

PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: October 31, 2026 - November 07, 2026

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

Executive Summary

The Philippines experienced a period of heightened diplomatic activity and continued maritime tensions in the West Philippine Sea from October 31 to November 7, 2026. A significant development was the agreement between Philippine and Chinese foreign ministers on November 3 to manage maritime differences peacefully, following a contentious period marked by China's increased vessel presence and strong rhetoric. Concurrently, the robust defense alliance with the United States was reaffirmed, with a focus on modernizing the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and operationalizing Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) sites. Internally, the nation focused on maintaining public order during the Undas holiday and advancing the Bangsamoro peace process, while the Philippine Air Force continued its modernization by decommissioning its UH-1H Huey helicopters. These events underscore a complex security environment, balancing external pressures with internal stability and strategic alliances.

Key Security Developments

- Continued Chinese Maritime Presence in West Philippine Sea

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) reported on November 3, 2026, that 80 Chinese naval (PLAN) and Coast Guard (CCG) vessels were monitored in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) throughout October 2026. This figure, while a decrease from 101 vessels in September, still indicates a significant and persistent Chinese presence. The largest concentration was observed at Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) with 41 vessels, followed by Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) with 24 vessels, raising ongoing concerns over maritime security and the Philippines' sovereign rights.

- Diplomatic Dialogue Between Philippines and China on Maritime Tensions

On November 3, 2026, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Maria Theresa Lazaro and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a high-level telephone conversation, agreeing to maintain diplomatic dialogue, exercise restraint, and manage their differences peacefully. This diplomatic initiative aimed to ease tensions that had intensified after Chinese Ambassador Jing Quan's remarks in October suggested Beijing could "easily win" a conflict with Manila, a statement President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. described as a threat.

- Reaffirmation of Philippines-U.S. Defense Alliance and Cooperation

The Philippines and the United States are on track to execute more than 500 defense activities in 2026, reflecting the breadth and continuity of their cooperation. On October 28, 2026, U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth visited Cebu for the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus, signaling strong American support for the Philippines amidst Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea. Discussions with Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. focused on alliance modernization, security cooperation, and the operationalization of bilateral Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) sites through infrastructure and storage investments across the Philippines.

- Chinese Accusations Against Philippine Defense Secretary

China accused Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. of obstructing its participation in the 13th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), held in Cebu on October 28-29, 2026. Beijing claimed Teodoro deliberately delayed inviting Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun, leaving insufficient time for preparation. Teodoro, who was sanctioned by Beijing in June for "erroneous remarks," rejected the accusations, asserting that China had been properly invited.

- Philippine Stance on South China Sea Arbitral Ruling

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. reiterated on October 31, 2026, that the Philippines is willing to manage its differences with China but will not compromise its sovereign rights. He emphasized that Manila could not be expected to set aside the 2016 international arbitral ruling, which invalidated China's expansive claims in the South China Sea, without assurances that its rights would be respected.

- Deployment of Security Forces for Undas Holiday

From October 31 to November 2, 2026, over 6,500 police officers, force multipliers, and personnel from other law enforcement agencies were deployed across Western Visayas to ensure public safety during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day (Undas). Nationwide, the Philippine National Police (PNP) was on full alert, deploying over 140,000 personnel from various agencies, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine Coast Guard, for security operations focusing on cemeteries, transport terminals, and major thoroughfares.

- Milestone in Bangsamoro Peace Process

On October 30, 2026, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. attended the inaugural session of the first elected Bangsamoro Parliament in Cotabato City. The President described this event as a "milestone in the peace process" and reaffirmed the national government's continued support for Bangsamoro autonomy, peace, and development, including efforts to create more economic opportunities in Mindanao.

- Philippine Air Force Decommissions UH-1H Huey Helicopters

On November 5, 2026, the Philippine Air Force officially decommissioned its UH-1H Huey multi-purpose helicopters at a ceremony in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu Province. This move is part of a modernization program to replace the aging fleet with S-70i Black Hawk helicopters, marking the definitive end of the UH-1H's 57 years of service in the Philippine Air Force.

- Advancement in Anti-Ship Missile Capabilities

The Philippine Marine Corps is actively working to fully operationalize its BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missiles. At least one battery, consisting of two launchers, a mobile surface search radar, a reloading vehicle, and a command and control station, is in operation in Western Luzon. Training with U.S. Marines in August involved practicing BrahMos targeting procedures against notional Chinese warship classes, highlighting enhanced interoperability for coastal defense.

- Increased U.S. Security Cooperation Funding for AFP Modernization

U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth announced increased security cooperation funding from the U.S. Department of War to accelerate the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) modernization program. This funding aims to enhance interoperability along the First Island Chain, with priorities including maritime defense, cybersecurity, and the development of unmanned aerial systems and defensive drone warfare.

- Cybersecurity Concerns and U.S. Training

Cyber training at joint exercises like Balikatan has become increasingly important, expanding into multinational, multidomain operations to protect shared critical infrastructure against sophisticated digital threats. This comes amidst concerns, highlighted in February 2026, that Starlink connections on Philippine ships near Scarborough Shoal were jammed, indicating potential vulnerabilities to external cyber interference.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The period from October 31 to November 7, 2026, saw the Philippines navigating a delicate balance between asserting its sovereign rights in the South China Sea and maintaining diplomatic stability, significantly impacting regional dynamics. The persistent presence of 80 Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea throughout October, particularly around Bajo de Masinloc and Ayungin Shoal, underscores China's continued assertiveness and its disregard for the 2016 arbitral ruling. This sustained pressure keeps the South China Sea a critical flashpoint, influencing the strategic calculations of other claimant states and major powers. The diplomatic phone call between the Philippine and Chinese foreign ministers on November 3, aimed at managing tensions, offers a fragile opening for de-escalation but does not resolve the

fundamental disagreements over territorial claims.

The robust and expanding defense alliance with the United States remains a cornerstone of Philippine security policy and a key factor in regional stability. The commitment to over 500 defense activities in 2026, emphasizing coastal defense and anti-ship tactics, demonstrates a shared resolve to deter aggression and enhance interoperability. The visit of U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on October 28, reaffirming strong American support and discussing the operationalization of EDCA sites, signals Washington's deep commitment to its treaty ally and its broader Indo-Pacific strategy. This strengthened alliance, however, is viewed with suspicion by Beijing, as evidenced by China's accusations against the Philippine Defense Secretary regarding the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

The Philippines' active engagement in multilateral forums, such as hosting the upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit, highlights its role in shaping regional security architecture. The diplomatic exchanges, including the Czech Ambassador's emphasis on respectful dialogue, contribute to a broader understanding of international relations beyond the immediate regional disputes. However, the ongoing maritime disputes continue to complicate efforts towards a substantive and enforceable South China Sea Code of Conduct, a goal ASEAN and China had previously aimed to conclude by the end of 2026. The dynamic interplay between escalating maritime incidents, diplomatic overtures, and reinforced alliances defines the current geopolitical landscape for the Philippines, positioning it at the center of great power competition in the Indo-Pacific.

Military and Defense Analysis

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is actively pursuing a modernization program aimed at enhancing its capabilities, particularly in maritime defense and territorial integrity. A significant development is the ongoing effort by the Philippine Marine Corps to fully operationalize its BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missile batteries. At least one battery is confirmed to be in operation in Western Luzon, a strategic location given its proximity to disputed areas in the South China Sea. This acquisition represents a substantial leap in the Philippines' anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities, providing a credible deterrent against naval threats. Training with U.S. Marines on BrahMos targeting procedures further underscores the interoperability benefits derived from the alliance.

Defense spending trends indicate a sustained commitment to upgrading the AFP. The planned procurement of over 500 infantry fighting vehicles is a key initiative to improve the safety, mobility, and operational effectiveness of ground troops across diverse security environments. This acquisition will reduce reliance on foot patrols and

enable faster response times, crucial for internal security operations and territorial defense. Concurrently, the Philippine Air Force's decision to decommission its aging UH-1H Huey helicopters on November 5, 2026, and replace them with modern S-70i Black Hawk helicopters, signifies a strategic shift towards more advanced rotary-wing assets for troop transport and combat support. The increased security cooperation funding announced by the U.S. Secretary of War will further accelerate these modernization efforts, focusing on critical areas such as maritime defense, cybersecurity, and the development of unmanned aerial systems, which are vital for asymmetric defense capabilities.

The force posture of the Philippines is increasingly geared towards external defense, particularly in the West Philippine Sea, while maintaining robust internal security operations. The continuous joint exercises and defense activities with the U.S., numbering over 500 in 2026, are crucial for enhancing interoperability, coastal defense, anti-ship tactics, and air defense. The operationalization of EDCA sites is expected to further bolster the Philippines' ability to host and support allied forces, improving its collective defense posture. While significant progress is being made in acquiring modern platforms and enhancing training, challenges remain in fully integrating these new capabilities and sustaining a comprehensive defense against evolving threats, especially in the contested maritime domain.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, maritime tensions in the West Philippine Sea are likely to persist, albeit potentially managed through continued diplomatic channels. The recent agreement between the Philippines and China to maintain dialogue, following a period of heightened rhetoric, suggests a cautious approach to de-escalation. However, the underlying territorial disputes and China's sustained presence of vessels will remain a constant source of friction. The upcoming 49th ASEAN Summit in Manila in November will provide a platform for further diplomatic engagements, potentially influencing the tone of regional relations. Internally, the focus will shift from the Undas holiday security to ongoing efforts in Mindanao, particularly supporting the newly elected Bangsamoro Parliament.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The primary flashpoints will continue to be Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) and Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea, where Chinese and Philippine vessels frequently interact. Any perceived "provocative acts" by either side, such as resupply missions or increased patrols, could quickly escalate into confrontations. The operationalization of EDCA sites and increased U.S. military presence could also be viewed by China as escalatory, leading to further diplomatic protests or counter-measures. Cybersecurity threats, particularly against critical infrastructure and military communication

networks, remain a significant risk, especially given past incidents of jamming.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and nature of Chinese vessel movements in the West Philippine Sea, particularly around disputed features. Any significant increase in aggressive maneuvers or attempts to impede Philippine activities would signal a deterioration of the maritime situation. The progress and outcomes of diplomatic dialogues between Manila and Beijing, especially regarding a potential Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, will be crucial. Furthermore, the pace of AFP modernization, including the deployment of new assets like the BrahMos missiles and the operationalization of EDCA sites, will indicate the Philippines' commitment to strengthening its defense posture. The level of U.S. security assistance and joint exercises will also be a critical barometer of the alliance's strength.

Strategic recommendations: The Philippines should continue to pursue a multi-pronged strategy combining robust defense modernization with active diplomacy. Firstly, strengthening maritime domain awareness through enhanced surveillance and intelligence gathering in the West Philippine Sea is paramount to effectively monitor and respond to foreign vessel activities. Secondly, accelerating the acquisition and deployment of modern defense assets, particularly those enhancing coastal defense and anti-ship capabilities, should remain a top priority, leveraging increased U.S. funding. Thirdly, maintaining strong alliances and partnerships, especially with the U.S., Japan, and Australia, is crucial for collective security and deterrence. Fourthly, while asserting its sovereign rights, the Philippines should keep diplomatic channels open with China to manage incidents and prevent unintended escalation, emphasizing adherence to international law. Lastly, investing in cybersecurity defenses for critical infrastructure and military networks is essential to counter evolving digital threats.

Structured Assessment

```json

{

"threat_level": "Elevated",

"hotspots": [

{

"label": "Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal)",

"detail": "Persistent presence of Chinese naval and coast guard vessels, with 41 vessels monitored in October 2026, raising concerns over sovereignty and potential
```

confrontations.",

"lat": 15.1333,

"lng": 117.7667,

"intensity": 4

},

{

"label": "Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal)",

"detail": "Continued presence of Chinese vessels, with 24 monitored in October 2026, and a history of confrontations during Philippine resupply missions.",

"lat": 9.9000,

"lng": 115.5500,

"intensity": 4

},

{

"label": "Western Luzon",

"detail": "Location of the Philippine Marine Corps' operational BrahMos anti-ship missile battery, a strategic area for coastal defense and potential deployment against maritime threats.",

"lat": 15.5000,

"lng": 120.5000,

"intensity": 3

},

{

"label": "Cotabato City",

"detail": "Site of the inaugural session of the first elected Bangsamoro Parliament, a critical milestone in the peace process for Mindanao, requiring continued security and stability.",

"lat": 7.2236,

"lng": 124.2472,

"intensity": 2

},

{

"label": "Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) Sites",

"detail": "Locations across the Philippines being operationalized with U.S. infrastructure and storage investments, enhancing bilateral military readiness and potentially increasing regional tensions.",

"lat": 14.5342,

"lng": 120.9858,

"intensity": 3

}

]

}

```
```

ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: GMA Network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Malacañang on Friday reminded government agencies to keep their Christmas celebrations simple this year, although no order was needed to implement this.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is monitoring a low-level threat to the upcoming 49th

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit this month, according to PNP chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There were no winners of the Superlotto 6/49 prize, which surpassed P87.8 million, during the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draw on Thursday, November 5, 2026.

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

In a circular letter released Thursday, Advincula directed all parishes and communities under

the Archdiocese of Manila to pray the Oratio Imperata ad Petendam Pluviam during Eucharistic celebrations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Office of the President (OP) for the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said Wednesday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has tightened its review of project documents, including those for farm-to-market roads (FMRs), to prevent errors in project information.

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

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

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

Private healthcare provider St. Luke's Medical Center has said it is investigating a "data security

incident" that it detected on its mobile application.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Department of Education (DepEd) has secured over 172,000 units of Apple's MacBook Neo laptops for Filipino teachers and staff, a landmark procurement which the global tech giant reportedly acknowledged as its "biggest education deal ever" for its MacBook line.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Japanese fugitive, reportedly among the leaders of the transnational criminal syndicate JP Dragon, was arrested during an operation in Cabanatuan City on October 31, the Bureau of

Immigration (BI) said Sunday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: PhilStar Global

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

• PCG flags registration, clearance violations of 2 capsized boats (2026-11-07 13:21)

LUCENA CITY—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is telling boat owners and operators to comply with maritime safety regulations and secure the necessary permits and registration papers before sailing. The action comes following the capsizing of two unregistered vessels in the waters off northern Quezon on Nov. 3 and 4. “The PCG once again reminded all

• DA warns Eastern Visayas farmers, fishers as El Niño worsens dry spell (2026-11-07 12:54)

TACLOBAN CITY — Farmers and fisherfolk in Eastern Visayas were urged by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to take precautions against extreme heat. The request comes as prolonged dry conditions due to the effects of the El Nino phenomenon threaten the agricultural production. Gandara town in Samar has declared a state of calamity through a

• DepEd issues guidelines for laptop turnover to public school teachers (2026-11-07 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued the guidelines for the distribution of more than 231,000 laptops to public school teachers ahead of its nationwide rollout on Monday, Nov. 9. “We want to ensure these laptops go to teachers who can maximize them most for teaching and learning, while keeping equity at

• Supreme Court sets guidelines in quantifying child support (2026-11-07 12:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has come up with guidelines in computing the amount of child support in cases where there is no written agreement or where adjustments are needed. The Guidelines on Fixing of Child Support, approved by the high court en banc on Nov. 6, complements the related rules under the Family

• Deaf passenger wins discrimination case vs ex-AirAsia crew (2026-11-07 12:14)

MANILA, Philippines — A court has convicted a former AirAsia senior cabin crew member of discriminating against three deaf passengers who were offloaded from a flight in 2017. The Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), Branch 1, in Puerto Princesa found Richie A. Rojas liable under Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for

• Private operator takes over 2,100 CCTV cameras at Naia (2026-11-07 11:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) public-private partnership concession agreement, the operational control of more than 2,100 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at the country's main gateway was formally turned over to the New Naia Infra Corp. (NNIC). The agreement between the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA),

- LTO suspends license of driver who hit rider with baseball bat (2026-11-07 11:41)

MANILA, Philippines—The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has put under preventive suspension the license of a driver who was caught on video hitting a motorcycle rider with a baseball bat. This happed during a road rage on Mabini Bridge (Nagtahan) in Manila on Nov. 4. The video showed the driver striking the rider with a baseball

- LTO suspends license of SUV driver linked to cellphone seller's death (2026-11-07 11:15)

MANILA, Philippines—The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has placed a driver's license under preventive suspension and ordered the impounding of his sport utility vehicle (SUV). These actions come following an incident that left a cellphone seller dead along Edsa in Mandaluyong City on Nov. 1. While the investigation is ongoing, the LTO directed the driver to

- Baguio task force seizes 81 kilos of spoiled fish in supermarket inspection (2026-11-07 11:01)

BAGUIO CITY—A total of more than 81 kilograms of spoiled fish were confiscated by city authorities during an inspection of supermarkets in the city's central business district and along Magsaysay Avenue recently. In a statement on Friday (Nov. 6), the Baguio City Public Information Office said the Meat and Fishery Products Monitoring Task Force issued

- In Photos: A glimpse of birdlife in Cabusao wetlands (2026-11-07 10:48)

MANILA, Philippines — From great egrets spreading their wings across the sky to collared kingfishers perched along muddy shores, the Cabusao Wetlands Critical Habitat in Camarines Sur is home to various bird species captured in photographs released by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bicol. The photos feature great egrets, Javan pond herons,

- Three-month sardines fishing ban in Tacloban's Sogod Bay starts Dec. 1 (2026-11-07 10:47)

TACLOBAN CITY— Sardine fishing in Sogod Bay in Southern Leyte will be suspended for three months beginning Dec. 1. The move is meant to allow fish stocks to replenish and reproduce, which is part of the government's annual conservation program, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said. The closed fishing season covers Fisheries

- Sara Duterte's spox: Prosecution in impeach trial failed to prove its case (2026-11-07 10:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's camp on Saturday accused the impeachment prosecution panel of relying on speculation and misleading public statements. The allegation comes as the defense prepares to present its case when the Senate impeachment trial resumes on Monday, Nov. 9. In a statement, lawyer Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr., the vice president's

• Civilians surrender guns to military in Tacurong City (2026-11-07 10:39)

COTABATO CITY — Twelve assorted firearms and other war materiel were voluntarily surrendered to the 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion. The turnover was done during a ceremony held in Barangay Tina, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat on Friday, November 6. The action is part of the Army unit's 27th founding anniversary rites. Lt. Col. Raul Escat, commanding

• Maguindanao del Sur village councilman survives ambush (2026-11-07 09:35)

COTABATO CITY — An unidentified gunman tried, but failed, to kill a village councilman in Datu Piang, Maguindanao del Sur on Friday, Nov. 6, police said. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson of Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), identified the victim as Abdul Manab Guialodin, village councilor of Barangay Liong. Liong sustained several gunshot wounds from

• Amihan, easterlies, shear line to bring rains across country (2026-11-07 09:35)

MANILA, Philippines — A shear line is forecast to affect the eastern section of southern Luzon, while the northeast monsoon (amihan) and the easterlies are expected to bring rains over parts of the country on Saturday, Nov. 7. In its 5 a.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that

• Heatwave fuels 54% fire surge in Northern Mindanao (2026-11-07 09:28)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — As a punishing weekend heatwave threatens to push this city's heat index into the "danger" zone. This condition comes as authorities are raising the alarm over a deadly 54-percent spike in fire emergencies across Northern Mindanao. State meteorologists project the "feels-like" temperature to hit a blistering 41 degrees Celsius this

• Legarda seeks inquiry on dumping of pet remains (2026-11-07 05:50)

Sen. Loren Legarda on Friday filed Senate Resolution No. 759 calling for an investigation into the alleged dumping of remains of dogs and cats in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. "Our pets are cherished members of our families. READ: Legarda seeks probe into 'unconscionable' dumping of pet remains Entrusting their remains to a cremation service

• Palace wants probe on why Romualdez allowed aide (2026-11-07 05:48)

Malacañang on Friday called for a "deeper" investigation into why Martin Romualdez was allowed to have a personal aide assist him in the New Quezon City Jail—where the former

Speaker and President Marcos' cousin is detained for plunder. Palace press officer ClaireCastro said this special treatment, if proven, would constitute "extravagance." READ: Palacewants

• SC upholds law extending barangay, SK officials' terms (2026-11-07 05:36)

The Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutionality of the law that amended the terms of office of barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (BSK) officials and deferred the elections to another two years. Then Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda wrote the Oct. 14 decision, one of his last ponencias before taking over the Supreme Court as Chief Justice.

• Cheers, jeers greet Zalameda appointment as SC chief (2026-11-07 05:34)

Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda on Friday took his oath as the 28th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with a promise to maintain judicial independence and integrity. In the oath administered by Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, Zalameda vowed to always be guided by the principle that "public office is a public trust." READ: Rodil

• Impeach court: COA docs for Article 1 can't be used for 2 (2026-11-07 05:32)

The Senate impeachment court has decided to reject the reuse of the evidence that was presented against Vice President Sara Duterte in the allegations against her that the House prosecution panel had dropped. According to a Nov. 5 order from the impeachment court made public on Friday, the impeachment court specifically excluded thousands of documents

• New BARMM education chief vows improved learning outcomes (2026-11-07 05:04)

COTABATO CITY—The newly appointed education minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) vowed to improve learning outcomes in the region as part of its promise to effectively deliver the dividends of peace to the Bangsamoro people. Member of the Parliament Naguib Sinarimbo took his oath as head of the Ministry of Basic,

• Ibagiw festival showcases Baguio's evolving creative scene (2026-11-07 05:02)

BAGUIO CITY—Artists and craftsmen in this city opened the 2026 annual Ibagiw Creative Festival on Friday to showcase Baguio's evolving art scene, on the run-up to its 10th anniversary in 2027 as the country's pioneer "Creative City." The city was declared a Creative City in 2017 for folk arts and crafts by the United Nations

• Fire hits mall in Makati City Friday evening (2026-11-06 23:40)

MANILA, Philippines — A fire broke out at a commercial establishment inside the Makati Central Square along Chino Roces Avenue in Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City, on Friday evening, Nov. 6. The blaze was first reported at around 6:06 p.m. READ: Fire breaks out in Makati City residential area According to the Bureau of

• LTFRB approves permits for 20 buses to augment LRT-2 services (2026-11-06 23:28)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has approved special permits for 20 buses to serve two routes between Antipolo City, Rizal, and Metro Manila as part of efforts to ease congestion among Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) commuters. The buses will serve the Antipolo-Legarda route in Manila and the

• Kapunan: Defense's 'I don't know' alibi makes VP Duterte look 'dumb' (2026-11-06 23:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Should the defense panel for the impeachment trial insist that Vice President Sara Duterte was unaware of the documents bearing her signature, it would only prove that the country's second-highest official is dumb, lawyer Lorna Kapunan said on Friday. Kapunan, one of the private lawyers assisting the prosecution panel, said at a

• Baguio robbery cases jump 78.6% as index crimes slightly rise (2026-11-06 22:59)

BAGUIO CITY—The Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) recorded a 2.1-percent increase in index crimes from January 1 to October 25, 2026, with robbery and motorcycle carnapping among the offenses that increased compared with the same period last year. In a report on Wednesday, Nov. 4, BCPO City Director Police Col. Nixon Laoyan said 243 index

• Culiat Bridge II to open to buses starting Saturday (2026-11-06 22:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said that Culiat Bridge II along Congressional Avenue in Quezon City will be open to buses on Saturday, Nov. 7. Newly appointed Public Works and Highways Secretary Giovanni Lopez ordered the reopening of the bridge starting at 6 a.m. on Saturday. READ: Culiat Bridge

• Baguio promotes recycled materials in Ibag-iw, Christmas festivities (2026-11-06 22:50)

BAGUIO CITY—The city government is incorporatig its circular economy program into major public celebrations, including the ongping Ibag-iw Creative Festival and Christmas events, to reduce waste and promote the reuse of materials. According to Mayor Benjamin Magalong, the initiative is part of the city's "Pansa-nopen Tayo" program, which promotes responsible resource use by treating discarded

• Romblon logs 793 dengue cases, 7 deaths in 10 months (2026-11-06 22:46)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Health authorities in Romblon urged residents to strengthen preventive measures against infectious diseases after the province recorded 793 dengue cases, including seven deaths, from January to October 2026. Data from the Romblon Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU), covering morbidity weeks 1 to 44, showed that 786 dengue patients recovered

• Baguio creates task force to monitor sale of imported agricultural crops (2026-11-06 22:42)

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Benjamin Magalong created a city task force to monitor the sale of imported agricultural crops in Baguio and ensure compliance with national importation,

sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. In a statement on Friday, Nov. 6, the Baguio PublicInformation Office said Magalong issued Executive Order No. 177, series of 2026, onWednesday,

• Police, DepEd ink school safety pact in Zamboanga Sibugay province (2026-11-06 22:39)

IPIL, Zamboanga Sibugay — In a pioneering move to safeguard schools against rising safety threats and digital risks, the Zamboanga Sibugay Police Provincial Office (ZSBPPO) and the Department of Education (DepEd) Zamboanga Sibugay Division signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5, launching “Project AKLAT.” Short for Project Alalay ang Kapulisan para sa

• Power fluctuations in Ilocos Norte traced to NGCP’s low voltage supply (2026-11-06 22:32)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative Inc. (INEC) has traced reports of fluctuating electricity supply in the province to low voltage delivery from the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). In an advisory Friday (Nov. 6), INEC stated that its investigation of power lines and electrical systems found the fluctuations

• Missing man from Lipa City found dead in Taal Lake area (2026-11-06 22:27)

LUCENA CITY—Search teams recovered the body of a 32-year-old man who had been reported missing near Taal Lake in Lipa City, Batangas, on Oct. 31. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Batangas Station said in a report released late Friday afternoon (Nov. 6) that the man’s body was found floating near Barangay Saimsim in the municipality of

• BARMM chief names Islamic adviser to boost moral governance drive (2026-11-06 22:23)

COTABATO CITY – Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua has created the Office of the Senior Adviser to the Chief Minister (OSACM) to provide expert advice and recommendation to the government on matters concerning religious and interfaith affairs, moral governance, policy, and administration. Macacua issued Executive Order No. 10 on Friday creating the the OSACM which

• Cops seize P3.1M in contraband cigarettes in Cotabato town (2026-11-06 22:19)

COTABATO CITY -– A police checkpoint operation on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5, in Midsayap, Cotabato led to the foiled entry of over P3.1 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in the province. Colonel Ramel Hojilla, Cotabato police provincial director, said that upon discovery of the goods, the cargo truck driver, identified as alias “Lau,” was unable to

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 6: ₱489.85M jackpot not won (2026-11-06 21:51)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱489.85 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot or the ₱15 million Mega Lotto 6/45 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026. According to the PCSO results, the Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw produced the

winning combination 09-26-10-04-02-47, with a jackpot prize of ₱489.85 million. No

• Group urges passage of bill institutionalizing standard nutrition care (2026-11-06 21:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The nutrition and dietetics (ND) regulatory board and several other health organizations called on Congress to push for institutionalized nutrition care in public and private hospitals nationwide. The group emphasized the need for a standardized Nutrition Care Process (NCP) in hospital management in hospitals across the country through the passage of House

• Legarda: Cheap water for poor, regulated business use for El Niño (2026-11-06 21:08)

MANILA, Philippines — To offset the effects of El Niño, the government should ensure more affordable water rates for low-income families and stronger measures to curb excessive commercial water consumption, Sen. Loren Legarda urged in a statement issued on Friday. She stressed that this is the second priority under a 10-Point Policy Action Plan that

• Bulacan couple, helper charged over dumped pets in cremation scandal (2026-11-06 20:59)

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, Bulacan — A couple operating a pet crematorium and their worker have been charged before the City of San Jose del Monte Prosecutor's Office over the dumping of 25 dead pets in the city last week. The three suspects were identified following an investigation by the San Jose del

• Impeachment court insists docs not in complaints vs VP can be subpoenaed (2026-11-06 20:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate Impeachment Court has shot down the recurring claim made by Vice President Sara Duterte's legal team about the prosecution using evidence not part of the original complaints against her, saying that documents can be the subject of subpoenas. In its order dated November 5 and released to the media on

• Marcos, MILF to sign exit agreement before 2028 (2026-11-06 20:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) committed to signing exit agreement before 2028, marking the completion of the Bangsamoro peace process, Palace press officer Claire Castro said on Friday. The commitment was discussed during Marcos' meeting with MILF Chairman Ahod "Al Haj Murad" Ebrahim in Malacañang on Thursday.

