven rescue infrastructure."The AKF proposal seeks to institutionalize animal welfare by requiring the mandatory inclusion of LGU agriculturists and veterinarians in local DRRM councils.By granting these professionals regular membership, AKF said that local governments can ensure dedicated funds and resources specifically for animal rescue, establishment of pre-identified evacuation zones for companion animals (pets) and farm animals (livestock) ahead of the rainy season and policy shifts from reactive response to systematic, prepared rescue operations.Beyond legislative changes, Caguioa identified a persistent administrative problem: the abrupt turnover of government personnel.AKF research showed that training local government employees in animal handling is often rendered futile by the nature of their employment.When skilled workers leave their posts due to the expiration of Job Order or Contract of Service agreements, or when coterminous appointments end, the institutional knowledge is lost."Every time a trained worker leaves without a transfer of knowledge, our capability-building efforts are set back to zero," Caguioa explained. "We are effectively wasting time and public funds by training people who are structurally discouraged from staying in their positions long-term."With the rainy season approaching, the AKF urged lawmakers to expedite these amendments.The foundation maintained that if the country intends to build a truly

resilient society, the protection of animals must shift from being an "afterthought" of non-government organizations to a mandatory government function."We have to consider these measures now," Caguioa added. "Disasters do not discriminate between humans and animals, and our policies should reflect that reality."

- Hold departure order issued against Escudero (2026-04-27 16:06)

(UPDATE) The Sandiganbayan's sixth division issued on Monday a precautionary hold departure order against Sen. Francis Escudero and businessman and alleged bagman Maynard Ngu, preventing them from leaving the country.The issuance of the order followed a closed-door hearing on Monday after the Office of the Ombudsman filed the application on Saturday.Under the order, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration was directed to include Escudero and Ngu in its Hold Departure Order list.Both Escudero and Ngu were implicated in the flood control scandal, where they are expected to be charged with plunder offenses.On Thursday, the same order was issued against former Speaker Martin Romualdez who was also linked in anomalous flood control projects.

- Vintage bombs found during NAIA excavation (2026-04-27 16:05)

TWENTY rusting vintage bombs were discovered on Sunday during excavations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Juliet Extension Taxiway.The PNP Aviation Security Group (Avsegroup) Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called to the excavation site after a backhoe unearthed the bombs.The team recovered 10 50-pound and 18 25-pound inert General Purpose bombs.Last April 22, old military ordnance was also dug up at the same site.The bombs were brought to Avsegroup headquarters in Pasay City for safekeeping and proper disposal.The Juliet Extension is a part of the NAIA modernization project carried out by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC).The phase involves expanding and concreting the taxiway to improve airfield capacity and efficiency.Located in front of Terminal 2, the extension runs parallel to Runway 13/31 and Taxiways November and Delta.Designed to reach the Terminal 4 apron, the project aims to ease congestion at Terminal 3.Once completed, Taxiway Juliet will serve as a diversion route for aircraft during the upcoming reconstruction of Taxiway Delta, the primary taxiway for Terminal 3.

- Manila’s air quality ‘very unhealthy’ again (2026-04-27 16:04)

THE air quality in the city of Manila has returned to “very unhealthy” levels after being “fair” for several days as the fire in the sanitary landfill in Navotas City continues to burn after nearly three weeks.On a Facebook post Monday, the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (MCDRRMD) reported that at 12 a.m., its air quality sensors at four locations recorded “very unhealthy” readings, particularly those near the Puregold Tayuman area.The department said prevailing winds may be carrying smoke from the abandoned landfill fire toward the city, and warned residents — particularly the vulnerable sectors such as children, senior citizens, and those with asthma — to avoid going outdoors unless necessary.In an interview with The Manila Times, Dr. Lester Tan, Department of

Health-Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) regional director, urged the public to continue wearing masks as protection from the polluted air.Tan said a wet cloth can also be used as an alternative to a surgical mask.He advised people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to limit their outdoor activities because the poor air quality can worsen their condition.Manila’s Department of Environment and Public Services later reported that air quality levels had improved to “good.” Residents of Pasay City were also advised to wear face masks outdoors to protect themselves as the air quality in the city worsened.Pasay Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano said Monday the smoke from the landfill may carry harmful chemicals and particulate matter that could affect public health.Exposure to the toxic smoke could trigger breathing difficulty, eye irritation, coughing, throat irritation, headache and dizziness.Residents were told to stay indoors as much as possible, keep doors and windows closed, and avoid strenuous outdoor activities.The city government also urged residents to drink plenty of water and seek medical attention if they experience severe breathing difficulties.On Tuesday, Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon will return to the landfill to assess operations to extinguish methane pockets that continue to emit hazardous fumes.Dizon said on Monday he will be accompanied by Navotas Mayor John Rey Tiangco. They will evaluate if the heavy equipment deployed last week, such as excavators, has been effective in smothering the fire and containing gas emissions.Initial efforts focused on creating access routes and applying soil cover to cut off oxygen feeding the underground flames.The DPWH is also coordinating with international disaster response specialists, including members of the Japan Disaster Relief team, who have been tapped for their technical expertise in handling similar incidents.Government responders, including personnel from the Bureau of Fire Protection, local disaster risk reduction offices, and environmental agencies, remain on-site to sustain round-the-clock operations.Dizon said that efforts were focused not only on extinguishing the fire but also on minimizing further environmental damage and safeguarding public health amid air quality concerns.He said access to the landfill remains a logistical problem since it requires a 15- to 20-minute boat ride from the BFP Incident Command Post to the site; Tuesday’s inspection “is expected to provide clearer direction on the next phase of response efforts," Dizon said.What changed the pace of operations was the completion of a new access road linking the mainland directly to the landfill, with Dizon describing the access road as “a game changer."He admitted that the situation remains critical, with toxic smoke continuing to billow from the landfill and drift across Metro Manila and nearby provinces, including Bulacan and Bataan.Dizon said the prolonged fire, fueled by layers of compacted waste, has created deep underground hotspots that are difficult to reach and extinguish.

- Remulla chides Makati youth representatives (2026-04-27 16:03)

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Monday castigated two Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairmen in Makati City who were suspended after being found guilty of misconduct, saying corruption had reached even the youth sector in affluent communities.Speaking in Trece Martires City, Remulla identified the officials as Natalia Georgianna Tupaz of Barangay Dasmariñas and Cecilia Louise Yabut of Barangay Magallanes.

Both were sanctioned by the Makati Sangguniang Panlungsod through separate resolutions. “Corruption has reached the SK, even in the wealthiest barangay. We do not spare anyone — whether from small or rich communities,” Remulla said.He delivered a sharp rebuke to the officials, saying, “Shame on you. You are already well-off, yet you still choose to steal.” Tupaz was meted a six-month suspension under a March 23, 2026 resolution after she allegedly demanded a 20 percent kickback from a supplier for a Halloween project.Investigators said the arrangement was corroborated through Viber messages and a phone call.She also faced accusations of submitting an SK resolution with a falsified signature of the SK secretary.Tupaz tendered her resignation on March 8, pending acceptance.Yabut was suspended for three months under an April 6 resolution after allegedly submitting documents with forged signatures, including that of an SK kagawad who was reportedly abroad at the time.While she admitted the documents were not personally signed, she claimed prior consent had been given.Remulla said Tupaz could face charges before the Office of the Ombudsman, including direct bribery, violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and falsification of public documents.He added that Yabut and her SK treasurer could also be charged with falsification in connection with a purchase request.Remulla raised broader concerns about the structure of the SK, suggesting its possible abolition as part of constitutional reforms. “If there will be constitutional change, I will recommend the abolition of the SK. We are seeing a culture where corruption starts at a young age,” he said.Remulla pointed to high attrition rates among SK officials, noting that many leave their posts within the first year due to marriage, employment, or schooling, prompting barangay to appoint officers-in-charge. “It may be better for the barangay council to designate who will handle youth affairs instead of holding elections,” he said.

- Two bettors win Mega Lotto 6/45 draw on April 27 (2026-04-27 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Two bettors won the Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday night, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.The winning combination for the Mega Lotto 6/45 draw was 06-04-05-27-34-11, with a jackpot prize of P45,568,562.29.Meanwhile, no bettor won the Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot. Its winning combination was 43-19-20-12-21-51, with a prize of P69,508,293.74.

- Health groups file complaints vs ZYN, IQOS Philippines over alleged Vape Law violations (2026-04-27 14:49)

MANILA, Philippines—Health advocates have filed complaints against nicotine pouch brand ZYN and heated tobacco product (HTP) company IQOS Philippines for allegedly violating the Vape Law, or Republic Act No. 11900, which regulates the promotion, distribution, and registration of vaporized nicotine and tobacco products.In a joint statement Sunday, the Philippine Smoke-Free Movement, the Child Rights Network, the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc., Action on Smoking and Health Philippines, Imagine Law, Parents Against Vape, Youth Against Vape, and HealthJustice urged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to take immediate action against the companies for

allegedly engaging in illegal sponsorships and promotional activities.This comes after the brands were said to promote their products during the Sinulog Festival in Cebu City back in January.The groups noted that such sponsorships violate Section 14(a) of Republic Act No. 11900, which prohibits tobacco and nicotine brands from sponsoring cultural events. They added that these activities “exploit an environment that is both child-centered and culturally significant.” “These violations involving ZYN and IQOS are not isolated incidents—they reflect a recurring pattern of noncompliance by the tobacco industry. These brands continue to insert themselves in cultural, artistic, and entertainment spaces, positioning their products as part of a desirable lifestyle. Worse, one of these brands has been reported to be promoting and distributing a product that has no registration or certification under the law. Immediate regulatory action from the DTI is needed to put an end to these dirty industry tactics and to reaffirm the government’s mandate to protect the health of its people,” said Rizza Duro, national coordinator of the Philippine Smoke-Free Movement.

- Nothing premature with Marcos’ earlier statement on Zaldy Co, Palace insists (2026-04-27 14:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday insisted there was nothing premature or false about the earlier announcement made by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. regarding the apprehension of former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co in the Czech Republic.In a press conference, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro defended Marcos and maintained there was nothing irregular about his pronouncement. “What did the President announce? He announced that Co was held in custody, that's correct. He said Co was in custody at the Czech Republic, that's correct also. He also said that we are coordinating with the Czech Republic, that's right. So, what's premature with that? There's nothing premature with that,” Castro said in Filipino.The Department of Justice (DOJ) last week clarified that Co, technically, was not arrested by Czech authorities although his movements were restrained because of immigration violations.Castro reiterated that Marcos did not commit misinformation as the word “arrest” did not come from the chief executive. “First of all, if you notice, on April 16, the president first posted that, "Zaldy Co has been caught." When we say that Zaldy Co has been caught, it doesn't necessarily mean that it was an arrest. The word "caught" is very general. So, when he was caught, we can say that he was stopped—stopped or prevented from acting, and the President was not wrong in what he reported on April 16,” she said. “April 17, he posted again. He said here, "Our coordination with the Czech authorities continues. The latest information confirms that Zaldy Co was stopped at the German border after entering from the Czech Republic. He was denied entry and returned to Czech authorities where he remains in custody." It's not wrong. The word "arrest" did not come from the president himself,” she added.DOJ Secretary Fredderick Vida last week flew to Praque to gather more information regarding Co’s apprehension and to coordinate how Co, who is facing graft and malversation charges in connection to the flood control scandal, would be brough back to the Philippines.

• Luistro stresses House justice panel "did not violate law" amid Carpio complaint (2026-04-27 14:29)

MANILA, Philippines - House Justice Committee chairman and Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro said that they acknowledge the filing of criminal complaints against her, several lawmakers and officials of the Anti-Money Laundering Council by the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte. lawyer Manases Carpio, on Monday.Carpio filed violations of Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act) for " disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent.” It comes after an AMLC report was released at the House Justice Panel's hearing last April 22 that showed more than P6 billion in transactions recorded by both Duterte and Carpio, which according to some lawmakers were considered as "smoking gun" evidence in the impeachment case.In an interview over radio dzBB on Monday, Luistro believes that the case filed against them is "one of the options" made by the defense "to suppress the disclosure of this information,""This one is a criminal complaint.... we acknowledge that this is one of their options. As far as the committee is concerned, we maintain the position that we did not violate any law," Luistro added.

• 5 inmates die, 4 PNP personnel injured in mobile car crash (2026-04-27 14:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Five persons under police custody (PUPCs) from the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) died while four personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) were injured after a police mobile they were riding crashed into a wall in Quezon City on Friday. The six PUPCs were being escorted by the four Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel escorting them aboard a police mobile that traversed Payatas Road en route to the Quezon City Jail when it crashed, PLtCol. Josef Geofrey Lyndon Lim, chief District Traffic Enforcement Unit of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) told reporters on Monday. According to Lim, the driver “lost control” that led to the mobile unit hitting a wall resulting in the instantaneous deaths of the five PUPCs. All of the individuals on board were brought to Rosario Maclang General Hospital, where five of the PUPCs were declared dead shortly after by the attending physician. The remaining PUPC was in a stable condition, Lim said, while the four police officers were also receiving treatment for injuries.

• Destab plot against Marcos nothing new, says Palace (2026-04-27 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday said reports that disgruntled former military officials plotting to oust President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is nothing new and has tasked concerned agencies to probe the alleged “power grab”.Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro issued the statement in reaction to the disclosure made by Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson over the weekend that there are several “retired officials” supposedly recruiting military personnel to roll out plans to overthrow Marcos and Vice President Sara Duterte over the controversies they are respective involved in. “That has been news for a long time, they have been wanting to destabilize our president for a long time, that is

not new," Castro said in Filipino in a briefing.The Palace Press Officer further stated that Lacson, being a seasoned investigator, would not make unsubstantiated claims and would always come with "receipts" and urged the security cluster to look into the matter.Lacson, a former top policeman, said that while it is highly unlikely that the retired officers' plan would be a success, "definitely there is an attempt" to remove the two highest elected officials from office."First of all, it has to be proven because Senator Lacson, when he speaks, he has receipts. So, once again, to our investigating bodies, you don't need to be ordered. Just do the investigation.

- Pag-IBIG Fund, DHSUD hold housing fairs in Southern Luzon, Visayas to expand access to homeownership (2026-04-27 13:50)

MANILA, Philippines — The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund), in partnership with its mother agency, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, announced on Monday a series of housing fairs in Southern Luzon and the Visayas aimed at bringing more housing options closer to Filipino workers and their families.Pag-IBIG chief executive officer Marilene C. Acosta said the first of two events in Southern Luzon was held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, while the second leg is scheduled on April 28. In the Visayas, the housing fair will take place on April 30 and May 1 at the IEC Convention Center Cebu.More than 20,000 housing units from partner developers, along with Pag-IBIG's acquired assets for sale, are expected to be showcased during the events, Acosta said.DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the initiative supports the directive of Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more accessible through the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa mga Pilipino Program."By continuing these housing fairs in South Luzon and the Visayas, Pag-IBIG Fund is bringing together leading private developers, affordable financing programs, and government assistance in one accessible venue, allowing more workers to move from simply hoping for a home to taking concrete steps toward owning one," Aliling said.The events follow an earlier Central Luzon leg and form part of a broader regional rollout aimed at making homeownership more accessible.In a statement, Acosta said Pag-IBIG's housing loan programs enable low-income members and other qualified borrowers, including overseas Filipino workers, to access homes with monthly amortizations often lower than prevailing rental costs.She added that the housing fairs make these opportunities more accessible by consolidating housing options and financing assistance in a single venue."Through Pag-IBIG Fund's affordable housing loan programs, many families may find that what they would otherwise spend on rent can already go toward paying for a home they will eventually own," Acosta said.She noted that this setup allows members to potentially reduce monthly housing costs while building long-term financial stability and equity.Aliling emphasized that the low monthly amortization rates offered during the fairs support the administration's poverty reduction efforts by enabling families to transition from renting to homeownership, freeing up resources for other essential needs such as education, health, and livelihood.Among the socialized housing units under the 4PH program are projects such as Pasinaya Heights, where units priced at P1.404 million may be purchased with monthly

amortizations starting at P2,257.91 in the first year, and Asenso Yuhum Residences, offering 24-square-meter condominium units priced at P1.059 million with initial monthly payments as low as P1,703.08. “These affordable payments are made possible through Pag-IBIG Fund’s Housing Loan Program under the Expanded 4PH, which offers a subsidized 3 percent interest rate for the first five years of the loan term, with a possible extension for another five years for eligible borrowers,” Acosta said.She added that Pag-IBIG is also offering its Early Bird Promo, allowing the first 30,000 qualified borrowers to avail of the same 3 percent interest rate for the first 10 years of their loan.Aliling and Acosta attended the Calamba housing fair, underscoring the strong partnership between DHSUD and Pag-IBIG in advancing inclusive housing programs. “The housing fair reflects the administration’s whole-of-society approach—integrating housing development, financing access, and stakeholder collaboration—to ensure that no Filipino family is left behind,” Aliling said.