• Estate Water desalination to boost supply in vulnerable areas (2026-11-06 20:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Estate Water, a Non-East Zone operating unit of Manila Water, is expanding its portfolio of innovative water solutions through the investment and operation of a seawater desalination facility at Ayala Land's Lio Tourism Estate in Palawan. The initiative reinforces its capability to deliver a reliable and sustainable water supply even in areas with

• Remulla to BJMP: Report on Romualdez's personal aide within 48 hours (2026-11-06 19:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday directed the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to submit a comprehensive report regarding the authorization of former House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez's personal helper within 48 hours. His directive follows BJMP's admission before the Sandiganbayan Third Division that it allowed Romualdez's staff to attend

• Pagasa: Amihan, easterlies to bring rains in PH Saturday (2026-11-06 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon and the easterlies will continue to bring isolated rains over parts of the country on Saturday, Nov. 7, the state weather said. In its 4 p.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the northeast monsoon, or amihan, will bring cloudy skies with

• Ridon happy with Senate order: Most of our evidence admitted (2026-11-06 19:14)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the Senate Impeachment Court not admitting some audit reports as evidence for the unexplained wealth charge against Vice President Sara Duterte, public prosecutor and Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon considers it as a win since most of their presentations were considered. In a video statement on Friday, Ridon thanked the Senate

• INQToday: Palace wants probe into Romualdez's 24/7 QC jail aide (2026-11-06 19:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's top stories on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026, as of 6 p.m. Palace wants probe into Romualdez's 24/7 QC jail aide Malacañang called for a deeper investigation on Friday into why former Speaker Martin Romualdez was allowed to have a personal staff member to assist him inside the city jail.

• 3 areas under dangerous level heat index on Saturday — Pagasa (2026-11-06 19:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Three areas are forecast to continue to experience dangerous levels of heat on Saturday, Nov. 7, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 p.m. heat index forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the heat index in San Jose in Occidental Mindoro and La Granda, La

• Kapunan: VP Duterte will be worst witness in her impeachment trial (2026-11-06 19:02)

MANILA, Philippines — While she hopes that Vice President Sara Duterte will still show up for her impeachment trial, counsel for the prosecution Lorna Kapunan does not expect this to happen since the country's second-highest official will be the worst witness in her own case. Kapunan, in a press briefing on Friday at the Batasang

• DepEd saves ₱1.4B in landmark procurement of laptops via open bidding (2026-11-06 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines— The Department of Education (DepEd) saved at least P1.4 billion in procuring more than 231,000 laptops for public school teachers through an open and competitive bidding instead of through a negotiated procurement, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement on Friday. The procurement covers 169,008 Mac-based and 62,717 Windows-based laptops for teachers. The

• Verbal spat to ‘power hug’: Castro, Magalong strike a friendlier note (2026-11-06 18:16)

MANILA, Philippines — From verbal exchanges to a “power hug,” Palace press officer Claire Castro and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong appear to have put their past differences behind them. At a briefing on Friday, Castro said she interacted with Magalong during the ceremonial turnover of Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program (DRRAP) funds to local

• Palace tells Filipinos to upskill as ‘AI era’ sets in (2026-11-06 18:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday urged Filipino workers to acquire artificial intelligence (AI)-related skills to keep pace with changing labor market demands as the country navigates the “AI era.” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said that while AI may lead to job losses in some sectors, it could also create new employment opportunities, including higher-paying jobs.

• La Union prepares for worst of El Niño (2026-11-06 18:10)

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union — The La Union provincial government is distributing drought-resilient crop seeds and farm inputs, installing solar-powered irrigation systems, rehabilitating water impounding structures and expanding rainwater harvesting facilities as it prepares for the anticipated effects of a Super El Niño. These interventions aim to sustain agricultural production, protect farmers’ livelihoods and

• Rescue group slams UPLB memo on stray animals (2026-11-06 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines — An animal rescue group called for “systemic change” as it expressed concern over a directive issued by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) prohibiting security guards from feeding or sheltering stray animals. “Stray animals will not simply disappear because we stop feeding them or drive them away,” the Philippine Animal

• OSG urges SC: Define which flagged projects could continue (2026-11-06 17:57)

MANILA, Philippines — Government lawyers have asked the Supreme Court to clarify which projects in the unprogrammed appropriations under the 2024 and 2025 national budgets may continue despite the Court declaring such funding unconstitutional. The Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) filed an 85-page motion for clarification and partial reconsideration on Nov. 4 to the

• 8-hour power interruption set in parts of Ilocos Sur on Nov. 12 (2026-11-06 17:55)

SAN ILDEFONSO,, Ilocos Sur — Several areas in Vigan City and in five nearby municipalities of Ilocos Sur will experience a power interruption on Nov. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. due to upgrading, maintenance and clearing of electrical lines, according to the Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative Inc. (ISECO). In Vigan City, the affected

• Kapunan: VP Duterte defense has no reason to avoid tackling evidence (2026-11-06 17:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte has no reason to avoid addressing the prosecution's evidence already submitted to the Senate impeachment court when the trial resumes on Nov. 9. In a statement on Friday, private prosecutor Lorna Kapuna pointed out that the court had already affirmed the admissibility of key evidence

• SC affirms 5-year term for barangay, SK execs; next polls in Nov. 2028 (2026-11-06 17:24)

MANILA, Philippines–The Supreme Court (SC) has upheld the constitutionality of Republic Act No. (RA) 12326, affirming the extension of terms of office for barangay officials and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) members to five years and scheduling the next Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) for November 2028. In a decision written by now Chief Justice Rodil

• Pampanga pet crematorium closed for lack of business permit (2026-11-06 17:04)

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — The City of San Fernando's Inter-Agency Lawful Business Operations Coordination Task Force (IALBOCTF) shut down an animal crematorium in Barangay Panipuan for lack of a business permit. In a statement on Thursday evening, the San Fernando City Hall said its IALBOCTF inspected the Holistic Animal Doctor Crematorium on November 3. While

• LTFRB extends TNVS drivers' regularization deadline by 30 days (2026-11-06 17:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Drivers of Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) units operating under the so-called "tempo" status have been given an additional 30 days to apply for regularization, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said Friday, November 6. The extension gives TNVS drivers more time to secure authorization for their vehicles, which transport

• UPLB official defends stray animal memo, cites student safety (2026-11-06 16:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) defended a directive issued by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs prohibiting security guards from feeding or sheltering stray animals, particularly dogs, and from allowing them to roam or stay inside or near university

• Ombudsman: 4 more lawmakers face flood control preliminary probe (2026-11-06 16:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Friday disclosed that there are four more congressmen under preliminary investigation in connection with the anomalous flood

control projects. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla said that there are at least 79 cases linkedto the alleged irregularities of flood control government projects in the country, with 25

• DPWH: Phase 2 of Edsa rehabilitation works to resume Friday evening (2026-11-06 16:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Friday advised motorists to take alternative routes as it continues road reblocking and rehabilitation work along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa). In an advisory, the DPWH said that Phase 2 of the Edsa rehabilitation project will resume on Friday, at around 10

• Pangasinan-owned college granted Institutional Recognition by CHED (2026-11-06 16:40)

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan – The Pangasinan Polytechnic College (PPC) has received Institutional Recognition (IR) from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), less than three years after its inception. PPC President Emeritus Raymundo Rovillos said the IR was the “formal stamp that established PPC as a full-fledged higher education institution, and makes the college eligible for government

• Alleged drug trafficker caught with P5M in marijuana in Benguet (2026-11-06 16:31)

BAGUIO CITY — A 21-year-old construction worker was arrested on Thursday night when police caught him with about 43 kilograms of marijuana at Puguis in the Benguet capital town of La Trinidad. Police officers from the La Trinidad Municipal Police Station were conducting patrol operations in the area when they spotted two parked vehicles and

• LOOK: Rodil Zalameda takes oath as new chief justice (2026-11-06 16:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Rodil Zalameda on Friday took his oath as the country’s 28th chief justice, a day after Malacañang announced his appointment. All 15 members of the Supreme Court en banc, including outgoing Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo who was on his last day in office, were present in the oathtaking ceremony. READ: Who is

• PCSO, NBI bust Caloocan lotto outlet fronting for illegal numbers game; teller nabbed (2026-11-06 16:11)

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), raided an authorized lotto outlet on Wednesday, Nov. 4, after undercover operatives caught the establishment using its government license as a cover to run an illegal numbers racket. Operatives from the PCSO and the NBI Fraud and Financial Crimes Division

• Anti-narcotics agents seize P714,000 worth of shabu in CDO sting (2026-11-06 16:06)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Anti-narcotics operatives seized P714,000 worth of suspected shabu and arrested an alleged “high-value” drug personality in a late-night sting in Barangay 35 here on Thursday. The suspect, identified only by the alias “Atang,” 42, was arrested at around 10:35 p.m. during a joint buy-bust operation, the Police Regional Office-10 (PRO-10)

• Ombudsman to inspect Payatas jail over reported Romualdez escort (2026-11-06 16:03)

MANILA, Philippines – The Office of the Ombudsman will conduct unannounced inspections at the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas following reports that detained former House Speaker Martin Romualdez was escorted out of his dormitory by a jail warden. Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla announced the planned inspections on Friday, Nov. 6, warning that Bureau of

• Legarda files resolution probing pet remains scam in Bulacan (2026-11-06 15:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Loren Legarda on Friday filed a legislative resolution seeking to investigate the alleged dumping of remains of dogs and cats in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Legarda, through Senate Resolution No. 759, aims to open a Senate probe into reports involving Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, which

• Remulla to sue sources of fake news on his health, Romualdez's case (2026-11-06 15:34)

MANILA, Philippines – Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla announced on Friday that he will file complaints against vloggers and Facebook pages spreading false information on his health and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez's case at the Sandiganbayan. He said the Office of the Ombudsman will file complaints with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

• Palace wants probe into Romualdez's 24/7 QC jail aide (2026-11-06 15:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday called for a deeper investigation into why former Speaker Martin Romualdez was allowed to have a personal staff member to assist him inside the city jail. New Quezon City Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion told the Sandiganbayan Third Division that Romualdez had a 24/7 assistant based on "humanitarian grounds," adding

• Air Force retires iconic Huey helicopters as Black Hawks take over (2026-11-06 15:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has retired its last six operational UH-1H helicopters after newer Black Hawks took over most of their transport and disaster-response missions. PAF spokesperson Col. Alvin Jay Capinguian said on Friday that all six helicopters were still operational before their formal decommissioning on Thursday at Brig. Gen. Benito

• VP Duterte defense withdraws Dean Sarmiento as witness (2026-11-06 14:51)

MANILA, Philippines – The defense panel in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial has withdrawn its subpoena request for former law dean Ralph Sarmiento. In a manifestation submitted to the impeachment court on Thursday, Nov. 5, the defense panel requested that the court either cancel or recall the subpoena for Sarmiento. "Respondent-Accused, by counsel, respectfully

• Budget watchdog welcomes Dy's transparency commitment (2026-11-06 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines — A leading member of the People's Budget Coalition (PBC) welcomed Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III's commitment to greater transparency and accountability in

the national budget process and to working with civil society groups to achieve those goals. In aFacebook post, Kenneth Isaiah Ibasco Abante, a PBC member, thanked Dy for meeting

• Keep Christmas parties simple as peak of Super El Niño looms – Palace (2026-11-06 13:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Friday encouraged the public to keep the upcoming holiday celebrations simple as the country braces for the peak of Super El Niño. At a briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said government agencies concerned are preparing for the effects of Super El Niño, which include drought and possible water supply interruptions.

• INQToday: ICC protection sought for 55 witnesses in Duterte trial (2026-11-06 13:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's top stories this afternoon: The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecution is seeking protective and special measures for 55 witnesses who are set to testify in the crimes against humanity cases against former President Rodrigo Duterte. Meanwhile, the outcome of the US midterm elections could lead to a drop of

• LRT-1 to offer 2-hour free rides twice a day on Nov 9, 11, 13 amid Asean preps (2026-11-06 13:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Free rides will be offered at the Light Rail Transit 1 (LRT-1) on November 9 (Monday), 11 (Wednesday) and 13 (Friday). This comes amid road closures for the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit. According to the Department of Tourism (DOT), commuters may avail of the free rides next week

• Sara Duterte to use personal funds for HK trip on Nov. 6-8 (2026-11-06 12:29)

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte will travel to Hong Kong from Nov. 6 to 8 for various engagements, with all expenses to be shouldered by her personally, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) said Friday. In a statement, the OVP said Duterte would attend engagements and participate in various activities, including an

• Bus engine cover turns deadly for Quezon traveler (2026-11-06 12:25)

LUCENA CITY – A 20-year-old man was killed after the engine hood cover of a passing passenger bus detached and struck him while he was waiting for a ride in Atimonan, Quezon, early Thursday, police said. The victim was reportedly waiting along the roadside for a Manila-bound passenger bus at 12:20 a.m. in Barangay Tagbakin

• Impeachment court reinstates sub judice rule on all VP articles (2026-11-06 12:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has ruled that the sub judice rule will apply to all impeachment articles against Vice President Sara Duterte, including those withdrawn by the prosecution. In an order dated Nov. 5, the court reversed the earlier ruling of presiding officer Francis "Chiz" Escudero, which lifted the restriction on public

• Municipal employee shot dead in Bukidnon; manhunt on for suspects (2026-11-06 11:49)

QUEZON, Bukidnon — Colleagues and peers are in profound shock following the killing of a 37-year-old municipal government employee who was gunned down while riding home at dawn on Friday. The incident happened around 2:30 a.m. in Purok 4, Barangay Libertad here. According to the initial investigation by Quezon Police Station, led by Lt. Col.

• UPLB stray animal policy draws criticism (2026-11-06 11:28)

LUCENA CITY – The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) has barred security guards from feeding or sheltering stray animals, particularly dogs, and from allowing them to roam or stay inside and around university buildings. “Internal Security Guards are assigned to ensure the security and safety of buildings, not to allow the premises under

• Groups flag wage gap, seek wage hike as inflation hits 7.8% (2026-11-06 11:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Research group IBON Foundation and labor group Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO) have called for higher wages and stronger government intervention as inflation accelerated to 7.8% in October, saying rising prices of basic goods and services continued to erode workers’ purchasing power. In separate statements on Thursday, the two

• Impeach court junks plea to admit COA docs as proof in ‘unexplained wealth’ (2026-11-06 11:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has denied the prosecution’s request to admit the Commission on Audit (COA) documents as evidence in Vice President Sara Duterte’s impeachment trial. The prosecution hoped to corroborate the COA documents for Article II, or Duterte’s alleged unexplained wealth, despite presenting the exhibits in Article I, or the vice

• Mariveles investigates oil spill report (2026-11-06 11:06)

MARIVELES, Bataan – Mariveles’ agriculture office is investigating an oil spill reported by fishermen in waters off the sub-village of Naswe in Barangay Ipag. Guillermo Mangayao, a staff member of the Mariveles Municipal Agriculture Office, said they have not yet determined where the oil slick originated. Fishermen spotted about 25 liters of crude or used

• 15-year-old charged with parricide over mother’s killing in Bohol (2026-11-06 10:53)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A 15-year-old child in conflict with the law (CICL) was formally charged with parricide for the killing of the minor’s 46-year-old mother in Panglao, Bohol, police said. Police Capt. Kentbel Ceasar Parcon, chief of the Panglao Municipal Police Station, said authorities filed the parricide charge, noting that they handled the case in

• Help needed to find wallet with P100,000 taken at Bohol cathedral (2026-11-06 10:37)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Police are seeking the public’s assistance in identifying a man caught on a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera taking a wallet containing an estimated P100,000 cash

inside St. Joseph the Worker Cathedral-Shrine in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Bohol Police Provincial Director Col. Patricio Degay Jr. on Thursday ordered a swift investigation into the incident

• UE tells alumnus Zalameda: Always defend Constitution (2026-11-06 10:35)

MANILA, Philippines—The University of the East (UE) on Friday expressed hope that its alumnus – newly-appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda – will go on upholding the Constitution and fairness in the judiciary. Zalameda earned his bachelor's degree in political science from UE Manila. "The UE community wishes Chief Justice Zalameda continued courage to

• Marcos swears in 10 Cabinet members; calls them 'best team ever' (2026-11-06 10:19)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday swore in several Cabinet officials who received ad-interim appointments in a ceremony at Malacañang. Following are the names of the officials: In a candid moment before administering their oaths of office, Marcos praised the 10 officials and described them as the best group ever formed since the

• EcoWaste seeks crackdown on unsafe, unauthorized squishy toys (2026-11-06 10:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The EcoWaste Coalition has called for a government crackdown on unauthorized and counterfeit squishy toys, urging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to work with customs, police and local government units to stop their sale ahead of the Christmas shopping season. The environmental and health watchdog group said squishy toys lacking market

• Oriental Mindoro rolls out El Niño plan for water, food security (2026-11-06 09:53)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Governor Humerlito Dolor has laid out the provincial action plan for water and food security amid the effects of the El Niño. The local official made the plan through Executive Order No. 29, Series of 2026, which he posted on his social media page on November 3. The provincial government is lining up alternative water sources, drought tolerant seeds, food

• Marbled monitor lizard rescued, released into wild in Batanes (2026-11-06 08:54)

SANTA ANA, Cagayan — A marbled monitor lizard found inside a resident's stockroom in Basco, Batanes, was rescued and returned to its natural habitat on Thursday, Nov. 5. The resident voluntarily surrendered the reptile to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Batanes to ensure its safe handling. The lizard, scientifically known as

• Zalameda asked to restore people's trust in the justice system (2026-11-06 08:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan challenged on Friday newly-appointed Supreme Court Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda to bring back Filipinos' trust in the justice system. Zalameda was appointed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to take the place of Chief Justice

Alexander Gesmundo, who is set to retire on Friday. “Leading the reform in the

• Leni Robredo urged to decide on 2028 presidential bid by January (2026-11-06 08:09)

LEGAZPI CITY — Former Vice President and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo should decide by January 2027 whether to run for president in 2028 to give herself enough time to prepare for the campaign. This is what Naga City Vice Mayor Gaby Bordado said in a phone interview on Thursday (November 5). Bordado said

• Easterlies to bring rains to most parts of PH on Friday (2026-11-06 07:23)

MANILA, Philippines — The easterlies will bring scattered to isolated rains to most parts of the country on Friday, the state weather bureau said. In its 5 a.m. forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the easterlies are affecting all areas, except Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan Valley. These

• SC adopts ‘child-friendly’ rules for court testimony (2026-11-06 05:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Children, whether victims of crimes or those accused of committing an offense, now have the option to skip in-person testimony in court to alleviate any trauma from experiences related to a case, the Supreme Court has ruled. It approved the revised rule on the examination of child witnesses to establish the use

• Remulla: No truth to ‘chismis’ Romualdez can freely leave jail (2026-11-06 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Thursday described as “chismis” (gossip) a retired columnist’s allegation that Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez could freely go in and out of the New Quezon City Jail in Payatas where he is detained on a plunder charge. “That’s just gossip. I would like all of you to

• Comelec says Barangay residency certificate, cedula not valid IDs (2026-11-06 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) will not accept a barangay certificate of residency and cedula (community tax certificate) as proof of identity for voter registration. In an interview on Thursday, Comelec Chair George Erwin Garcia said the poll body had uncovered cases in which barangay officials issued certificates to individuals who were

• Malampaya milestone: Gas flows from Phase 4 wells (2026-11-06 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos on Thursday led the ceremonial activation of the first gas flow from new Malampaya wells that are seen to help cushion the country from fluctuating global oil prices, especially amid the unresolved Middle East crisis. The Malampaya Phase 4 project at the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant in Tabangao Ambulong, Batangas

• First of 25 witnesses for Sara Duterte defense backs out (2026-11-06 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Former University of St. La Salle law dean Ralph Sarmiento has declined to testify for the defense of Vice President Sara Duterte in her impeachment trial, withdrawing shortly after being announced as the first of the 25 witnesses lined up by her lawyers to challenge allegations of unexplained wealth. Sarmiento, who earlier

• Zalameda is new Chief Justice (2026-11-06 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — With the promise of stamping out corruption in the judiciary and keeping it capable and independent, Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is taking the helm of the Supreme Court as its 28th Chief Justice. President Marcos appointed Zalameda to take over from Alexander Gesmundo, who is retiring, Communications Secretary Lino Cayetano announced on

• BARMM chief forms Cabinet (2026-11-06 05:06)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Six days after being elected to lead the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Thursday announced the composition of his Cabinet that he expects will sustain the moral governance agenda put in place upon the establishment of the regional government in 2019. The 19

• In Albay, Mayon evacuees get aid as volcanic unrest persists (2026-11-06 05:04)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Hundreds of families displaced by Mayon’s unrest are receiving P5,005 each under the government’s cash-for-work program as the volcano remains under alert level 3. In the town of Camalig, about 600 evacuees from five barangays received the assistance after completing 11 days of community work, including cleanup drives, debris removal,

• Group vows to watch IP consent process (2026-11-06 05:02)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Indigenous peoples’ (IP) rights activists, scholars and local policymakers are pushing back against what they described as the “weakening” of the free and prior informed consent (FPIC) process for tribal communities potentially hosting development projects. The civil society group FPIC Watch was launched here on Thursday, aiming to monitor and shield

• 1 killed, another wounded as firecracker ‘factory’ in Iligan explodes (2026-11-06 00:32)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — A 34-year-old man was killed while a woman was injured in an explosion allegedly involving chemicals used in firecracker manufacturing in Barangay Upper Tominobo here on Thursday afternoon, November 5, police said. In a spot report, the Iligan City Police Office (ICPO) said personnel of Police Station 2 responded to the

• P900,000 in properties damaged, 2 killed in Iligan City fire (2026-11-06 00:18)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) has estimated that up to P900,000 in properties were damaged in a fire that gutted an eight-door apartment and an adjacent house in Barangay Pala-o here early Thursday, Nov. 5, killing two women. FO2 Ruel Pairat, arson investigator of BFP-Iligan, said the estimate followed a post-blaze assessment they did

• Balanga's mangroves natural shield vs floods, lifeline for fisherfolks (2026-11-05 23:36)

MANILA, Philippines — For years, coastal communities in Balanga City lived with a growing sense of uncertainty. Floodwaters regularly threatened homes and fishponds during high tide, especially when accompanied by strong winds and storms. At the same time, fish catches declined as mangrove forests that once protected the coastline were cut down and degraded, making

• Manila Archbishop orders prayers for rain amid El Niño threat (2026-11-05 23:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula has ordered all parishes and communities in the Archdiocese of Manila to pray for rain amid the threat of a strong El Niño that could bring prolonged drought and water scarcity. In a circular released on Thursday, Advincula directed churches to include the Oratio Imperata ad Petendam

• Entire SK council in Sarangani resigns over canceled polls (2026-11-05 23:14)

KORONADAL CITY, SOUTH COTABATO, Philippines — An entire 10-member Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) council in Malungon, Sarangani province has resigned altogether—declining two more years in office as a result of the postponement of the Barangay and SK Elections (BSKE)—saying they can't keep postponing their personal and career plans. Last September, President Marcos signed Republic Act No.

• Agusan del Sur logs 20 dengue deaths as infections keep rising (2026-11-05 22:42)

SAN FRANCISCO, AGUSAN DEL SUR, Philippines — Some 20 people have died from mosquito-borne dengue infection in Agusan del Sur province in the last 10 months, with the number of cases continuing to rise in the past five weeks. The last two deaths happened between Tuesday and Wednesday this week. From only 14 deaths as

• Comelec targets 3M additional voters for 2028 polls (2026-11-05 22:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is targeting an additional three million registered voters ahead of the May 2028 national and local elections as it prepares to open a nine-month voter registration period. Registration will run from Nov. 10, 2026, to July 30, 2027. However, registration in Naga City and Batanes will begin

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 5: No winners for ₱87.84-M jackpot (2026-11-05 21:57)

MANILA, Philippines—No ticket holder won the ₱87.84-million Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot or the ₱10 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, draws, according to results from

the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The Super Lotto 6/49 draw produced thewinning combination 10-46-40-39-04-16, with a jackpot prize of ₱87.84 million. No bettormatched

• Romualdez camp: False claim of jailbreak shows danger of unverified info (2026-11-05 21:38)

MANILA, Philippines — False claim by columnist Ramon Tulfo that Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez could get in and out of jail highlights the danger of publicizing unverified information, as the detained lawmaker's legal counsel noted that the damage had already been done before the remarks were retracted. In a statement on Thursday, Romualdez's lawyer, Ade

• 6 hurt as fire destroys 21 houses in Tacloban village (2026-11-05 21:22)

TACLOBAN CITY – At least 21 houses, mostly made of light materials, burned in a fire that hit one of this city's villages on Thursday morning, Nov. 5. The fire that hit Batangas 42-A in Quarry district started at about 10:10 a.m. READ: Fire engulfs 25 houses in Tacloban village Based on the initial report from

• Michelin-starred Manila restaurant eyes Samar delicacies for 2027 menu (2026-11-05 21:07)

TACLOBAN CITY — From shrimp-filled lumpia and smoked fish to seaweed salad, traditional salt, heirloom coffee and native rice cakes, the culinary treasures of Samar Island may soon find their way onto the tables of one of the Philippines' most acclaimed restaurants. Hapag MNL, a one-Michelin-star Filipino fine-dining restaurant in Makati City, has explored communities

• INQToday: Rodil Zalameda is new SC chief justice (2026-11-05 20:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's top stories for Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026, as of 6 p.m. Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is new SC chief justice President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil V. Zalameda to serve as the next chief justice of the Supreme Court, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino

• Watchdog: Speaker Dy to convene House budget panel to discuss reforms (2026-11-05 20:25)

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III pledged to convene the House Appropriations Committee to discuss potential reforms aimed at boosting budgeting transparency, a watchdog representative said on Thursday. Speaking at a media briefing after a meeting with lawmakers, People's Budget Coalition co-convener Kenneth Abante said he met with Dy on Wednesday evening

• Luistro praises ex-law dean's reason for declining to be VP witness (2026-11-05 20:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Rep. Gerville Luistro praised former law dean Ralph Sarmiento on Thursday for his reason for declining to be a defense witness in Vice President Sara Z. Duterte's impeachment trial. In an interview on ANC's "Headstart" with Karen Davila, Luistro, the lead House prosecutor, said she appreciated Sarmiento's explanation that he would like to

• Dangerous heat index expected in 3 areas on Friday – Pagasa (2026-11-05 19:52)

MANILA, Philippines — A dangerous heat index is forecast on Friday in Coron, Palawan, as well as in Dipolog City and Butuan City. In its latest heat index forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that Coron, Palawan may experience a heat index of 43 °C while Dipolog and Butuan may

• PTFoMS backs decriminalizing libel (2026-11-05 19:34)

IPIL, Zamboanga Sibugay – The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) expressed support to the moves of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and other media groups to decriminalize libel. Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr., PTFOMS executive director, said it is still necessary to have a libel law for the protection of citizens.

• Luistro: No 'fishing expedition' in wealth case vs VP Duterte (2026-11-05 19:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial did not go on a "fishing expedition" as its evidence came from her own records, along with those of her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, and their alleged companies. Rep. Gerville Luistro, the lead prosecutor, made this denial on Wednesday in an

• Butuan readies Mt. Mayapay View Deck for sustainable, regulated tourism (2026-11-05 19:16)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Butuan City is moving to balance tourism development and environmental protection as it prepares the popular Mayapay View Site / Mt. MayapayView Deck for broader public access and sustainable eco-tourism. The Butuan City Public Information Office (PIO) reported that a comprehensive evaluation is underway to upgrade safety protocols, establish

• Valencia City joins nationwide magnitude 8.5 mega-quake drill (2026-11-05 19:01)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon – Ten-year-old Ray Mark woke up early with one thing in mind: survival. Located 15 kilometers from Valencia City's economic hub, the Tongan Tongan Elementary School student joined thousands of "terrified yet prepared citizens across the nation." They dove under desks for the life-saving "duck, cover, and hold" routine as the Fourth

• Montenegro Shipping cancels Odiongan-Batangas trips on Nov. 6 (2026-11-05 18:42)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Montenegro Shipping Lines Inc. has temporarily suspended its ferry trips from Odiongan town in Romblon, to Batangas on Friday (Nov. 6), according to a travel advisory. The advisory did not specify the reason for the suspension. READ: More int’l shipping lines calling on Batangas port Affected passengers were advised to

• Marcos warns LGUs against corruption in P8.6-B disaster funds (2026-11-05 18:30)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday warned local government units (LGUs) against corruption in the use of P8.6 billion in disaster funds, saying those who profit from the suffering of their fellow Filipinos would face legal consequences. Marcos issued the warning during the ceremonial turnover of Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program

• Robredo: No room for unauthorized budget insertions in Naga City (2026-11-05 18:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo said Thursday that there is no room for unauthorized budget insertions in the city’s budget. In a media interview following the ceremonial turnover of Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance Program (DRRAP) funds to local government units (LGUs) at Malacañan Palace, Robredo discussed Naga City’s budget preparation process. READ:

• Bacoor City eyeing city-owned pet crematorium (2026-11-05 18:26)

LUCENA CITY — Bacoor City in Cavite is planning to put up a city-owned pet crematorium amid the controversy over a private facility that has been accused of mishandling the remains of animals entrusted to it. “Our goal is also to establish a city-owned pet crematorium to provide proper, reliable and affordable services for our

• 3 arrested for transporting fish allegedly caught via explosives (2026-11-05 18:18)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Three individuals were arrested for transporting fish allegedly caught using explosives after authorities intercepted a vehicle carrying 47 boxes of assorted fish at a checkpoint in Brooke’s Point, Palawan, on Wednesday. The suspects were apprehended along the National Highway in Barangay Maasin by the Philippine National Police Maritime Group’s 2nd

• NBI prepares 6 complaints against people behind dumping of pet remains (2026-11-05 18:16)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said Thursday it is preparing to file six complaints against individuals allegedly involved in dumping pet remains, which were supposedly intended for cremation, inside sacks and plastic bags at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. NBI Director Melvin Matibag made the statement after

• Pet crematorium issue exposes gaps in animal welfare laws – analyst (2026-11-05 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Cases of animal neglect that have recently drawn public attention — from the abandonment of pet remains entrusted to crematoriums to recurring incidents of animal abuse — underscore the need to strengthen the country's animal welfare mechanisms. This was the assessment of Dr. Alicor Panao, an Inquirer data scientist and associate professor

• Bacoor City eyeing waste-to-energy technology amid garbage problem (2026-11-05 17:44)

LUCENA CITY – With more than half a million kilograms of waste generated daily, Bacoor City is eyeing waste-to-energy (WTE) technology as a potential long-term solution to its garbage management problem. Mayor Strike Revilla said in a Facebook post on Thursday that the city generates about 533,622.98 kilograms of waste every day. "In response to

• Walang Pasok: Class suspensions on Friday (Nov. 6) due to high heat index (2026-11-05 17:37)

MANILA, Philippines — In-person classes were cancelled in Albay on Friday (Nov. 6) due to the expected extreme heat and scheduled power interruption. Bicol Region READ: Walang Pasok: High heat index prompts class suspensions on Nov. 3 The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration earlier reported that the heat index in Coron, Palawan, Dumangas,

• Laguna de Bay water level drops to 11.84 meters amid El Niño (2026-11-05 17:35)

LUCENA CITY — The water level of Laguna de Bay continued to decline, reaching 11.84 meters on Thursday (Nov. 5) under El Niño conditions, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) reported. The lake's water level dropped from 11.87 meters which was recorded on Wednesday (Nov. 4). Based on its latest monitoring, the agency said the

• Mansalay town now fossil fuel-free, pushes shift to renewable power (2026-11-05 17:35)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Green energy advocates have welcomed Mansalay town's declaration as a fossil fuel-free and renewable energy municipality, calling it a significant step toward reducing Mindoro's dependence on oil-based power and expanding access to clean energy. Through Resolution No. 429-2026, the Mansalay municipal government committed to integrate renewable energy into its local

• Upgraded ALECO substation unveiled in Ligao City, Albay (2026-11-05 17:35)

LIGAO CITY — Households and businesses in parts of Albay's third district are expected to experience fewer power outages and benefit from the upgrading of the Albay Electric Cooperative Inc. (ALECO) substation in this city. The upgraded facility in Barangay Dunao was unveiled on Wednesday, with a doubled installed capacity of 40 megavolt-amperes (MVA) from

• Fatalities in Pangasinan fireworks blast increase to five (2026-11-05 17:31)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The number of fatalities in the explosion and fire that gutted a suspected illegal fireworks factory in the Pangasinan town of Malasiqui rose to five. The increase in number happened after authorities retrieved the body of another victim at the blast site. The newly-discovered remains join two minors and two adults who

• Leadership dispute grips Univ. of Cagayan Valley (2026-11-05 17:23)

TUGUEGARAO CITY – University of Cagayan Valley, Inc. (UCV), one of the Cagayan Valley ‘s oldest educational institutions has been rocked by a leadership dispute among the stockholders. University officials, however, said they remain “committed to institutional integrity, peace and stability within its academic community” and will ensure “continued delivery” of quality education. UCV President Esther

• 7 missing crewmen found safe after Quezon boat mishap (2026-11-05 17:16)

LUCENA CITY – The seven crewmen reported missing after their cargo boat capsized off Jomalig town in Quezon early Wednesday (Nov. 4), were rescued at 1 p.m. on the same day, police said in an updated report. READ: 7 men missing after cargo boat capsizes off Jomalig, Quezon The men were located 10 hours after

• Inquirer Volunteers Batch ’ 26 gets first taste of newsroom work (2026-11-05 16:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Aspiring young journalists received their first introduction to newsroom work as Inquirer.net welcomed a new batch of volunteers through an orientation program in Makati City on Friday, Oct. 30. Held at work.able, Robinsons Summit Center, the session covered the fundamentals of news gathering, reporting and storytelling, as well as the responsible use

• Puno: Lawmakers back Senate move to scrap projects lacking documents (2026-11-05 16:54)

MANILA, Philippines – Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said Thursday that lawmakers support the Senate’ s push to strip projects lacking proper documentation from the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for next year. On Tuesday, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said the Senate would remove about 295 infrastructure projects worth P8.8 billion from the budget bill, citing the lack

• Pagasa: Amihan, easterlies to affect parts of PH on Friday (2026-11-05 16:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon may continue to affect Northern Luzon, while the easterlies may prevail over the rest of the country on Friday, Nov. 6, the state weather bureau said. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the northeast monsoon, or amihan, may

• Macacua names new BARMM Cabinet members (2026-11-05 16:36)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Thursday afternoon named the Cabinet members of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The Cabinet included nine members of the Bangsamoro Parliament, along with officials who will head the region's ministries and key offices under BARMM's first elected government. READ: 50 applicants vie for

• BARMM's Macacua congratulates new SC Chief Justice Zalameda (2026-11-05 16:15)

COTABATO CITY — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof "Sammy Gambar" Macacua congratulated Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda on his appointment as the country's 28th Chief Justice. In a statement issued by the Bangsamoro government on Thursday, Macacua extended his "warmest congratulations" to Zalameda on behalf of the regional government and the people of the Bangsamoro

• House adds clause to correct budget bill's tech errors, wrong project details (2026-11-05 16:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia said on Thursday that the House of Representatives incorporated a provision into the P7.2-trillion budget bill authorizing corrections to clerical errors in blueprint details. Garcia, the senior vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said a special provision was added into the budget of the Department of Public

• League of Provinces reaffirms support for BARMM (2026-11-05 16:06)

KORONADAL CITY — The League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), headed by South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr., reaffirmed its support for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Tamayo assured the LPP's support for the BARMM during his visit to Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua on Wednesday to personally congratulate him. Tamayo, who

• GenCorp's P520-M sales surge raises questions over VP Duterte ties (2026-11-05 15:44)

MANILA, Philippines — How can GenCorp Industries Inc., a company linked to Vice President Sara Z. Duterte, allegedly increase its annual sales from P28 million to more than P520 million in four years despite having only P1.25 million in paid-in capital? Former Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, House prosecution adviser and spokesperson, posed this question during

• Legarda seeks probe into 'unconscionable' dumping of pet remains (2026-11-05 15:42)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Loren Legarda has joined her colleagues in the Senate in pushing for a thorough and impartial investigation into the reported dumping of dog and cat remains in Bulacan, describing the incident as "deeply disturbing" and "unconscionable." "I strongly condemn the reported dumping of deceased dogs and cats in San Jose del

• LTO revokes licenses of 2 drivers involved in 'gas-and-run' (2026-11-05 15:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Thursday said it revoked the driver's licenses of two taxi drivers involved in a gas-and-run incident after failure to provide sufficient explanation after being summoned. According to the LTO, a taxi driver ran away without paying for his gas at a gasoline station. The LTO then

• Barbers: No BIR record proving Mans Carpio sold Cale88 shares (2026-11-05 15:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has no tax clearance to prove that lawyer Manases "Mans" Carpio, Vice President Sara Z. Duterte's husband, had actually transferred his alleged shares in Cale88 Foods Corp. Former Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, House impeachment adviser and spokesperson, pointed this out in a press briefing on Wednesday,

• Zambo Army general backs press freedom, urges media responsibility (2026-11-05 15:21)

IPIL, Zamboanga Sibugay – In an exchange between the military and local press, an Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) general vowed to uphold press freedom while emphasizing the vital need for accuracy and ethical responsibility in journalism. Speaking at the opening of the Presidential Task Force on Media Security's (PTFoMS) two-day Media Safety and

• DepEd eyes data-driven approach to class suspensions under new EO (2026-11-05 14:39)

MANILA, Philippines— The Department of Education (DepEd) is moving away from blanket class cancellations to a more data-driven approach under Executive Order (EO) No. 130, which was issued recently by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. According to its statement on Thursday, DepEd is finalizing a comprehensive joint memorandum circular (JMC) with partner agencies to set

• 30 ex-NPA rebels undergo debriefing in Agusan del Sur (2026-11-05 14:38)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Thirty former New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Agusan del Sur took another step toward full reintegration into civilian life after completing a six-day deradicalization and values formation workshop, a social welfare official said. Razel Montemor, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office Chief, said the former communist guerrillas attended

• Speaker Dy defends congressional budget tweaks amid public scrutiny (2026-11-05 14:36)

MANILA, Philippines – House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III on Thursday said congressional amendments to the P7.2-trillion proposed budget for next year should not be automatically presumed to involve corruption and wrongdoing as the chamber faces heightened scrutiny over its spending bill. "Not all changes made by Congress to the budget are wrong," Dy said

• Solon: Ex-dean's withdrawal right; Duterte's camp must address numbers (2026-11-05 14:34)

MANILA, Philippines — A former law school dean's decision to beg off from his presentation as a witness in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial is correct, Bicol Saro party-list

Rep. Terry Ridon said. He explains that this is because what should be addressed are numbersconcerning the unexplained wealth issue, and not legalities. Ridon in

• Massive fire guts large part of Subic Freeport factory (2026-11-05 14:27)

OLONGAPO CITY -The fire that broke out at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on Wednesday night gutted a large part of Jinboway Technology Ltd. Corporation inside the Subic Gateway Park, the Inquirer learned. The fire, which was the biggest in recent years inside the Freeport, started at 10:45 pm on Wednesday and lasted past 6

• Who is Rodil Zalameda, the new chief justice? (2026-11-05 14:03)

MANILA, Philippines – Newly-appointed chief justice Rodil Zalameda, 63, is a longtime public servant, having served as city prosecutor and associate justice of the Court of Appeals (CA) and the Supreme Court (SC). Under a scholarship grant, Zalameda obtained his law degree from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1987. As a law student, he

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANILA, Philippines — House Speaker Faustino “Bojie” Dy III expressed support on Thursday for proposals to make the national budget process more transparent, saying Filipinos have the right to know how public funds are allocated and spent. In a statement, Dy said the House is open to disclosing supporting documents for government projects, making budget deliberations

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

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

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

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

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

BAGUIO CITY — Indigenous activists and policymakers on Thursday formally launched and organized a group to monitor and assert the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for

ancestral land and ancestral domain holders across the Philippines amid encroaching developers and government projects. The FPIC Watch will also draft alternative mechanisms for government protection

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A fire broke out at the Jinboway facility inside Subic Gateway Park Phase II in the Subic Bay Freeport, raging for nearly eight hours before being brought under control at 5:45 a.m. on

Thursday, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). SBMA CommunicationsHead Armie Llamas said the fire spread rapidly, fueled by textile

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or amihan and easterlies will continue to bring rains to parts of the country on Thursday, Nov. 5, according to the state weather bureau. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services

Administration (Pagasa) said weather specialist Obet Badrina reported that amihan would affect

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) arrested a 38-year-old man in Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday in connection with the suspected P5.78 million worth of smuggled cigarettes. According to the PNP, the suspect, identified as Romnick Fuentes, was captured at around 1:25 a.m. during its anti-smuggling operation in Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur. Authorities

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

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

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

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

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

MANILA, Philippines – Vice President Sara Duterte's defense lawyers will present a former law dean as its first witness to refute the prosecution's claims that Duterte amassed unexplained

wealth in office when her trial resumes next week. Duterte's defense team Fortun Narvasa & Salazar law firm informed the prosecution team on Wednesday it intends to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

previously urged expanding the pool of motorcycle taxi drivers, as the two-wheeled service has become a

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

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

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

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

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

COTABATO CITY – The Philippine Army's 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division and Joint Task Force Central (JTFC) on Wednesday recognized soldiers and police officers who spearheaded security operations during the historic opening of the first elected Bangsamoro parliament and the election of the region's first chief minister. The event was graced by President Ferdinand R. Marcos

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANILA, Philippines – The Supreme Court (SC) has dismissed for being moot the petition filed by Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez challenging the preliminary investigation

conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman regarding his alleged involvement in the flood control projects controversy. Romualdez filed the petition asking the SC to invalidate the Ombudsman's

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LUCENA CITY — Volcanic earthquakes continue to shake Taal Volcano in Batangas province, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in a bulletin on Wednesday morning. The volcano registered 30 volcanic earthquakes over the past 24 hours. Phivolcs recorded 28 quakes on Nov. 3, 22 on Nov. 2, and only three on Nov.

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

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

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

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

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

MANILA, Philippines — The gap between Vice President Sara Duterte and her predecessor, Leni Robredo, in a hypothetical presidential race has narrowed by 7 percentage points, based on the

results of a survey conducted by Octa Research. According to the survey, 40 percent of adultFilipinos said they would vote for Duterte if the May

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• DepEd: Over 172,000 teachers, staff to get Apple laptops (2026-11-04 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has secured 172,654 Apple MacBook Neo laptops worth over P7.4 billion for public school teachers and administrative personnel, with a five-year warranty and a unit price lower than the devices' suggested retail price (SRP). The procurement forms part of the government's effort to equip educators with digital

• COA: P17-B infra works have 'visible defects' (2026-11-04 05:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Audit (COA) found 300 infrastructure projects across the country worth P17.3 billion to be riddled with “visible defects” as it advised the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to adopt “corrective measures.” In its 2025 audit report, the agency flagged 71 projects costing P4.33 billion in the first

• Dole launches 24/7 hotline for El Niño-related work concerns (2026-11-04 05:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) has launched a new hotline called 15/30, as part of preparations for the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to intensify this month until March next year. The nationwide hotline serves as a 24/7 help desk through which workers and their employers may raise job-related

• Latest DPWH stink: P491-M ‘right-of-way scam’; 6 face graft raps (2026-11-04 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges in the Sandiganbayan against six former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials over their alleged involvement in the irregular acquisition of road right-of-way (ROW), worth at least P491 million, in General Santos City. The Ombudsman said it found

• Palace to police chief: Get Dela Rosa despite PNP past (2026-11-04 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday challenged the leadership of the Philippine National Police to ensure that Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s past position as PNP chief during the Duterte administration would not stand in the way of operations to serve him the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Palace press officer

• LTFRB fines Move It P555.75M over excess rider-partners (2026-11-04 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has imposed a P555.75-million penalty on motorcycle taxi platform Move It for exceeding its authorized number of rider-partners. Move It was authorized to operate only 17,746 rider-partners across Metro Manila, Cebu City, and Cagayan de Oro, but it exceeded this limit by 55,575 riders,

• Palace: Budget red flags can lead again to Marcos veto (2026-11-04 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos will not hesitate to exercise his veto power to remove questionable allocations from the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for 2027, Malacañang said on Tuesday, after civil society watchdogs flagged more than P1 trillion in allegedly irregular spending and pork-barrel items in the House-approved version of the measure. Palace press officer

• Biz group to DOTr: Don’t open busway to private cars (2026-11-04 05:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) is pushing back against the Department of Transportation’s (DOTr) decision to temporarily allow private cars on the Edsa Busway, saying this would defeat the project’s very purpose. “Dedicated bus

roadway and only regulated buses with high-volume capacity are the design imperatives for theBusway," the

• BARMM chief minister speeds up Cabinet formation (2026-11-04 05:06)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof "Sammy Gambar" Macacua has given the selection committee for top positions in the Bangsamoro government until 5 p.m. today to submit the possible appointees to his Cabinet. The positions to be filled include at least 15 ministers and deputy ministers, and a number of heads of

• Western Visayas, Soccsksargen workers to get wage hikes by Nov. 19 (2026-11-04 05:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Minimum wage earners in Western Visayas and Soccsksargen will receive higher pay starting Nov. 19, following the approval of new wage orders granting increases of up to P45 a day. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced on Tuesday that the National Wages and Productivity Commission had approved the wage adjustments following consultations between

• Urdaneta City bids farewell to fallen pilot who inspired his village (2026-11-04 05:02)

URDANETA CITY, PANGASINAN, Philippines — He dreamed of bringing his family together under one roof and inspiring young people in his village. But Capt. Raymart Cabangcala came home not to fulfill those dreams, but to be laid to rest. A helicopter carrying the remains of the 30-year-old Philippine Air Force (PAF) pilot landed at Urdaneta

• PRO-12 campaign vs loose firearms nets 8 persons, 116 guns (2026-11-04 00:41)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Police authorities in Soccsksargen or Region 12 announced that eight persons have been arrested and 116 firearms surrendered or recovered during simultaneous law enforcement operations from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. During the weeklong period, police conducted 109 operations against loose firearms, Brig. Gen. Alan Manibog, Police Regional Office (PRO-12)

• Abra de Ilog develops ecotourism plan for Luyang Baga Cave (2026-11-04 00:34)

CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO, Philippines — The local government of Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro is drawing up a sustainable ecotourism management plan for Luyang Baga Cave to ensure its future development protects the natural site while promoting community participation. The municipality conducted a three-day planning workshop from Oct. 27 to 29 in Sablayan,

• Refill vending machine tested in Baguio to reduce plastic waste (2026-11-03 23:35)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — A refill vending machine designed to reduce plastic waste, particularly single-use sachets, was pilot-tested along Session Road recently as part of efforts to encourage the use of reusable containers. In a statement on Tuesday (Nov. 3), the Baguio City Public Information Office said the machine, developed under the Circuflow, or Circuit

• 30-year-old man rescued from drowning at La Union beach (2026-11-03 23:18)

SAN ILDEFONSO, ILOCOS SUR, Philippines — Coast Guard personnel rescued a 30-year-old man swept into deeper waters by strong currents off Acapulco Beach in Barangay San Francisco, City of San Fernando, in nearby La Union on Monday, Nov. 2. The Coast Guard Station La Union Baywatch team brought the man ashore before transporting him via

• Solon wants informal economy workers granted health insurance (2026-11-03 23:17)

MANILA, Philippines — A lawmaker has asked his colleagues in the House to approve a measure that would grant health insurance to workers in the informal economy, to ensure that they will have a financial safety net during unanticipated health crises. In a statement on Tuesday, Quezon City Rep. Patrick Michael Vargas said he has

• Move It accountability, rider protection sought after P555.75M penalty (2026-11-03 22:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Advocacy and transport groups on Tuesday called for motorcycle taxi platform Move It to be held accountable for exceeding its authorized rider allocation, while urging regulators to protect the livelihoods of rider-partners affected by the company's violations. The calls came after the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) imposed a P555.75-million

• PH-based parcel scam hub busted, 159 foreign nationals rounded up (2026-11-03 22:34)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 159 foreign nationals, including 128 Indonesians, were rounded up at an alleged "parcel scam hub" in Pasay City on Tuesday, Nov. 2, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said. According to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the new scheme that has been operating for three months targeted Vietnamese, Chinese,

• Security guard in Bohol ignores injury, found dead the next day (2026-11-03 22:33)

PANGLAO, BOHOL, Philippines — A 36-year-old security guard was found dead inside a guardhouse at a construction site in Barangay Lourdes, Panglao, Bohol, on Tuesday morning, Nov. 3. The victim was identified as Eulalio Abandingo Jr., a resident of Barangay Looc, Panglao. Barangay Lourdes chairperson Eva Lorete received a call at around 7 a.m. informing

• 765 firearms surrendered, deposited in Bicol campaign (2026-11-03 22:23)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Police in the Bicol region have accounted for 765 firearms with expired registrations, including 535 voluntarily deposited by their owners and 230 surrendered during police operations, the Police Regional Office 5 (PRO 5) said. The figures were reported on Tuesday (Nov. 2) during the launch of Project Kasurog: Bantay Baril

• La Union cops open to probe into alleged protection of illegal gambling (2026-11-03 22:17)

SAN ILDEFONSO, ILOCOS SUR, Philippines — The La Union Police Provincial Office (LUPPO) asserted on Monday (Nov. 2) that it does not tolerate corruption or the involvement of its

personnel in illegal activities, adding that it takes seriously allegations that its officer-in-chargewas protecting illegal gambling operations, including “peryahan” activities in somemunicipalities. In a

• 3 killed in separate shooting incidents in BARMM (2026-11-03 22:04)

COTABATO CITY – Three persons were killed in separate incidents of shooting in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao on Tuesday morning, police said. In Marawi City, according to Capt. Steffi Salanguit, police spokesperson for the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR), a long standing land dispute led to a shooting incident involving four

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 3: No winner for ₱478.3M jackpot (2026-11-03 22:01)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱478.3 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draw on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. The winning combination for Ultra Lotto 6/58 was 16-55-01-06-27-14, which carried a jackpot prize of ₱478.3 million. No ticket matched all six numbers. The Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot also had no

• Nartatez says there is ‘secrecy’ in police operations (2026-11-03 21:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said that it is working quietly and only gives information when necessary after Sen. Panfilo Lacson reminded authorities to keep high-profile cases discreet. “There is always secrecy in our police operations. If there is a need for us to talk and or give the details,

• Manila Water releases November desludging schedule (2026-11-03 21:34)

MANILA, Philippines — As Filipino families return home after traveling to their respective provinces and visiting cemeteries to honor departed loved ones during Undas, Manila Water is encouraging customers to attend to household sanitation by availing themselves of the company’s scheduled desludging services this November. With families settling back into their regular routines, customers are

• Cordillera cops seize P110-M illegal drugs in week-long operations (2026-11-03 21:28)

BAGUIO CITY—Police seized more than P110 million worth of illegal drugs and arrested six suspected drug personalities during a week-long anti-illegal drug campaign across the Cordillera region from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. In a statement, the Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-CAR) said their operating units conducted 14 operations during the period, consisting of seven marijuana eradication operations,

• Dole OKs new wage order for W. Visayas, Negros Occidental (2026-11-03 21:21)

BACOLOD CITY – The National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC), chaired by Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, has approved the P40 to P45 daily minimum wage increase for private sector workers in Western Visayas region and Negros Occidental province set by the

Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) 6. RTWPB-6 chairman SixtoRodriguez Jr. confirmed the

• Elevated heat level disrupted classes in Negros Occidental (2026-11-03 21:14)

BACOLOD CITY — Thousands of students in Negros Occidental province just stayed home on Tuesday, Nov. 3, with the cancellation of face-to face classes due to expected elevated heat levels. On Tuesday morning, the state weather bureau forecast the heat index in the province to reach 41 degrees Celsius. The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office said such heat

• Marcos wants safer online transactions for consumers, MSMEs (2026-11-03 21:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Tuesday called for stronger protection of digital systems and online services amid growing cybersecurity threats, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said. He made the call during his 11th meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Digital Infrastructure Sector Group at Malacañan Palace. READ: DICT: Low salary discourages

• Green sea turtle released into natural habitat in Candon City (2026-11-03 21:01)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — An approximately 80-kilogram female green sea turtle, locally known as pawikan, was released into its natural habitat by the city government of Candon in this province as part of its Pawikan Development Project. In a statement on Tuesday (Nov. 3), the city government, led by Mayor Eric Dario Singson, said

• NCR prosecutors' group backs Zalameda as next chief justice (2026-11-03 20:50)

MANILA, Philippines – The National Capital Region (NCR) Chief Prosecutors Association Inc., has endorsed Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda to be the next chief justice. Zalameda began his career as a public prosecutor in Mandaluyong City in 1995 and rose through the ranks to become city prosecutor in 2002 before his 11 year stint

• 5 suspected members of robbery group killed in Bacoor shootout (2026-11-03 20:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Five suspected members of an alleged organized robbery group were killed in a shootout with police following a chase near the Molino 4 flyover in Bacoor City, Cavite on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 3, authorities said. According to initial reports, the suspects were planning to rob an exclusive subdivision along Molino Boulevard when

• Ilocos Sur police report no untoward incidents during Undas 2026 (2026-11-03 20:22)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The Ilocos Sur Police Provincial Office (ISPPO) reported no untoward incidents during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, as police personnel maintained security and assisted cemetery-goers across the province. In a statement on Tuesday, the ISPPO said its personnel conducted patrols and security checks, managed crowds,

• Mangroves now shield Balanga from floods, serve as fishing lifeline (2026-11-03 20:18)

MANILA, Philippines — For years, Balanga City's degraded coastlines exposed its communities to flooding, and fish catches declined, especially during storms. Among those who witnessed those times was Jaime Buenaventura, chair of the City Fishery and Aquatic Resources Management Council (CFARMC). "Before, many people would cut down and gather wood from our mangroves. Because of

• Lawmakers also 'denied' transparency in 2027 budget bill (2026-11-03 20:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno on Tuesday said budget transparency had been denied not only to the public but also to members of the House of Representatives, many of whom were allegedly unaware of the details of the allocations approved by the chamber. "Transparency has not only been denied by the House leadership

• Edsa busway still exclusive to buses amid temporary scheme in one stretch (2026-11-03 20:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Tuesday clarified that the Edsa busway will remain exclusive to passenger buses, even as some lanes between Quezon City and Mandaluyong City will be temporarily opened to private vehicles. The DPWH said that private vehicles will only be allowed to pass through Lane

• Ridon: Senate unlikely to sustain Sara Duterte broad evidence objections (2026-11-03 19:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court is unlikely to grant Vice President Sara Duterte's broad objections to the prosecution's formal offer of evidence, Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon said on Tuesday Ridon, an impeachment prosecutor, said Duterte's lawyers virtually objected to all evidence presented by the prosecution concerning the unexplained wealth charge, including her

• Active cop arrested in Pangasinan drug raid; P5.5M 'shabu' seized (2026-11-03 19:49)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Anti-drug authorities arrested an active police officer and seized more than 812 grams of suspected "shabu" (crystal meth) worth P5.5 million during a raid on his residence in Barangay Aserda, Mapandan town in this province. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Region 1 identified the suspect as a chief master sergeant. READ:

• INQToday: Schools may suspend, resume classes under new EO (2026-11-03 19:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are INQToday's top stories for Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026, as of 6 p.m. WALANG PASOK: Schools may suspend, resume classes Schools may independently suspend in-person classes based on safety risks within their premises and seek to resume face-to-face learning even while a local government-ordered suspension remains in effect, under a new

• NUP expresses optimism over talks with budget watchdogs – Puno (2026-11-03 19:36)

MANILA, Philippines – Deputy Speaker Ronaldo Puno said on Tuesday the National Unity Party (NUP) is upbeat on meeting with the People's Budget Coalition (PBC) to discuss issues tied to the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for next year. On Monday, the PBC said several lawmakers have invited them to meet and review the House approved

• Proposed P100-M Dinagat Islands sports complex gains traction (2026-11-03 19:07)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The construction of the proposed P100 million sports facility in Dinagat Islands province has gained traction as Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairman Patrick Gregorio led Monday the inspection of the proposed site. Dinagat Islands Gov. Nilo Demerey Jr. and local officials welcomed Gregorio and accompanied him for the survey

• El Niño alert: How a strong event could threaten Metro Manila's water supply (2026-11-03 18:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Metro Manila's water supply could come under increasing pressure as a strong El Niño brings prolonged dry conditions and reduces water inflows into reservoirs serving the capital region. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) describes El Niño as a climate phenomenon characterized by unusually warm sea surface temperatures in

• Edcom 2 welcomes new class suspension rules amid looming super El Niño (2026-11-03 18:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) has welcomed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s new policy allowing school-level decisions on class suspensions and resumptions, saying it could help minimize learning disruptions while ensuring the safety of learners and teachers as the country braces for a prolonged El Niño. In a statement on Tuesday,

• PCG logs over 83,000 passengers at ports after Undas (2026-11-03 18:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) recorded more than 83,000 passengers that have passed through ports nationwide on Tuesday, Nov. 3, after the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, or Undas. According to its latest tally, at least 44,720 outbound passengers and 38,738 inbound passengers were monitored between 6 a.m.