• PNP backs CIDG Tondo e-sabong bust amid alleged anomalies (2026-04-27 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines —The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Monday expressed support for the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group’s (CIDG) bust on an alleged online cockfighting (e-sabong) operation at the Coliseo de Manila in Tondo last March amid allegations of anomalies. “This is a legal operation and abides by the proper processes,” PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño said in Filipino in a briefing with reporters in Camp Crame. “If there are any misgivings about the said operation, the Philippine National Police is ready to accept all complaints, and we will answer them at the proper forum,” he added.On March 24, The CIDG conducted an entrapment operation against an alleged e-sabong operation, resulting in the arrest of 28 supposed operators along with 136 bettors.Coliseo de Manila lawyer Carl Jon Mucho filed an administrative complaint before the National Police Commission (Napolcom) against CIDG National Capital Region chief Col. John Guiagui and nine other police officers two weeks ago.The complaint urges Napolcom to hold the cops involved accountable after P40,000 in cash and 22 gamefowl allegedly went missing after the operation. Mucho showed a video showing a supposed CIDG operative taking cash during the entrapment operation. “This was not the operative taking money but taking evidence. His ticket shows that he had entered the e-sabong operation. This was what we call the bet ticket that he recovered since he was an operative,” Tuaño explained in Filipino. “When he got the bet ticket, he gave a signal to his colleagues that the act had been consummated. This is what we call the prearranged signal to start their operation,” he added

• Crisis response, not 2028 polls, Marcos’ priority – Palace (2026-04-27 13:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Addressing the energy crisis and alleviating the lives of Filipinos are the top priorities of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and not the forging of alliances for the 2028 national elections, Malacañang said on Monday.In a Palace briefing, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said it is still too early to talk about politics and reiterated that the president’s focus is finding solutions to the problems the country is facing, particularly the effects of the hostilities in the Middle East.Marcos, she said,

has not yet thought of any name to endorse as his successor. “Right now, for the president, it is too early to talk about who will run for president in the next election,” Castro said in Filipino. “The president is focused on working. The President is focused on addressing the effects of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East so that the supply of petroleum products to our country continue. The President is not focused on politics right now. Work first,” she added. Marcos is bent on providing support for those badly affected by the war between the United States and Iran which triggered the prices of petroleum products and other commodities to increase astronomically, the official further noted.

• Lacson to present flood control progress report in privilege speech (2026-04-27 13:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he opted to present, through a privilege speech, the results of the Senate investigation into the flood control fund mess to pave the way for the resumption of public hearings on the scandal.The Senate president pro tempore said he is set to deliver the chairman’s progress report on the alleged flood control anomaly in a privilege speech when the Senate resumes session on May 4.Lacson, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, said the partial committee report has yet to secure the required nine signatures for filing and sponsorship in plenary.Only six of the panel’s 17 regular members have signed the report: Bam Aquino, Risa Hontiveros, Francis Pangilinan, and Erwin Tulfo, along with Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Lacson, both serving as ex-officio members. “I will present it via a privilege speech entitled ‘The Chairman’s FCP Progress Report.’ Other committee members do not seem keen on signing the partial report. If I present it through a privilege speech, I would not need to consult them,” Lacson said.He added that once delivered in plenary, the chairman’s progress report — which includes the contents of the partial report — may be shared with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman. “I’ll be able to share the report and recommendations with the Ombudsman since it would become a public record after I present it as a privilege speech,” he said in a statement Monday. “It would be a waste if the evidence in the progress report could not be used because it did not get enough signatures,” Lacson added.Meanwhile, Lacson corrected Rodante Marcoleta over his calls to invite former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez to the panel’s hearings on the flood control controversy.He said the committee had already invited Romualdez twice, following the time-honored tradition of inter-parliamentary courtesy between the Senate and the House of Representatives — but Romualdez did not attend. “Ever since the Philippine Congress adopted a bicameral system, there has been inter-parliamentary courtesy between the two chambers,” Lacson said.He explained that invitations to House members are coursed through the Office of the Speaker in line with this tradition. “That’s why inter-parliamentary courtesy is considered a time-honored practice,” he added.Lacson was responding to Marcoleta’s earlier radio interview urging the panel to invite Romualdez, claiming the latter is “ready to talk” about the flood control controversy.

• Govt ready for El Niño — Palace (2026-04-27 11:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Monday gave assurances that government agencies are already implementing measures to mitigate the potential impact of El Niño, which could bring below-normal rainfall and dry spells in several parts of the country.Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said preparations are underway, particularly in the agriculture and irrigation sectors, as the government anticipates possible water shortages in vulnerable farming areas. “We are experiencing El Niño, it is nothing new, so the DA is ready with concrete measures to address it,” Castro said during a press briefing.She cited ongoing coordination with key agencies, including the DA, which has directed field offices to monitor high-risk agricultural areas and strengthen localized interventions based on historical El Niño data.Castro also said the National Irrigation Administration has been tasked to identify irrigation systems and farming areas that may be affected by reduced water supply, including major facilities such as Magat Dam and the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems.Support agencies such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute and the Bureau of Soils and Water Management are also conducting mapping of rain-fed and irrigated farmlands to guide mitigation efforts.The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration earlier said there is a 92 percent chance of a moderate to strong El Niño event developing, with some climate models warning of a possible “super” El Niño that could significantly reduce rainfall and strain water resources.

- Hold departure order issued against Escudero, alleged bagman (2026-04-27 11:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Sandiganbayan's sixth division issued on Monday a precautionary hold departure order against Sen. Francis Escudero and businessman and alleged bagman Maynard Ngu, preventing them from leaving the country.The issuance of the order followed a closed-door hearing on Monday after the Office of the Ombudsman filed the application on Saturday.Under the order, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration was directed to include Escudero and Ngu in its Hold Departure Order list.Both Escudero and Ngu were implicated in the flood control scandal, where they are expected to be charged with plunder offenses.On Thursday, the same order was issued against former Speaker Martin Romualdez who was also linked in anomalous flood control projects.

- Tillis says he's ready to move ahead with confirming Warsh as Trump's pick as Fed chair (2026-04-27 07:42)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Republican senator who had effectively blocked confirmation of President Donald Trump’s pick to lead the Federal Reserve said Sunday he was dropping his opposition after the Department of Justice ended its investigation of the current central bank chair.The announcement by Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina removes a big hurdle to Trump's effort to install Kevin Warsh, a former high-ranking Fed official, in the job in place of Jerome Powell, long under White House pressure to lower interest rates. Tillis' opposition was enough to stall the nomination in the GOP-controlled Senate Banking Committee as Powell neared the scheduled end of his term on May 15. “I am prepared to move on with the confirmation of Mr. Warsh. I think he’s going to be a great Fed chair,” Tillis told NBC’s “Meet the Press,” two

days after the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia said her office's investigation of the Fed's multibillion-dollar building renovations was over. Powell's brief congressional testimony last summer about that work was also under review.The Fed's internal watchdog is scrutinizing a project, now at $2.5 billion after earlier estimates had put it at $1.9 billion, that the Republican president has criticized for cost overruns. Powell had asked in July for the inspector general's review. "I believe that there will not be any wrongdoing. Maybe we find a little stupid here in terms of somebody responsible for the project making a decision they shouldn't? Maybe. But it doesn't rise to a criminal prosecution. That was my problem to begin with because I feel like there were prosecutors in D.C. that thought this was going to be a lever to have Mr. Powell leave early," he said.Tillis, who infuriated Trump in June for opposing his big tax and spending cuts bill over Medicaid reductions and then announced he would not seek reelection in 2026, added that he had received assurances from the Justice Department that "the case is completely and fully settled … and that the only way an investigation would be opened would be a criminal referral from one of the most respect inspector generals." Important week for Fed leadershipThe committee on Saturday said it planned to vote Wednesday on Warsh's nomination. The ranking Democrat, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, responded with a statement that "no Republican claiming to care about Fed independence should support moving forward the nomination of Kevin Warsh, who proved in his nomination hearing to be nothing more than President Trump's sock puppet." Also Wednesday, Fed policymakers will meet and are expected to keep their key interest rate unchanged for the third straight meeting, shrugging off Trump's demands for a cut. At a news conference, Powell could indicate whether he will remain on the Fed's board of governors after his term as chair ends, an unusual but not completely unprecedented step that would deny Trump the opportunity to fill another seat on the seven-member board. Powell's term as a governor lasts until January 2028.At a hearing last week, Warsh told senators he never promised the White House that he would cut interest rates and pledged to be "an independent actor" if confirmed as chair. Hours before that, Trump had been asked in a CNBC interview whether he would be disappointed if Warsh did not immediately cut rates. "I would," the president said.Without the constraints of a political campaign, Tillis has spoken out forcefully about Powell, decrying the inquiry by U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro, a longtime Trump ally, as a "vindictive prosecution" and suggested it threatened the Fed's longtime independence from day-to-day politics. Tillis told NBC that he had gotten assurances from the Justice Department that he needed "to feel like they were not using DOJ as a weapon to threaten the independence of the Fed. So this will allow Mr. Warsh to move on with his confirmation." On Saturday, Trump was asked by reporters whether there was now smooth sailing for Warsh with the end of the Justice Department's investigation. "I imagine it's smooth," Trump said, adding that his nominee "is going to be fantastic." The president said he still wanted to find out "how can a building of that size cost ... whatever it's going to be." Trump visited the Fed building in July and, in front of television cameras, said the renovations would run $3.1 billion. Powell, standing next to him, said after looking at a paper presented to him by Trump, that the president's latest price tag was incorrect.Justice Department pursues Trump adversariesThe investigation was among several undertaken by the Justice Department into Trump's perceived adversaries. For months it had failed to gain

traction as prosecutors struggled to articulate a basis to suspect criminal conduct. Other efforts by the department to prosecute Trump’s adversaries, including New York state Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, and former FBI Director James Comey, have also been unsuccessful.Last month, a federal judge quashed Justice Department subpoenas issued to the Fed in the investigation, describing their purpose as “to harass and pressure Powell to resign” and open the path for a new chair. A prosecutor handling the Powell case had acknowledged at a closed-door court hearing that the government had not found any evidence of a crime.Pirro said Friday on X that she “will not hesitate to restart a criminal investigation should the facts warrant doing so.” The acting attorney general, Todd Blanche, told NBC on Sunday that ”there is no doubt that we will investigate" if the inspector general finds evidence of criminal conduct.Warsh is a financier and former member of the Fed’s board of governors. Trump nominated him in January.

• Coco Gauff overcomes vomiting on court to beat Sorana Cirstea in Madrid (2026-04-27 07:33)

MADRID, Spain — Coco Gauff has advanced to the fourth round of the Madrid Open despite falling ill and vomiting on court.Gauff, a finalist in Madrid last year, rallied to beat Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday.The American threw up on court in the middle of the second set. “When I actually threw up on the court, that was like a little bit embarrassing," Gauff said. “Then after that first game and the second, I was like that took everything out of me."On Saturday, fourth-ranked Iga Swiatek withdrew due to an unspecified illness while playing her round-of-32 match against American Ann Li.Gauff said she was determined to carry on her match. “I’m someone who doesn’t like to pull out. I don’t like to do that unless I really feel like I have no other options,” Gauff said. "So the plan was to always just try to finish, even if it ended up with me just playing just to get through it.” She recovered from a break down three times before winning the set 7-5.The third-ranked Gauff said she doesn't know how she “got through that," and said she almost threw up in the middle of a point. “I felt fine all this morning. I felt a little weird last night, but I was OK. Woke up this morning, felt fine. And mid-first set, I was feeling like I was going to throw up. And then I did," she said. "They gave me some pills and that definitely helped. After that, once I felt the feeling of throwing up, then I just felt nauseous and tired. I just didn’t want to throw up in the middle of the point, which I almost did at one point.” Gauff will next meet No. 13 seed Linda Noskova.

• Fitzpatrick brothers capture PGA Tour's Zurich Classic pairs crown (2026-04-27 07:21)

LOS ANGELES, United States — Brothers Matt and Alex Fitzpatrick surrendered a four-stroke lead but combined to birdie the final hole in a dramatic victory at the PGA Tour's Zurich Classic pairs event on Sunday.The English duo posted a one-under 71 in the final-round alternate shot format in New Orleans, with world number three Matt bagging his second PGA Tour title in as many weeks after winning the RBC Heritage.Alex, a DP World Tour regular, earned PGA Tour playing status through 2028, including an exemption to play in the upcoming PGA Championship, the second men's major of the year.Alex Fitzpatrick, 27, made the winning putt

after Matt fired a bunker shot within two feet of the cup as they finished 31-under par for the tournament."I'm still shaking," Alex Fitzpatrick said "It was crazy."The duo of Alex Smalley and Hayden Springer and the Norwegian team of Kristoffer Reitan and Kris Ventura shared second place, both teams on 30-under.Reitan and Ventura had seized a share of the lead with an eagle at the 18th, where Reitan's shot into the green left Ventura a seven-foot putt.Smalley and Springer were tied for the lead until a bogey at 17 but birdied 18.The Fitzpatricks had begun the day with a four-stroke advantage and were three-under through their first 11 holes.A double bogey on the 12th and a bogey at 14 saw their lead evaporate."I felt like we played great for the first 11 holes," Matt Fitzpatrick said. "We were really, really, really steady, really solid and didn't really put a foot wrong."Just the one hole on 12, you've made that, and you quickly are sort of scrambling a little bit."From then on I felt like I struggled with my game, and I didn't play well. Alex played fantastic. He really sort of managed to keep us in it."

- Oil firms to lower diesel, kerosene prices on April 28 (2026-04-27 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) on Monday said that diesel and kerosene prices will go down on Tuesday, April 28, but the cost of gasoline will increase.The agency said that diesel prices will be lowered by at least P12.94 per liter, while kerosene prices will drop by at least P15.71 per liter.Gasoline prices will increase by up to P0.53 per liter.Last week, diesel prices declined by P24.94 per liter, gasoline by P3.41 per liter, and kerosene by P2 per liter.

- VP Sara’s husband files criminal complaint over disclosed bank transactions (2026-04-27 04:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Manases “Mans” Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, filed on Monday criminal complaints before the Quezon City Prosecutor’s Office against four lawmakers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor and head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) over the disclosure of the couple’s “sensitive” bank transactions during a committee hearing at the House of Representatives.Carpio was accompanied by his counsel, Peter Paul Danao, when he submitted his complaint-affidavit. He refused to be interviewed by reporters.Named respondents in his complaint were BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, and Representatives Gerville Reyes Luistro, Percival Cendaña, Jose Manuel “Chel” Diokno and Leila de Lima.Danao said the respondents were charged with violation of Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act).He said that Carpio strongly objected to the “conspiratorial act of disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent.” During last week's hearing of the House Committee on Justice on the impeachment complaint against the vice president, the AMLC revealed that it received reports of "suspicious" and "covered" bank transactions amounting to P6.77 billion linked to Duterte and Carpio during a period of nearly 20 years.Carpio said in the complaint that the AMLC reports involving his and his wife’s banking

transactions were sensitive information that should not be disclosed to anyone. “Yet, respondents openly divulged these banking transaction reports in a public hearing before the House Committee on Justice,” he said.Carpio maintained that the respondents “criminally and feloniously” disclosed and unraveled the alleged transaction reports without his consent and despite his objection.Danao said they believed that those involved would be criminally penalized for divulging in public the couple’s bank transactions without their full consent. “The prohibition is absolute. There is no exception. In fact, even the media are not allowed to divulge any bank transaction reports,” he said. “That’s the same law that was passed and enacted by the members of the House of Representatives themselves.”