• Cloudy Wednesday, rain showers expected due to 'amihan', easterlies (2026-11-03 18:15)

(Satellite image from Pagasa) MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or "amihan" and the easterlies are forecast to bring rains to parts of the country on Wednesday, according to the state weather bureau. In its 4 p.m. weather advisory, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that partly cloudy to cloudy skies

• Cagayan de Oro braces for ‘super’ El Niño water crisis (2026-11-03 17:59)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Facing a looming “super” El Niño, this city is confronting a critical vulnerability: its heavy reliance on a single river for bulk water supply. The impending dry spell, expected to strike hardest between November and December and persist into early 2027, has prompted local officials and a science watchdog to

• Mt. Guiting-Guiting climbing activities suspended for three months (2026-11-03 17:45)

CALAPAN CITY — All mountaineering activities at the Mount Guiting-Guiting Natural Park in Romblon have been suspended from Nov. 1 this year to Jan. 31, 2027, to allow the rehabilitation of the mountain’s flora and fauna. In a notice, the Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) said regular mountaineering operations would resume

• Cordillera records zero crime incidents during Undas weekend (2026-11-03 17:45)

BAGUIO CITY — No crime incidents were recorded in cemeteries, columbaria and memorial parks across the Cordillera during the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, the Cordillera police reported. In a statement following the Tuesday (Nov. 3) flag-raising ceremony at Camp Dangwa, Police Brig. Gen. Noel B. Vallo, Cordillera police director, said

• Gatchalian: Senate will axe P8.8B infra projects from 2027 budget (2026-11-03 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will remove 295 unsupported infrastructure projects worth P8.836 billion from the proposed 2027 national budget, Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian said Tuesday. According to Gatchalian, the projects lack documentation, based on the evaluation conducted by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). “The Senate is committed unequivocally in

• Low gov’t pay deepens shortage of occupational, speech therapists (2026-11-03 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Low government salaries are making it difficult to attract and retain occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists in public hospitals, worsening the shortage of professionals needed to support learners with disabilities. The Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) pointed to the pay disparity as it called for a review of the entry-level

• Soccsksargen workers to get P41 daily wage hike starting Nov. 19 (2026-11-03 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines – Private sector workers in Soccsksargen region will receive a P41 daily minimum wage increase in two tranches, with the first adjustment taking effect on Nov. 19, under a new wage order approved by the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole). Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino said on Tuesday that the National Wages and

• Businessman killed, 2 arrested in Marawi shooting (2026-11-03 16:41)

ILIGAN CITY — A businessman was killed in a shooting incident inside the premises of Haifa Palace in Barangay Gadongan, Marawi City, on Tuesday morning, while the two alleged suspects

were arrested following a hot pursuit operation, police said. The victim was identified as Daud Ayo Ali, married and a resident of Barangay Gadongan. The

• Ombudsman files charges vs 6 DPWH execs over P491-M 'right-of-way' scam (2026-11-03 16:35)

[Updated Nov. 3, 2026, 7:21 p.m.] MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan against six former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) officials over their alleged involvement in a P491-million "road right-of-way scam" in General Santos City. In a statement on Oct. 25,

• Couple stabbed by son while asleep in Zamboanga City (2026-11-03 16:26)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A 52-year-old man and his 51-year-old wife were rushed to the hospital after they were allegedly stabbed by their own son while asleep in their residence at Purok 6, Star Apple Drive, Barangay Sangali, Zamboanga City early Monday morning, Nov. 2. The Zamboanga City Police Station 3 (ZCPS3) identified

• LTO sets new renewal period for vehicle registrations, licenses that expired from July-Oct. 2026 (2026-11-03 16:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has implemented new renewal periods until February 2027 for motor vehicle registrations, driver's licenses, and other permits that expired from July to October this year. In an advisory on Tuesday, the LTO said that this new implementation is under the Memorandum Circular (MC) No. MVL-2026-5523, which lifted

• W. Visayas workers to get up to P45 daily wage hike starting Nov. 19 (2026-11-03 16:25)

MANILA, Philippines—Minimum wage earners in Western Visayas will receive daily pay increases of up to P45 starting Nov. 19, following the approval of a new wage order by the Department of Labor and Employment. Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino on Tuesday said that the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) approved Wage Order No. VI-30 following

• Defenseless defense: Ridon says VP camp insisting on wrong arguments (2026-11-03 16:19)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon has criticized Vice President Sara Duterte's camp for continuing to use what he described as disproven arguments in responding to the prosecution's formal offer of evidence, saying the defense panel could best be described as "defenseless." Ridon, a member of the House of Representatives' prosecution panel, said

• Mimaropa police logs zero crime incidents during Undas (2026-11-03 16:09)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Mimaropa police recorded zero crime incidents across the provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan during

the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, according to Police Brig. Gen. Christopher R. Dela Cruz, regional police director, in a statement on Tuesday (Nov. 3). Beyond

• 6-hour power outage set in parts of Ilocos Norte on November 8 (2026-11-03 16:03)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—Parts of Ilocos Norte will experience a six-hour power supply interruption on Sunday, November 8, as the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) conducts maintenance work on its transmission facilities. The scheduled power supply interruption will run from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., affecting areas served by the Ilocos Norte Electric

• Palace wants budget watchdogs to scrutinize 2027 budget 'red flags' (2026-11-03 15:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang on Tuesday urged budget watchdogs to report any "red flags" they uncover in the proposed P7.2-trillion national budget for 2027. At a briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would take note of any alleged anomalies flagged by groups reviewing the proposed budget. READ: House to consult budget watchdogs "Sa

• DENR confirms 168-hectare peatland in Leyte town (2026-11-03 15:53)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has confirmed a new peatland covering a probable 168.34 hectares (ha) in Palo, Leyte, adding to the country's growing inventory of carbon-rich wetland ecosystems that play a role in climate change mitigation. The newly identified Palo, Leyte Peatland (PLP) spans parts of Barangays Barayong

• 39°C heat index grips Oriental Mindoro; public cautioned (2026-11-03 15:52)

CALAPAN CITY — Oriental Mindoro recorded a heat index of 39 ° at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, prompting authorities to remind residents to take precautions against heat-related illnesses. The heat index measures how hot the temperature feels to the human body when relative humidity is taken into account. The Provincial Information Office, citing the Philippine

• TransCo addresses Mindoro power outage, supply issues (2026-11-03 15:42)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) is stepping up efforts to reduce the duration of power outages in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, through better grid monitoring and closer coordination with power generators and distribution utilities. Currently, consumers served by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (ORMECO) experience two to three power interruptions

• Caraga cops log peaceful Undas; cemetery crowd tops 350,000 (2026-11-03 15:39)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — The observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day across Caraga (Region 13) was generally peaceful and orderly, with over 350,000 people visiting cemeteries and memorial parks, the Police Regional Office -13 (PRO-13) said Tuesday. Brig. Gen.

Rolindo Suguilon, PRO-13 director, said no untoward or major peace and

• PNP backs Lacson: Secrecy key in hunt for Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-03 15:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) agrees with Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson that secrecy is key when handling the manhunt operation on Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa. “Tama ang sinabi ni Sen. Lacson na secrecy is key in our operation,” PNP spokesperson Col. Allen Rae Co told reporters on Tuesday. (Sen. Lacson was

• Coast Guard rescues 34 passengers from distressed boat off Palawan (2026-11-03 15:21)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) rescued 34 persons after their motorized banca encountered engine trouble in Taytay Bay in Palawan on Monday. The passengers were aboard MBCA Kin J-Mar, which was traveling to Barangay Casian in Taytay, to visit the graves of their departed loved ones, the Coast Guard District

• PhilHealth warns public against scammers impersonating CEO for money (2026-11-03 15:17)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on Tuesday warned the public against individuals impersonating its Chief Executive Officer, Beverly Lorraine Ho, to solicit money and conduct unauthorized transactions. In an advisory, PhilHealth said that social media posts, emails, or messages requesting money or donations in the name of the agency or its

• E-bike rider dies in Laguna mishap (2026-11-03 15:13)

LUCENA CITY — A 47-year-old e-bike rider was hit and crushed to death by a truck in San Pablo City, Laguna, on Monday night ,according to the local police. The e-bike rider stopped in front of the truck in Barangay San Roque at 10:50 p.m., based on security camera footage, the Calabarzon police said. The

• Suspected gunrunner wounded in Cotabato buy-bust (2026-11-03 14:54)

COTABATO CITY — An alleged gunrunner was wounded in a shootout with police operatives during a buy-bust operation in Kabacan, North Cotabato on Tuesday. The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), backed by personnel of the Kabacan Municipal Police Station, conducted the operation along the national highway in Barangay Kayaga at around 8:45 a.m. Lt.

• Palace challenges Nartatez: PNP must arrest Dela Rosa regardless of ties (2026-11-03 14:53)

MANILA, Philippines – Malacañang on Tuesday challenged the Philippine National Police (PNP) leadership to ensure that Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa’s former position as PNP chief would not stand in the way of enforcing his arrest warrant. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said in a television interview last Saturday that the senator’s previous role as top

• Teodoro flags limited Army reach, gaps in PH defense infra (2026-11-03 14:49)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Army effectively covers only 40 to 50 percent of the country, and its limited reach is insufficient even for logistical operations, according to Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. Teodoro said the military needs additional strategic bases to address gaps in the country's defense capabilities. "We also need to build our strategic

• LTFRB fines Move It P555.75M over excess riders; platform appeals (2026-11-03 14:44)

MANILA, Philippines – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has imposed a P555.75-million penalty on motorcycle taxi platform Move It for exceeding its authorized number of rider-partners. Move It was authorized to operate only 17,746 rider-partners across Metro Manila, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro but exceeded this limit by 55,575 riders, according

• Oriental Mindoro ports log over 30,000 passengers during Undas (2026-11-03 14:31)

CALAPAN CITY — More than 30,000 travellers passed through major seaports in Oriental Mindoro from Oct. 30 to early Nov. 3 during this year's All Saints' Day holiday weekend, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO). The PDRRMO recorded a combined 37,358 inbound and outbound passengers at the ports of Calapan,

• Lacson: Call for due process won't shield Bato dela Rosa from ICC trial (2026-11-03 14:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Tuesday said that his call for due process for Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa does not mean shielding his colleague from facing trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC). According to Lacson, "due process means allowing Senator dela Rosa to face trial before the ICC rather than

• INQToday: ICC seeks more testimonies vs Duterte; Mayon emits ash plume (2026-11-03 14:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Here are the top stories for INQToday's afternoon newscast: The prosecution at the International Criminal Court seeks to use three more recorded testimonies in the crimes against humanity case against former President Rodrigo Duterte. Meanwhile, 16 areas across the country are forecast to experience dangerous heat levels on Tuesday, according to Pagasa.

• PCID lauds Macacua, urges MILF, MNLF to sustain peace gains (2026-11-03 14:01)

COTABATO CITY — The Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) has congratulated Member of Parliament Abdulraof "Sammy Gambar" Macacua on his election as chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) by the region's first elected Bangsamoro Parliament. In a statement on Tuesday, the PCID called the transition "an important milestone

• Malaybalay warns against almsgiving ahead of Christmas influx (2026-11-03 13:54)

MALAYBALAY CITY, Bukidnon — The Malaybalay City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) has renewed its advocacy campaign discouraging public almsgiving to street mendicants, sparking mixed reactions among residents as the city prepares for the seasonal influx of beggars ahead of the Christmas holidays. Ivy Amor Urbina, City Social Welfare and Development Office chief, clarified

• PNP: Viral photo of Bato Dela Rosa at cemetery is ‘old’ (2026-11-03 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) clarified that the circulating photo of Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa at a cemetery in Digos City, Davao del Sur, was taken three years ago, warning the public against spreading misleading information. “It was confirmed by our tech team that it was an old picture,” PNP spokesperson Col. Allen

• 2 motorcycle riders killed, 2 injured in Quezon road crashes (2026-11-03 12:38)

LUCENA CITY — Two motorcycle riders were killed while two others were hurt in separate road accidents in Quezon province on Monday, police said. A 39-year-old farmer and his female back rider were traveling along a road in Barangay Manggalang in Guinayangan town at 1:45 p.m. when the driver suddenly lost control of the motorcycle,

• Paws, AKF at NBI over improperly dumped deceased pets (2026-11-03 12:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Animal welfare organizations on Tuesday went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to seek justice for the alleged dumping of dead dogs and cats by Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium. READ: NBI probes pet crematorium after 29 animals dumped in Bulacan According to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (Paws), it went

• PNP rejects ‘shoot-to-kill’ calls vs. Bato Dela Rosa (2026-11-03 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine National Police (PNP) rejects calls for a “shoot-to-kill” approach in serving an arrest warrant against Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, amid the circulation of fabricated quote cards attributing such a call to a lawmaker. “The PNP does not subscribe to a shoot-to-kill approach. Our mandate is to enforce the law, not to

• Bohol donates lot for new Hall of Justice in Tagbilaran City (2026-11-03 12:14)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — The Bohol provincial government has donated a province-owned lot at the foot of Mt. Banat-i in Tagbilaran City to the Supreme Court of the Philippines for a new Hall of Justice. Gov. Aris Aumentado signed the Deed of Donation on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, formalizing the province’s donation of the property

• NIA opens 6 solar-powered irrigation sites in Leyte amid El Niño (2026-11-03 12:00)

TACLOBAN CITY — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Eastern Visayas has inaugurated six solar-powered irrigation facilities in Leyte to strengthen water supply to farmlands and help farmers prepare for the possible effects of the looming Super El Niño. NIA

Region 8, led by Regional Manager Jaime de Jesus, formally opened the Opong Solar Pump

• One of PH's most wanted killed in Cavite shootout (2026-11-03 11:45)

LUCENA CITY — A man listed among the nation's most wanted fugitives was killed in an alleged shootout with police while officers were serving an arrest warrant in Magallanes, Cavite, on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day. The suspect reportedly ran behind a bamboo hut in Barangay Tua at 10:30 a.m. to elude approaching lawmen. The

• Is sugar in Negros still sweet? (2026-11-03 11:44)

For more than a century, Negros Occidental has been known as the Sugar Bowl of the Philippines. The province produces roughly two-thirds of the country's sugar and has long been an economic anchor of Western Visayas. Sugar has shaped not only the landscape but also the livelihoods of generations of farmers, farmworkers, truck drivers, mill

• Pangilinan to gov't: Stand with Kasibu farmers, not mining interests (2026-11-03 11:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan on Tuesday urged government officials to protect farmers opposing mining exploration activities in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya. According to the senator, government agencies should respect the rights of residents who have maintained barricades for nearly six months to oppose the exploration project of North Luzon Mineral Resources Corp. (NLMRC).

• Army troops hone life-saving skills in Davao de Oro (2026-11-03 11:34)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Preparing for crises beyond the battlefield, troops of the Army's 10th Infantry Division underwent an intensive three-day medical training to boost their disaster response and frontline life-saving capabilities. The 10ID Station Hospital spearheaded the basic life support and standard first aid training at Camp General Manuel T. Yan Sr. in

• DFA opens authentication hub in Bohol (2026-11-03 11:21)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol— Residents of Bohol and neighboring provinces can now have their public documents authenticated without traveling to Cebu or Manila with the opening of a new Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Authentication Hub at Alturas Mall here on Oct. 30. The new facility, located on the mall's fifth floor, was formally opened to bring

• High heat index halts in-person classes in Tacloban public schools (2026-11-03 11:08)

TACLOBAN CITY — About 55,000 students in public elementary and secondary schools in Tacloban City will shift to distance learning on Tuesday and Wednesday after the city schools division suspended face-to-face classes due to a projected heat index of 40 degrees Celsius. Nilo Eder, spokesperson of the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Tacloban

• Undas 2026: Passenger decline seen in ports across PH – PPA (2026-11-03 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Fewer passengers were recorded at ports across the country during this year's Undas holidays compared to the same period last year due to higher fares and shorter vacation days, according to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). The PPA reported that a total of 1,362,454 passengers passed through ports managed by the agency

• P38-M water, road projects to benefit Manobo villagers in Surigao (2026-11-03 10:53)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Hundreds of indigenous residents and farming households in an upland village in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, will gain reliable access to clean water. This became possible after a tripartite agreement was signed on Oct. 29 to fast-track vital rural infrastructure in the indigenous residents' ancestral domain, worth P38

• 4 Eastern Visayas most wanted suspects arrested in Undas ops (2026-11-03 10:21)

TACLOBAN CITY — Police arrested four of Eastern Visayas' most wanted suspects, including three facing rape and sexual assault charges, in separate manhunt operations on Sunday, the Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) reported. Brig. Gen. Romano Cardiño, PRO-8 Director, said the arrests were part of the police region's intensified campaign against wanted persons during the observance of

• Dole launches 15/30 hotline amid El Niño preparations (2026-11-03 10:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) on Tuesday, Nov. 3, launched a nationwide 24/7 hotline where workers, employers and other stakeholders can report workplace concerns and labor-related violations. Dubbed "15/30," the hotline was introduced during the department's flag-raising ceremony as part of its preparations for the expected El Niño, which could

• PNP urges pet owners to file raps vs crematorium over dumped remains (2026-11-03 10:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged pet owners who may have been defrauded by a pet crematorium in Cavite to file complaints after 29 dead dogs and cats were found dumped in a vacant lot in Bulacan. The deceased pets were reportedly taken to Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City,

• Cops rescue 16-year-old girl allegedly held over debt in Leyte (2026-11-03 10:06)

TACLOBAN CITY — After responding to an emergency 911 call, police officers rescued a 16-year-old girl who was allegedly prevented from leaving her companions because of an outstanding debt in Barangay Guindapunan, Palo, Leyte, on Sunday. The Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) said personnel from the Palo Municipal Police Station and the Municipal Social Welfare

• Mayon emits ash plume on Tuesday morning (2026-11-03 09:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano in Albay spewed an ash plume that rose more than 1,600 meters above its summit on Tuesday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and

Seismology (Phivolcs) said. Phivolcs said the ash emission occurred from 8:22 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. “This event generated a plume that rose 1600 meters above the

• Western Visayas schools suspend classes due to 43°C heat index (2026-11-03 09:51)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Schools across Western Visayas suspended classes or shifted to online learning on Tuesday as the heat index is forecast to reach 43 degrees Celsius in Iloilo City and 42°C in Roxas City, Capiz. The class suspensions and adjustments cover public and private educational institutions in Iloilo and Capiz, with some schools

• P3.1M in smuggled cigarettes seized, 3 busted in Negros Oriental (2026-11-03 09:27)

BACOLOD CITY — Police intercepted some P3.1 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and arrested three men during a joint anti-smuggling operation in Barangay Nagbo-alao, Basay town, Negros Oriental, on Monday morning. The Police Regional Office Negros Island Region (PRO NIR) identified the suspects as “Lom,” 25, the truck driver; and passengers “Joe,” 41, and “Ben,”

• BARMM opens applications for top gov’t positions (2026-11-03 09:16)

COTABATO CITY — The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has announced that it is now accepting applications for key leadership positions in the Bangsamoro Government. In an official announcement released on Monday, the BARMM government asked all interested applicants for minister, deputy minister (DM), head of office, and deputy head of office positions

• Naval forces seize P398M in smuggled cigarettes off Sulu (2026-11-03 09:08)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Naval forces intercepted nearly P398 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and motorized crafts off the coast of Sulu in three separate operations in the past four days, officials reported Tuesday. The successive operations conducted by the Naval Command Western Mindanao (NCWM) from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 led

• OIL PRICE WATCH as of Nov. 3, 2026 (2026-11-03 09:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists will face mixed fuel price adjustments Tuesday, Nov. 3, with gasoline prices increasing by as much as P3.50 per liter, while diesel and kerosene prices will go down by P1 and P1.90 per liter, respectively, according to the Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE said the latest changes reflect movements in

• 16 areas to experience dangerous heat levels Tuesday — Pagasa (2026-11-03 08:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Sixteen areas across the country are expected to experience dangerous levels of heat on Tuesday, with heat indices reaching as high as 43 degrees Celsius, according to the state weather bureau. In its latest heat index forecast issued on Monday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) identified Iloilo City,

• 3 ex-drug convicts arrested in Lucena buy-busts on All Saints' Day (2026-11-03 08:07)

LUCENA CITY — Three ex-drug convicts were arrested in separate anti-narcotics operations in Lucena City on Sunday, Nov. 1, during the observance of All Saints' Day, police said. Two of the suspects were arrested at 2:25 p.m. after they allegedly sold shabu (crystal meth) to an undercover police officer in Barangay Ibabang Iyam, according to

• Undas 2026: PITX logs over 1.68M passengers (2026-11-03 07:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) recorded more than 1.68 million passengers during the Undas exodus this year, the terminal said on Tuesday. In its latest data, PITX said a total of 1,686,201 passengers passed through the terminal from Sunday, Oct. 25, to Monday, Nov. 2. This figure was slightly higher than

• Two motorcycle riders die in Quezon crash (2026-11-03 07:44)

LUCENA CITY — Two motorcycle riders who were not wearing crash helmets died after their vehicle crashed into a concrete roadside barrier in San Francisco, Quezon, on Nov. 1. The 29-year-old male driver and his male back rider were traveling along a winding road in Barangay Nasalaan when the motorcycle suddenly went out of control

• Amihan to bring rains over parts of Extreme Northern Luzon on Nov. 3 (2026-11-03 07:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon, or amihan, will continue to bring rains over parts of Extreme Northern Luzon, the state weather bureau said on Tuesday. In its 5 a.m. weather forecast, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) weather specialist Veronica Torres said amihan would prevail until Friday. "We expect fair weather and

• Kin honor 'desaparecidos' on All Souls' Day (2026-11-03 05:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Abner Hizarsa was on his way to his daughter's school in Subic, Zambales, to bring her lunch when he was abducted by unidentified armed men riding a van on March 22, 2007. That day was the last time his partner, Cresencia dela Cruz, and their three children saw Hizarsa. Hizarsa was just

• Pangilinan: Tougher action needed vs profiteers amid El Niño (2026-11-03 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers and cartels as the country braces for the impact of a strong El Niño, such as drought and water shortage, on food production and prices. "[Authorities should] gather evidence and pursue criminal and administrative cases against

• NBI to investigate pet crematorium (2026-11-03 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation will investigate the reported dumping of dead dogs and cats allegedly by Bacoor City-based Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet

Crematorium, following the discovery of their carcasses at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte,Bulacan. It was animal rescue service Luna and Furry Siblings which reported the

• House to consult budget watchdogs (2026-11-03 05:38)

MANILA, Philippines — Budget watchdogs said House lawmakers have asked to meet with them to review the lower chamber's approved spending bill, amid growing scrutiny over public money allocation in next year's proposed P7.2-trillion national budget. "We're getting more and more feedback from various House members, from some parties, from the minority … who all

• Police vow to pursue Bantag following Ifugao raid (2026-11-03 05:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police on Monday vowed to pursue "every lead" until former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag is captured after police officers failed to find him in a poultry farm in Lamut, Ifugao, on Sunday. "Every lead will be pursued, every lawful opportunity will be acted upon, and we

• MNLF faction says Dela Rosa not under its protection (2026-11-03 05:30)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — A faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) led by former Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema has denied protecting Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, saying there is no verified link between the former Philippine National Police chief and the organization despite his ties to figures associated with the group.

• Mayon evacuees reel from water shortage in Tabaco City (2026-11-03 05:06)

TABACO CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — Mayon evacuees staying at a temporary shelter in Barangay Buang here are struggling with an erratic water supply, forcing them to ration water for their daily needs. The evacuees said water rarely flowed from the faucets, and drums placed near the toilets were often empty. "Drinking water is what we

• Antimining group in N. Vizcaya hits court extension of ban on barricades (2026-11-03 05:04)

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA, Philippines — An antimining group in this province condemned a regional trial court's decision to extend a temporary ban on protest barricades blocking public roads leading to mining exploration sites in Kasibu town, saying the order could further restrict residents' opposition to the project. The court extended the prohibition until Nov. 17.

• Family refuses to light a candle for missing loved one (2026-11-03 05:02)

MANTICAO, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, Philippines — For nine years now, Evelyn Powao has been selling flowers outside cemeteries to support her family, but there is one grave she has never been able to visit and one candle she refuses to light. Her husband Joseph, a construction worker, went missing during the five-month battle between government forces

• Walang Pasok: High heat index prompts class suspensions on Nov. 3 (2026-11-02 23:13)

MANILA, Philippines — Some schools and local governments have announced the suspension of face-to-face classes for Tuesday, Nov. 3, because of expected high heat indices. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said a heat index of 42°C to 51°C is already dangerous, pointing out that with this level of heat, “heat cramps and

• Lone player wins ₱15-M 6/45 Mega Lotto jackpot (2026-11-02 21:52)

MANILA, Philippines—A lone ticket holder won the ₱15 million MegaLotto 6/45 jackpot on Monday, November 2, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. No player bagged the Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot. Mega Lotto 6/45 draw result: 11-02-26-07-44-05 Jackpot prize: 15 million Grand Lotto 6/55 draw result: 45-43-07-53-25-48 Jackpot prize: ₱326.05 million Minor games The

• Garin: VP camp resorting to delaying, diversionary tactics in impeach trial (2026-11-02 21:38)

MANILA, Philippines – The prosecution’s decision to withdraw three of the four impeachment charges against Vice President Sara Duterte was partly driven by concerns that the defense would prolong the proceedings by presenting an extensive lineup of witnesses. House Deputy Speaker and Iloilo 1st District Rep. Janette Garin said Duterte’s defense lawyers seems pursuing procedural

• Prosecution: Bank records prompted dropping of 3 impeachment charges (2026-11-02 21:17)

MANILA, Philippines – The prosecution could not have decided at the beginning of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s impeachment trial to concentrate exclusively on unexplained wealth because the financial documents that ultimately convinced prosecutors to narrow down the case became available only after lengthy legal disputes and compliance with court-issued subpoenas. House private prosecutor and

• ‘Undas’ generally peaceful, orderly; 40.7M visit cemeteries nationwide (2026-11-02 21:10)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) reported a generally peaceful and orderly observance of Undas 2026 nationwide, recording more than 40.7 million visitors in cemeteries, memorial parks, and columbaria nationwide from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2 “Based on reports from the ground, this year’s Undas was generally peaceful and orderly, reflecting the discipline

• Dead pets dumping in Bulacan: Senators seek tougher measures; probe set (2026-11-02 21:08)

MANILA, Philippines – Several senators are seeking to strengthen existing laws against animal cruelty as they condemned the dumping of the remains of several animals in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. They are also conducting an inquiry into the incident involving Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, which was allegedly behind the

• DOTr issues Nov. 4 -7 Ortigas-Shaw area traffic alert over subway project (2026-11-02 20:58)

MANILA, Philippines — Vehicular traffic in the Shaw-Ortigas area from Wednesday, Nov. 4, to Saturday, Nov. 7. is expected to affected by the transportation of one of the Metro Manila Subway Project's tunnel boring machines. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) announced on Facebook on Monday, Nov. 2, that the possible gridlock is due to the

• Families of 'desaparecidos' honor missing kin on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 20:41)

MANILA, Philippines—Abner Hizarsa was on his way to his daughter's school in Subic, Zambales, to bring her lunch when he was abducted by unidentified armed men in a van without a license plate on March 21, 2007. Until today, his common-law wife, Cresencia dela Cruz, and his three children have yet to find out where

• WATCH: Undas brings families together to honor departed loved ones (2026-11-02 20:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Beyond honoring departed loved ones, Undas also offers families an opportunity to reunite and spend time together, as relatives return to their hometowns and gather for the annual tradition./dp READ: MPD: Manila South Cemetery generally peaceful during Undas 2026

• Bukidnon 'Undas' peaceful overall; 1 dead in road crashes (2026-11-02 19:49)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — The annual All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day observances across Bukidnon were generally peaceful, though authorities recorded multiple highway vehicular accidents involving motorcycles and pedestrians, killing an individual. Capt. Leonila Vicente, newly-designated Bukidnon Police Provincial Office (BukPPO) information officer, told the Inquirer on Monday afternoon, November 2, that security operations

• Family, friends, fans pay tribute to Rene Baterbonia on Undas (2026-11-02 19:42)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Months after his untimely demise, outpourings of grief, love, and demands for justice continue to trail the late Agusan del Sur basketball standout Rene "Bobet" Baterbonia, as floral tributes and prayers flooded his gravesite in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur on All Saints' and All Souls' Day (Undas). Supporters, friends, and fans

• Manila North sees 660,000 visitors on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 19:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila North Cemetery saw around 660,000 visitors on All Souls' Day as of Monday night, with some of them said they came this day to avoid the influx of millions of visitors on All Saints' Day in one of the biggest cemeteries nationwide. "We visited

just now to avoid the huge

• Military says NPA leader killed in South Cotabato encounter (2026-11-02 19:21)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A high-ranking communist instructor wanted for attempted homicide was killed in a legitimate law enforcement operation in South Cotabato last week, the military announced, directly contradicting rebel assertions that the man was an ailing, unarmed retiree allegedly executed by state forces. The conflicting narratives center on the October 30 death

• 44°C heat index recorded in 3 areas on Monday, Nov. 2 (2026-11-02 19:09)

MANILA, Philippines – The heat index peaked at 44°C in La Union, Aurora, and Occidental Mindoro on Monday, Nov. 2, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa). Based on its five-day computed heat index, the highest were recorded in its stations located in Bacnotan, La Union, Baler, Aurora, and San Jose,

• Naia expects Undas season passenger count to exceed 1 million (2026-11-02 19:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) is anticipating at least 144,000 passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on Monday, All Souls' Day. This is on top of the 868,423 passengers recorded from October 27 to November 1, which will push the total number of travelers using the country's primary airport

• Police recover 5,700 liters of alleged pilfered diesel in GenSan (2026-11-02 18:49)

KORONADAL CITY — The police recovered about 5,700 liters of suspected illegally obtained diesel fuel in General Santos City, following a report received through the government's 8888 hotline. The Police Regional Office 12 (PRO-12) said its operatives responded to a report of alleged diesel pilferage and illegal distribution at around 3:37 p.m. on Thursday, Oct.

• Romblon State U: Home work, study setup from Nov. 3-5 (2026-11-02 18:24)

CALAPAN CITY — Romblon State University (RSU) will implement a three-day work-from-home arrangement for its faculty and staff from Tuesday (November 3) to Thursday (November 5) to promote economic efficiency and work-life balance. In an advisory, the state university said the arrangement would be implemented under Office of the University President Memorandum No. 154-00, series

• Salceda pursuing scheme to revive Lucena-Matnog railway project (2026-11-02 18:14)

LEGAZPI CITY — Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Secretary Joey Salceda is pursuing an alternative financing scheme dubbed "Operation Peñafrancia" to revive the long-delayed Philippine National Railways (PNR) South Long Haul project, which aims to restore train services between Lucena City in Quezon and Matnog, Sorsogon. In a radio interview with radio station DZGB on

• PTFOMS: Arrests alone not enough to end impunity in media attacks (2026-11-02 17:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) has called for sustained efforts to resolve attacks on journalists and hold perpetrators accountable, as the Philippines joined other nations in observing the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on Monday, Nov. 2. In a statement on Monday, the PTFOMS stressed

• Police chief denies tagging ‘prominent personality’ in Batangas shooting (2026-11-02 17:50)

LUCENA CITY — San Jose, Batangas police chief Maj. Florencio Caisip Jr. denied reports attributing to him a description of one of the suspects in the killing of a 22-year-old working student as a prominent personality in the province. The victim, a musician, was riding a motorcycle when suspects aboard a car shot him in

• Manila Memorial Park logs over 140,000 visitors on All Souls’ Day (2026-11-02 17:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Over 140,000 visitors flocked to the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Monday, All Souls’ Day, according to the memorial park administration. The figure was based on the cemetery’s visitor count as of 3 p.m. on Nov. 2, with 13,658 more heading into the cemetery, bringing their total crowd estimate for

• NUJP to gov’t: End impunity for crimes vs journalists (2026-11-02 17:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) on Monday demanded that the government help end impunity for crimes against journalists and take decisive action to protect media workers. The call came as the world observed the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on Nov. 2. READ: NUJP seeks

• Oriental Mindoro logs 18 Undas season untoward incidents (2026-11-02 17:01)

CALAPAN CITY — Eighteen untoward incidents were reported nd recorded across Oriental Mindoro during the Undas season, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO). Fifteen vehicular accidents, one maritime incident and two cases involving injured or ill individuals were logged from October 30 to November 2, the PDRRMO reported in its

• Over 9,000 passengers monitored in S. Tagalog ports on Nov. 2 – PCG (2026-11-02 16:48)

CALAPAN CITY — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has monitored 9,643 passengers at ports across the Southern Tagalog provinces during a six-hour period on Monday, All Souls’ Day, as authorities maintained heightened security during the Undas season. The Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog recorded 6,750 outbound passengers and 2,893 inbound passengers from 6 a.m. to

• MPD: Manila South Cemetery ‘generally peaceful’ during Undas 2026 (2026-11-02 16:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The situation at the Manila South Cemetery remained generally peaceful during this year's Undas observance, the Manila Police District (MPD) said on Monday, Nov. 2. Sta. Ana Police Station commander Richard Villanueva gave the assessment on All Souls' Day, the final day of the long weekend. "Okay naman po yung situation dito,

• Prisoners not charged for water – NBP (2026-11-02 16:06)

MANILA, Philippines — New Bilibid Prison (NBP) Superintendent Gary Garcia on Monday maintained that persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) are provided with free water supply. Garcia denied allegations that no water was available at the national penitentiary for the past two weeks and that PDLs were required to pay for supplied water. "I held a

• NBI probes pet crematorium after 29 animals dumped in Bulacan (2026-11-02 15:45)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will conduct a comprehensive investigation into incidents involving Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, following the discovery of 29 deceased dogs and cats allegedly dumped at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, NBI Director Melvin Matibag said Monday. The 29

• Iligan folk offer Mass for Typhoon Sendong victims on All Saints' Day (2026-11-02 15:32)

LINAMON, Lanao del Norte – Families, friends and village officials offered a Holy Mass and lit candles on All Saints' Day for victims of Typhoon Sendong in Barangay Hinaplanon in Iligan City. The Holy Mass, which was officiated by Reverend Father Rolando "Dodong" Cantina of the Diocese of Iligan, was dedicated to the dead and

• PNP steps up security as post-Undas travel rush begins (2026-11-02 15:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained heightened security at major transport terminals and key roads as millions of Filipinos began returning home following the Undas holidays. "As travelers make their way back to their homes, schools, and workplaces, the PNP remains fully mobilized to keep roads secure, maintain public order, and respond

• NUJP seeks arrest of mastermind in Cagayan de Oro radioman's murder (2026-11-02 15:25)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — More than four years after gunshots silenced radio broadcaster Federico "Ding" Gempesaw right on his own doorstep, the triggerman is behind bars, but the most crucial question remains unanswered: who ordered the hit? Marking the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists on Monday, Nov. 2, this

• Desaparecidos' kin urged to continue loved ones' fight for justice (2026-11-02 15:15)

MANILA, Philippines — On All Souls' Day, families of enforced disappearances (desaparecidos) were urged to continue to fight for justice and carry on the causes their missing loved ones championed, even with no bodies or graves to visit. The families, together with members from

the groups Desaparecidos Philippines, Karapatan, and Hustisya, gathered at Claret School

• Pamalakaya slams demolition of Bacoor fishermen's floating houses (2026-11-02 15:12)

MANILA, Philippines—The fishermen's group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Monday condemned the recent demolition the of more than 100 floating houses along the coast of Bacoor City, Cavite, saying the clearing would displace fishing families to make way for reclamation projects in Manila Bay. In a statement, Pamalakaya said the Bacoor

• LOOK: QC sanitation department cleans Bagbag, Novaliches cemeteries (2026-11-02 15:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The Quezon City's Department of Sanitation and Cleanup Works conducted cleanup operations at the Bagbag Cemetery and Novaliches Public Cemetery on Monday, Nov. 2, as people continued to visit the graves of their departed loved ones on All Souls' Day. In a Facebook post, the local government said the cleanup drive aims

• Embracing the brighter side of life after niece's miscarriage (2026-11-02 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines – An unexpected loss did not faze Lilia Vargas when her balikbayan niece arrived from Ireland on Monday after suffering a miscarriage. On Monday, All Souls' Day, Vargas waited for the arrival of her niece and three nephews at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. The four of them work in Ireland.

• MNLF-Sema faction denies sheltering Bato dela Rosa (2026-11-02 14:44)

COTABATO CITY — The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) faction chaired by Muslimin Sema has denied that the group is protecting Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague over the deadly war on drugs during the Duterte administration. In a statement entitled "The MNLF is

• Estrada seeks Senate probe into killings of environmental defenders (2026-11-02 14:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Jinggoy Estrada has filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the killings of environmental defenders in the country. He filed Senate Resolution No. 697, urging the appropriate Senate committees to look into the recent Global Witness 2026 report, which named the Philippines, for the 13th consecutive year, as the deadliest country

• Legislator denies pushing 'shoot-to-kill' resolution vs Bato Dela Rosa (2026-11-02 14:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Cagayan de Oro Rep. Loran Suan has denied calling for a resolution that would urge a shoot-to-kill order against Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa should he fail to properly surrender to authorities, saying such claims were fabricated. In a statement on Monday, Suan said he had neither threatened to call a House committee

• Aquino family, visitors remember Ninoy, Cory, Noynoy on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 13:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Members of the Aquino family and other Filipinos visited the Aquino family mausoleum at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Monday, All Souls' Day. Civil society leader Kiko Aquino Dee, with his parents, Viel Aquino Dee and Richard Dee, lit yellow candles and offered prayers at the mausoleum to remember

• 5,825 Bilibid inmates receive vegetables donated through Pangilinan (2026-11-02 13:21)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 5,800 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) received fresh vegetables from Nueva Vizcaya through a donation facilitated by Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, according to the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor). In a statement on Sunday, BuCor said the NBP received 144 bags of assorted vegetables on

• Despite economic problems, Undas flower vendors strive to survive (2026-11-02 13:09)

MANILA, Philippines — For some vendors outside the Manila South Cemetery, selling flowers for the departed during Undas has been part of their livelihood for years already. And despite problems with the economy, for them, this year's profit is enough to make ends meet. With arranged flowers lined up in the sidewalk, Bryan Amoyan is

• Pangilinan: Intensify crackdown on hoarders, profiteers amid El Niño (2026-11-02 13:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers, and cartels as the country braces for the impact of a strong El Niño on food production and prices. He also called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Price Coordinating

• Manila North Cemetery logs nearly 1.4M Undas visitors (2026-11-02 12:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of visitors at Manila North Cemetery reached nearly 1.4 million on Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day fell on a weekend, the Manila Police District (MPD) said on Monday. MPD spokesperson Maj. Philipp Ines said the figure covered visitors recorded from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. "We expect that because

• Old man drowns after falling into Quezon river (2026-11-02 12:34)

LUCENA CITY — A 71-year-old fisherman drowned after falling into a river in the town of Tagkawayan, Quezon, on Sunday evening, Nov. 1, police said. The victim, who was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, was walking along Aloneros Bridge in Barangay Cabugwang at around 6:30 p.m. when he accidentally fell into the river, according

• Fire destroys 13 houses in Samar; cemetery incidents reported in Leyte (2026-11-02 12:33)

TACLOBAN CITY — A fire that destroyed 13 houses and displaced 19 families in Catbalogan City, Samar along with a smaller cemetery fire in Tanauan and a structurally damaged mausoleum in Jaro, both in Leyte, were among the incidents reported in Eastern Visayas during the observance of Undas. In Catbalogan City, a fire hit Barangay

• Undas 2026: Rising fares, port fees deter travelers to Oriental Mindoro (2026-11-02 12:29)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Higher transportation costs and increased terminal fees at the Batangas International Port have been cited as reasons for the drop in vacationers visiting the province for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day this year. Montenegro Shipping Lines, Inc. reported that passenger volumes this year were significantly lower than in

• Marcos recounts eerie childhood experiences at Baguio's The Mansion (2026-11-02 12:18)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has recalled sensing an unexplained presence during his childhood visits to the Baguio Mansion House. Also known as the official summer residence of the Philippine president, the mansion is shrouded in eerie tales of unexplained encounters shared by visitors and its caretakers. READ: Mansion House in Baguio City

• PNP vows to continue manhunt for ex-BuCor chief Bantag (2026-11-02 12:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to continue its pursuit of former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag following an unsuccessful operation to arrest him in Ifugao. "We will not allow the passage of time or repeated attempts to evade arrest to weaken our resolve," PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez

• Nearly 4,000 remains still unclaimed at Tacloban's El Reposo Cemetery (2026-11-02 11:54)

TACLOBAN CITY — Nearly 4,000 human remains at the city's public Catholic cemetery, El Reposo, have yet to be retrieved by their families despite appeals by the local Catholic Church and the city government to transfer them to other burial grounds ahead of the cemetery's planned rehabilitation. The city government and the local Catholic Church

• PITX logs nearly 1.5 million passengers during Undas week (2026-11-02 11:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Over 1.4 million passengers have passed through the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) during the Undas week, the terminal said on Monday. PITX recorded a total of 1,499,454 passengers from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. The termina is anticipating another 180,000 passengers on All Souls' Day, as the Undas winds down. As

• 18 receive medical aid during Undas observance in Iloilo City (2026-11-02 11:27)

ILOILO CITY — At least 18 people, including elderly cemetery visitors, received medical assistance during the observance of Undas, or All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, in Iloilo City. In a situational report released at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, the Iloilo City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) said medical teams deployed to cemeteries

• Caraga police seize P448,249 worth of shabu in region-wide sweep (2026-11-02 11:05)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Seven drug suspects were arrested after police seized nearly half a million pesos worth of suspected shabu in anti-narcotics operations across the Caraga region on Oct. 31. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, Police Regional Office 13 (PRO-13) director, said the operations conducted by city and municipal police units yielded a total

• Lanao del Sur to hold town halls for families of Marawi siege victims (2026-11-02 11:05)

MARAWI CITY — The provincial government of Lanao del Sur is gearing up to hold town hall meetings in three Mindanao cities to help families of victims who went missing during the 2017 Marawi siege obtain information and assistance in identifying their loved ones. The preparations were discussed during the 10th meeting of the Technical

• LOOK: Manila South Cemetery crowd reaches 2,200 on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 10:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Despite the hot and humid weather, visitors continued to flock to the Manila South Cemetery on Monday, All Souls' Day. The Manila Police District recorded over 2,200 visitors inside the cemetery as of 10 a.m. on Monday, significantly lower than the 22,000 visitors recorded on Nov. 1. READ: LIVE UPDATES: Undas 2026

• Undas 2026: Valencia City braces for 20 tons of cemetery waste (2026-11-02 10:51)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Environmental authorities in Valencia City urged cemetery-goers to practice proper waste management as cleanup crews brace for an estimated 20 tons of mixed garbage across local burial sites during the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day holidays, or Undas. Julius Parian, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office,

• Wanted man arrested at Rizal cemetery during Undas (2026-11-02 10:41)

LUCENA CITY — Police arrested a 26-year-old fugitive at a public cemetery in the Rizal town of Angono on Sunday night, Nov. 1. The suspect, who was on the most wanted persons list of the Rizal Police Provincial Office, was apprehended at the cemetery in Barangay Kalayaan. READ: Wanted persons for kidnapping nabbed in Cainta,

• 2 motorcycle riders killed, back rider hurt in Pangasinan road crash (2026-11-02 10:33)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Two motorcycle riders were killed while a back rider was injured in a head-on collision along the Manila North Road in Urdaneta City at around 6 p.m. on Sunday. A 55-year-old motorcycle rider from Nueva Ecija was piloting a Suzuki Raider 150, with a 35-year-old female canteen helper from San Manuel, Pangasinan,

• Gatchalian to CSOs, LGUs: Rally behind new BARMM administration (2026-11-02 10:32)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has urged political blocs, civil society organizations and local government units to support the newly elected Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) administration to ensure stability and inclusive development in the region. In a statement on Monday, Gatchalian also expressed optimism that BARMM is now well on

• WATCH: Flooding hampers cemetery visits in Pampanga (2026-11-02 10:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Some families had difficulty visiting the graves of their departed loved ones at Holy Spirit Memorial Park in Masantol, Pampanga, during Undas 2026 due to persistent flooding in the area. Floodwaters continued to submerge portions of the cemetery, forcing visitors to navigate flooded pathways and making some graves difficult to reach. /dp

• PCG: Over 23,000 passengers at ports by All Souls' Day midnight (2026-11-02 10:02)

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) logged more than 23,000 passengers at ports nationwide by Monday midnight, as thousands traveled for the annual observance of All Souls' Day. The PCG said it monitored 12,108 outbound passengers and 11,414 inbound passengers between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday. The Coast Guard District Western Visayas recorded

• Top 5 most wanted murder suspect in Caraga arrested in Agusan del Sur (2026-11-02 09:50)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Operatives arrested on Sunday Caraga region's fifth most wanted person, who is facing a murder charge, in Agusan del Sur. Police Col. Romeo Villalobos Jr., Agusan del Sur police provincial director, identified the suspect only by his alias, "Lando." He is 44 and a farmer residing in Barangay Bunawan

• Lanao del Sur farmers get climate-resilient rice farming training (2026-11-02 09:20)

MARAWI CITY — Around 200 rice farmers from Maguing and Poona Bayabao in Lanao del Sur received fertilizer assistance after participating in a training program on improving rice production and adapting to climate change, particularly the effects of El Niño. The Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur, through its Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg),

• 15-year-old boy admits killing mother with hammer in Bohol (2026-11-02 09:12)

TAGBILARAN CITY — A 15-year-old boy has admitted killing his 46-year-old mother with a hammer following an argument at their home in Panglao, Bohol, before dragging her body to an abandoned septic tank, police said Sunday, Nov. 1. Police Major Joseph Lopena, spokesperson for the Bohol Police Provincial Office (BPPO), said Panglao police initiated contact

• Manila North Cemetery logs over 1.3 million visitors on All Saints' Day (2026-11-02 08:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila North Cemetery recorded more than 1.3 million visitors on Sunday, All Saints' Day. Based on the cemetery's crowd monitoring update, an estimated 1,326,800 people visited their departed loved ones before it closed for the day on Nov. 1. This was despite the high heat and a sudden downpour around noon.

• Rillo open to dropping cyber libel, but PGMN host Hirro won't apologize (2026-11-02 08:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Quezon City Rep. Marvin Rillo said he is willing to drop the seven counts of cyber libel he filed against Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN) host CJ Hirro if she apologizes, but the accused said she has no intention of saying sorry. This came after the Quezon City Regional Trial Court

• Private vehicles get temporary busway access from Nepa Q-Mart to Boni (2026-11-02 08:43)

MANILA, Philippines — Private vehicles will be temporarily allowed to pass through the Edsa Busway from Nepa Q-Mart to Boni Avenue stations starting Monday, Nov. 2, Transportation Sec. Vince Dizon announced. Dizon said the arrangement would remain in effect for about two weeks, or until the road resurfacing along the stations under Phase 2 of

• MMDA: Light traffic on major NCR roads on All Souls' Day morning (2026-11-02 07:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Major roads across Metro Manila are experiencing light traffic as of 7 a.m. on Monday, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said. The update came as Filipinos observe All Souls' Day on Nov. 2, with families visiting cemeteries to pay their respects to departed loved ones. In its Metrobase traffic update, the

• Amihan to bring rain to Extreme Northern Luzon on All Souls' Day (2026-11-02 07:42)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon, locally known as amihan, is forecast to bring rain showers to Extreme Northern Luzon on All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, the state weather bureau reported. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the amihan is expected to bring partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated

• Lacson cautions vs airing updates on Dela Rosa hunt (2026-11-02 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson has cautioned authorities against publicly disclosing operational details in the intensified search for Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, saying secrecy is essential when law enforcers pursue a high-profile target. "SSSHHH… : When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key, unless disinformation

• Truth body to assist in legal action on drug war autopsies (2026-11-02 05:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Truth Commission will assist families of drug war victims if they take legal action against the doctors who allegedly violated their profession's code of ethics when they signed off death certificates with dubious causes of deaths. A lawyer for the families of the drug war victims said, however, that there are

• Prosecution sees VP trial wrap by end-November (2026-11-02 05:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could wrap up by end-November, the House's lead prosecutor said on Sunday, which could mark the end of a

months-long proceeding that has exposed alleged misconduct by the early presidential favorite.In a statement, Batangas Rep. Gerville Luistro, the chief prosecutor in the impeachment

• Philip Juico, former DAR Secretary; 78 (2026-11-02 05:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Philip “Popoy” Juico, former Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) secretary and a prominent figure in the country’s sports administration who headed the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the national athletics federation, died on Oct. 31. He was 78. His son Vincent announced his death in a Facebook post on Sunday, saying Juico

• Missing UP student found alive in Laguna – PNP (2026-11-02 05:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police stressed the need for mental health support on Sunday after rescuing a missing student from the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños who allegedly attempted suicide twice during her six-day disappearance. The fourth-year student, whose identity was withheld, was found in San Pablo City, Laguna, on Friday

• PAWS to pet owners: Sue firm for estafa (2026-11-02 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) urged the owners of the 25 deceased dogs and cats that were dumped at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, to sue the pet crematorium for estafa by means of deceit. “Pet parents paid for a service that was supposed to provide their

• PNP probes link between Pangasinan, Cebu ‘child abuses’ (2026-11-02 05:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police has intensified intelligence operations nationwide to determine whether separate child exploitation cases in Pangasinan and Cebu involve a common network of perpetrators. Authorities in Pangasinan are investigating alleged exploitation activities in Urdaneta City, while a French national was arrested in Cebu over alleged sexual offenses against minors. Intelligence

• Bohol’s smoke ritual caps cemetery visits (2026-11-02 05:17)

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL, Philippines — Before heading home after paying tribute to their departed loved ones on All Saints’ Day, some cemetery visitors in Barangay Taloto here make one final stop: passing through a cloud of smoke believed to drive away evil spirits and negative energy. The practice, known as “palina,” remains an enduring tradition

• Duyog Bangsamoro welcomes first regular BARMM parliament (2026-11-02 05:15)

COTABATO CITY, BARMM, Philippines — Duyog Bangsamoro, a national multisectoral coalition supporting the Bangsamoro peace process, welcomed on Sunday the assumption of the first elected parliament in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). In a statement, the coalition of 15 civil society organizations said the convening of the first-ever elected 80-member Bangsamoro Parliament

• Baguio council seeks report on P225-M Camp John Hay claim vs BCDA (2026-11-02 00:00)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — The city council is seeking a detailed accounting of Camp John Hay ‘s business tax collections and the city’ s estimated P225-million claim for unpaid rentals and revenue shares from the property. In a statement Sunday (Nov. 1), the city council discussed the matter during its recent regular session, when Councilor Leandro Yangot

• 3 marijuana plantations destroyed in Benguet (2026-11-01 23:21)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — Police discovered three marijuana plantations in the towns of Kapangan and Kibungan in Benguet, and seized plants and seedlings with an estimated street value of P270,000 during eradication operations on Friday, Oct. 30. In a statement, the Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-CAR) said the plantations were found in Barangay Sagubo in Kapangan

• Robredo, Salceda families remember departed loved ones on All Saints’ Day (2026-11-01 22:42)

LEGAZPI CITY, ALBAY, Philippines — The families of Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo and Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) Secretary Joey Salceda visited the graves of their departed loved ones in Camarines Sur and Albay on Sunday, Nov. 1, in observance of All Saints’ Day. Salceda visited the Garden of Faith in Barangay Sugcad, Polangui,

• Ex-Abucay mayor Liberato ‘Pambato’ Santiago Jr. dies at 89 (2026-11-01 22:11)

ABUCAY, BATAAN — Former Abucay Mayor Liberato “Pambato” Santiago Jr. died Sunday afternoon (Nov. 1) at the age of 89, according to his son-in-law, incumbent Mayor Erik Martel, who announced the news on social media. The cause of Santiago’ s death was not publicly disclosed. Santiago was a successful businessman before entering politics. He first became

• Ultra Lotto 6/58, Super Lotto 6/49 draw results on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026 (2026-11-01 22:01)

MANILA, Philippines — No ticket holder won the Ultra Lotto 6/58 or the Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot in the draws on Sunday, November 1, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw result: 14-34-54-18-05-46. Jackpot prize: ₱468.92 million Super Lotto 6/49 draw result: 44-16-40-19-27-32. Jackpot prize: ₱78.61 million. Minor games The

• Bataan groups hold candle vigil to mourn felled trees (2026-11-01 21:46)

LIMAY, Bataan — Members of youth group Young Bataeños for Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBean) and advocacy group Nuclear-Free Bataan Movement (NFBM) lit candles in Limay town to mourn the trees cut down along Roman Highway and other parts of Bataan. In a statement on Sunday, Eric Beren, YoungBean secretary general, said the activity was part

• Gatchalian calls for tighter monitoring of pet service providers (2026-11-01 20:26)

MANILA, Philippines – Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Sunday urged local government units and agencies concerned across the country, such as the Bureau of Animal Industry, to inspect and audit all operating pet service providers, including crematoriums. He said LGUs and concerned agencies must ensure that such businesses are licensed, environmentally compliant, and observe clear standards

• OPAPRU identifies best practices, lessons learned in BARMM polls assessment (2026-11-01 19:51)

COTABATO CITY — The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) has conducted a post-assessment workshop to learn more about the lessons learned during the historic Bangsamoro parliamentary elections. In a statement on Sunday, the OPAPRU said the government peace mechanisms in the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

• Over P500,000 suspected marijuana intercepted at Zambo Sur delivery hub (2026-11-01 19:45)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Anti-narcotics agents intercepted a parcel containing over four kilograms of suspected dried marijuana leaves worth over P500,000 during an interdiction operation at a local delivery hub in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur on Saturday. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-9 (PDEA-9) – Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Office (ZDSPO) reported that operatives,