- DOH pushes child immunization drive in Metro Manila (2026-04-27 03:59)

MANILA, Philippines —The Department of Health (DOH) urged parents to have their children vaccinated against preventable diseases as it marked World Immunization Week.The DOH’s Metro Manila Center for Health Development (MMCHD) launched on Monday an immunization drive targeting 240 individuals, covering measles, polio, pertussis, pneumonia, human papillomavirus for grade 4 female students, and tetanus-diphtheria shots for pregnant women.MMCHD Regional Director Lester Tan told The Manila Times that only about 80 percent of children in Metro Manila were fully immunized last year, still below the World Health Organization’s target of 95 percent coverage.The vaccination initiative will run until 3 p.m. on Monday at the Makabagong San Juan Theater.

- Pasay residents urged to use masks as Navotas landfill smoke reaches city (2026-04-27 03:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano urged residents to wear face masks outdoors after smoke from the Navotas landfill fire affected air quality in the city, raising health concerns for children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with heart or lung conditions.Calixto-Rubiano on Monday warned that the smoke may carry harmful chemicals and particulates that could affect public health.Residents were urged to stay indoors as much as possible, keep doors and windows closed, and avoid strenuous outdoor activities while the poor air quality persists.The city government also urged residents to drink plenty of water and seek medical attention if they experience severe breathing difficulties.The Pasay City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said it was monitoring the situation and coordinating with concerned agencies.

- Tornadoes in northern Texas leave at least 2 dead and destroy multiple homes (2026-04-27 02:55)

RUNAWAY BAY, Texas — A tornado-producing thunderstorm left at least two people dead in northern Texas and displaced at least 20 families, with many homes sustaining major damage, authorities said Sunday.At least one person was killed and numerous homes were damaged Saturday night in the town of Runaway Bay, said Wise County Judge J.D. Clark, who serves as the county's chief executive. Emergency responders worked to clear debris to reach damaged

homes and provide medical care where needed, Clark said."Access has been difficult due to blocked roadways and downed utilities, but crews have continued pushing forward to reach those in need," Clark said.The storm also hit Springtown, where Parker County Assistant Fire Chief David Pruitt said in an email that a second person died south of the city limits. There was " significant damage" in the area, Pruitt said."One of the most significant ongoing challenges is the widespread power outage affecting many residents," he wrote.National Weather Service teams confirmed that an EF-2 tornado with peak winds of 135 mph (217 kph) touched down in the Runaway Bay area. An EF-1 tornado with peak winds of 105 mph (169 kph) was confirmed in the Springtown area, the weather service said.The slow-moving supercell traveled through the area around 10 p.m. Saturday, said meteorologist Patricia Sanchez with the Fort Worth weather service office.It moved southeast from around Wichita Falls, near the Oklahoma border, passing just west of Fort Worth. Runaway Bay is about 45 miles (72 kilometers) northwest of Fort Worth on Lake Bridgeport. Springtown is about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Fort Worth.Weather service radar picked up a "potentially large and extremely dangerous" tornado near Azle at 10:14 p.m. Saturday. That's about another 10 miles (16 kilometers) southeast of Springtown.

- Iran's top diplomat briefly returns to Pakistan but Trump says the sides can talk by phone (2026-04-27 02:31)

ISLAMABAD — Iran 's foreign minister briefly visited Islamabad again on Sunday as Pakistan's political and military leadership scrambled to reignite ceasefire negotiations between Tehran and Washington, but U.S. President Donald Trump said they could talk by phone instead.Abbas Araghchi had left Pakistan's capital late the previous day, creating confusion around an expected second round of talks there, but he returned before continuing on to Moscow on Sunday, Iranian state media said. He had been in Oman, which previously mediated talks and is on the other side of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.The White House last week said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month. But shortly after Araghchi's departure Saturday, Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran."If they want, we can talk but we're not sending people," Trump told Fox News on Sunday. He said earlier on social media: "All they have to do is call!!!" Indirect talks between the two sides were ongoing, two Pakistani officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.Trump last week indefinitely extended the ceasefire the U.S. and Iran agreed to on April 7 that has largely halted the fighting that began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28. But a permanent settlement remains elusive in the war that has killed thousands of people and shaken the global economy. Strait of Hormuz at center of Iran's discussions in OmanA standoff remained on in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of all traded oil and natural gas passes, as Iran has restricted movement through it and the U.S. enforces a blockade of Iranian ports.Iran wants to persuade Oman to support a mechanism to collect tolls from vessels passing through the strait according to a regional official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss

the matter.Oman's response wasn't immediately clear.The official, who is involved in mediation efforts, also said Iran insists on ending the U.S. blockade before a new round of talks and that Pakistan-led mediators are trying to bridge significant gaps between the countries.Araghchi also spoke by phone with counterparts in Qatar and Saudi Arabia on Sunday.Even before Saturday's developments, Iran's Foreign Ministry said any talks would be indirect and Pakistani officials would act as go-betweens, reflecting Tehran's wariness after rounds of indirect talks last year and earlier this year ended with Iran being attacked by the U.S. and Israel.Trump said Iran has offered a 'much better' proposal The economic fallout is growing two months into the war as global shipments of oil, liquefied natural gas, fertilizer and other supplies are disrupted by the near-closure of the strategic strait.Both sides have continued to make military threats. Iran's joint military command Saturday warned that "if the U.S. continues its aggressive military actions, including naval blockades, banditry, and piracy" it will face a "strong response."Trump last week ordered the military to "shoot and kill" small boats that could be placing mines in the waterway.Trump told journalists on Saturday, before a security incident at the White House Correspondents' Dinner, that within 10 minutes of him canceling Witkoff and Kushner's trip to Islamabad, Iran sent a "much better" proposal.He did not elaborate but stressed that one of his conditions is that Iran "will not have a nuclear weapon." The status of Iran's enriched uranium has long been at the center of tensions. Tehran has 440 kilograms (970 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60% purity, a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels, according to the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency.Syed Mohammad Ali, an independent political analyst in Pakistan, said the delay in the talks must not be seen as a setback and that indirect talks were progressing. He said tensions between Washington and Tehran cannot be eased overnight and the negotiation process requires patience."But the good thing is that the ceasefire is holding, and both sides have a desire to end the conflict in a way that does not backfire at home," Ali said.A growing toll even as fragile ceasefires hold Since the war began, at least 3,375 people have been killed in Iran and at least 2,509 people in Lebanon, where the Israel-Hezbollah fighting resumed two days after the Iran war started.Also, 23 people have been killed in Israel and more than a dozen in Gulf Arab states. Fifteen Israeli soldiers in Lebanon, 13 U.S. service members in the region and six U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon have been killed.Another ceasefire — between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese militant Hezbollah group — has been extended by three weeks. Hezbollah has not participated in the Washington-brokered diplomacy.Oil prices rise again as Pakistan talks fail to materialize Oil prices rose when the market opened Sunday as traders absorbed the news of the stalled ceasefire talks.West Texas Intermediate, the U.S.-produced light, sweet crude, was selling for $96.50 a barrel Sunday, up 2% since the market closed on Friday. The price was 44% higher than before the start of the Iran war, when oil was selling for about $67 a barrel.Brent crude, the international standard, was trading at $107.75 per barrel Sunday, up about 3% since Friday and 48% since the war began, when oil was selling for $72 a barrel.Oil prices have risen steadily since the war began and tankers full of crude became stranded in the Persian Gulf, unable to safely transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

- Head to head: Duterte leads Robredo in OCTA survey (2026-04-27 02:18)

MANILA, Philippines — If the presidential election was held today and the contenders were Vice President Sara Duterte and former vice president and Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo, the former would win, a survey conducted by OCTA Research showed.In its Tugon ng Masa survey held from March 19-25, 2026, OCTA Research said Duterte got 46 percent voter preference while Robredo had 35 percent. At least 19 percent of those surveyed were undecided.OCTA said that the pre-election voter preference survey highlighted Duterte's strength in Mindanao at 88 percent and in Visayas at 53 percent.Duterte also led in socioeconomic class E.Robredo, meanwhile, was strong in the National Capital Region at 52 percent and Balanced Luzon at 47 percent.OCTA said that the head to head results showed a "narrower and competitive margin than what was observed in previous quarters.""Compared with earlier survey rounds, the current head-to-head spread suggests a closer and more competitive preference landscape entering 2026," it added.It also said that while Duterte retains a clear advantage in a direct head to-head scenario, the margin separating the two candidates is no longer as wide as in previous survey periods."This suggests that while VP Duterte remains ahead, the race appears more competitive in Q1 2026 than in earlier quarters," the pollster said.The survey had 1,200 respondents and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.

- King Charles state visit to US to go on as planned after shooting (2026-04-27 02:05)

LONDON, United Kingdom — The state visit by Britain's King Charles III to the US would take place as planned, Buckingham Palace said on Sunday, following a shooting at a Washington media gala.The incident late Saturday at the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association came less than 48 hours before Charles and Queen Camilla begin a four-day state visit to the United States.The palace said that Charles was "greatly relieved" that Trump, his wife Melania and other guests were unharmed and later on Sunday said the trip would go on as planned."The King and Queen are most grateful to all those who have worked at pace to ensure this remains the case and are looking forward to the Visit getting underway tomorrow," it said.Earlier, senior UK minister Darren Jones told British broadcasters during a round of interviews that security teams in Britain and the US were "working closely to ensure the security arrangements are put appropriately in place" for the state visit.It is understood the king and queen reached out privately to the Trumps to express their sympathies with those impacted Saturday night, and to share their gratitude to the security services who prevented further injury.Trump has said one law enforcement officer was shot at close range but appeared not to be critically injured.During the four-day state visit -- organised to honour the historic relationship between Britain and the US as America marks 250 years of independence -- Charles and Camilla will visit Washington and New York.Charles will become the first British monarch to address Congress since his mother, the late queen Elizabeth II, in 1991, while the royal couple will have tea with Trump and Melania and attend a state dinner. Tensions It comes as transatlantic tensions over the Iran war and the Epstein scandal's long shadow threaten to intrude on the landmark visit.Trump has repeatedly lambasted British Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his war opposition, as well as his government's immigration and energy policies.The pair spoke by phone Sunday, when Starmer "extended his best wishes... following

the shocking scenes at last night's White House Correspondents Dinner", Downing Street said."He expressed his relief that the President and First Lady were safe and wished a speedy recovery to the officer injured," it added.They also discussed "the urgent need to get shipping moving again in the Strait of Hormuz, given the severe consequences for the global economy and cost of living for people in the UK and globally," Starmer's office noted.

• Warm, humid weather to prevail - Pagasa (2026-04-27 01:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Most parts of the country will have sunny weather in the next 24 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said on Monday.Weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said the easterlies will bring warm and humid weather in the next two to three days.Aurelio said the easterly winds would also result in cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms in Sorsogon, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Southern Leyte, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Norte.Metro Manila will have a heat index of up to 41 degrees Celsius, which is under extreme caution category, while the highest could be recorded in Dumangas, Iloilo at 45 degrees Celsius, which falls under the danger level.

• Colombia road bombing death toll rises to 20 (2026-04-27 01:20)

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — The death toll in a weekend highway bombing in Colombia rose to 20, with another 36 people injured, the local department's governor said Sunday on X.The attack -- which local and national officials are blaming on armed groups -- comes one month before the country holds presidential elections on May 31.Cauca Department Governor Octavio Guzman described the bombing as the area's "most brutal and ruthless attack against the civilian population in decades," adding that it left a crater 200 cubic meters in size.Fifteen women and five men, all adults, were killed, he said. Of the injured, three people remain in intensive care. Five children were also injured but "are out of danger."The massive blast left buses and vans mangled on the Pan-American Highway in the restive southwestern region of Colombia.Several cars were flipped over by the force of the explosion.Military chief Hugo Lopez told a news conference on Saturday that the bomb had exploded after assailants stopped traffic by blocking the road with a bus and another vehicle."It is a terrorist attack against the civilian population," Lopez said.The attack comes just over one month ahead of national elections, in which voters will pick a successor to leftist President Gustavo Petro."Those who carried out this attack... are terrorists, fascists and drug traffickers," Petro said on X. "I want our very best soldiers to confront them."Petro blamed the bombing on Ivan Mordisco, the South American country's most-wanted criminal, whom the president has compared to late cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar.The violence came after a bomb attack Friday on a military base in Cali, Colombia's third-largest city, injured two people and set off a string of attacks in the Valle del Cauca and Cauca departments.According to Lopez, 26 attacks have been recorded in the two departments over the past two days.Authorities have boosted military and police presence in the areas, Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez said Saturday.Colombia has a history of armed groups -- which finance their operations through drug trafficking, illegal mining and extortion -- attempting to influence elections through violence.FARC remnants who rejected a 2016 peace deal with the

government have been actively trying to disrupt stalled peace talks with Petro.Security is one of the central issues of the presidential election. Political violence was brought into sharp focus last June, when young conservative presidential frontrunner Miguel Uribe Turbay was shot in broad daylight while campaigning in the capital Bogota. He died two months later.Leftist Senator Ivan Cepeda, an architect of Petro's controversial policy of negotiating with armed groups, is ahead in polls.He is trailed by right-wing candidates Abelardo de la Espriella and Paloma Valencia, both of whom have pledged to take a hard line against rebel groups.All three have reported receiving death threats and are campaigning under heavy security.

- Iran minister heads to Russia as talks remain stalled (2026-04-27 01:05)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Iran's foreign minister headed to Russia on Sunday as peace efforts between Tehran and Washington hung in the balance, following a flurry of regional diplomacy and the collapse of planned talks in Pakistan.Abbas Araghchi visited Oman between trips to Pakistani capital Islamabad and is expected to meet President Vladimir Putin on Monday, according to the Iranian ambassador.On Saturday, US President Donald Trump scrapped a planned trip to Islamabad by his envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.In a sign that efforts were ongoing, the Fars news agency said Iran had sent "written messages" to the Americans via mediator Pakistan outlining red lines, including nuclear issues and the Strait of Hormuz.Fars said the messages were not part of formal negotiations, however.A ceasefire in the US-Israeli war with Iran has so far held, but its economic shockwaves continued to reverberate globally.Iran has sealed off the strait, cutting flows of oil, gas and fertiliser and sending prices soaring, raising fears of food insecurity in developing countries.Hopes for a second round of talks in Pakistan had centred on a planned visit by Witkoff and Kushner, but Trump cancelled the trip, dismissing it as "sitting around talking about nothing".On Sunday, Trump told Fox News that if Iran wanted the talks, "they can come to us, or they can call us."Trump faces domestic pressure as fuel prices rise following Iran's closure of Hormuz, with midterm elections due in November. Polls show the war is unpopular among Americans. Safe transit Asked whether cancelling signalled renewed fighting, Trump said: "No, it doesn't mean that."On Saturday, Araghchi met Pakistan's military chief Asim Munir, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, before travelling to Oman and returning to Islamabad.He later left for Russia for talks with senior officials, his ministry said.Russian and Iranian state media confirmed Araghchi's talks with Putin, citing officials from their respective governments.Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted Iran's envoy to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, saying they would meet in St Petersburg, Russia's second city.Araghchi himself posted on X that the talks in Oman had focused on ensuring safe transit through Hormuz, "to benefit of all dear neighbors and the world.""Our neighbors are our priority," he added.Pressure to end the war has intensified as the Strait of Hormuz remains closed. Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they had no intention of lifting their blockade, which has roiled energy markets."Controlling the Strait of Hormuz and maintaining the shadow of its deterrent effects over America and the White House's supporters in the region is the definitive strategy of Islamic Iran," the Guards said on their official Telegram channel.The United States has imposed a blockade of Iranian ports in retaliation.In a statement

carried by state media, Iran's military warned that continued US "blockading, banditry and piracy" would draw a response. Israel strikes Lebanon Israel and Hezbollah traded blame over violations of the fragile ceasefire in Lebanon, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying the military was "vigorously" targeting the Iran-backed militia as both sides claimed new attacks.Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel to avenge the death of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei, with Israel responding with strikes and a ground invasion.But claims that both sides have breached a 10-day ceasefire agreed earlier this month have continued.Netanyahu told Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting that Hezbollah's actions were "dismantling the ceasefire" while Hezbollah said it would respond to Israeli violations and its "continued occupation".Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes on the country's south on Sunday killed 14 people, including two women and two children, and wounded 37.The state-run National News Agency reported that Israeli warplanes had struck after evacuation warnings in Kfar Tibnit.An Israeli strike on Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, another of the flagged villages, destroyed a mosque and another religious building, the news agency said.Israel, which reported a soldier killed in combat in south Lebanon, says it can act against " planned, imminent or ongoing attacks"."This means freedom of action not only to respond to attacks...but also to pre-empt immediate threats and even emerging threats," Netanyahu said.