• Ebrahim vows to continue pushing for Bangsamoro reforms, development (2026-11-01 19:35)

COTABATO CITY – Former Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) interim chief minister Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim has vowed to continue advancing genuine reforms, moral governance, peace, and meaningful development for the Bangsamoro people. Ebrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and MP Mohagher Iqbal, MILF vice chairman, failed to get

• ‘Secrecy discipline’ is key in hunting down Bato dela Rosa, says Lacson (2026-11-01 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Panfilo Lacson reminded authorities on Sunday to be cautious in publicizing information about their next move in hunting down Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, warning that it could compromise their operations. “SSSHHH… : When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key, unless disinformation is

• Public school principal, 4 others nabbed in Dinagat drug bust (2026-11-01 18:24)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – A 56-year-old public elementary school principal was arrested alongside four alleged street-level pushers during an early morning buy-bust operation in San Jose, Dinagat Islands on Friday. Operatives from the Regional Drug Enforcement Unit-13

(RDEU-13) and the Regional Intelligence Division-13 (RID-13), backed by the San Jose Municipal Police Station and

• Ex-PSC chair Philip ‘Popoy’ Juico dies at 78 (2026-11-01 18:10)

MANILA, Philippines — Former Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson Philip “Popoy” Juico passed away on Saturday, October 31. He was 78. Juico’s son, Vincent, confirmed this in a Facebook post on Sunday. “It is with deep sadness that I share the passing of my father, Philip “Popoy” Juico, who passed away yesterday evening at 8:18

• De Lima urges lawmakers to pass tougher animal welfare bill (2026-11-01 18:05)

MANILA, Philippines – Congress should tighten national animal welfare laws following the illegal dumping of 25 dead pets in Bulacan, Mamamayang Liberal Rep. Leila de Lima said on Sunday. On Friday, animal welfare group Luna and Furry Siblings sparked widespread outrage after it exposed on social media how the remains of several dogs and cats

• Marcos family makes private Undas visit to patriarch’s tomb (2026-11-01 18:02)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and his family avoided the usual Undas crowd when they visited the tomb of his father, former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City. The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Sunday said Marcos made a private visit to his father’s

• Over 166,000 personnel deployed for Undas security, public assistance (2026-11-01 17:49)

MANILA, Philippines—A total of 166,365 police and other government personnel, and civilian volunteers were deployed nationwide on Sunday for security and assistance as crowds flocked to cemeteries and memorial parks for All Saints’ Day. In a statement on Sunday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said the deployment consists of 78,952 police personnel, 20,837 personnel from

• DPWH: Pasig Blvd-C5 Flyover, C5 Boni Serrano Flyover to be reopened ahead of schedule (2026-11-01 17:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Motorists can already access the Pasig Boulevard-C5 Flyover and C5 Boni Serrano Flyover earlier than their originally scheduled completion, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announced on Sunday. In a statement, the DPWH said the northbound lane of the Pasig Blvd-C5 Flyover will be passable early on Monday evening, November

• No fully booked trips up to Nov. 3 so far at PITX (2026-11-01 17:09)

MANILA, Philippines — No trips at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) have been fully booked yet in select routes across the country until November 3, terminal management said on Sunday. In its 4 p.m. Sunday update, PITX said that for November 1, Sunday, the following routes logged the following booking status: 32.56 percent for

• Ex-GPH peace panel chair warns of ‘tyranny of the majority’ in BARMM Parliament (2026-11-01 17:00)

COTABATO CITY — Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, former chair of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) peace panel that signed the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), has warned that the new Bangsamoro Parliament could become “a tyranny of the majority” if its ruling bloc treats itself as the

• PPA logs over 1M passengers amid Undas exodus (2026-11-01 16:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Over one million passengers flocked to different ports across the country amid the Undas exodus this year, according to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on Sunday. In its latest passenger traffic update, the PPA said that 36,753 passengers were monitored as of 8 a.m. on Sunday, which also falls on All Saints’

• Farmer wanted for rape nabbed in Surigao cemetery (2026-11-01 16:40)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— As thousands visited the gravesites of their departed loved ones on All Saints’ Day, law enforcers tracked down and arrested Caraga region’s eighth most wanted person inside a public cemetery in Tagbina, Surigao del Sur Sunday morning. Joint police operatives apprehended the 45-year-old farmer around 10:05 a.m. at the Tagbina

• LOOK: Manila North Cemetery gravesites of heroes, leaders and icons (2026-11-01 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines – Spanning 54 hectares, the Manila North Cemetery (Cimetière del Norte) not only functions as a necropolis but can also be considered an open-air museum, preserving the legacies of statesmen, revolutionary figures, literary icons, educators, and national heroes. A walkthrough of these historical plots offers a glimpse into the architectural reverence dedicated to

• Lacson: Majority bloc united in getting rid of ‘pork’ from 2027 budget bill (2026-11-01 16:23)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Panfilo Lacson on Sunday said the majority bloc supports Senate finance committee chair Sen. JV Ejercito’s efforts to remove “unwarranted, whimsical, and corruption-prone items” from the proposed 2027 national budget. “The majority of senators are rallying behind Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito’s efforts to cleanse the 2027 budget…,” Lacson said

• More MRT-3 trains on Monday, November 2 – DOTr (2026-11-01 16:07)

MANILA, Philippines — More trains will be deployed at the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) on Monday, November 2, in anticipation of the volume of passengers returning to Metro Manila after the Undas weekend, according to the Department of Transportation (DOTr). In a statement on Sunday, the DOTr said 19 trains would be deployed

• Hataman calls for unity, good governance as BARMM Parliament convenes (2026-11-01 15:54)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Basilan Governor Mujiv Hataman called for unity and good governance following the installation of the first regular Bangsamoro Parliament and the election of Member of Parliament Abdulraof Macacua as chief minister. In a statement on Sunday, Hataman noted that government success must be measured by tangible improvements in the

• No sign of ex-BuCor chief Bantag in Ifugao poultry police operation (2026-11-01 15:14)

BAGUIO CITY — Former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag eluded arrest after police failed to find him at a poultry farm in Barangay Pugol, Lamut, Ifugao, during an operation early Sunday. Bantag is wanted in connection with the 2022 killings of broadcaster Percival “Percy Lapid” Mabasa and New Bilibid Prison inmate Cristito “Jun”

• Bacolod mayor orders burial of 3-ton whale shark; cause of death unknown (2026-11-01 15:13)

BACOLOD CITY — Mayor Greg Gasataya has ordered the burial of a whale shark weighing an estimated three to four tons after it was found stranded and dead along the shoreline of Barangay 35 on Friday, with authorities yet to determine the cause of its death. A joint on-site assessment by the City Agriculture Office

• Over 1M Manila North Cemetery visitors expected on All Saints’ Day (2026-11-01 15:01)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 1 million visitors are expected to visit their loved ones’ graves at the Manila North Cemetery this All Saints’ Day alone, the cemetery director said Sunday. Ngayon aabot po ng milyon ito, more than one million. Tingin ko mas marami ngayon kasi kahapon konti lang e, naka 150,000 lang tayo

• Moderate to heavy rain expected over parts of Metro Manila, nearby provinces (2026-11-01 14:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Moderate to heavy rain showers are expected to persist over some parts of Metro Manila and nearby provinces on Sunday, coinciding with All Saints’ Day, according to the state weather bureau. In a thunderstorm advisory issued at 1:50 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said moderate to heavy

• Undas passenger volume decline noted at QC bus terminal (2026-11-01 14:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Fewer passengers traveled from a bus terminal in Quezon City during this year’s Undas break, with rising fares cited as one possible reason. At the Solid North bus terminal in Cubao, there were more vacant seats in the waiting area than those already occupied by passengers around 9:20 a.m. on Sunday, which also falls

• Ilocos Sur town promotes zero-waste practices in cemeteries (2026-11-01 14:03)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Cemetery visitors in nearby Magsingal town are being urged to bring reusable items, avoid single-use plastics and properly dispose of their trash as the local government promotes a zero-waste observance of Undas 2026. The zero-waste campaign seeks to reduce garbage generated during the annual influx of people visiting cemeteries and

• Cavite pet crematorium may have falsely claimed past cremations (2026-11-01 13:59)

MANILA, Philippines — Two animal welfare groups have reported that Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium had previously dumped deceased pets that were supposed to be cremated, following the discovery of 29 dogs and cats at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The remains were dumped in Barangay Minuyan Proper early Thursday, Oct. 29.

• Bohol gov raises reward to P150,000 for information to solve Panglao woman's killing (2026-11-01 13:35)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Bohol Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado has increased the reward money to P150,000 for anyone who can provide information leading to the identification and arrest of the person responsible for the killing of a 45-year-old woman in Panglao town. The reward was raised from the initial P100,000 following the discovery of the body

• Undas 2026: Crowds brave the heat at Manila cemeteries (2026-11-01 12:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of Filipinos braved the sweltering heat to visit their departed loved ones at the Manila North and South Cemeteries on Sunday as crowds gathered for All Saints' Day. At the cemeteries, visitors sought relief from the heat by staying under trees, using umbrellas, fanning themselves or covering their heads with towels.

• PAWS urges estafa complaint vs. crematorium over 29 dumped pets (2026-11-01 12:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) has urged owners of 29 pets dumped in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, to pursue legal action against the pet crematorium, saying the incident may constitute estafa by means of deceit. In a statement on Saturday, PAWS said affected pet parents were led to believe that

• Tight security, traffic schemes ensure orderly Undas in Caraga (2026-11-01 12:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Thousands flocked to public cemeteries and memorial parks across Caraga starting Oct. 31, as local governments mobilized security forces, medical teams, and maritime enforcers to maintain order during Undas 2026. In Butuan City, families began arriving early on Sunday at Uraya Memorial Gardens in Barangay Bancasi to light candles

• Gatchalian tells DepEd: Don't let El Niño worsen learning loss (2026-11-01 12:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to ensure that its protocols for the looming super El Niño protect students without worsening learning loss, stressing the need for localized rather than blanket class

suspensions. “El Niño not only threatens the safety of students, but also their ability to

• Undas 2026: PITX logs over 1.38 million passengers as of Nov. 1 (2026-11-01 11:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) has recorded more than 1.385 million passengers so far during this year’s Undas exodus. Based on data released as of 11 a.m. on Sunday, a total of 1,385,816 passengers were recorded at the terminal from Oct. 25 to Nov. 1. The highest number was recorded on

• Cavite pet crematorium faces raps over dumping of remains in Bulacan (2026-11-01 11:47)

CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, Bulacan — The owners and employees of a pet crematorium in Cavite are facing charges for allegedly dumping the remains of 25 animals in a village in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. The alleged act violated Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000,

• All dead pets dumped in Bulacan claimed by owners – rescue group (2026-11-01 11:38)

MANILA, Philippines — All 29 dogs and cats dumped in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, have been claimed by their respective owners, according to an animal rescue group. The deceased pets were reportedly brought to the Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, but were later found inside sacks dumped in a vacant

• BOC seeks to ease export hurdles for Filipino businesses (2026-11-01 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) is seeking to simplify export procedures and help Filipino businesses overcome regulatory and customs hurdles in accessing international markets. The bureau discussed customs processes, free trade agreements, and government support programs during its first-ever Export Summit held on Oct. 26 and 27, according to a BOC statement on

• BFAR Bicol cemetery honors 14 stranded marine mammals (2026-11-01 10:52)

LEGAZPI CITY — Fourteen whales and dolphins have found their final resting place at a cemetery in Bula, Camarines Sur, maintained by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Bicol. Established in 2013, the BFAR-5 Cetacean Cemetery is located within the agency’s regional office compound in Barangay Fabrica. It serves as a burial

• Marina grounds OceanJet 788 after Bohol docking mishap (2026-11-01 10:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) has suspended the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate (PSSC) of MV OceanJet 788 after the vessel ran aground at the loading dock of Tagbilaran Port in Bohol on Saturday, Oct. 31. The suspension prevents the vessel from operating until it passes a safety inspection and Marina determines that

• Marina grounds 2 vessels after Cagayan, Bohol mishaps (2026-11-01 10:47)

MANILA, Philippines — The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) suspended the Passenger Ship Safety Certificates (PSSCs) of two vessels involved in separate maritime incidents in Cagayan and Bohol on Saturday. In a statement on Sunday, Marina said it ordered the immediate suspension of the safety certificates of motor banca (MBca) Rose Marie 1 and passenger vessel

• Undas 2026: Bulacan dogs get Halloween pampering (2026-11-01 10:37)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan — The Halloween weekend gave dog owners in the province extra time to pamper their pets, with some bringing them to grooming shops where staff members joined in the Halloween fun by wearing spooky costumes. At Top-Notch Pet Grooming Shop along MacArthur Highway in Barangay Sta. Isabel, all five groomers and

• PDEA intercepts suspected marijuana shipment at Laguna courier hub (2026-11-01 10:32)

LUCENA CITY — The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) seized suspected marijuana products during a K9-assisted inspection at a courier hub in San Pablo City, Laguna, on Friday night, Oct. 30. In a report on Saturday, PDEA Region IV-A said agents from its Seaport Interdiction Unit-Batangas conducted the inspection at 8:30 p.m. in Barangay San

• Undas 2026: Cut flower prices surge in Bukidnon (2026-11-01 10:28)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Prices of fresh-cut flowers in local markets in Valencia City, Bukidnon, surged on Sunday, Nov. 1, driven by higher farmgate costs and increased holiday demand for All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Bing Lipat, owner of Valencia Nose Flower Shop, told the Inquirer that higher prices from wholesale suppliers forced

• Bacoor mayor orders probe into pet crematorium over dumped remains (2026-11-01 10:21)

LUCENA CITY — Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla has ordered a probe into the operations of Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium, following the discovery of 29 dead pets allegedly dumped in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan, on Oct. 30. "We will not stop until the full truth is established and anyone found responsible is

• CIDG seizes P1.7-M 'smuggled' cigarettes in Zamboanga Sibugay (2026-11-01 10:13)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — At least P1.7 million worth of alleged smuggled cigarettes were seized from two suspects during a joint law enforcement operation in Barangay Poblacion, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group – Region 9 (CIDG-9) said Sunday. Operatives from the CIDG Zamboanga Sibugay and the Ipil Municipal Police

• Fair weather in Metro Manila, other parts of PH on All Saints' Day (2026-11-01 10:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Fair weather with chances of thunderstorms are expected to persist in Metro Manila and other parts of the country on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, according to the weather bureau. In its morning weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and

Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the northeast monsoon, or amihan, and the

• Palawan cops seize P1.6M worth of illegally traded cigarettes (2026-11-01 09:55)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Police seized 1,710 reams of suspected illegally traded cigarettes worth P1.615 million in separate operations in Bataraza and Narra, Palawan, on Oct. 30 and 31. Three individuals, including a minor, were apprehended, the Palawan Police Provincial Office (PalPPO) reported. During the first operation in Bataraza, a 30-year-old fisherman identified only

• Undas tradition: 'Biko' endures in Bukidnon (2026-11-01 09:48)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Despite economic pressures, traditional Filipino delicacies remain central to All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day observances across Bukidnon, with families preserving generations-old culinary customs before heading to cemeteries. For 55-year-old Mario, a resident of Barangay Batangan, preparing biko—a sweet native delicacy made from glutinous rice (pilit), fresh coconut milk and

• Undas 2026: 1,500 passengers make last-minute trips at QC bus terminal (2026-11-01 09:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Even on All Saints' Day, several passengers flocked to a bus terminal in Quezon City to make the most of the holiday and spend time with their loved ones. According to Victory Liner, approximately 1,500 passengers had arrived at the terminal as of 8 a.m. Terminal coordinator Arnel Macaspac said the figure

• Senior citizen nabbed with P7.4-M shabu in Zamboanga City (2026-11-01 09:36)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — A 68-year-old widow was arrested with P7.4 million worth of suspected shabu in Zamboanga City in one of the locality's biggest drug seizures involving a senior citizen, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-Region 9 (PDEA-9) said on Sunday. Operatives nabbed alias "Sitti" during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Talon-Talon on

• Hagonoy's dead once more submerged by Undas floods (2026-11-01 09:29)

HAGONOY, Bulacan — In this coastal municipality where high tides are a daily occurrence, even the dead are not spared from flooding during this year's All Saints' Day weekend. On Friday, Oct. 30, major cemeteries in Hagonoy's poblacion remained submerged after floodwaters rose to 4.36 feet at 11:34 p.m. on Oct. 29, driven by high

• Undas 2026: Checkpoint in Quezon nets motorcyclist with unlicensed gun (2026-11-01 09:08)

LUCENA CITY — Police seized an unlicensed firearm and several rounds of ammunition from a motorcycle rider intercepted at a checkpoint in Lopez, Quezon, on Friday, Oct. 30. In a report on Saturday, the Police Regional Office-Calabarzon (PRO-4A) said officers manning an Undas

security checkpoint flagged down a lone motorcycle rider in Barangay Bacungan on

• Bukidnon deploys 1,100 personnel as crowds flock to cemeteries (2026-11-01 08:58)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — At least 1,100 security personnel were deployed across Bukidnon on Sunday, Nov. 1, to enforce safety guidelines and El Niño fire prevention measures as crowds flocked to cemeteries for Undas 2026. Personnel from the Bukidnon Police Provincial Office, the Bureau of Fire Protection, the provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (DRRMO),

• Missing fisherman rescued off Mauban, Quezon (2026-11-01 08:38)

LUCENA CITY — A fisherman who went missing while fishing off Infanta, Quezon, on Oct. 29, was rescued off Mauban on Saturday morning. Mauban Mayor Erwin Pastrana said in a Facebook post that the fisherman was rescued off Barangay Cagsiay III and immediately assisted by local residents. Pastrana identified the rescued fisherman as an Infanta

• 8 rescued after cargo boat partially sinks off Cagayan (2026-11-01 08:11)

TUGUEGARAO CITY — Eight crew members of a cargo boat were rescued after it partially sank off Dalupiri Island in Calayan, Cagayan, on Saturday, Oct. 31, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and local disaster response teams. The M/B Rose Marie 1 reportedly experienced engine trouble and took in water, causing it to partially

• Marcos urges Filipinos to turn Undas spirit into acts of kindness (2026-11-01 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Sunday called on Filipinos to extend the spirit of remembrance during All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day to acts of compassion, particularly toward people who are struggling. In his message for Undas, Marcos said the devotion Filipinos show in honoring their departed loved ones should also

• JV, Lacson: Budget 'bicam' open to all, sparing none (2026-11-01 05:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate finance committee chair Sen. JV Ejercito and vice chair Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson promised that they would spare no one, including the son of President Marcos, from scrutiny during deliberations by the bicameral conference committee on the P7.2-trillion national budget, which is alleged to be filled with insertions akin to pork.

• At 90, sis of WWII soldier visits his grave after decades long search (2026-11-01 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — For only the second time in eight decades, Adelaida Samonte, 90, traveled from Batangas to Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City on Saturday, to visit the grave of her older brother, a World War II soldier. It was only last year when her family discovered where Victor Samonte, who died of

• A buoy for the spirit in flood-weary Marikina (2026-11-01 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Dave Dela Cruz, dazed and knocked flat, woke up drenched on a chapel floor in Marikina City. He had slipped and bashed his head the previous night, when floods from

Super Typhoon Carina (international name: Gaemi) refused to spare even the holiest of places.But unlike his neighbors hauling appliances to higher

• Edcom: Learning gap can be fixed even before Grade 1 (2026-11-01 05:28)

MANILA, Philippines — The Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) has called on the Department of Education (DepEd) to strengthen early childhood and primary education curricula to address the growing number of “struggling readers” among Grade 1 students. Edcom 2 made the call after the DepEd’s Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessment for the start of

• DOE on ‘Undas’ energy supply alert (2026-11-01 05:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) said it is monitoring the country’s electricity and fuel supply amid the expected increase in travel and public activity during the “Undas” or All Saints’ Day holiday. The agency said it is closely working with power generation firms, the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines and distribution

• 800 deportees arrive in Zamboanga from Sabah (2026-11-01 05:24)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — Some 800 deportees from Sabah, Malaysia, arrived in Zamboanga City on Friday night aboard passenger vessel MV Antonia 1, the Zamboanga Peninsula regional field office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said on Saturday. Of the 800 deportees, 589 are adult males, 89 are adult

• ‘Newspaper of the Year’: Inquirer bags 2026 ALTA media award (2026-11-01 05:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) was among the 66 media honorees recognized at the 7th Alta Media Icon Awards 2026, an honor conferred by the University of Perpetual Help System Dalta (UPHSD). The Inquirer received the award as Newspaper of the Year. Inquirer Foundation executive director Connie Kalagayan accepted the trophy on

• Bamboo takes center stage in Unesco geopark (2026-11-01 05:20)

BOHOL, Philippines — Bohol province is embracing bamboo, a traditional material used in construction and handicrafts, as part of efforts to promote sustainable tourism and improve local livelihoods. In 2023, the island province was designated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) as its first Global Geopark in the Philippines, in recognition

• Sagada’s ‘Panag-aapoy’ lights up a hill to honor the dead (2026-11-01 05:17)

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — I was at the early stages of graduate school thesis work at the University of the Philippines Baguio in 2007 when I was told by photographer Tommy Hafalla that the ritual “Begnas” of Sagada town in Mountain Province was to be held in the days leading up to All Saints’ Day.

• This week’s milestones: Nov. 1 to Nov. 7 (2026-11-01 05:15)

Nov. 4, 1999 Tuguegarao was converted from a municipality to a component city of Cagayan province through the approval of Republic Act No. 8755. A plebiscite was later held on Dec. 18, 1999, to ratify the conversion. Designated as the capital city of Cagayan and the regional center of Cagayan Valley, Tuguegarao is bounded by

• Spooky mall frights, cemetery bazaar mark Bukidnon Halloween (2026-11-01 03:36)

VALENCIA CITY, BUKIDNON, Philippines — Holiday shoppers and cemetery visitors here experienced a mix of fright and festival energy on Saturday as local businesses and city organizers rolled out Halloween-themed attractions alongside the annual All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day exodus. Inside one of the city’s premier shopping malls, retail employees transformed into iconic

• Faith traditions that shape how Filipinos observe All Souls’ Day (2026-11-01 01:19)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — For Donna Montebon, a Catholic mother of three, All Souls’ Day is more than an annual visit to the cemetery. It is a family tradition that keeps the memories of departed relatives alive and allows younger generations to learn about those who came before them. Every Nov. 1 and 2, her

• Iligan mayor asks cemetery visitors to observe proper waste disposal (2026-11-01 01:01)

ILIGAN CITY, Philippines — To help maintain cleanliness in cemeteries during this year’s observance of “Undas,” Iligan City Mayor Frederick Siao had asked cemetery visitors to bring their own trash bags so they can properly dispose of their waste. “It would be better if the public brought their own trash bags when visiting cemeteries so

• 22 PUV drivers in Zamboanga test positive for drugs in ‘Oplan Harabas’ (2026-11-01 00:39)

PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, Philippines — A total of 22 public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers across the Zamboanga Peninsula region tested positive for illegal drug use during a surprise drug testing operation conducted at various transport terminals in time for the observance of Undas on Thursday, Oct. 29. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Regional

• Negros Occidental gov calls for ‘compassionate’ pricing of sugar (2026-10-31 23:56)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL — Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson said he hopes the buying price of sugar hits P3,000 per 50-kilogram bag (Lkg) to enable farmers to survive. “We cannot compel the traders to buy at the price we want [but] we are hoping they understand the situation and are more compassionate,” he

• Planters group welcome SRA’s cloud seeding fund in Negros, Panay (2026-10-31 23:39)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is allocating P30 million for cloud seeding operations in the Visayas to mitigate the effects

of the super El Niño, Manuel Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers Federation, saidFriday, Oct. 30. Lamata, in a press statement, said he received a letter from

• Bishop calls for accountability, RE shift amid Visayas power crisis (2026-10-31 23:05)

BACOLOD CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, Philippines — San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza, president of Caritas Philippines, called for strict accountability and an urgent transition to distributed renewable energy (RE) following recurring power outages that have disrupted lives and local economies across the Visayas region. Addressing the ongoing grid instability, Alminaza cited findings from a recent report

• Civil society groups urge BARMM parliament to shun traditional politics (2026-10-31 22:45)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — As the first elected Parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) opened its inaugural session Friday, civil society leaders, peacebuilders, and rights advocates warned against trading a revolutionary legacy for the transactional spoils of traditional politics. Rights advocacy group Katungod Bangsamoro framed the assembly not merely

• CDO authorities advise early cemetery visits to beat the heat (2026-10-31 22:23)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — With tens of thousands expected to flock to usually congested cemeteries, local authorities here have laid down strict guidelines for this year’s “Undas” or “Kalag-Kalag” observance, banning overnight stays, liquor, and smoking while urging the public to dodge the peak daytime heat. Visiting hours across all private and public

• Lone player bags Lotto 6/42 jackpot on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026 (2026-10-31 21:51)

MANILA, Philippines—One ticket holder won the ₱10 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot on Saturday, October 31, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. No winner hit the jackpot in Grand Lotto 6/55 draw also on Saturday. Lotto 6/42 draw result: 16-40-07-18-41-03. Jackpot prize: P10 million Grand Lotto 6/55 draw result: 42-30-21-17-20-01. Jackpot prize: ₱319.54 million.

• Iloilo City gears up Tigkaralag; Cemetery visitors brave floods (2026-10-31 21:43)

ILOILO CITY — The Iloilo City Operations Center (OpCen) has been placed on blue alert for this year’s observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, locally known as Tigkaralag. Under Executive Order / Memorandum Order No. 409 signed by Mayor Raisa Treñas, the blue alert took effect at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October

• Yolanda fatalities’ kin welcome results of NBI’s DNA tests (2026-10-31 21:31)

TACLOBAN CITY — More than a decade after Super Typhoon Yolanda devastated this city, families of victims buried in a mass grave at the Holy Cross Memorial Cemetery are hopeful they will finally know the exact resting places of their loved ones through DNA testing conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). While welcoming

• Planters, labor groups renew call for higher millgate sugar prices (2026-10-31 21:19)

BACOLOD CITY – Sugarcane growers and labor unions in Negros Occidental renewed their call for fairer farmgate sugar prices on Saturday, pointing out that recent price increases remain insufficient to cover high production costs and sustain small-scale planters. Recent raw sugar bidding results showed gains across major mills in the province, with Hawaiian-Philippine Co. reaching

• Proper hygiene urged as Tacloban schools record 704 cases of sore eyes (2026-10-31 21:18)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — At least 704 cases of sore eyes, or conjunctivitis, were recorded in nine schools in Tacloban City from Oct. 1 to 15, prompting health officials and school administrators to remind students and teachers to observe proper hygiene and avoid spreading the infection. Data from the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

• Animal protection, care bill pushed after dead pets dumped in Bulacan (2026-10-31 21:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Akbayan party-list Rep. Percival Cendaña has called for the passage of their bill which seeks stronger protection of animals, after reports on the dumping of 29 dead pets' remains in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. In a statement on Saturday, Cendaña called for the passage of House Bill (HB)

• Lightning strike kills 19-year-old hiker in Bukidnon (2026-10-31 20:52)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — What was meant to be a scenic mountain getaway ended in tragedy on Friday afternoon, Oct. 30, after a 19-year-old male hiker died from a lightning strike at a popular nature spot on Mt. Kilagas in Barangay Kiliog, Libona town. The victim, a resident of Macanahan, Cagayan de Oro City, had

• LOOK: Iligan City's holy, non-spooky Halloween (2026-10-31 20:42)

ILIGAN CITY – Halloween, traditionally observed through scary stories and images. need not be spooky. This is the message put across by the Catholic diocese here on Saturday, as the nation prepares to observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Sunday and Monday, respectively. As a counter-event, the diocese held its own version

• Marcos greets INC leader Eduardo Manalo on his 71st birthday (2026-10-31 20:33)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Saturday greeted Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) Executive Minister Eduardo Manalo on his 71st birthday, expressing support for their shared goal of a peaceful and united Philippines. "Maligayang kaarawan po kay Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo, Tagapamahalang Pangkalahatan ng Iglesia ni Cristo!" Marcos said in a Facebook

• Suspected NPA leader slain in South Cotabato encounter (2026-10-31 19:55)

COTABATO CITY -– A suspected leader of the Regional Instructors Bureau of the communist New People’s Army (NPA) was killed in an encounter with the military and police in Polomolok, South Cotabato Friday evening. Brig. Gen. Edgar Catu, commander of the Army’s 6th Infantry Division, identified the fatality as Noel Pamaong, also known by the

• Ejercito opens 2027 budget bicam hearings to civil society groups (2026-10-31 19:17)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate finance committee chairman Jose Victor “JV” Ejercito said that the Senate will open the bicameral conference committee to the civil society organizations (CSOs) for a more transparent 2027 General Appropriations Bill (GAB). The Senate will resume its plenary sessions on Nov. 9, where the senators will deliberate the P7.2 trillion budget

• 2 dead, 1 hurt in Quezon road mishaps (2026-10-31 19:05)

LUCENA CITY —A pedestrian and aa motorcyclist died while another pedestrian was injured in separate road accidents in Quezon province on Friday, according to the police. In Tagkawayan town, two pedestrians walking along Quirino Highway in Barangay Sta. Cecilia were struck by a passing Bicol-bound truck at 9:50 a.m., according to a Quezon police report.

• Edcom 2: Boost early childhood, primary education curricula (2026-10-31 18:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Amid the numbers of “struggling readers” among Grade 1 students, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to strengthen the curriculum in early childhood and primary education. This, as 75 percent of Grade 1 learners have been found to be “struggling readers”, based on DepEd’s

• Agusan del Sur upland flower growers enjoy brisk Undas sales (2026-10-31 18:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Freshly harvested blooms from an upland farming village here saw brisk sales on Saturday as consumers and travelers snapped up locally grown arrangements ahead of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day (Undas). Members of the Pinagalaan Cutflower Farmers Association set up stalls near the city rotunda, drawing steady crowds of

• Over 1,400 Albay folk still in evacuation centers after Mayon eruption (2026-10-31 18:08)

LEGAZPI CITY — At least 1,477 residents in Albay remained in evacuation centers on Saturday (Oct. 31), a day after Mayon Volcano had a moderately explosive eruption that prompted authorities to enforce mandatory evacuation. The evacuees, who were living within the volcano’s six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ), were moved to safer areas after the Philippine

• 4 rescued after being swept by strong current in La Union (2026-10-31 18:00)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), with assistance from four fishermen, rescued four persons who were swept away by a strong waves while swimming off

Barangay San Francisco, San Fernando City, La Union, on Friday. In a statement, the PCG said itsCoast Guard Station La Union Baywatch Team responded to the incident

• No exceptions in Senate's review of 2027 budget – Lacson (2026-10-31 17:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo Lacson said there will be no exceptions as the Senate goes "gung-ho" in scrutinizing questionable allocations in the House-approved version of the 2027 General Appropriations Bill (GAB). Lacson said that the Senate majority backs Senate finance committee chairman Jose Victor "JV" Ejercito's move to address suspected red flags in the

• 14,000 Ilocandia security, emergency personnel all set for Undas 2026 (2026-10-31 17:17)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan—Around 14,000 security and emergency personnel will be deployed across the Ilocos region to strengthen public safety and road security during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Nov. 1 and 2. Police Maj. Cherry Tolentino, chief of the Police Regional Office I public information office, said the deployment would

• Mayor Zamora inspects San Juan City Cemetery ahead of Undas (2026-10-31 16:53)

MANILA, Philippines —San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora inspected the San Juan City Cemetery as early as Thursday, Oct. 22, as part of the city government's preparations for the upcoming observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, collectively known as Undas. The inspection focused on the cemetery's readiness to accommodate the expected influx

• Undas sea travelers swell to over 114,000 Saturday afternoon – PCG (2026-10-31 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of passengers in seaports across the country swelled to more than 114,000 by Saturday afternoon, ahead of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, or undas. The Philippine Coast Guard monitored 60,411 outbound passengers and 54,291 inbound passengers, as of 12:34 p.m. The tally was covered in its noon to

• Remains of fallen Air Force pilot back home in Urdaneta (2026-10-31 16:22)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan, Philippines—The remains of Air Force Capt. Raymart Cabangcala, one of four pilots killed in a midair collision involving two military trainer aircraft, were brought home to Urdaneta City on Friday, Oct. 30. A helicopter carrying his remains landed at the Urdaneta National High School oval, accompanied by his mother, Myrna, and sister Mayross,

• Undas liquor ban in and around Magsingal, Ilocos Sur public cemeteries (2026-10-31 16:12)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The municipal government of Magsingal has imposed a two-day liquor ban in all public cemeteries and within a 300-meter radius of their boundaries on Nov. 1 and 2 to maintain peace and order during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Under Executive Order No. 69, Series

• OPAPRU hails, encourages Bangsamoro Parliament (2026-10-31 15:59)

COTABATO CITY — The Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru) on Saturday urged members of the newly constituted Bangsamoro Parliament to bridge diverse perspectives and work together as the region begins its first regular parliamentary government. In a statement, Secretary Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and

• Looking back at rich-poor divide history of Bulakan, Bulacan cemetery (2026-10-31 15:49)

BULAKAN, Bulacan—Centuries-old arches that once symbolized the divide between the rich and the poor, even in death, remain standing at a Roman Catholic cemetery in this town, the former capital of Bulacan province. At the municipal cemetery behind the Nuestra Señora de la Asunción Church, at least two old arches still stand as reminders of

• Fire hits 4 houses in Laoag City (2026-10-31 15:15)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur – Fire struck four houses in Barangay Nalbo in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte on Friday. No casualties reported, local authorities said. According to Laoag City Vice Mayor Carlos Fariñas, the fire was reported to him at 6:52 a.m. via a Facebook Messenger call from a resident in the area. Fariñas said

• P9-M ‘smuggled’ cigarettes seized in Surigao del Sur; 2 arrested (2026-10-31 15:08)

LIANGA, Surigao del Sur — Police seized around P9 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes and arrested two individuals during an anti-smuggling operation in Barangay Saint Christine here Friday morning. Operatives from the 1st Surigao del Sur Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC), led by acting force commander Maj. Magdalino G. Pimentel Jr., intercepted the contraband

• Catholic bishop lauds election of BARMM Chief Minister Macacua (2026-10-31 15:00)

COTABATO CITY — The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Inter-religious Dialogue (ECID) welcomed the election of Abdulraof “Sammy Gambar” Macacua as chief minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). “A historic step for the peace process. Mr. Macacua is the first to hold this office in the

• Iligan City holds Alimyon Flower Festival in time for Undas (2026-10-31 14:40)

ILIGAN CITY – In the run-up to All Souls’ Day here, business is brisk for merchants flowers and candles, two of the most common items Filipinos bring when visiting cemeteries during the annual observance. At the Alimyon Festival in Barangay Poblacion, flower vendors gather in stalls provided by the local government, creating a central marketplace

• Undas brings seasonal work, extra income to Iligan City youth (2026-10-31 14:17)

ILIGAN CITY — While families visit cemeteries to remember their departed loved ones, a group of young Iligan residents sees the annual observance of All Souls’ Day as an opportunity to

earn extra income for their households. For Arjay Cabanlit and his friend Paul Kennerth Zalsos,the days leading to Nov. 2 mean spending long

• MMDA suspends road works ahead of Christmas season (2026-10-31 12:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has temporarily suspended all road excavations in national and city roads in Metro Manila. The suspension is meant to avoid worsening the expected heavy traffic congestion to be brought by the Christmas season. In an advisory on Saturday (October 31), the MMDA said that the temporary

• Flower prices go up in Bohol ahead of Undas (2026-10-31 12:14)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — Flower prices in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, have increased by around P10 to P30 ahead of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, or Undas, prompting vendors to offer bundled arrangements as more affordable options for customers. A bundle that previously cost P75 now sells for P100, while a P100 bundle has

• No illegal items seized in Manila North Cemetery so far – police (2026-10-31 12:13)

MANILA, Philippines — No illegal items like guns and knives have been confiscated in Manila North Cemetery on the eve of Undas (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day), according to the police. Police Major Philipp Ines, public information office chief of the Manila Police District, attributed this to the law enforment's effective information dissemination.

• Cops destroy P108.8-M marijuana plants in Tinglayan, Kalinga (2026-10-31 12:00)

BAGUIO CITY—Police eradicated 544,000 fully grown marijuana plants worth an estimated P108.8 million during an anti-illegal drug operation in Tinglayan, Kalinga, this week. In a statement on Thursday, Oct. 29, the Kalinga Police Provincial Office (PPO) said the operation covered seven marijuana plantation sites spanning 48,500 square meters in Barangay Loccong. The operation, conducted on

• PNP deploys 19,972 personnel, volunteers for Undas in Eastern Visayas (2026-10-31 11:52)

TACLOBAN CITY — Nearly 20,000 police personnel, members of partner agencies, and civilian volunteers have been deployed across Eastern Visayas to ensure public safety during the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day or Undas. The Police Regional Office 8 (PRO-8) said it mobilized 19,972 personnel and force multipliers from Oct. 29 to

• Afternoon rains, high heat index forecast for 'Undas' in Mindanao (2026-10-31 11:47)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — Cemetery visitors joining the annual exodus on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on November 1 and 2 are advised to adjust their schedules. The recommendation is due to the expected afternoon rains and high heat indices forecast across Mindanao. Justine Navarro, a specialist at the state weather bureau's Mindanao

• Undas 2026: Over 30,000 passengers flock to ports amid travel rush – PCG (2026-10-31 11:41)

MANILA, Philippines — More than 30,000 passengers passed through ports nationwide on Saturday morning, Oct. 31, as Filipinos traveled to their home provinces for Undas, the annual observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). In its latest tally as of 7:45 a.m., the PCG recorded 18,717

• Pangasinan gov't, cops probe alleged child exploitation in Urdaneta City (2026-10-31 11:23)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The provincial government of Pangasinan iw appealing to the public to give information on a reported child exploitation, abuse and other unlawful activities in a house in this city. In a statement on Friday (Oct. 30), the provincial government said it was communicating with the Department of the Interior and Local Government

• 100 koi released into Burnham Lake in Baguio to control algae growth (2026-10-31 11:03)

BAGUIO CITY—Around 100 koi were released into Burnham Lake recently as part of the city's efforts to control algae growth and improve water quality. According to the Baguio City Public Information Office on Friday (Oct. 30), local volunteer and recreational development consultant Rafael Serrano and Baguio City Jail Male Dormitory warden Atty. Dexter Ngipol led

• Quezon imposes 4-day liquor ban in cemeteries for 'Undas' (2026-10-31 10:47)

LUCENA CITY — The Quezon provincial government imposed a four-day liquor ban in all public and private cemeteries across the province for a safe, peaceful and solemn observance of 'Undas' (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day). According to Executive Order (EO) No. DHT-30, "bringing, drinking, distributing and selling liquor and other alcoholic beverages inside

• Rains expected in parts of PH on Oct. 31 (2026-10-31 10:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The low-pressure area (LPA) and two other weather systems are expected to bring scattered rains and thunderstorms to parts of the country on Saturday, Oct. 30, the state weather bureau said. In its weather advisory on Saturday morning, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the trough of the

• Apayao village becomes a sanctuary for threatened, endemic birds (2026-10-31 10:36)

MANILA, Philippines — In the rivers and wetlands of Barangay Sta. Filomena in Calanasan, Apayao, hundreds of birds have found a refuge, including species threatened with extinction and others found nowhere else in the world but the Philippines. A three-day wildlife survey conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Cordillera Administrative Region

• Ilocos Norte logs 65 new dengue cases (2026-10-31 10:30)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Ilocos Norte recorded 65 new dengue cases during morbidity week 42, or from October 11 to 17. This update brings the total to 2,777 cases and four deaths from January to October 2026, according to the Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU). The latest data cover morbidity weeks 1 to

• Jeepney driver tests positive for drugs ahead of Undas in La Union (2026-10-31 10:18)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — A jeepney driver in La Union tested positive for illegal drug use during a surprise screening of public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and conductors in the Ilocos Region on Thursday, Oct. 29. The screening covered 111 transport workers as authorities intensified road safety measures ahead of Undas. The Philippine Drug

• No flowers, no visitors: The forgotten graves of Undas (2026-10-31 09:27)

MANILA, Philippines — The observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, or Undas, in the Philippines is not traditionally quiet. It is nearly a weeklong commemoration of deceased loved ones, with many people willing to travel from north to south and vice versa just to pay tribute to the dead. Undas is also

• Taal Volcano sulfur dioxide emissions drop as number of volcanic quakes rise (2026-10-31 09:16)

LUCENA CITY — Taal Volcano in Batangas recorded a sharp decline in sulfur dioxide emissions and an increase in volcanic earthquakes over the past 24 hours. The information comes from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). In its Saturday morning (Oct. 31) bulletin, Phivolcs reported sulfur dioxide emissions of 217 metric tons during

• Calabarzon cops on full alert for Undas; 12,000 personnel deployed (2026-10-31 08:57)

LUCENA CITY — The Police Regional Office-Calabarzon (PRO-4A) has deployed more than 12,000 (12,297) personnel across the region. This action is for public safety during this year's observance of 'Undas' (All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2). PRO-4A said police forces across Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon were

• Missing 35-year-old man found dead in Occidental Mindoro village (2026-10-31 08:36)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A 35-year-old man who had been reported missing was found dead in a village in Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro on Friday morning, Oct. 30, police said. The victim's body was discovered at around 9:30 a.m. in Sitio Amnay, Barangay Barahan, after a farmer reportedly spotted his white Honda XRM 125

• Sara Duterte camp rejects new cash delivery claim (2026-10-31 05:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Friday dismissed as "another tanim (planted) witness" the allegations of a man identified only by the alias "Chris" that he had twice delivered suitcases of money to Duterte. In a statement, Duterte's spokesperson Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. denied the allegations by Chris and said

• Ashes of deceased don’t belong at home, bishop reminds flock (2026-10-31 05:46)

MANILA, Philippines — A reminder from the Catholic Church in this season honoring the dead: urns containing ashes of the deceased should be laid to rest in a sacred place, such as a cemetery or columbarium. “A cemetery or columbarium also gives family and community a shared place to pray for and remember the deceased,”

• Marcos vows orderly Undas travel (2026-10-31 05:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said the government has taken steps to ensure a “safe, orderly and convenient” travel in this year’s “Undas” or the All Saints’ Day holidays. Mr. Marcos made this assurance as passenger count at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) topped 1 million that day while passenger

• Marcos to BARMM’s new MPs: Sustain the gains of peace (2026-10-31 05:34)

COTABATO CITY — President Marcos urged the first elected leaders of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to be bearers of hope for the Moro people whose aspirations for self-governance took a historic turn on Friday with the inaugural session of the 80-member regional parliament. “After decades of struggle, we have reached this

• Bato dela Rosa ignores PNP deadline; manhunt to intensify (2026-10-31 05:32)

MANILA, Philippines — A senior Philippine National Police official said they would intensify the manhunt for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa after the former national police chief ignored a deadline to surrender on Friday. The senator has a warrant of arrest from the International Criminal Court (ICC) in connection with the war on drugs. Dela

• ‘Drug war’ truth body questions doctors’ reports (2026-10-31 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — The country’s leading forensic pathologist and member of the Truth Commission that is looking into the brutal drug war on Friday called on the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) to investigate at least five doctors for their alleged “miscertification” of the cause of death of some of

• Mayon blast forces evacuation in Albay (2026-10-31 05:06)

LEGAZPI CITY — Residents living within the 6-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) of Mt. Mayon evacuated from their homes on Friday following the volcano’s explosive eruption, with local authorities rushing to move families to safer grounds. Some residents described the explosion as sounding like a bomb blast, prompting them to seek shelter in evacuation centers

• Cebu prelate to faithful: ‘Reclaim’ Halloween meaning (2026-10-31 05:04)

TAGBILARAN CITY—As Christendom prepares to observe All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, the prelate of the country’s oldest Catholic community called on the faithful to go back to the real meaning of these holy days. Cebu Archbishop Alberto Uy has called on the faithful to

reclaim Halloween’s Christian meaning by celebrating holiness and honoring

• Negros Occidental posts P42M in crop losses from dry spell (2026-10-31 05:02)

BACOLOD CITY — Negros Occidental has posted P42.41 million in crop losses amid the dry conditions brought about by the El Niño phenomenon in some parts of the province, records from the provincial government showed. READ: Negros Occidental, Bacolod, other LGUs declare state of calamity A report submitted by acting provincial agriculturist Dina Genzola to

• Cops intercept P17.65-M illegal cigarettes in Zamboanga City (2026-10-31 00:19)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur – Police operations across the Zamboanga Peninsula netted some P17.65 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes in separate interdictions Wednesday, Oct. 28, the Police Regional Office 9 (PRO-9) reported. Police Lt. Col. Shellamie Chang, chief of the PRO 9 Regional Public Information Office, said the anti-smuggling drive yielded a total

• Newborn found abandoned in Bohol town (2026-10-31 00:15)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol — A newborn baby boy was found early Friday morning, Oct. 30, abandoned inside a residential property in Panglao, Bohol, just four days after another was discovered near a school. The newborn was found at around 3 a.m. on top of a small table outside the house of 53-year-old Myrna Ayup in Purok

Source: The Manila Times

• Alliance Global bridges sustainability to people, planet, prosperity (2026-11-07 05:19)

In 2025, the company strengthened its sustainability efforts to meet stakeholder and business needs, as well as contributing to the long-term benefits of the society. Its framework — coined “SustainAgility” — provides the three main pillars of its programs: people, prosperity and planet.The people pillar pertains to building an inclusive, capable and well-supported workforce while creating genuine relationships and empowering each person.The company has enacted annual health, education and livelihood programs for various communities in the country. Through this, they helped more than 110,000 beneficiaries. The company has also supported 1,100 scholars annually.The planet pillar addresses not just the carbon footprint reduction but also mindful use of resources, ensuring these processes do not harm the environment.Currently, Alliance Global holds the most number of LEED-certified properties in the country, with 42 Green Building certifications. One of its pioneer initiatives is the MEGreen program. Under this program, the company aims to shift all Megaworld-owned offices and malls to 100-percent renewable energy. The company is also aiming to have its facilities in the United Kingdom, Spain and Mexico to shift to renewable energy.Sustainability, the company said, is also about transforming the hospitality experience. At the Newport World Resorts (NWR), the company is aiming to shift the entire complex to renewable energy. Currently, NWR

is also recognized by the EarthCheck with a silver certification for the 4th consecutive time — a testament to the effectiveness of its environmental management programs.Aside from this, the company also initiated reforestation and biodiversity conservation programs, which resulted in 520,000 trees planted. Along the Angat-Ipo Dam Watershed, their initiative resulted in 5,000 seedlines planted, which not only preserves the biodiversity of the ecosystem but also supports the livelihoods of the people in the community.The company has also recycled 500,000 kilograms of plastic waste through cleanup drives and river rehabilitation projects, substantially reducing the nonbiodegradable waste it produces.Lastly, the prosperity pillar deals with economic growth and governance that creates a lasting impact for the business, stakeholders and the people they serve.One company showing this is Emperador Inc., which advances sustainability through innovation and stewardship. At the Invergordon Distillery in Scotland, they captured 580 tons of carbon dioxide in 2025.Alliance Global also believes in investing in infrastructure that drives change. They have invested in Whyte & Mackay’s full carbon neutrality target by 2030.Overall, Alliance Global has shown great initiatives in the year of 2025, especially in environment-inclined initiatives. Its massive scale of renewable energy shifts across its properties and facilities makes a huge difference in green power and carbon footprint reduction. What makes its sustainability initiative unique is its focus on people and the community. Not only does its initiatives also focus on environment and innovation but it also ensures communities are cared for.Alliance Global is one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines. It was founded on Oct. 12, 1993, and began operations in 1994 as a glass container manufacturer. Currently, it holds interest across food and beverage, real estate, tourism-entertainment and gaming. Its main business include MegaWorld, Travellers International and Emperador Inc.It is one of the 15 organizations vying for the Sustainability Champions Awards 2026, to be bestowed by The Manila Times. The sustainability champion will be awarded on Nov. 20.

- Duterte camp accuses House prosecutors of peddling ‘half-truths’ (2026-11-07 04:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday accused the House prosecution panel of peddling “half-truths and malicious speculation” in its efforts to build an impeachment case against her.In a statement, Duterte spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. said prosecutors were disregarding due process and fairness by trying to sway public opinion through press briefings and interviews. “We apparently live in two worlds. One where due process and fairness still reign — where an accused is not condemned before she is heard, and where allegations must be proven with clear and convincing evidence presented in court,” Panelo said. “One world seeks the truth. The other desperately tries to persuade an increasingly skeptical public with asinine sound bites built on half-truths and malicious speculation,” he said.He claimed the prosecution had failed to prove its allegations against the Vice President, criticizing lead private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan and her colleagues for what he described as “asinine sound bites.” “The prosecution had its chance. It failed. On Monday, the Vice President begins her defense,” Panelo said.The impeachment trial will resume on Monday, Nov. 9.

• Fire-damaged Culiat Bridge II in QC reopens to buses (2026-11-07 03:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Buses can once again pass through Culiat Bridge II in Quezon City starting Saturday, Nov. 7, after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completed repairs on damage caused by a fire on July 11, 2026.Announcing the reopening to buses, DPWH Secretary Giovanni Lopez ordered the removal of the gantry that held the ‘Open to light vehicles’ signage positioned on the bridge. “Based on testing and analytical road rating, buses are now permitted to cross following the bridge's reopening to light vehicles on July 27,” Lopez said. “Trucks, however, remain prohibited while the public works department conducts further assessment to ensure the bridge's integrity can withstand their weight,” he said.For safe travel, the public was urged to follow DPWH advisories as the agency continues its evaluation of the bridge’s structure, he said. This came following the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure that major roads and bridges are sturdy and in good condition.Former DPWH secretary Vince Dizon inspected the bridge located along Congressional Avenue with Mayor Joy Belmonte after it was damaged by fire that destroyed 46 houses underneath the bridge.

• Duterte-aligned bets lead governor, mayor preferences — survey (2026-11-07 02:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Candidates aligned with the Duterte family lead Filipino adults' voting preferences for governor and mayor in the 2028 elections, although independent candidates remain competitive and are preferred in the rest of Luzon, a survey by Momentum Research showed.The October 16 to 19 National Momentum Survey found that 36 percent of respondents preferred Duterte-aligned candidates for both governor and mayor.Independent candidates ranked second, with 25 percent preferring them for governor and 28 percent for mayor, while opposition-aligned candidates received 16 percent and 14 percent, respectively.Candidates aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. garnered the lowest preference among the major political groupings, at 12 percent for governor and 13 percent for mayor.The findings indicate a regional divide in political preferences, with Duterte-aligned candidates drawing particularly strong support in Mindanao, while independent candidates were preferred in the rest of Luzon.In Mindanao, 65 percent of respondents said they would vote for Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates, while 64 percent preferred Duterte-aligned mayoral candidates.The corresponding figures in Metro Manila were 37 percent for mayoral candidates, while in Visayas, 35 percent preferred Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates and 33 percent mayoral candidates.In the rest of Luzon, independent candidates led with 36 percent for governor and 41 percent for mayor.The October survey further showed that political preferences varied across generations, with Millennials recording the strongest inclination toward Duterte-aligned candidates.Half of Millennial respondents, or 50 percent, preferred Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates, followed by Gen Z at 33 percent and Gen X at 28 percent.For mayoral candidates, 46 percent of Millennials and 33 percent of Gen X respondents favored Duterte allies. Gen Z respondents were almost evenly divided between independent candidates (36 percent) and Duterte-aligned candidates (34.6 percent).The survey also found that only 25 percent of Baby Boomers and members of the Silent Generation preferred

Marcos-aligned gubernatorial candidates. For mayoral races, support for Marcos-aligned candidates among these older respondents stood at 27 percent.

- Bicam approves expanded school feeding program (2026-11-07 02:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Millions of Filipino public school children are a step closer to receiving free daily meals after the bicameral conference committee approved the final version of the National Children's Nutrition Program Act, also known as the Libreng Pagkain sa Paaralan bill. The consolidated measure aims to combat stunting, malnutrition, and the learning crisis by integrating a comprehensive feeding program into the basic education system. All enrolled students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 in public elementary schools will receive free, nutritious meals daily. The program extends coverage to nutritionally deficient, undernourished, or stunted students in Grades 4 through 6 based on regular health assessments. Unlike previous feeding initiatives limited to 120 days, the feeding timeline will cover all 180 to 200 school days of the academic year. Senator Bam Aquino, principal sponsor of the bill and chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, highlighted the direct link between child nutrition and classroom performance. "This is considered the most important measure we can pass regarding education. It is a major step toward addressing malnutrition and the education crisis. Our children learn more easily when their stomachs are full and they receive proper nutrition while studying," Aquino said. Data from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) and the National Nutrition Council reveal that nearly 1 in 3 Filipino children under five years old suffers from stunting, a condition linked directly to lower academic retention and cognitive development.Aquino said that educational reform cannot succeed without solving learning poverty at its foundational root.

- 2 Filipinos face loss of US citizenship in Trump crackdown (2026-11-07 01:13)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two Philippine-born naturalized Americans are among 40 individuals facing possible revocation of their US citizenship as the Trump administration intensifies its crackdown on immigration fraud and other offenses allegedly concealed during the naturalization process.The US Department of Justice identified the two as Arnel Dacumos Tabafunda, 47, and Ramon Navarro, 68, both facing separate denaturalization proceedings in federal courts in California.Tabafunda faces the possible loss of his citizenship over alleged child sexual abuse offenses committed before and after his naturalization, while Navarro was accused of entering into a fraudulent marriage to obtain immigration benefits and eventually US citizenship.In a statement issued Oct. 5, the Justice Department said it filed denaturalization complaints against 40 individuals between Aug. 21 and Oct. 2, 2026, representing the largest number of such cases filed within a single period under the Trump administration.The department said the cases involved individuals accused of concealing criminal activity, misrepresenting personal information, or otherwise obtaining citizenship unlawfully.According to the Justice Department, a denaturalization complaint against Tabafunda was filed Sept. 15 in the US District Court for the Central District of California.Federal authorities said Tabafunda began sexually abusing a child younger than 13 before becoming a naturalized American citizen

in September 2005.He was subsequently convicted by a jury of two counts of committing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child younger than 14 under California law and sentenced to eight years in prison.The abuse occurred between February and November 2005, during which Tabafunda occupied a position of trust with the victim, the department said.Federal prosecutors contended that Tabafunda concealed his criminal conduct during his naturalization proceedings despite being required to disclose information relevant to his eligibility for citizenship. This disqualified him from meeting the good moral character requirement for naturalization.Meanwhile, Navarro faces a separate denaturalization complaint filed Oct. 2 in the US District Court for the Eastern District of California.According to the Justice Department, Navarro allegedly entered into a fraudulent marriage to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.Federal authorities alleged that he subsequently relied on that immigration status and made false representations to immigration officials to secure US citizenship.The complaint contains four counts relating to the alleged fraudulent marriage and misrepresentations that prosecutors say rendered him ineligible for naturalization.The two Filipinos are among individuals from several countries targeted in the administration's expanded denaturalization campaign.Other cases involve allegations of espionage, immigration fraud, sexual offenses, identity deception, and concealment of criminal histories.Attorney General Todd Blanche described the initiative as an unprecedented effort to revoke citizenship obtained through deception. “Today’s announcement marks the largest denaturalization effort in modern history,” Blanche said. “From an individual convicted of espionage to others convicted of sexual offenses against minors, these defendants concealed critical facts from the US government and represent serious criminal offenders.” Assistant Attorney General Brett A. Shumate of the department's Civil Division also defended the campaign. “Every single one of these individuals lied their way into US citizenship,” Shumate said.Under the US Immigration and Nationality Act, naturalized citizenship may be revoked if it was illegally obtained or secured through the concealment of material facts or willful misrepresentation.