- 6.2 quake on Hokkaido island latest to shake Japan (2026-04-27 00:32)

TOKYO, Japan — A strong earthquake rattled Japan's northern island of Hokkaido early Monday, US and Japanese meteorological agencies reported, the latest in a series of powerful tremors to hit the island nation.The 6.2-magnitude quake struck at 5:23 am (2123 GMT Sunday) in Hokkaido's southern region, at a depth of 83 kilometres (52 miles), the Japanese Meteorological Agency reported, revising its preliminary estimate of magnitude 6.1.No tsunami alert was issued, JMA said, and the US Geological Survey predicted that damage to property and threat to life was minimal, given the limited population in the region some 200 kilometres east of Sapporo.But "in areas that experienced strong shaking, the danger of falling rocks and landslides has increased," a JMA official told reporters.JMA also warned that risks of experiencing more quakes of a similar strength in the area in the coming week are high.Hours earlier, a magnitude 5.0 earthquake occurred in the sea a few hundred kilometres south of Hokkaido.The temblors come less than a week after the JMA warned of an increased risk of a megaquake -- 8.0 magnitude or stronger -- after last Monday's 7.7 earthquake off northern Iwate prefecture.Six people were reported injured as a result of that quake, which shook large buildings in Tokyo, hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre.In addition, 80-centimetre (31-inch) tsunami waves lashed a port in Iwate, while small waves also hit elsewhere in northern Japan.Afterward, the JMA said "the likelihood of a new, huge earthquake occurring is relatively higher than during normal times".Japan is one of the world's most seismically active countries, sitting on top of four major tectonic plates along the western edge of the Pacific "Ring of Fire".The archipelago, home to around 125 million people, typically experiences around 1,500 jolts every year and accounts for about 18 percent of the world's earthquakes.Japan is haunted by the memory of a massive 9.0 magnitude undersea quake in 2011, which triggered a tsunami

that killed or left missing around 18,500 people and caused a devastating meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

- 2 Americans die in Negros clash (2026-04-26 16:13)

THE National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) has expressed serious concern over reports that two Americans were among 19 people killed in clashes between government troops and the New People's Army (NPA) in Toboso, Negros Occidental, on April 19.In a statement, Undersecretary Ernesto Torres Jr., the NTF-Elcac executive director, identified the US nationals as Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem.The Manila Times has been trying to confirm the authenticity of the report from the Negros provincial police.The US Embassy in Manila did not immediately respond to a request for comment.The American fatalities highlight "the increasing involvement of individuals from outside the Philippines in local armed hostilities," Torres said.Prijoles' personal social media accounts indicate his affiliation with Anakbayan-USA since 2012, where he is believed to have served in various capacities, prior to his presence in the Philippines, Torres said.The Americans were among the 19 New People's Army (NPA) combatants whose identities have been established and whose remains have been turned over to their families, he said.Torres sees a "disturbing convergence on foreign nationals in a live combat setting where the risks are immediate and the consequences irreversible." "We encourage Filipino communities abroad to exercise caution in engagements that may extend beyond lawful advocacy and into areas that carry significant personal risk," he said.The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has denied claims that civilians were among the fatalities in the Toboso incident.Earlier reports said a student leader and a local journalist died in the clash.Col. Louie Dema-ala, Philippine Army spokesman, questioned the presence of the youth leaders in the encounter site.Gen. Romeo Brawner, AFP chief, said the University of the Philippines student leader had a belt full of ammunition and was shooting at government troops.The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on Sunday said over a hundred families were displaced by the fighting in Toboso.CHR Chairman Richard Palpal-latoc asked concerned authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to the families.The commission expressed grave concern over the incident where student leader Alyssa Alano and community journalist RJ Nichole Ledesma were killed.Palpal-latoc said the agency is investigating the incident."Information from local human rights advocates prompted coordination with civil society organizations, local authorities, and security forces, including working with the families for the retrieval of the remains," he said.Citing inconsistencies over the identities of those killed, the CHR said that while the military maintains that all the casualties were members of an armed group, other organizations claim that Alano and Ledesma were civilians engaged in community work."Either of the claims requires thorough, independent verification. Determination of status, circumstances of engagement, and proportionality must be based on verifiable facts and due process," said Palpal-latoc.Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima called for a congressional probe on the Toboso incident."Beyond the question of whether the military operation was legitimate, there are serious allegations of violations that led to the deaths of 19 individuals, and we must

investigate what truly transpired to find clarity and the truth," de Lima, a former justice secretary and former CHR chairman, said in a statement. "We will file a resolution at the House to immediately investigate and answer our many questions about this incident," she said in Filipino.Because of the high number of casualties, the operations carried out by the Philippine Army's 79th Infantry Battalion in Toboso "warrant an urgent investigation," de Lima said.Military officials said the clash erupted as army troops responded to information provided by villagers about the presence of suspected rebels and that a rebel commander with a bounty of P1 million on his head was killed. A soldier was wounded in the fighting.Troops seized 24 firearms at the scene of the clashes, and an unspecified number of fleeing guerrillas were captured, the task force said.At its peak decades ago, the insurgent force had an estimated 25,000 fighters, who waged one of Asia's longest-running communist rebellions. Battle defeats, factional divisions and surrenders, however, have reduced the number of rebels to below 900, according to security officials.Peace talks brokered by Norway collapsed under the previous president, Rodrigo Duterte, after both sides accused the other of continuing deadly attacks despite the negotiations.With REINA TOLENTINO and THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Mans Carpio to file criminal complaint over disclosed bank transactions (2026-04-26 16:11)

MANASES "Mans" Carpio, the husband of Vice President Sara Duterte, is expected to file on Monday, April 27, a criminal complaint before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office against four lawmakers, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) governor and head of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) over the couple's "sensitive" bank transactions divulged during a House committee hearing.Carpio said there is "prima facie" evidence to charge BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr., AMLC Executive Director Ronel Buenaventura, and Representatives Gerville Reyes Luistro, Percival Cendaña, Jose Manuel "Chel" Diokno and Leila de Lima, and several unnamed respondents.Carpio's lawyer, Peter Paul Danao, said the respondents would be facing charges in violation of Republic Act 9160 (Anti-Money Laundering Act), RA 1405 (Bank Secrecy Law), and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act). "It is indisputable that the AMLC reports involving my and my wife VP Sara's banking transactions are sensitive information that cannot be disclosed to anyone," Carpio said. "Yet, respondents openly divulged these banking transaction reports in a public hearing before the House Committee on Justice," he said.He maintained that he and his wife did not consent to any public disclosure of the "absolutely confidential AMLC reports, much less the alleged bank transactions" cited by the respondents.Carpio said the respondents have "criminally and feloniously" disclosed and unraveled the alleged transaction reports without his consent and despite his objection.The public disclosure of alleged bank transaction reports of his and his wife from 2006 to 2025 was "for pure propaganda purposes," Carpio said.Danao said his client strongly objects to the "conspiratorial act of disclosing and divulging to the general public the purported reports of banks to the AMLC concerning their account deposits, withdrawal, bank balances and related records without prior notice nor prior written consent." "The prohibition is absolute. There is no exception. In fact, even the media are not authorized to divulge bank transaction reports," the lawyer said.

• Marcos vows unhampered services amid crisis (2026-04-26 16:10)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reassured Filipinos of the government's round-the-clock work despite the challenges the country is experiencing because of the war in the Middle East.In his latest vlog, Marcos reiterated his administration's commitment to continuously provide social services meant to alleviate the lives of Filipinos. "You know, even though our energy crisis is severe, the government's work cannot stop there. The construction of streets and roads continues; the caring for the sick and students continues; the eradication of crime cannot stop, nor can the support for our athletes, culture, art, and tourism," he said. "We will not allow the services provided by the government to be paralyzed, regardless of the problems that lie ahead," he said.One initiative the government is focused on is shelter. The president said that through the Pambansang Pabahay para Pilipino Program, or 4PH, the housing gap would be narrowed and more Filipinos would have homes they could truly call their own.One of the latest 4PH sites Marcos inspected is the township project in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.Covering 23 hectares, the Palayan township is a vertical housing community that blends residential buildings with open spaces and shared facilities.Once completed, it will provide housing for 22,596 beneficiaries.Units are priced at about P1.3 million for 29 sqm, with no down payment and an affordable monthly amortization ranging from P3,500 to P4,000 — making homeownership attainable even for minimum wage earners. "For those who still lack housing, we will find a way to provide housing for everyone who needs it," Marcos said.

• Connectivity project links 5,000 public schools (2026-04-26 16:09)

ABOUT 5,776 public schools nationwide will enjoy satellite-based internet connectivity following the partnership of Data Lake Inc. and We Are IT Philippines Inc.The project integrates nationwide deployment capability with end-to-end connectivity management — from system design and installation to monitoring and support, ensuring consistent, scalable and accountable delivery across all sites.Data Lake, the first and largest authorized Starlink partner in the country, said the initiative followed a rigorous government procurement process, which adheres to national standards for transparency and accountability in public infrastructure initiatives.With the issuance of the Notice to Proceed by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the project has commenced, with the joint venture partners confirming operational responsibilities and transitioning into nationwide implementation.All installations have complied with Terms of Reference (TOR) requirements and safety standards to ensure operational reliability across all deployment sites.Stressing that universal internet access is a critical enabler of education and opportunity, DICT Secretary Henry Aguda said the project would provide a standardized, enterprise-grade connectivity solution across Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA) communities.Aguda said the DICT has been expanding the "Free Wi-Fi for All Program" under Republic Act 10929 to reach unserved GIDA schools.Each deployment kit includes a complete, end-to-end connectivity and infrastructure package designed for reliable operation in remote environments.At its core is the LEO satellite terminal, including Starlink systems, delivering high-speed, low-latency internet access.The systems are supported by a cloud-managed router

and a Wi-Fi 6 access point configuration to enable stable and extended wireless coverage across school facilities.According to Data Lake, the system is complemented by secure equipment housing, structured cabling, mounting systems, and weatherproofing to ensure durability across varying site conditions.Free Wi-Fi signage and user instruction materials are also installed on-site to support accessibility, proper usage and community awareness, it said.To address power instability in geographically isolated areas, each site is equipped with an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and power distribution components to provide surge protection and backup power.DICT director Edgar Navarro expressed confidence in the success of the project. “We've been waiting for this moment so that we can actually start the implementation of this project. It's been a month or two that we're preparing this project,” Navarro said.Marcelino Veloso III also hailed the partnership of Data Lake and We Are IT Philippines as an unprecedented collaboration. “I don't think any project has gone through this length of connectivity in our country's history. There were a lot of sleepless nights. The draft of the TOR, all the way to the contract, the procurement process, there was tight integration,” Veloso said. “For us, this is not just about winning a project. It's actually part of our mission and vision. It's really a partnership between public and private. The children are the future of our country,” David Tanael said.Data Lake said satellite connectivity installation and activations have been fully completed for Lots 1, 2, and 3 as of April, successfully connecting 3,786 public school sites across the country.The final deployment for Lot 4 will link the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to the system.By expanding reliable internet access in remote communities, Date Lake said the Pialeos (Provision of Internet Access via Low Earth Orbit Satellites) project strengthens digital learning, improves access to educational resources, and supports more inclusive school connectivity across the country.

- Imee Marcos seeks BSKE postponement to 2027 (2026-04-26 16:08)

SEN. Imee Marcos filed Senate Bill (SB) 2067 seeking to move the November 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) to October 2027 amid the oil crisis caused by the Middle East war.The senator on Sunday warned that soaring travel costs could bar Filipinos from going to the poll centers.She said that the BSKE is “vital to grassroots democracy,” but the current economic conditions could threaten voter turnout. “The oil crisis has triggered significant increases in transportation fares, creating a serious risk of disenfranchisement, especially for voters registered outside their residence and marginalized sectors already struggling with the cost of living,” Marcos said.She said that a postponement would give voters “more time to transfer their registrations, allowing them to update records and avoid expensive travel come election day.” She also cited the “fiscal strain” of the polls as the P16 billion budget of the Commission on Elections for the BSKE “excludes additional funding” required for support from the Philippine National Police, Department of Education, and local government units. “These funds may be better directed toward urgent needs such as economic relief, basic services, and crisis response,” Marcos said.The delay would ensure continuity in local leadership, allowing barangay (village) officials to remain focused on community concerns amid ongoing economic challenges.The senator raised concern that the election will “fall exactly on

All Souls' Day, when travel demand spikes and fares and fuel prices are expected to rise, adding financial strain on families going to the provinces." "All Souls' Day is important for Filipinos to pay their respects to the dead, but because of increasing travel expenses, it may discourage others to go home, let alone to vote," Marcos said.

• CSC tightens gambling ban for govt workers (2026-04-26 16:06)

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has issued a new rule that totally bans government officials and personnel from engaging in all forms of gambling.CSC Chairman Marilyn Barua-Yap said on Sunday the agency approved a resolution or the Policy on the Prohibition of Gambling among Government Officials and Employees.It covers all officials and employees of the national government, local government units, autonomous regional governments, state and local universities and colleges, and government-owned or -controlled corporations with original charters. "Involvement in gambling may expose public servants to financial vulnerability and conflicts of interest, which can undermine impartiality and erode public trust," Barua-Yap said.Under the new measure, gambling refers to any game played for money or value in which the outcome depends wholly or chiefly on chance, or the use of any mechanical device or contrivance to determine by chance the winner or loser of money.The prohibited acts include entering, staying in, or participating in gambling activities in casinos, gambling houses, or similar establishments — whether land-based or sea-based — within or outside the Philippines, even if such establishments are licensed.Engaging in online or electronic gambling, including online casinos, e-bingo, e-sabong, and internet-based betting using any device, was totally banned. The promotion or facilitation of these activities is also prohibited.The CSC said participating in any other gambling activity — whether traditional, informal, private, social, cultural, or newly emerging — is forbidden, and organizing or facilitating such activities is also disallowed.Activities conducted exclusively for charitable, civic, or public welfare purposes — as well as games not prohibited by law — remain allowed, as long as "participation does not create any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest," Barua-Yap said.Violations may be reported by officials, employees, clients, or the public through the CSC Contact Center ng Bayan or other complaint referral systems. Anonymous reports will be processed in accordance with existing rules.A violator gets a reprimand for the first offense, suspension for the second offense, and dismissal from the service would be slapped for the third offense.Barua-Yap said the policy is anchored on the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees (Republic Act 6713), the Administrative Code of 1987 (Executive Order 292), relevant jurisprudence, and prior directives prohibiting casino entry and related gambling activities.

• Abandoned parcels at NAIA yield P6.8M illegal drugs (2026-04-26 16:05)

CUSTOMS authorities dealt a major blow to cross-border drug trafficking syndicates after intercepting P6.8 million worth of illegal drugs inside abandoned inbound parcels at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said over the weekend that the operation exposed another attempt by international drug syndicates to exploit the country's mail system.Customs officers

uncovered 4,231 grams of dried leaves suspected to be Kush marijuana, with an estimated street value of P6.34 million, along with 325 pink tablets believed to be 'ecstasy' or MDMA worth about P487,500.The drugs were cleverly concealed in parcels falsely declared as everyday items such as “Mama Cake Durian,” “Dog Food,” and “Science Dino-Bot” — a tactic commonly used to evade detection.The shipments originated from Thailand, the United States, and the Netherlands, and were bound for recipients in various parts of Luzon and Mindanao.Despite being abandoned by their consignees, the packages did not escape scrutiny. Authorities flagged the shipments through profiling and inspection, ultimately uncovering the concealed contraband.The interdiction was carried out by the NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group, in close coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), highlighting the growing synergy among agencies in combating drug smuggling.All confiscated substances have been turned over to the PDEA Laboratory Service for confirmatory testing and proper disposition, while legal proceedings are underway against those behind the shipments. Violators face charges under Section 4, Article II of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.BOC-NAIA District Collector Yasmin Obillos-Mapa said that the bureau remains relentless in tightening border controls, particularly in high-risk entry points such as international mail facilities.Officials stressed that even abandoned parcels are not beyond the reach of authorities, and attempts to smuggle illegal drugs — no matter how disguised — will be uncovered.With smuggling tactics becoming increasingly sophisticated, the Bureau of Customs vowed to enhance intelligence, inspection, and inter-agency coordination to safeguard the public and keep dangerous drugs off Philippine shores.

- Expert cites obstacles in drawing of SCS code (2026-04-26 16:05)

A FILIPINO political scientist and security analyst said efforts to finalize a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea continued to face significant hurdles, despite intensified negotiations led by the Philippines during its Asean chairmanship.Speaking at a forum organized by Manila-based think tank Asian Center for Peace and Security Studies Inc. (ACPSSI) over the weekend, Rommel Banlaoi said negotiators had been holding almost monthly meetings across the region — including in Cebu, Singapore and Bangkok — in a bid to produce a draft COC for possible approval during the Asean leaders summit later this year. “They are discussing heavily the legal character of the COC — whether it is binding or non-binding — the geographic scope, the activities to be covered, and most importantly, the dispute settlement mechanism,” Banlaoi said.Despite the accelerated pace, he said he was “not very optimistic anymore about the conclusion of the COC because I see real obstacles,” among them competing national interests among Asean member states.Banlaoi said that as this year’s Asean chairman, the Philippines had been trying to broker a consensus among countries with “colliding national interests,” while working with fellow Asean members Singapore and Malaysia under the troika mechanism to push negotiations forward.Even if an agreement were reached, he said it might fall short of expectations. “If there will be any conclusion at all, it may be a middle ground,” Banlaoi said.But even a “soft” or less binding arrangement could still be an important step toward maintaining peace in the disputed waterway.He noted that while there was mutual

interest among claimant states, particularly the Philippines and China, to pursue cooperation, legal and political constraints remained substantial.Under Philippine law, Banlaoi said, there was no explicit framework for “joint development,” only for joint ventures structured through contracts that could imply recognition of Philippine sovereignty — a condition Beijing has been reluctant to accept. “The devil is always in the details,” he said.Banlaoi said domestic political pressures in both countries, along with the influence of external powers, could further complicate the quest for an agreement. “At the end of the day, the success of any agreement will boil down to domestic politics,” he said. “Remove domestic political factors and external pressures, and the Philippines and China can develop natural gas and oil. But the reality on the ground is different.” He said Manila needs to take decisive steps to manage both internal opposition and external geopolitical pressures if it hoped to push negotiations forward.The Philippines has been aiming for a draft COC within its Asean chairmanship.ACPSSI President Herman Tiu Laurel blamed obstacles to the negotiations in part to policy positions taken by then foreign secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr.Laurel said Locsin had insisted on a non-negotiable condition that any COC must involve third-party powers such as the United States.Laurel said Locsin’s view was not shared by the majority of Asean members and China, which prefer limiting the involvement of external actors.Tiu Laurel said recent shifts toward a more independent foreign policy, reinforced by a “white paper” issued by retired Philippine ambassadors calling for “balanced diplomacy” and non-alignment, could accelerate the pace of negotiations.

- Retired officers planning to grab power – Lacson (2026-04-26 16:05)

(UPDATE) SOME “retired officers” are planning to grab power amid the controversies involving President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Sunday.Former representative Zaldy Co had linked Marcos to the flood control fund scandal, while Duterte is facing impeachment proceedings for alleged unexplained wealth.The senator said he received information that the unidentified retired officers are recruiting supporters within the Armed Forces of the Philippines for a possible military-backed “people power revolution.” “There is definitely an attempt but this is outside the AFP. Those behind this could only recruit a few, if at all, from inside the AFP,” Lacson said in a radio interview. “My contacts in the Philippine National Police (PNP) say there is no indication this ‘movement’ will snowball. But definitely there is an attempt, mostly by retired officers,” he said in Filipino and English.Lacson served in the uniformed services from 1971 to 2001, in both the AFP and PNP. He served as PNP chief from 1999 to 2001.However, the Senate president pro tempore believes that the planned takeover would not succeed because the AFP is a professional organization. “So long as the AFP is professional, and I would like to believe it is, there is no compelling reason to have a military junta or another People Power revolution,” he said.Last year, Lacson rejected the idea of a military-backed “reset” or junta amid public outrage over corruption issues.Lacson in November 2025 confirmed that some retired military officers had approached him to be part of a “transition council” to change the government, but he declined.In rejecting unconstitutional changes of leadership, he pointed out that under

the 1987 Constitution, the succession of leadership ends with the House speaker.Lacson said this was why he filed last year his “Designated Survivor” bill that extends the line of succession to include the most senior Senate and House member.The hit Netflix series “Designated Survivor” followed the story of a low-level US Cabinet official who becomes President of the United States after a catastrophic bombing during the State of the Union address kills everyone ahead of him in the line of succession.

- Over 115K jobs up for grabs on Labor Day fairs (2026-04-26 16:04)

MORE than 115,000 job opportunities await Filipino employment seekers as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) rolls out nationwide job fairs for the Labor Day celebration on May 1, 2026, one of the largest coordinated hiring events in recent years.The initiative will bring together job seekers and employers under one roof, in several venues nationwide. As of April 23, DOLE has identified at least 88 job fair venues nationwide, most of them strategically located in major malls and accessible public spaces to ensure convenience, high foot traffic, and wider reach.Labor officials said the number of job vacancies currently stands at 115,358, offered by 1,280 participating local employers. These figures are still expected to rise as more companies confirm their participation in the days leading up to Labor Day.Opportunities span a wide range of industries, reflecting both traditional and emerging labor demands. Among the sectors with the highest number of openings are wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, construction, business process outsourcing (BPO), and accommodation and food services.In retail, companies are urgently hiring stock clerks and sales associates to meet growing consumer demand. The manufacturing sector is seeking production operators and factory workers, while the construction industry continues to require skilled workers, such as carpenters, foremen, and steelmen, in ongoing infrastructure projects.The BPO sector remains a major employer, with thousands of openings for customer service representatives, while the hospitality industry is ramping up hiring for service crew, line cooks, and baristas as tourism and dining activities rebound.DOLE underscored that the nationwide job fairs support the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in addressing unemployment and poverty by accelerating job matching and reintegrating workers into productive sectors of the economy.Job seekers are encouraged to seize the opportunity being offered at the one-day hiring processes in several sites, with some employers expected to conduct on-the-spot interviews and even issue immediate job offers to qualified candidates.To streamline the application process, job seekers are advised to come prepared with multiple copies of their resumes, valid identification cards, and other necessary documents.In the National Capital Region alone, several major venues will host job fairs on May 1, including SMX Convention Center, Robinsons Manila, Ayala Malls Circuit Makati, and the Quezon City MICE Center, among others, with additional schedules extending into May in select locations.Similar large-scale job fair activities will take place in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, covering key cities and provinces — from Baguio and Laoag to Cebu, Davao, and General Santos — ensuring that opportunities are accessible even outside Metro Manila.Some regions have also scheduled extended or follow-up job fairs beyond May 1, signaling sustained efforts to connect job seekers with employers beyond the Labor Day

celebration.The 124th Labor Day carries the theme “Disenteng Trabaho para sa Lahat: Iisang Hangarin, Bagong Pilipinas Sama-samang Mararating,” reinforcing the government’s push for inclusive growth and quality employment for all Filipinos.With thousands of vacancies waiting to be filled, DOLE is urging the public to seize the opportunity, emphasizing that the nationwide job fairs are not just a celebration — but a concrete pathway to employment and economic recovery.

- Recruitment of Filipinos for overseas wars alarms BI (2026-04-26 16:03)

THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) has raised the alarm over a trend of recruiting Filipino men online to work as soldiers abroad under deceptive and high-risk schemes.The Immigration Protection and Border Enforcement Section (I-Probes) issued the warning following a series of interceptions at the country’s major airports in recent weeks as authorities intensify efforts to curb human trafficking and illegal recruitment to protect Filipinos from exploitation overseas.In a report to Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado, the I-Probes said that on March 31, a 52-year-old Filipino was stopped at NAIA Terminal 3 after attempting to leave the country disguised as a tourist. Immigration officers grew suspicious after spotting inconsistencies in his statements during primary inspection.The victim was referred to the I-Probes, where he eventually admitted the real purpose of his trip: he had been recruited to serve in a foreign military.The victim, an army reservist, said recruiters contacted him through Facebook and instructed him to pose as a tourist to avoid detection. He was lured by a lucrative offer — a monthly salary of $2,500 and a hefty $25,000 signing bonus.Just a day later, two more men, aged 38 and 39, were intercepted at Clark International Airport before boarding a flight to Bangkok. Initially claiming they were on vacation, the pair later confessed they had also been recruited online to work as soldiers abroad.They were promised $1,500 in monthly pay and a $30,000 joining bonus. Recruiters contacted them through a Facebook group and continued communication via WhatsApp, directing them to travel to Thailand and await further instructions.On April 5, two more victims, aged 49 and 50, were stopped at NAIA Terminal 3 while attempting to depart via Ethiopia on a similar arrangement.On April 12, another 51-year-old man was intercepted at NAIA Terminal 1 after attempting to leave for China, also under the guise of tourist travel but ultimately bound for military work abroad.Authorities said these cases point to a coordinated and dangerous recruitment network exploiting social media platforms to lure Filipinos into potentially life-threatening roles in undisclosed locations.Extreme dangerViado warned that such schemes place victims in extreme danger, with little to no protection or legal safeguards. “Our officers remain vigilant in detecting these schemes at our borders. These interceptions likely saved lives,” Viado said, stressing that the promises of high pay and bonuses are often used to mask the real risks involved.He described the trend as “deeply alarming,” noting that recruiters deliberately obscure key details about the job, including the exact location, nature of duties, and legal status of employment.The BI urged the public to exercise extreme caution when encountering overseas job offers — especially those involving “security” or “military” roles that lack proper documentation or are arranged informally through social media.All intercepted individuals will be turned over to

the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking for assistance, while authorities are working to track down and prosecute those behind the recruitment network.

• Marina extends expiry of documents for seafarers (2026-04-26 16:02)

THE Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) has issued a 90-day extension for the expired or expiring credentials of Filipino seafarers currently unable to disembark due to the security crisis in the Middle East.The measure applies to Seafarer’s Record Books (SRBs), Seafarer’s Identification and Record Books (SIRBs), and Seafarer’s Identity Documents (SIDs).The extension is automatic for documents expiring on or before June 30, 2026, removing the need for individual applications. Marina moved to ease the burden on seafarers who continue to serve at sea under difficult and uncertain conditions, ensuring that documentary requirements do not add pressure to those already delayed onboard due to circumstances beyond their control.Shipping companies, ship owners, and Licensed Manning Agencies (LMAs) must report all covered cases to Marina through mds@marina.gov.ph. Meanwhile, authorized company representatives or vessel masters must sign all submissions and follow the prescribed format under Annex 1 of Marina Advisory 2026-21. Marina Administrator Sonia Malaluan emphasized the urgency and human focus of the agency’s response. “Our seafarers are trapped in a situation they did not choose, far from their families and unsure of when they can finally come home. We act not just as a regulator, but as a government that stands with them in their most difficult moments,” Malaluan said. “This extension gives them breathing space and assures them that Marina is with them every step of the way,” she added. Marina reaffirmed its commitment to protect Filipino seafarers deployed worldwide and to respond swiftly to crises that affect their safety, welfare, and dignity at sea.

• Thai police arrest Indonesian wanted for $10M cyberfraud (2026-04-26 15:07)

BANGKOK, THANILAND — Police in Thailand have arrested an Indonesian who allegedly defrauded Americans of about $10 million, Thai authorities said Sunday, adding that they will extradite him to the United States.The 33-year-old Indonesian man was arrested on Friday at a luxury resort in the coastal town of Phuket after a tip-off from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Suriya Poungsombat of the national immigration police told AFP.The FBI had informed Thai authorities that the suspect left Dubai and travelled to the Southeast Asian nation on Wednesday, according to Suriya.After his arrest, the man was sent to an immigration detention centre in the capital Bangkok and was awaiting extradition to the United States, he said."The FBI said he was wanted for committing fraud against Americans of about $10 million," he added.The FBI did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment on Sunday.Another Thai immigration police officer told local media that the suspect allegedly hired models to lure targets into phony investment schemes over video calls, dating apps and social media, and he managed the scams from the United Arab Emirates.Southeast Asia has emerged as a hotspot for cyberscam operations in recent years, with organised criminal groups using casinos, hotels and fortified compounds in the region as bases to carry out sophisticated online cons.Cyberscammers have defrauded victims around the world of tens of billions of dollars

annually, often through fake cryptocurrency investments and phony romantic relationships.But fraudsters and their associates are also believed to have expanded outside the region.According to a 2025 report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, foreign workers in the UAE have been " lured into scam work in Southeast Asia", suggesting "Dubai is becoming a global hub for recruitment and trafficking linked to the cyber-enabled fraud industry".The UAE, the report adds, "have been targeted as a base for individuals involved in the laundering of funds acquired through illicit online activity, many of whom have purchased property in Dubai".

- Gauff overcomes stomach bug to beat Cirstea in Madrid (2026-04-26 14:46)

MADRID, SPAIN — Coco Gauff became the latest victim of the stomach virus that has been sweeping through the draw at the Madrid Open but the ailing American still found a way to beat Sorana Cirstea 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 on Sunday and reach the round of 16.Several players have been struggling with illness in the Spanish capital this week, including Iga Swiatek, who was forced to retire from her match against Ann Li on Saturday, and Marin Cilic, who had to withdraw ahead of his second-round meeting with Joao Fonseca on Friday.Liudmila Samsonova also pulled out of the tournament on Sunday citing illness ahead of her third-round match with Linda Noskova.Gauff vomited in a bin on the court during her clash with Cirstea, and asked for a medical timeout during the latter stages of the match before she completed the win in two hours and 21 minutes."Yeah, I don't know, honestly (how I got through that)," said Gauff, who will face Noskova in the last 16."I was just trying to finish the match and one point turned into another. I think I got what everybody else is having here in Madrid, unfortunately. So, I'm just going to try to push through for tomorrow."A runner-up to Aryna Sabalenka in the Spanish capital 12 months ago, Gauff has 3,300 points to defend on clay from Madrid through to her Roland Garros title defence in early June."I pulled out in Indian Wells. I'm not someone who likes to pull out, so I didn't want to pull out again today. So, I'm glad that I was able to get through it," added the two-time Grand Slam champion."I did start to feel better, not feeling like I had to throw up. They gave me some pills, so that definitely helped."But I was really tired... The first part was literally just trying to keep whatever I ate down. Once they gave me something to help with that, then I was just nauseous and tired. But I can deal with that."

- Israel PM says Hezbollah 'dismantling' ceasefire with Lebanon (2026-04-26 14:41)

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said Hezbollah's actions were threatening the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon, as he pledged to "vigorously" target the Iran-backed group."It must be understood that Hezbollah's violations are, in practice, dismantling the ceasefire," Netanyahu said during a weekly cabinet meeting.Under the terms of the truce, which was recently extended, Israel reserves the right to respond to "planned, imminent or ongoing attacks" and has been striking targets in south Lebanon almost every day."We are acting vigorously in accordance with arrangements agreed with the United States and, incidentally, also with Lebanon," Netanyahu said."This means freedom of action not only to respond to attacks, which is obvious, but also to pre-empt immediate threats and even emerging threats."Shortly after Netanyahu's remarks, the Israeli military said it had intercepted

three drones before they could enter Israeli territory.Earlier on Sunday, the Israeli military issued evacuation orders for residents of seven villages in south Lebanon ahead of planned strikes targeting Hezbollah positions.Lebanon's National News Agency reported multiple strikes on villages in the south on Sunday, particularly in the village of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah where "an Israeli enemy drone hit a motorcycle".The agency also reported shelling on several border villages since early Sunday.Lebanon's health ministry said seven people were killed on Saturday in Israeli strikes, revising upwards an earlier toll of six.US President Donald Trump had on Thursday announced that a 10-day ceasefire which began on April 17 had been extended for three weeks.Tehran-backed Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 by firing rockets at Israel to avenge the death of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes.Israel responded with airstrikes and a ground invasion in southern Lebanon.

• Gunman planned to target top Trump officials — attorney general (2026-04-26 14:36)

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES — Investigators on Sunday said the gunman who tried to storm a gala dinner attended by US President Donald Trump planned to target top government officials, as scrutiny grew over the event's security.Trump, who was rushed out of the hotel ballroom in Washington by Secret Service agents, posted surveillance camera footage of the gunman attempting to sprint past a security checkpoint as guards drew their weapons.After an exchange of gunfire, the suspect was detained at the scene and was being questioned Sunday before he is due to appear in court on Monday."He's not actively cooperating. I expect that he will be formally charged tomorrow morning in federal court in Washington," acting US Attorney General Todd Blanche told CBS's "Face The Nation.""We do believe, based upon just a very preliminary start to understanding what happened, that he was targeting members of the administration."Blanche added no further motive was known for the attack, confirming the suspect -- who was armed with a shotgun, handgun and knives -- was staying at the Washington Hilton hotel where the black-tie dinner was held on Saturday evening."We believe that he traveled by train from Los Angeles to Chicago, and then from Chicago to Washington," Blanche said. "It appears he purchased these firearms in the past couple years."Attendees dove under tables in chaotic scenes as Secret Service agents swarmed into the glitzy White House Correspondents' Association dinner, held annually in the US capital.Crowded into the ballroom were Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, several cabinet members and top lawmakers, and hundreds of guests in black tie.

• Inside the world’s largest art heist when over $500M of paintings were stolen from a Boston museum (2026-04-26 14:21)

BOSTON, AP — For decades, the 1990 theft of 13 artworks from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum — now valued at more than $500 million — has remained unsolved.It remains the largest art theft in history — far surpassing more recent museum thefts, including a daylight heist at the Louvre that involved far fewer works and was resolved more quickly. In 2013, the FBI said it knew who was responsible for the Boston museum heist but declined to name them, fueling speculation that persists today.A former FBI agent who led the investigation for more

than two decades is now offering the first detailed account of how investigators reached that conclusion — and publicly identifying the men he believes were involved. In a new book, Geoff Kelly traces how the artworks moved through criminal networks, where violence took the lives of key suspects and witnesses, and challenges long-circulating theories by revisiting key details.The irony at the center is that Gardner’ s intention was for the museum to remain frozen in time, stipulating in her will that nothing in the Venetian palazzo-inspired building would be changed after her death. Gardner, who lived in the museum and died there in 1924, intended for the paintings, sculptures and architectural fragments to remain exactly as she had arranged.The empty gilded frames of the missing paintings still hang in the museum today — silent witnesses to what was taken.

• Iran's foreign minister returns to Pakistan as Islamabad races to save negotiations with US (2026-04-26 14:17)

ISLAMABAD,AP — Iran 's foreign minister arrived in Islamabad again on Sunday as Pakistan's political and military leadership scrambled to reignite ceasefire talks between Tehran and Washington.Abbas Araghchi had left Pakistan’ s capital late Saturday, creating confusion around an expected second round of talks, but he returned to Islamabad before continuing on to Moscow, Iranian state media said. He had been in Oman, which previously mediated talks and is located on the other side of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.Two Pakistani officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the efforts, did not say when the Americans might return to the region to follow up on historic face-to-face talks earlier this month.The White House on Friday said it would dispatch envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Islamabad for a second round of talks. But shortly after Araghchi's departure was reported, President Donald Trump said he had called off the mission because of a lack of progress with Iran. “They can call us anytime they want,” he said.Trump last week indefinitely extended the ceasefire that U.S. and Iran agreed to on April 7 that has largely halted the fighting that began with joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Feb. 28. But a permanent settlement remains elusive in the war that has killed thousands of people and shaken the global economy.

• Getting the most out of barrier-free tours for yourself or someone with a disability (2026-04-26 14:03)

BERLIN,GERMANY — For people living with disabilities, barriers to tourism can range from the obvious — such as an out-of-service elevator — to the unseen, like an outing that's too long or a setting that's too loud.As the baby boom generation ages, the travel industry is increasingly catering to older adults with the time and money to sightsee internationally and who sometimes need additional assistance. Truly inclusive accessibility, though, accommodates a much greater range of tourists, from individuals with physical disabilities to people with autism or dementia.To better serve visitors with visible or invisible disabilities, museums and other cultural institutions worldwide have added specialized guides and barrier-free tours, some made possible by advances in technology.These include sign-language tours for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, touch-based events for guests with blindness or low vision, and

programs designed for people on the autism spectrum. Tourism agencies dedicated to serving disabled travelers have sprung up, too.Offering barrier-free tours shows people with disabilities they are welcome in cultural spaces, said Ashley Grady, an accessibility program specialist at the Office of Visitor Accessibility of Washington's Smithsonian Institution.The services are a way of saying, “we’ve thought of you,” Grady said. “We want you to come to our museums. We want you to see yourselves reflected in our staff and our collections. And we want to make these programs as accessible as possible for you, your family, your loved ones, your friends.”Still, gaps remain. Ivor Ambrose, managing director of the nonprofit European Network for Accessible Tourism, said there's a continuing lack of awareness around the different levels of accessibility that travelers need."This is actually a really big market and an opportunity, which is still not fulfilled by the operators in all these different areas of tourism," he said.Here is advice from several experts about how to take advantage of barrier-free options for yourself or someone else.

- The wide-brimmed Sombrero galaxy is revealed in all its splendor by a telescope in Chile (2026-04-26 13:50)

CAPE CANAVERAL,FLORIDA — The Sombrero galaxy and its glowing halo of stars have never looked this good.The U.S. National Science Foundation’s NOIRLab released the latest photo of the popular hat-shaped galaxy on Friday. A telescope in Chile observed it four years ago, but the color imaging was not completed until this week.Located approximately 30 million light-years away, this spiral galaxy — formally known as Messier 104 — is one of the largest in the constellation Virgo cluster. It’s an estimated 50,000 light-years across. A light year is about 6 trillion miles.Captured in incredible detail, the galaxy's stellar halo appears to be triple the size of the sombrero itself.A dark energy camera on the telescope also caught a stream of stars pouring out of the galaxy's southern edge. Scientists believe the stars in this stream, as well as the halo, were ripped from other galaxies in a long-ago collision.Astronomers discovered the galaxy back in the 1700s.

- Badminton eyes 'next generation' with new scoring system (2026-04-26 13:32)

KUALA LUMPUR,MALAYSIA — Badminton chiefs say they have "strengthened the sport" for the future after the governing body voted to change the scoring system in a major move.Currently matches are the best of three games with the winner of each game being the first to 21 points.From January 2027 it will be the first to 15 points.Badminton World Federation president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul called it an important milestone."We are building a sport that speaks to the next generation, while continuing to invest in the long term future of our players," Leeswadtrakul said."The 3×15 scoring system is intended to deliver more exciting and competitive badminton, improved scheduling, more consistent match durations and potential benefits for player welfare and recovery."By bringing high pressure moments earlier and creating tighter scores and more dramatic finishes, the format aims to keep fans engaged from the first rally to the last."Leeswadtrakul acknowledged that traditionalists would be concerned by the move."This decision does not change the fundamental nature of badminton," she said in

remarks released on Saturday."The skill, the tactics, the physical and mental demands, and the drama of the sport will remain."

• Japan inflation cools demand for vending machine drinks (2026-04-26 13:20)

TOKYO, JAPAN — From post offices and parks to stations and even the summit of Mount Fuji, Japan's vending machines are ubiquitous. But with the rapid pace of inflation cooling demand for their drinks, operators are being forced to rethink the business.Last month beverage giant DyDo Group Holdings announced it would remove about 20,000 vending machines -- around seven percent of their stock nationwide -- by January 2027, in order to "reconstruct a profitable network".Pokka Sapporo Food & Beverage, based in Nagoya, also said in March it would sell its 40,000-machine operation to Osaka-based Lifedrink Co."The strength of the vending machine business has been to sell at list prices," a spokeswoman for Pokka Sapporo told AFP.But "a rise in list prices is pushing more people to look to shops that sell drinks at a discount", she said.Tetsuharu Kawaguchi, 31, who works for a food delivery company, said cost was the leading factor in his decision to ditch vending machines -- which stock a host of Japan's favourite thirst-quenchers from iced tea to canned coffee.From a machine, even "water... ends up being around 130 yen (80 cents). If you go to a convenience store, you can sometimes get it a bit cheaper, and places like drugstores often sell it for quite a low price", he explained.While Japan was long haunted by deflation, it has more recently faced a surge in living costs.Kazuhiro Miyashita of Inryo Soken, a research institute focused on the beverage industry, told AFP that increased costs for fuel and staff to keep machines stocked were eating into profits."If they can curb prices through cost-cutting, they may be able to hold their own against convenience stores."Takayuki Ishizaki of Nomura Research Institute said that growing environmental awareness was also playing a part in the troubling situation for operators.It "has led some people to stop buying drinks outside and instead bring their own bottles (to refill)", he said.Despite the decline, vending machines -- where ramen noodles, cut fruit, kimchi and crepes are also on offer -- are unlikely to disappear anytime soon."Ultimately the overwhelming convenience of being able to find one just by walking a short distance practically anywhere (in Japan) is something that can't really be replaced," Ishizaki said."The move now is toward being more strategic and selective in terms of placement."Taisuke Oguro, 27, a hairdresser in Tokyo, is holding out for their survival."In places where there aren't any convenience stores, I do think it's actually pretty handy to have one," he said.

• Revilla camp confident: No evidence presented vs former senator (2026-04-26 12:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr. believes that no evidence was presented to link the former lawmaker to the alleged ghost project in Pandi, Bulacan following days of hearings conducted by the Sandiganbayan.The prosecution presented its last witness in the bail hearing in the malversation through falsification case filed against Revilla and other people last Friday, April 24."We will not preempt what the court's assessment will be but we are very confident in our position," Reody Anthony Balisi, one of Revilla's lawyers, said in an interview with reporters."From the time that this fiasco happened to the time that he was

charged, to the time that he surrendered, to the time that we started the bail hearing, and now, culmination, last day of the bail hearing, what have we been saying ever since? There is no evidence that can link [former] senator Bong Revilla," Balisi said.The Office of the Ombudsman filed the case before the Sandiganbayan in Jan. 2026. Revilla's co-accused include Brice Hernandez, Juanito Mendoza, Arjay Domasig, Emelita Juat, Christina Mae Pineda,and Jaypee Mendoza. All of them, except Mendoza, sought bail. The bail hearing started on Apr. 6.The National Institute for Transparency and Accountability (NITA) cited weaknesses in the case presented by the prosecution."There is clear overreliance on one witness, and that is Bernardo. All other testimonies trace back to him," NITA Executive Director Carlos Ayala said in a statement.Ayala was referring to state witness Roberto Bernardo, former undersecretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, who took the witness stand last Friday."Despite allegations involving hundreds of millions, there is a lack of documentary link—no bank records, no receipts, no direct financial trail connecting Revilla to the supposed transactions," Ayala said. "What we saw in court was largely hearsay andderivative testimony—accounts based on what was told to them, not on personal knowledge." "Instead of directly implicating Revilla, the witnesses presented highlighted the gaps in the narrative," he said.The Sandiganbayan is expected to hand down its ruling in the coming weeks. The court will determine if Revilla will remain in detention or be released on bail.

• Trinidad remains AFP's spokesman for West Philippine Sea (2026-04-26 09:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad will remain the spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for the West Philippine Sea (WPS), after he retires from military service, the Philippine Navy said on Saturday. "While Rear Admiral Trinidad formally retires from active military service, he will continue to serve as WPS' mouthpiece as a naval reservist, in recognition of the value of his continued voice, and as a demonstration of his sustained service and credibility in communicating the Armed Forces' position on maritime issues," the Navy said in a statement.Trinidad was honored during his retirement ceremony on Thursday in Taguig City, led by Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Adm. Jose Ma. Ambrosio Ezpeleta. "By underscoring what is right and what is true, he has contributed to bolstering public faith in our actions, as well as fortifying our country's diplomatic messaging on the global stage," Ezpeleta said.Trinidad is a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Sambisig" Class of 1991.

• Group of retired officers planning to grab power — Lacson (2026-04-26 09:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Some "retired officers" are planning to grab power amid the controversies involving President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said on Sunday.Former representative Zaldy Co had linked Marcos to the flood control fund scandal while Duterte is facing impeachment proceedings for alleged unexplained wealth.The senator said he received information that the unidentified retired officers are recruiting supporters within the Armed Forces of the Philippines for a possible military-backed " people power revolution.""There is definitely an attempt but this is outside the AFP. Those

behind this could only recruit a few, if at all, from inside the AFP," Lacson said in a radio interview."My contacts in the Philippine National Police (PNP) say there is no indication this ' movement' will snowball. But definitely there is an attempt, mostly by retired officers," he said in Filipino and English.Lacson served in the uniformed service from 1971 to 2001, in both the AFP and PNP. He served as PNP chief from 1999 to 2001.The Senate president pro tempore believes that the planned takeover would not succeed because the AFP is a professional organization."So long as the AFP is professional and I would like to believe it is, there is no compelling reason to have a military junta or another People Power revolution," he said.

• Two Americans among 19 killed in Negros Occidental clashes (2026-04-26 07:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Two Americans were among 19 people killed in clashes between government troops and members of the New People's Army (NPA) in Toboso, Negros Occidental on April 19, 2026.In a statement, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) identified the two as Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem. "The two were among the 19 NPA combatants whose identities have now been established and whose remains have been turned over to their respective families," NTF-Elcac said.The agency said it sees a "disturbing convergence on foreign nationals in a live combat setting where the risks are immediate and the consequences irreversible." It warned Americans of Filipino descent in the US to be wary of being lured by left-wing activist groups into joining or supporting Filipino insurgents in the Philippines.

• Bernardo's P1B restitution offer seen weakening case vs Revilla in bail hearings (2026-04-26 07:10)

MANILA, Philippines —The P1 billion restitution offer made by former Public Works undersecretary Roberto Bernardo has emerged as a pivotal issue in the bail hearings of former senator Ramon Revilla Jr., with the defense arguing that the move undercuts the prosecution's claim that evidence of guilt is strong.At the latest hearing before the Sandiganbayan Third Division, Associate Justice Ronald Moreno raised questions about Bernardo's offer to return the amount to the government as part of his bid to qualify as a state witness.Lawyers for Revilla contended that the scale of the proposed restitution suggests Bernardo was not a minor participant but a central figure in the alleged irregularities involving flood control projects. They argued that the ability to return such a large sum points to direct access to, or control over, project funds.Defense counsel Reody Anthony Balisi pressed the issue during cross-examination, directly asking Bernardo if he was the "mastermind" behind the scheme, citing his alleged deep involvement and proximity to the funds. "You cannot return such a large amount unless you are right at the center of the movement of the money," Balisi said during the hearing.Presiding Justice Karl Miranda also addressed the issue in open court, noting public sentiment surrounding the case and asking Bernardo to respond directly to questions about his alleged role."You answer the question of Atty. Balisi: are you really the mastermind?" Miranda said.The prosecution presented Bernardo as its principal witness in an effort to demonstrate that the evidence against Revilla is strong — a legal threshold required to deny bail.The defense

argued that Bernardo's testimony should be treated with caution, describing it as uncorroborated and motivated by his desire to avoid prosecution. They maintained that his offer to return ₱1 billion indicates a strong personal incentive to cooperate with the government.Other prosecution witnesses, according to the defense, failed to directly link Revilla to the alleged misuse of funds.A Public Works director assigned in the National Capital Region testified on project processing and implementation but did not implicate Revilla. Instead, the testimony outlined internal coordination within the department, where Bernardo allegedly held influence.Another witness, Engineer Paul Cortez, detailed documentation and procedures related to project listings but did not identify any instruction, transaction, or meeting involving Revilla.The defense said these accounts show that while witnesses described how the system operated, none established direct participation by Revilla. They argued that the testimonies pointed to Bernardo's central role across various stages of the projects.The prosecution also presented Bernardo's driver and staff aide to support claims of alleged deliveries to Revilla. Under cross-examination, the defense said the two witnesses merely echoed Bernardo's statements and did not provide independent confirmation.Revilla's legal team maintained that the case relies heavily on a single witness whose credibility is in question, backed by testimonies that do not independently establish the former senator's involvement.They added that Bernardo's restitution offer not only signals the extent of his alleged participation but also raises doubts about the reliability of his statements.The Sandiganbayan has yet to rule on Revilla's bail petition, with the court expected to determine whether the prosecution's evidence meets the constitutional standard required to keep the accused in detention.

- Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite to have water interruptions this week due to maintenance works (2026-04-26 05:29)

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.Manila Water said that in Taguig City, some places in the villages of Katuparan and North Signal will have no water on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities at MRT Ave. corner Pag-asa St. to detect possible leaks.Also, some areas in Brgy. Ligid-Tipas will have service interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to declogging works at Dr. Natividad St. cor. J. Ramos St.In Pateros City, some locations at Brgy. Poblacion will have water interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of declogging activities at B. Morcilla St. cor. M. Almeda St.In Rizal, some portions of Brgy. San Isidro in Taytay will have no water on April 27-28 and between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing works along Sierra Valley, San Isidro.Next, other areas in Brgy. San Isidro will have no water service on April 30-May 1 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities along E. Rodriguez St.Some places in the villages of San Juan and Muzon in Taytay; several areas in the villages of San Isidro, Kalayan, Sto. Niño, San Vicente, San Roque, Bagumbayan, San Pedro, Poblacion Itaas, Poblacion Ibaba in Angono; And some locations in the villages of Brgy. Pag-Asa, Binangonan will have water interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of zero pressure testing activities along

National Rd. in Brgy. San Juan, Taytay.Also, some areas in Brgy. San Isidro in Rodriguez, Rizal will have no water on April 28-29 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to step testing works at Eastwood Greenview Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 , Phase 4, Phase 5, Phase 3A, Phase 3B, Phase 5E and Victoria Trails.Some parts of Cainta and Taytay in Rizal will have service interruptions on April 28-29 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. also because of step testing activities.Meanwhile, Maynilad said that in Parañaque City, some areas in Brgy. Tambo will have water interruptions on April 26-27 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of decommisioning activities at Diosdado Macapagal near Macaraeg Bridge.In Manila City, some places in the villages of 313, 314, 329, 330 and 335 at Santa Cruz will have service interruptions on April 26-May 3 between 10 p.m. and 5.00 a.m. because of leak exploration works.In Tondo, Manila City, some areas in the villages of 124, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 177, 179, 180, 181, and 182, will have no water on April 26-May 3 between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of leak exploration.Still in Tondo, some places in the villages of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 74, 75, 76, 78, 81, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 163, 168, 169, 170, 171, and 172 will have service interruptions on April 27-May 3 everyday between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration activities.Some areas in the villages of 36, 39, 40, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197 in Caloocan City; and also some places in the villages of 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216 217, 218, 219, 220 and 202-A in Manila City will have water interruptions on April 27-May 3 between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. because of leak exploration works at Rizal Ave.Some parts of the villages of 167 and 169 in Caloocan City, and some places in the villages of Nagkaisang Nayon and San Agustin in Quezon City will have water service interruptions on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of the replacement of a gate valve.Some places in Brgy. Novaliches Proper, Quezon City will have no water service on April 27-28 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of leak detection activities.In Valenzuela City, some places in the villages of Gen. T. De Leon, Karuhatan, Malinta, Marulas, Maysan, and Parada will have no water on April 27, April 28, April 30, and May 1 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. due to network maintenance activities.In Imus City, Cavite, several places in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II- B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI will have no water on April 27-May 1 between 5 a.m. and 12 a.m. because of high water demand at the Patindig Araw pumping station.

- Riders push urgent motorcycle taxi law, seek stronger livelihood protection (2026-04-26 03:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorcycle taxi riders urged the government to prioritize livelihood protection in regulating the industry and called for the immediate passage of a motorcycle taxi

law.In a statement, Motorcycle Taxi Community Philippines Chairman Romeo Maglunsod said any policy governing the sector must ensure that riders can earn sustainably while maintaining dignity in their work.The group welcomed the government's P5,000 fuel subsidy, describing it as a meaningful relief as rising fuel prices continue to cut into riders' earnings. "We are grateful for the assistance extended by the government to riders during the fuel crisis. For many riders, almost half of their daily income is already spent on fuel, and the P5,000 assistance is a big help," Maglunsod said.However, he stressed that financial aid is only a temporary solution, adding that long-term protection should come from stable and humane livelihood policies. "At this time of crisis, no rider's family should go hungry or suffer because of the lack of humane and stable livelihood," he said.The group said the passage of a motorcycle taxi bill has become urgent, noting that the government's pilot program has been in place for nearly a decade.Maglunsod said the proposed law should recognize motorcycle taxis as part of the gig economy and uphold the rights of gig workers, including flexibility and independence. "What riders want is to remain the boss of their own livelihood," he said, citing the need for riders to freely choose platforms, access incentives, and manage their working hours.The group also proposed that franchises or accreditation be granted directly to individual riders, similar to transport network vehicle service drivers, instead of being held by platforms.Under such an arrangement, riders would have greater control over their operations, while platforms would serve mainly as tools to connect them with passengers and provide support services, Maglunsod said. "The rider should hold the power to decide how to earn a living. Platforms should be instruments that support riders, not structures that limit their freedom," he added.The group also pointed to the public service role of motorcycle taxi riders, saying they help commuters reach workplaces, schools, hospitals, and other essential destinations. "Our call is clear: protect rider livelihoods, protect our freedom as gig workers, and pass the motorcycle taxi bill in a way that is fair, just, and humane," Maglunsod said.

- Shooting suspect was 'would-be assassin,' Trump says (2026-04-26 02:58)

WASHINGTON, United States — US President Donald Trump said Saturday that the suspect behind a shooting incident at a media gala in Washington was a "would-be assassin," adding that the man was "armed with multiple weapons."The man charged past a security checkpoint, Trump told a press briefing at the White House, adding: "One officer was shot but saved by the fact that he was wearing a, obviously, a very good bulletproof vest.""We looked at all of the conditions that took place tonight, and I will say, you know, it's not a particularly secure building," the US leader added.

- Some areas in Metro Manila, 3 provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works (2026-04-26 02:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Some parts of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, and Quezon will have power interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday.Some areas in the villages of Payatas and Commonwealth in Quezon City will have no power on April 28 between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. because of the relocation of electricity facilities along Payatas

Road (Litex Road).Also, some parts of Brgy. San Bartolome in Novaliches will have power interruptions on April 29-30 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement of electricity poles and line reconductoring works along Pablo dela Cruz St. and inside RT Gonzales Ville Subd.In Valenzuela City, some areas in Brgy. Marulas will have no electricity on April 28 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. due to the upgrading and installation of electricity facilities along Tampoy 2 St.In Manila City, some areas in Sta. Cruz will have no power on April 28-29 between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. because of line reconductoring works and also maintenance works along Fuguso St. near Rizal Ave.Some portions of Sampaloc, Manila City will have no electricity on April 29 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. because of electricity line conversion works along Piña Ave.In Mandaluyong City, some places in Brgy. Highway Hills will have power interruptions on April 29-30 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of an electricity pole along Madison St.In Las Piñas City, some areas in BF Martinville Subd., Brgy. Manuyo Dos will have no electricity on April 29-30 between 11:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. due to the replacement of a badly-leaning electricity pole along Exodus St.In Caloocan City, some locations in Camarin will have no power on May 1 between 12:01 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of line reconstruction works and the replacement and installation of electricity poles along Camarin Road.In Bulacan, some areas in Brgy. Duhat, Bocaue, and some places in Brgy. Patubig, Marilao will have power interruptions on April 28-29 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement and installation of electricity facilities and line reconductoring works.Some parts of Brgy. Borol 2nd, Balagtas, Bulacan will also have no electricity on April 30 between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. due to line reconductoring works in the village.In Cavite, the whole of Magallanes and Ternate; Brgy. Kaytitinga II in Alfonso; the villages of Aguado, Cabuco, De Ocampo, Lapidario, Pasong Kawayan I, and San Agustin in Trece Martires City; The villages of A. Dalusag, Batas, Castaños Cerca, Castaños Lejos, Kabulusan, Lumipa, Tabora, and town proper in Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo; the villages of Bucal 1, Bucal 2, Bucal 3-B, Bucal 4-A, Bucal 4-B, Caingen, Garita 1-A, Garita 1-B, Layong Mabilog, Mabacao, Mabato, Pinagsanhan 1-A, Pinagsanhan 1-B, San Miguel A, San Miguel B, Talipusngo, Tulay Kanluran, Tulay Silangan and town proper in Maragondon; and the villages of Bagong Kalsada, Bancaan, Bucana Malaki, Bucana Sasahan, Calubcob, Gomez-Zamora, Halang, Humbac, Ibayo Estacion, Ibayong Silangan, Kanluran, Labac, Latoria, Mabolo, Makina, Malainen Bago, Malainen Luma, Molino, Munting Mapino, Muzon, Nazareno, Palangue 1, Palangue 2, Palangue 3, Sabang, San Roque, Santulan, Sapa, Timalan Balsahan, Timalan Concepcion, and Timalan Lontoc in Naic will have short power interruptions on April 29 and April 30 between 11:30 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. (April 29) and 6:01 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. (April 30) because of the energization of the Meralco-Osorio substation.In addition to this, some areas in Brgy. Osorio, Treces Martires City will have no power on April 30 between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. because of the energization of the Meralco-Osorio substation.In Quezon, some places in the villages of Kinatihan II, Malabanan Norte, Malabanan Sur, Masalukot I, Masalukot III, Masalukot IV, Mayabobo, Pahinga Norte, San Andres, San Isidro, Sta. Catalina Norte, Sta. Catalina Sur, and Poblacion in Candelaria; and the villages of Manggalang-Bantilan and Manggalang-Kiling in Sariaya will have power interruptions on April 27 between 12:01 a.m. and 1 a.m. and also between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. because of the replacement of electricity facilities along Maharlika Highway in Brgy. Lumingon, Tiaong.Some areas in the villages of Lalig, Bulakin, Bungoy and

Dagatan in Tiaong will have no electricity on April 27 between 1 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of electricity facilities along Maharlika Highway in Brgy. Lumingon, Tiaong.

• LTFRB completes taxi fuel subsidy rollout, P135M disbursed (2026-04-26 02:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said it had completed the distribution of fuel subsidies to taxi drivers, releasing a total of P135 million to help cushion the impact of rising fuel costs on the transport sector.In a statement issued Sunday, LTFRB Chairman Vigor Mendoza II said 5,440 taxi drivers received P5,000 each on April 25, amounting to P27.2 million in assistance. The payout was extended until 9 p.m. to accommodate all qualified beneficiaries present at designated sites.The previous day’s rollout covered around 2,000 drivers, with roughly P10 million released.Mendoza said that fuel subsidies for other public utility vehicle (PUV) sectors have also been distributed, partly through checks issued to transport service entities in various regions to facilitate payouts to their members.He credited coordination among government personnel and stakeholders for the smooth rollout of the program.Beyond the one-time P5,000 assistance, the LTFRB said it is working with the Department of Energy and Land Bank of the Philippines on the implementation of a P10-per-liter fuel discount scheme for PUV operators nationwide.

• Shots fired, Trump evacuated unhurt from press dinner in Washington (2026-04-26 02:26)

WASHINGTON, United States — Shots were fired as US President Donald Trump attended a media gala in Washington on Saturday night, with the gunman detained at a screening area just outside the hotel ballroom where hundreds of guests had gathered.Trump was rushed off the stage and security teams swarmed past groups of invitees at the black-tie White House Correspondents' Dinner, as people dived under tables in chaotic scenes."Secret Service and Law Enforcement did a fantastic job. They acted quickly and bravely. The shooter has been apprehended," Trump said on social media.He said he would shortly hold a press conference at the White House."Law Enforcement has requested that we leave the premises," he added. "The First Lady, plus the Vice President, and all Cabinet members, are in perfect condition."He said he planned to re-schedule the event within a month despite the security scare.The Secret Service confirmed that one suspect was in custody, adding the shooting incident took place near the main security screening area.Tactical teams with guns drawn took position on the stage where Trump had been sitting during dinner before he was evacuated.Police swarmed the Washington Hilton Hotel, and helicopters hovered overhead. Glitzy annual gala The incident erupted after the welcoming speech and during dinner, before Trump was due to speak.Trump administration officials appeared to have been evacuated first and uncertainty remained as to what exactly happened.A cabinet official, Mehmet Oz, said "shots fired upstairs" as he was rushed out by security.Trump was the target of an assassination attempt during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania in 2024. A gunman fired several shots, killing a rally goer and lightly wounding the president in the ear.A few months later, another man was arrested after a Secret Service agent saw the barrel of a rifle poking from the bushes on the perimeter of the West Palm Beach golf course where Trump was playing a round.The Washington Hilton where Saturday's gala was

taking place was the site where Republican President Ronald Reagan was shot by a would-be assassin in 1981.Organizers told guests that the White House Correspondents' Dinner would continue despite the incident, before announcing it had been postponed.Trump was attending the event for the first time while in office.The White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) invited Trump this year despite his repeated attacks on the media.Unlike all other presidents from the past 100 years, Trump had never attended while in office.The "Nerd Prom" as attendees dub it brings together hundreds of Washington journalists and media executives to raise funds for scholarships and awards.The event often has a comedian joking about the president, who traditionally gets his own back with some jokes, though no comedian was booked this year.

- Despite Iran tensions, King Charles III will follow his mother's lead in celebrating US-UK bonds (2026-04-26 01:56)

LONDON — The challenge for King Charles III when he embarks on next week's state visit to the U.S. is, as always, to live up to his mother's example.The late Queen Elizabeth II wowed Congress in 1991 with a speech that celebrated the shared democratic traditions of Britain and the United States, quoted Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Ralph Waldo Emerson, and highlighted the deep bonds between the two nations.Those themes will also be at the top of Charles' agenda as he celebrates America's 250th birthday and seeks to calm tensions surrounding Prime Minister Keir Starmer's refusal to support U.S. President Donald Trump's war against Iran, said Douglas Brinkley, a presidential historian at Rice University in Texas."We've got to always make the distinction that there's a difference between the government of the U.K. and the kings and queens of Great Britain, who are really always coming to try to put (on) a good face," Brinkley told The Associated Press. "Politics come and go, prime ministers, presidents, come and go, but there's something deeper about the special relationship between the United States and the U.K."Charles and Queen Camilla will begin their four-day trip on Monday, when they will have tea with the president and first lady Melania Trump, then tour the White House beehive in a nod to the king's focus on conservation. The formal arrival ceremony will take place on Tuesday, with a 21-gun salute, brass bands playing the national anthems of both countries and a contingent of U.S. service members passing in review. The ceremonies will be followed by a meeting between Trump and Charles.Behind the scenesBut beneath the pomp and pageantry will be a carefully choreographed diplomatic event staged, like all royal visits, at the request of the British government. Starmer resisted pressure to cancel it after Trump belittled the British military's sacrifices in Afghanistan and criticized him personally for failing to back the U.S. in Iran.Despite those tensions, Trump has continued to speak warmly about Charles."History has shown that President Trump really tries to be impressive whenever he's dealing with British royalty," Brinkley said. "And I'm sure it'll be the same this time around."Ever since 1939, when King George VI became the first British monarch to set foot on the soil of the country's former colony, there's been a special sort of excitement whenever the royals come to the United States.Take that first visit, which took place as World War II loomed over Europe. The royals toured the east coast and attended a "picnic" at

Roosevelt's private home in Hyde Park, New York. "King tries hot dog and asks for more,'' declared the New York Times.But the big moment was when the royals traveled to Mount Vernon to lay a wreath at the tomb of George Washington, America's first president. It showed respect at a time of isolationism."People could see the handwriting on the wall and know that it was going to be important for the United States and Britain to stay strong for fighting against Hitler," said Barbara Perry, a presidential scholar at the University of Virginia's Miller Center.But bonding over sausages had broader benefits, helping the royals build links to the general public as well as its leadership. After war broke out in September 1939, Queen Elizabeth, the wife of George VI and mother of the future Elizabeth II, wrote to first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to say how moved she'd been by letters from Americans who enclosed small sums for British forces."Sometimes, during the last terrible months, we have felt rather lonely in our fight against evil things, but I can honestly say that our hearts have been lightened by the knowledge that friends in America understand what we are fighting for,'' she wrote.The queen's connectionQueen Elizabeth II built on those relationships, making four state visits to the U.S. during her 70-year reign. She helped President Gerald R. Ford celebrate America's bicentennial in 1976 and met with President George W. Bush in 2007 as British and American forces fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.Smoothing turbulent waters and reminding both sides about their common bonds were what those trips were all about.Charles' visit will be no different. It includes a commemoration of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a ceremony honoring fallen service members and an event to be attended by Queen Camilla to mark the 100th anniversary of Winnie the Pooh stories by British author A.A. Milne.Awkward events will be avoided.The royals won't meet with Jeffrey Epstein's victims, despite calls for the king to address his brother's links to the convicted sex offender. Nor are there plans for Charles to meet with his son Prince Harry, who has been a critic of the monarchy since giving up royal duties and moving to California.Those issues aren't the priority, said Robert Hardman, author of "Elizabeth II: In Private. In Public. The Inside Story.""He's going because 250 years ago the Founding Fathers of the USA kicked out his great-times-five grandfather, and he's going to say, `No hard feelings, it's been a great divorce, we've had a lovely 250 years and let's reflect on the high points,'" Hardman said. "I mean, there are going to be some very, very large elephants in the room during that visit ⋯ but, you know, there are plenty of other things for the king to focus on."History, not politicsCharles' speech to a joint session of Congress offers the chance to deliver the message that long-term friendship is more important than transient disputes.He is also likely to offer a bit of humor, as his mother did when she faced lawmakers in 1991.Wearing soft peach amid a sea of gray suits, the diminutive monarch began her remarks with a joke about an earlier blunder at the White House when her lectern was so tall it obscured the audience's view of her."I do hope you can see me today from where you are,'' she deadpanned.The chamber erupted in laughter. A standing ovation followed. Then she launched into a speech about democratic values, the rule of law and the Atlantic Alliance.But Charles will have to offer his own take on those ideas, Brinkley said."The theme of the speech is going to be American exceptionalism, American history, the importance of U.S.-British alliance, and some memories from the past," he said. "But also about the love affair the two countries share with each other, even though it goes over rocky rapids from time to time."

• Easterlies, frontal system to bring rain, cloudy skies — Pagasa (2026-04-26 01:40)

MANILA, Philippines —The easterlies and a frontal system will prevail in the next 24 hours, bringing cloudy skies and scattered rains, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said on Sunday.The easterly winds which pass through the Pacific Ocean will affect Caraga, Eastern Samar, and Southern Leyte where cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms are likely, weather specialist Veronica Torres said.The easterlies will also affect Metro Manila and the rest of the country where partly cloudy to overcast skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms are likely.Meanwhile, Torres said Batanes will have scattered rains and isolated thunderstorms due to the frontal system within the day. “Flash floods or landslides due to moderate to at times heavy rains would be possible,” she said in a 5 a.m. forecast.A frontal system is defined as a “transition-boundary separating two air masses of contrasting properties (temperature and humidity).” “Simply put, fronts form when one kind of air mass enters an area occupied by another kind of air mass,” Pagasa chief Nathaniel Servando explained.Pagasa said Metro Manila would likely have a heat index of 41 degrees Celsius on Sunday, which falls under extreme caution category, while the highest could be in Negros Occidental at 44 degrees Celsius.

• A sudden shift: ICE arrests drop nearly 12% after Minneapolis killings and immigration shake-up (2026-04-26 01:33)

At the peak of the crackdown, carloads of masked immigration officers were a common sight in the streets of Minneapolis, while thousands of people were being arrested every week in Texas, Florida and California."Turn and burn," top Border Patrol commander Gregory Bovino called the strategy, with relentless displays of force and teams of agents descending on restaurant kitchens, bus stops and Home Depot parking lots.In December, arrests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents peaked at nearly 40,000 nationwide and were nearly as high the next month, according to data provided to UC Berkeley's Deportation Data Project and analyzed by The Associated Press.In late January, the killings in Minneapolis of two American citizens by immigration officers and growing concerns over the government's heavy-handed tactics led to a shake-up of top immigration officials. In the weeks that followed, ICE arrests across the country dropped on average by nearly 12%.Polling has found the general public felt the immigration enforcement operation in Minnesota went too far, a factor that may have contributed to the abrupt firing of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in early March. The numbers don't follow the same pattern everywhereBovino, who swaggered through raid scenes in tactical gear and was the public face of the Trump administration crackdown, was pushed aside following the killings in Minneapolis of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Border czar Tom Homan was then sent to the Twin Cities to chart a new course for immigration enforcement, and he announced the drawdown of immigration agents in the state on Feb. 4.An AP analysis of ICE arrest records show the department averaged 7,369 weekly arrests nationwide in the five weeks after Homan's drawdown announcement, , the most recent period for which data is available, down from 8,347 per week in the previous five weeks. Those arrest numbers were still higher on average than during much of the first year of President Donald Trump's second term, and were

dramatically higher than during the Biden administration.The numbers were not, however, uniform across the country.ICE arrests rose significantly in Kentucky, Indiana, North Carolina and Florida during those five weeks, in some cases hitting their highest weekly count since the start of Trump's second term.. In Kentucky alone, weekly arrests more than doubled, reaching 86 by early March.Those increases were offset by steep drops in a handful of large states, including Minnesota and Texas. Many arrested were not Trump's 'worst of the worst'The Trump administration insists it is targeting the most vicious criminals living illegally in the U.S., and the president has referred to them as "the worst of the worst."In some cases the description is accurate, but the reality is complicated.Many of the toughest criminals taken into ICE custody were already in prison, but many others who were arrested have no criminal history.Nationally, some 46% of the people ICE arrested in the five weeks before Feb. 4 had no criminal charges or convictions, dropping to 41% in the five weeks that followed.Yet that's still above the 35% weekly average for the time since Trump returned to office. And in a number of states, even after Feb. 4, the share of noncriminals being arrested went up, not down. Has there been a change in approach?Across the country, thousands of federal court filings offer an imperfect window into how the Trump administration's deportation tactics remain in high gear, even if activity has waned.Like the 21-year-old Honduran man with no criminal record who has filed a petition for release after being arrested Feb. 22 in a suburban San Diego traffic stop. The father of three U.S. citizen children — ages 5, 3 and 10 months — had been under ICE surveillance, the petition says, before officers in tactical gear pulled him over.Or the 33-year-old Venezuelan woman, a well-known South Texas doctor who worked in a region designated as medically underserved, who was arrested earlier this month with her five-year-old daughter, a U.S. citizen, on her way to her husband's asylum hearing.She was arrested, officials said, for overstaying her visa.Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a senior fellow with the research and advocacy group the American Immigration Council, says he sees signs of change in lower arrest and detention numbers but warns it's too early to know if those shifts are permanent."The Trump administration says: ' We're not slowing down,' 'Nothing has changed,'" in immigration enforcement, he said. "But it's very clear that they have pulled back from some of the tactics of Operation Metro Surge," the crackdown that swept Minneapolis.

- An explosive device kills 13 and injures 38 on a bus in southwestern Colombia as violence persists (2026-04-26 01:14)

BOGOTÁ, Colombia — An explosive device killed 13 people traveling on a bus in southwestern Colombia on Saturday, an attack the country's army chief described as a "terrorist act" that also left at least 38 injured as violence linked to drug trafficking in the region escalates.Octavio Guzmán, the governor of the region of Cauca, said on X that the device was set off while the bus was traveling along the Panamerican Highway in the municipality of Cajibio. Five children were among the injured, Cauca Health Secretary Carolina Camargo told Noticias Caracol, a TV news program.Gen. Hugo López, commander of Colombia's Armed Forces,told a news conference that it was a "terrorist act" and blamed the network of a man known as "Iván Mordisco" — one of Colombia's most wanted figures — and the Jaime Martínez faction. Both are dissidents of the

now-defunct Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia that operate in the region.Neither Iván Mordisco nor the Jaime Martínez faction abide by the peace agreement signed with the state in 2016.Colombian President Gustavo Petro condemned the attack on X."Those who carried out the attack and killed seven civilians — and wounded 17 others — in Cajibío — many of them Indigenous people — are terrorists, fascists, and drug traffickers," he wrote.The attack is the latest in a spate of explosions that have attempted to target public infrastructure. At least 26 incidents have taken place in the past two days in southwestern Colombia, which López said has only affected civilians.They included a shooting at a police station in the rural area of Jamundi, and an attack on a Civil Aviation radar facility in El Tambo, where authorities took down three explosives-laden drones earlier on Saturday. No one was hurt.On Friday, two vehicles rigged with explosives were detonated near military units in Cali and Palmira, causing material damage.The escalation of violence in that region — a territory contested by illegal armed groups linked to drug trafficking — prompted the mobilization of high-ranking officials on Saturday. Led by Defense Minister Pedro Sánchez, the delegation that includes regional governors and local authorities, was meeting in Palmira when the deadly explosion occurred."These criminals seek to instill fear, but we will respond with firmness," Sánchez said on X.Meanwhile, Francisca Toro, governor of Valle del Cauca, has called upon the national government to provide "immediate support." In a message on X, Toro called for a reinforcement of public security forces, enhanced intelligence operations and "decisive actions" against crime in the face of a "terrorist-level escalation."According to authorities, Cauca and Valle del Cauca serve as a critical hub for illicit activities of illegal armed groups vying for control over sea and river access routes leading to the port of Buenaventura — a key transit point used to traffic drugs to Central America and Europe.The government has also offered a reward of more than 1 million dollars for information leading to the capture of "Marlon," who is identified as the leader of the region's dissident group. On Friday, local authorities offered more than $14,000 for information leading to the identification and location of those behind the attacks in Cali and Palmira.

- Close watch on how Trump and journalists will get along at White House correspondents' dinner (2026-04-26 01:00)

Donald Trump's attendance at Saturday's annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington for his first time as president is putting his administration's often-contentious relationship with the press on full public display.Trump arrived Saturday night to an event where the leaders of a nation at war mingled with celebrities, journalists and even a puppet — Triumph the Insult Comic Dog — in a dinner that typically generates debate about whether the relationship between journalists and their sources should include socializing together and putting aside sometimes adversarial relationships.Trump was being watched closely at the event held by the organization of reporters who cover him and his administration. Past presidents who have attended have generally spoken about the importance of free speech and the First Amendment, adding in some light roasts about individual journalists.The Republican president did not attend during his first term or the first year of his second. He

came as a guest in 2011, sitting in the audience as President Barack Obama, a Democrat, made some jokes about the New York real estate developer. Trump also attended as a private citizen in 2015.Trump entered the subterranean banquet hall of the Washington Hilton to the strains of " Hail to the Chief" and greeted prominent journalists on the dais, also pausing to laud White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt with a cheerful pointing of his finger.Past dinners have also featured comedians who poke at presidents. This year, the group opted to hire mentalist Oz Pearlman as the featured entertainment.Trump's appearance is rekindling a longer running debate about the dinner and events like it — in particular, whether it is poor form for journalists to be seen socializing with the people they cover. The New York Times, for example, stopped attending the dinner more than a decade ago for that reason."What was once (a fairly long time ago) a well-intended night of fundraising and camaraderie among professional adversaries is now simply a bad look," wrote Kelly McBride, ethics expert at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank. A contentious relationshipBetween berating individual reporters, fighting organizations like the Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press in court and restricting press access to the Pentagon, the administration's animus toward journalists has been a fixture of Trump's second term.On the eve of the dinner, nearly 500 retired journalists signed a petition calling on the association "to forcefully demonstrate opposition to President Trump's efforts to trample freedom of the press."The WHCA president, CBS News reporter Weijia Jiang, said the organization was fighting for all different forms of the press that have a line in to the American people. "I don't think people realize how closely we are working with the White House," she said on CSPAN before the dinner convened. "The relationship is important. It can be complicated. It can be intense. But it is robust."Welcoming guests, Jiang alluded to the contentious relationship in thanking Leavitt "for everything your team does to work with us every day, whether you like it or not."Veteran reporter Manu Raju of CNN, as he entered the Washington Hilton for the dinner, said it was not his role to express his opinion on Trump's relationship with the press. "I'm not an activist," he said. "My job is not to protest."A few dozen protesters stood across the hotel in the runup to the event. One was dressed in a prison uniform, wearing a Pete Hegseth mask and red gloves. Another carried a sign saying "Journalism is dead."Many reporters who attend consider it a valuable opportunity to get story ideas and establish personal connections with those in government, one that may pay dividends with returned telephone calls in the future. Some news organizations invite sources as guestsJournalists often invite sources as guests at the dinner. It will be noticed Saturday whether administration officials who have also expressed hostility to the press will attend, and with whom they will be sitting. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said he was invited by the New York Post; Interior Secretary Doug Burgum and Secretary of State Marco Rubio were NBC guests.The Associated Press invited a former Trump official that it sued last year. Taylor Budowich, a former White House deputy chief of staff who crafted communications policy, was a named defendant last year when the AP sued the administration after it reduced its access to the president because the news outlet did not follow Trump's lead in renaming the Gulf of Mexico."We maintain professional relationships with people across the political spectrum because we are nonpartisan by design — focused on reporting the facts in the public's interest," AP spokesman Patrick Maks said.The White House correspondents will also hand out awards for

exemplary reporting. That includes some stories that displeased Trump, such as one from the Journal about a birthday message Trump once sent to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The story led to a presidential lawsuit.