- One valid ID is enough, ARTA says (2026-11-07 00:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Director-General Ernesto Perez said on Saturday that one valid identification card (ID), especially the national ID, is sufficient for transactions with government agencies. “If an agency still requires two valid IDs, do not hesitate to report them to ARTA so that action can be taken,” Perez said.Perez cited Section 12 of Republic Act 11055 (Philippine Identification System Act) which provides that the presentation of a PhilID or PhilSys Number (PSN) constitutes sufficient proof of identity for transactions with government agencies, subject to proper authentication. “Therefore, where the sole purpose is to establish a person's identity, a government agency should generally not require a second government-issued ID once a valid PhilID has been presented,” he said.He explained that it was also consistent with Republic Act 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business Law, which prohibits unnecessary, excessive, and redundant requirements unless specifically required by law or stated in the agency's Citizen's Charter. “Accordingly, requiring another ID solely to verify identity may be considered redundant,” the top ARTA official stressed.However,

agencies may require additional documents for purposes other than identity verification, such as proof of authority or eligibility, Perez said. “In such cases, the additional requirement should be the specific document needed to establish the required information, rather than another valid ID whose purpose is likewise only to establish identity,” he pointed out.Only government agencies including local government units are covered by the policy, Perez said.

• BI deports 115 Chinese caught in anti-POGO raids (2026-11-07 00:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said on Saturday that 115 Chinese who were arrested in its crackdown on illegal Philippines offshore gaming operators (POGO) in October have been deported.Viado said those expelled were caught by law enforcement agencies led by the Bureau of Immigration and National Bureau of Investigation in two major anti-illegal POGO operations in Zamboanga Sibugay and Cubao, Quezon City.The deportees were flown to China aboard a chartered China Southern Airlines flight CZ5308 following the issuance of summary deportation orders against them.Viado said the deportation underscored the bureau’s commitment in going after foreign nationals involved in illegal activities . “The agency will continue strengthening its enforcement operations and coordination with local and international law enforcement partners to combat illegal POGO operations, online scams, and other transnational crimes,” he said.

• Palace orders probe into alleged jail privileges for Romualdez (2026-11-06 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacanang on Friday raised the need for an investigation on the reported requirement of detained former House speaker Martin Romualdez to have a personal staff to attend to his needs "24/7" or round-the-clock.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro was asked to comment on the testimony of the former Quezon City jail warden that Romualdez has an assistant at the Quezon City jail."Right now, we are not the ones who can provide a concrete answer regarding that matter, as we are not aware of the truth as to whether he indeed has a special aide," Castro said in a press briefing."Perhaps what needs to be known and disclosed is the reason why it has to be 24/7. And if this appears to be special treatment, it should not become a custom or practice that is tolerated in these kinds of conditions and situations," she said in Filipino."However, it would be better if a deeper investigation is conducted into this matter to determine why former Speaker Martin Romualdez requires a 24/7 aide," the Palace press officer added.

• GSMA pushes regional cooperation vs. cross-border online scams (2026-11-06 17:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The GSMA has urged stronger regional cooperation among telecommunications companies, technology platforms and governments to combat online scams, saying 60 to 70 percent of scams originate outside the country where victims are targeted.Jeanette Whyte, GSMA head of public policy and external affairs for Asia Pacific, said that cross-border information-sharing is necessary to identify and prevent fraudulent activities.Speaking during a media roundtable at The Westin Manila on Wednesday, Whyte said that the Philippines is the first among participating ASEAN countries to conduct a data-exchange

proof of concept through Globe, allowing information to be shared with countries such as Thailand and Singapore.The GSMA's regional anti-scam task force also includes 39 companies from 17 Asia-Pacific countries, including mobile operators and digital platforms Google, Meta and TikTok.Whyte said scammers are also adapting their operations, potentially using artificial intelligence to carry out fraudulent activities without relying on large physical facilities.The GSMA cited its 2026 ASEAN Consumer Scam Report, which found that 76 percent of Filipino consumers surveyed were extremely worried about being scammed, while 62 percent avoided contact or transactions due to scam concerns.Julian Gorman, GSMA head of Asia Pacific, said efforts to combat scams remain ongoing. “We haven't won. We're not winning yet,” Gorman said.

- Impeach court admits VP’s financial records (2026-11-06 16:22)

THE Senate impeachment court has admitted financial, corporate, property and tax documents as well as the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth of Vice President Sara Duterte from 2007 to 2021 introduced by the prosecution team.The court also admitted records from the Anti-Money Laundering Council, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Securities and Exchange Commission, and bank records.However, it said these documents are considered only as “starting financial baseline” and may only be used to evaluate assets existing before Duterte assumed the vice presidency.Also allowed are land titles involving properties in Davao City and the Island Garden City of Samal, and insurance and investments documents.The court, however, rejected documentary evidence relating to the withdrawn articles.The court’s spokesman, Regie Tongol, said Presiding Officer Francis Escudero issued an order to resolve the prosecution’s offer of documentary evidence. However, he said that the admission of the documents does not mean that the prosecution’s allegations are true.In evaluating the prosecution’s evidence, the court rejected the defense’s objection that subpoenaed documents constituted a “fishing expedition” by the prosecution.However, the court also blocked efforts to introduce withdrawn charges or pre-incumbency offenses. Applying the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Duterte v. House of Representatives, it ruled that an official can only be impeached for acts committed during her current term. Duterte’s term as vice president started on June 30, 2022.The court excluded all Commission on Audit disallowance records concerning the confidential funds of the Office of the Vice President and Department of Education. Because Article I was withdrawn on Oct. 13, it decreed that the records cannot be taken up under Article II.All corporate records and forensic computations involving JTC Group of Companies Philippines Inc. and Pikimong Pikimong Philippines Corp. were also denied.On Friday, private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan welcomed the impeachment court’s ruling rejecting the defense’s objections to evidence presented under Article II, saying it removed procedural obstacles ahead of the trial’s resumption. “The good thing about the order on admissibility of our evidence is that the presiding officer admitted all the prosecution’s evidence. So, those are the two orders of the presiding officer, and there should no longer be any obstacle for the defense to present its case,” Kapunan said.She said an impeachment complaint “only needs what are called ultimate facts — who, what, where, when

and how. Those are the only things an impeachment complaint needs.” She cited the prosecution’s 52 boxes of evidence to illustrate why attaching every document to the complaint would be impractical.As for the subpoenas, Kapunan said compelling the production of documents is part of court proceedings and falls within the impeachment court’s authority.Kapunan agreed with the court that the documents be used only to establish a baseline for assessing Duterte’s income and net worth.“Admissibility is different from probative value. Just because the presiding officer admitted the evidence does not mean it is true. They still have to weigh its probative value. What is the weight of this evidence? Does it merit an explanation of unexplained wealth?” Kapunan said.The impeachment trial of Duterte will resume on Monday, Nov. 9.

- Prosecutors to ICC: Protect 55 witnesses vs Duterte (2026-11-06 16:21)

INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors cited reported security incidents involving witnesses and the continuing influence of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s allies in seeking protection for 55 witnesses who will testify during his trial.In a public redacted filing made on Nov. 5, the prosecutors told Trial Chamber III that the measures were necessary to protect witnesses whose testimony concerns alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte’s terms as Davao City mayor and president.The prosecution said numerous witnesses had reported security incidents to its office, while some agreed to cooperate only if they remain anonymous.It argued that direct threats were not necessary to establish an objectively justifiable risk to witnesses, citing previous ICC rulings that recognized the security situation in a particular territory as a relevant consideration when assessed alongside a witness’ individual circumstances.The filing identifies six categories of witnesses requiring protection: insider witnesses residing in the Philippines, witnesses from the alleged crime scenes also residing in the country, witnesses whose specific circumstances were redacted, witnesses living abroad, individuals admitted into the ICC protection program and prosecution staff members.Particularly concerning to the prosecutors are insider witnesses whose accounts relate to alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte’s mayoral and presidential terms and, in some cases, directly implicate him.Their testimony could also implicate former Philippine National Police chief and incumbent Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, whom prosecutors described as having the influence and support to evade arrest despite an ICC warrant that has been public for five months.Dela Rosa remains at largeProsecutors are seeking three categories of protective and special measures: the use of pseudonyms and face and voice distortion to conceal witness identities from the public; closed or private court sessions for sensitive portions of testimony; and psychological support for witnesses considered vulnerable.The measures are intended to safeguard witnesses’ identities and well-being without compromising Duterte’s right to a fair trial, they said.They maintained that the former president will have the same opportunity to question the witnesses as he would if their identities were publicly known.The defense would also remain free to conduct its own inquiries to challenge the evidence presented by the prosecution.The prosecutors said they will ask the chamber to hold closed or private sessions orally during testimony only when necessary, and would seek to keep as much

testimony as possible in public session.The prosecution plans to rely on the testimony of 78 witnesses, 69 of whom are expected to testify in person or have their prior testimony introduced under Rule 68(3) of the ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.The trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30. Trial Chamber III is composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek and Judge Nicolas Guillou.The filing also disclosed that one prosecution staff member, identified as witness P-1439, is already covered by protective measures ordered by a previous Trial Chamber under Regulation 42(2) of the Regulations of the Court.Prosecutors asked the chamber to maintain the protections, saying the circumstances that justified them had not changed.The prosecution's request to protect the witnesses was initially filed confidentially on Oct. 30. A redacted version was submitted simultaneously, while the public redacted version was released on Thursday.

- NBI files cases vs pet crematorium operators (2026-11-06 16:20)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday filed multiple criminal cases before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against the operators of a pet crematorium in Bacoor, Cavite, over alleged improper and mass disposal of deceased animals.The NBI's Environmental Crime Division filed criminal complaints against Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium following the discovery of dozens of decomposing dog and cat remains stuffed inside sacks and plastic bags in vacant lots and a septic tank in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.The charges include estafa (fraud), violations of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and violations of the Consumer Act of the Philippines.Citing its investigation prior to the filing of the cases, the NBI said the establishment did not have the required equipment to perform cremations.A contracted third-party couple confessed to the agency that due to the overwhelming volume of deceased pets transferred to them through delivery apps, they dumped and buried the bodies instead of cremating them.The complaints also alleged that fake ashes were distributed to grieving pet owners.Meanwhile, more than 250 affected pet owners have come forward to file their own complaints with the police, while animal advocacy groups such as the Philippine Animal Welfare Society and the Animal Kingdom Foundation have partnered with victims to push for full legal accountability.To prevent the suspects from fleeing the country, the NBI has requested the DOJ to issue an immigration lookout bulletin order against the three primary individuals involved in the case.

- Bingo, Care Bears, Pokémon cards in Toy Hall of Fame (2026-11-06 16:19)

NEW YORK — Bingo, Care Bears, the Pokémon Trading Card Game and the humble playground slide have all made it into the National Toy Hall of Fame, taking their place alongside classics like Mr. Potato Head and G.I. Joe.The winners emerged on Thursday from a field of 12 finalists that included Bop It!, mahjong, Monster High dolls, Polly Pocket, Tickle Me Elmo, Yahtzee and the board games Sorry! (Sorry, Sorry!) and Mouse Trap.Experts at The Strong National Museum of Play, home to the National Toy Hall of Fame, note that bingo, which "descends from an Italian lottery played around 1530," is now played virtually worldwide."While bingo is now often associated with an older audience, it has become increasingly popular with young adults.

Recently, public bingo games have gone beyond fundraising and have become popular in bars and nightclubs," curator Mirek Stolee said in a statement.The effort to get the Care Bears into the Hall was helped by earning nearly 1 million followers on social media, while Pokémon trading cards were buoyed by anime enthusiasts and manga readers.The Hall said the slide helps children develop motor skills and encourages exploration. "People of all ages remember fondly the simple, satisfying and energizing experience of racing down a slide," said Jeremy Saucier, vice president for collections.While anyone can nominate a toy, the ones that make it into the Hall must be considered icons, have engaged multiple generations, fostered creativity, or profoundly changed play or toy design. APThe four 2026 winners will join the 90 toys already enshrined in the National Toy Hall of Fame, a list that includes Cabbage Patch Kids, Dungeons & Dragons, Hot Wheels and Frisbee.

- Lawmakers reject party-list abolition (2026-11-06 16:16)

LEADERS of the House of Representatives rejected on Friday calls to abolish the party-list system.House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms Chairman and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said the debate should focus on improving the system rather than scrapping it."It is not a question of whether or not we should abolish [the party-list system]. That should be taken out of the equation," Adiong said at a press briefing after the committee's first public consultation on House Bill (HB) 9906 in Butuan City.Under the measure, party-list organizations would be classified into three categories — advocacy, sectoral and regional — to establish a framework for determining whether they genuinely represent the constituencies they claim to serve.He said the Constitution intended the party-list system to give certain sectors a voice in the legislative process.Tingog Party-list Rep. Jude Acidre said the need for reforms became more apparent after a 2013 Supreme Court ruling broadened participation in the system, allowing more organizations to compete for seats in the House."The manner of representation [has] actually evolved. However, what we noticed is that with the evolution of the representation, our way of testing genuine representation has not matched up with that growth," Acidre said.ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said HB 9906 would establish qualifications for individuals seeking to represent particular sectors, including their track record in advancing the interests or advocacy of those groups.Meanwhile, 4Ps Party-list Rep. JC Abalos acknowledged that the system has imperfections, saying consultations would help lawmakers identify problems and develop appropriate reforms."Everything that has been discussed with the stakeholders, their observations, including those of the media, will all be considered as the committee deliberates on this very important measure," Abalos said.The committee will hold further consultations in Iloilo City and Metro Manila to gather additional input from stakeholders in the Visayas and Luzon.Party-list reform is among the legislative priorities identified by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

- Huge oil price rollback seen (2026-11-06 16:15)

OIL companies are expected to implement a big price rollback next week, resulting from global market reaction to recent developments in the Middle East and the United States midterm

elections, local oil industry sources said on Friday.Diesel prices, sources said, may drop by around P4.30 to P4.50 per liter, while gasoline prices may go down by about P12.50 to P13.50 per liter.The estimates are based on the four-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia.” Global oil prices declined this week as diplomatic efforts to end the US-Iran conflict eased renewed escalation concerns in the Middle East, despite lingering supply disruption worries as attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and Saudi energy infrastructure continue. Furthermore, the perception of a lower chance of escalation of tensions following sweeping victories by the Democratic Party in the recent midterm elections also helped prices go down,” an industry source said.” Regional gasoline and diesel prices fell due to these developments, and because of expectations of higher supply availability following South Korea’s easing of diesel restrictions and the additional Chinese export quota. The stronger Philippine Peso against the US dollar also pushed prices lower this week as well,” the source added.This week, diesel prices went down by P1 per liter, while gasoline prices increased by P3.50 per liter.

- CFO pushes continuing care retirement initiative (2026-11-06 16:14)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) spearheaded an initiative to address the diverse needs of an aging diaspora population.CFO Chairman Dante Ang II met with Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta to discuss how to provide comprehensive housing, specialized health care and long-term financial stability for overseas Filipinos planning their return to the homeland.Acosta said Pag-IBIG Fund is ready to evaluate funding tracks for land acquisition and structural housing development, noting that the Group Land Acquisition and Development program is a viable financing mechanism for such projects.The program, she said, could leverage the CFO’s partnership with the Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, a nongovernment organization championing the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) model. Rather than functioning as traditional, isolated care facilities, CCRCs are designed as integrated ecosystems.The primary objective of the CCRC approach is to enable returning migrants to maintain productive, socially connected and secure lives during their retirement years.The CFO said the pilot phase of the CCRC initiative is slated for rollout in San Pablo City, Laguna, with long-term plans to bring it to key regions nationwide.The CFO and Pag-IBIG Fund were considering aligning the initiative with the national government’s flagship Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program to optimize land use, scale up building efficiencies and streamline socialized financing options.” Beyond supporting overseas Filipinos as they cross borders, the CFO recognizes the importance of ensuring a stable, secure foundation for their return or retirement,” Ang said.

- Almost all coral reef ecosystems face collapse – study (2026-11-06 16:13)

THE world’s coral reef ecosystems almost all face a high risk of collapse in the next 50 years, mostly due to warming oceans and heat waves, according to a global assessment released Thursday (Friday in Manila).It’s the latest dose of bad news for coral reefs, which are critical sources for seafood and tourism and often serve as buffers from coastal erosion and storms.

Sometimes dubbed “rainforests of the sea,” they have some of the world’s richest biodiversity. They support a quarter of marine species as well as coastal communities and businesses.Some 96 percent of shallow-water reef systems are already critically endangered and could disappear by 2075, the International Union for Conservation of Nature announced on the sidelines of a UN biodiversity conference in Armenia.Most of the world’s famous reef systems — including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Coral Triangle in the Western Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Red Sea coral reefs — are all critically endangered, the highest level of threat.“The risk of coral reef collapse is escalating, but this must be a wake-up call rather than a cause for despair,” said Mishal Gudka, the scientific lead of the global IUCN Red List of Coral Reef Ecosystems assessment, the first of its kind.“Coral reefs have shown a remarkable ability to bounce back from devastating bleaching events,” he said. “Pockets of surviving, resilient coral reefs can still remain in the future, so we must do everything within our reach to set them up for success.”When a reef collapses, hard corals disappear and are replaced by algae, rubble and sponges. As a result, the reef no longer supports a diverse ecosystem that can include everything from tiny invertebrates to reef fish like grouper.“Coral reefs are one of the clearest vital signs of the ocean’s health,” Grethel Aguilar, the IUCN director general, said in a statement.The assessment, spanning 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions, and encompassing 72,726 square miles (188,362 square kilometers) of coral reefs globally, called climate change the “single most consistent threat driving coral reef decline worldwide.”A week ago, another study in the journal Nature by the IUCN found that nearly 44 percent of reef-building coral species face an elevated risk of extinction due to climate change. A year ago, a survey found that harmful bleaching of the world’s coral has grown to include 84 percent of the ocean’s reefs — the most intense of its kind in recorded history.The year 2024 was Earth’s hottest on record, and much of that is going into oceans. The average annual sea surface temperature of oceans away from the poles was a record 69.57 degrees Fahrenheit (20.87 degrees Celsius).Beyond combating rising global emissions, experts said efforts to reduce pollution, overfishing and coastal development can help reefs survive.“We know what is needed: ambitious emissions reductions, stronger protection and restoration efforts, and sustained investment in resilient coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them,” Aguilar said.Andrew Baker, director of the Coral Reef Futures Lab at the University of Miami, sought to inject some hope after reviewing the assessment. He said stopping global warming and pollution isn’t the only way to save corals.“It means finding new ways to restore corals using emerging technology and innovative approaches,” he said, “that can throw a lifeline to struggling reefs and buy us critically needed time to make these transitions.”

- Marcos to Cabinet: Keep prices affordable (2026-11-06 16:12)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday directed the Cabinet to keep prices of basic goods affordable, ensure safe and convenient travel, and protect workers’ rights and benefits.The president issued the directive to 10 ad interim officials who took their oath Friday, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano said.They are Executive Secretary Ralph Recto,

Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, Health Secretary Edwin Mercado, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Tourism Secretary Maria Bernardita Mathay, Transportation Secretary Vivencio Dizon, Budget Secretary Kim Robert de Leon, and Philippine Space Agency Director Gay Jane Perez.Marcos urged the officials to prioritize programs that reflect the administration's commitment to making Christmas more affordable, convenient and meaningful for every Filipino.Recto said the president is focused on helping Filipino families celebrate Christmas with less worry over rising prices and the cost of daily necessities.Recto said the administration will sustain efforts to keep essential goods, particularly food and other basic household needs, affordable and within reach of ordinary Filipinos.Dizon and Lopez pledged to strengthen coordination to ease traffic congestion and improve public transportation, particularly during the holiday rush.Dizon said the president wants commuters to spend less time on the road and save on transportation costs. He said the Department of Transportation will deploy additional buses, trains, and other public transport services to provide commuters with more convenient and accessible travel options.Lopez said the Department of Public Works and Highways will prioritize road repairs and the completion of ongoing projects to reduce traffic delays.The two officials said their agencies will closely coordinate to ensure smoother travel for Filipinos returning to their provinces for Christmas.The administration will also ensure that employers comply with labor laws, including the immediate release of their employees' holiday wages and other mandatory benefits, the Palace said.These measures aim to protect workers, ease household expenses and allow more Filipino families to enjoy the holiday season, Malacañang said.

- 'Food security spending tilted toward agriculture' (2026-11-06 16:11)

THE government's growing investments in food security remain heavily concentrated in agricultural development, while fragmented programs and weak coordination among agencies make it difficult to determine whether public spending is translating into better access to affordable and nutritious food, a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) found.The study, titled "Food Security Sectoral Analysis: Strengthening Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for Every Filipino," examined government spending trends from 2015 to 2025 and analyzed the 2026 national budget alongside selected food security indicators.PIDS Senior Research Fellow Roehlano Briones and Supervising Research Specialist Agnes Kristine Quilinguing said agricultural development appropriations increased from P89 billion in 2015 to P278 billion in 2026, representing an average annual increase of about 11 percent.Agricultural interventions accounted for roughly 3.4 percent of the national budget, or P231.5 billion, in 2026. Meanwhile, social protection programs related to food security received P68.9 billion, equivalent to 1.01 percent of the national budget.These programs cover agricultural development initiatives, supplementary feeding, school-based feeding, nutrition supplementation and other anti-hunger interventions.The findings point to the need for a broader approach to food security that goes beyond increasing agricultural production to address food affordability, nutrition and the effective delivery of social protection programs.The school-based feeding program was among the fastest-growing allocations, more than doubling

in 2026 to P25.7 billion and accounting for more than half of the allocations for socialprotection programs.Briones said increased government spending must be accompanied bypolicies that improve agricultural productivity, support farmers' incomes and keep foodaffordable.He called for the right incentives for the private sector, farmers and governmentagencies under a coherent policy and programming framework.He also stressed the need tobalance domestic production with imports when necessary, while supporting agriculturalcommodities in which Filipino farmers can compete.The study identified fragmentedresponsibilities and uneven budget execution as major obstacles to assessing the effectivenessof government food security interventions.In 2024, the Department of Social Welfare andDevelopment disbursed 88.1 percent of the appropriations covered by the study, while theDepartment of Education disbursed 86.2 percent.The corresponding disbursement rates wereconsiderably lower for the Department of Agriculture at 62.5 percent, the Department ofAgrarian Reform at 64.1 percent and the National Nutrition Council at 61 percent.Quilinguingsaid improving access to nutritious food was not solely the responsibility of the Department ofAgriculture, noting that several national government agencies and local government units wereinvolved in implementing agricultural and social protection programs.She recommendedmapping the agencies involved, establishing a food security budget tag and developing a unifiedresults framework for the 2028 National Expenditure Program to improve coordination andtrack the impact of government interventions.Enrique Dela Cruz, executive assistant at the DA,cautioned against relying solely on spending figures to determine whether governmentinterventions were effective."You will only get what you are willing to measure," he said,pointing out that annual tracking of obligations and disbursements could obscure longer-termresults.He called for program-level evidence linking actual expenditures and unit costs tochanges in agricultural yields, food prices and people's diets.Dela Cruz also urged policymakersto assess investments in vegetables, fruits, legumes, fish and other nutritious food commoditiesinstead of focusing primarily on rice production and calorie availability.Novel Bangsal, executivedirector of the Budget and Tax Research Bureau of the House of Representatives' CongressionalPolicy and Budget Research Department, meanwhile, stressed the need to link governmentspending with development targets.Of the 534 targets under the Philippine Development Plan,212, or about 40 percent, were off track, he said.The study recommended strengtheningcoordination among national government agencies and between national and localgovernments, alongside a monitoring and evaluation system that tracks inputs, outputs,outcomes and long-term impacts.It said food security spending should ultimately be assessedagainst measurable improvements in food availability, accessibility, utilization and stability,rather than budget allocations and program outputs alone.

- Marcos, MILF leaders discuss final steps for peace (2026-11-06 16:10)

THE government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) vowed to sign the completion of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) peace deal before the end of the term of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Malacañang said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. met this week with MILF leaders to advance the implementation of the CAB peace agreement,

Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said on Friday.The CAB is the final peace accord signed on March 27, 2014 between the government and the MILF. It officially ended decades of armed conflict in Mindanao and paved the way for greater self-governance for the Bangsamoro people.Castro said the president and MILF Chairman Ahod “Al Haj Murad” Ebrahim discussed the remaining commitments under the CAB and reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing the peace process.Marcos and Murad also discussed programs that would provide livelihoods and improve citizens’ quality of life, as well as completing the fourth and final phase of the decommissioning process for MILF combatants by 2027.“Both the government and the MILF promised to complete the remaining obligations and sign the exit agreement before the end of President Marcos Junior’s term,” Castro said in a press briefing.“This step between the government and the MILF is not just about fulfilling an agreement; it is also about providing a bright future for the families who have long desired tranquility, security, and the opportunity to live in peace,” she added.

- PNP steps up Asean security preparations (2026-11-06 16:08)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday assured the public that security systems are in place for the Asean Summit in Manila.“The PNP is prepared to ensure the security of the activity, including the VIPs, attendees, and the venue where it will be held — we will secure all of that. We also have sufficient resources, including personnel, logistics, and the necessary funds,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said.“PNP will be working alongside various agencies, especially the local government units,” he said.Nartatez said the PNP will fully utilize its resources and will declare the necessary alert status once it finalizes its assessment of the security situation.Likewise, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) has strengthened security arrangements around hotels, billeting facilities, and other establishments accommodating foreign delegates for the summit.BGen. Christopher Abrahano, NCRPO officer-in-charge, directed police district commanders to intensify coordination with hotel management, property administrators, and private security agencies to ensure that appropriate security measures are in place and that any potential security concern is immediately reported and acted upon.Abrahano emphasized that security coverage must extend beyond summit venues and designated motorcade routes, since foreign delegates and visitors will also stay, dine, and conduct other activities in various establishments across the metropolis.Abrahano added that clear communication and reporting channels with hotel security officers, police visibility in strategic locations, and local police stations’ readiness to promptly respond to any reported incident or suspicious activity are paramount to maintaining peace and order during the summit.The 49th Asean Summit and Related Summits will be held in Manila from Nov. 16 to 18, 2026.

- 85 urban poor families get land titles (2026-11-06 16:07)

MEMBERS of nine urban poor communities in Muntinlupa City and in San Jose del Monte (SJDM), Bulacan have received their individual Transfer Certificates of Title (TCTs) under the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) program.Department of Human

Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said on Friday that he and Social Housing Finance Corp. (SHFC) President and CEO Federico Laxa led the two separate awarding ceremonies.The first awarding took place at DHSUD central office in Quezon City, where 42 urban poor families from four homeowners' associations (HOAs) in Muntinlupa City received their long-awaited land titles.These included 13 members of Airspeed Ville Homeowners Association (HOA), 15 from Planas HOA, seven from Samahang Magkakapitbahay sa Walong Gatang, and seven from Bayanan.Aliling said the beneficiaries secured their land titles more than 20 years after their respective take-outs, marking a significant milestone in their long-standing pursuit of legal ownership of the land they have called home for two decades.The DHSUD chief was joined by Laxa as they proceeded to Barangay Sapang Palay, SJDM where 43 family-beneficiaries from five community groups received their TCTs.The recipients included 11 members of Galahapmai HOA, five from BBF Phase 1, eight from BBF Phase 2, 18 from Partida Heights, and one from Policarpio HOA, ending their long wait for land ownership, according to the housing department.The awarding reflects the administration's commitment to expanding access to housing and giving underserved communities more opportunities to secure their own homes, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive, the housing czar said.Aliling said the latest awarding brings the number of family beneficiaries who have benefited from the Enhanced Community Mortgage Program and received their land titles through DHSUD and SHFC to more than 5,400 since the program's revival last year.

- PhilHealth vows faster payments, accreditation of health facilities (2026-11-06 16:06)

THE Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will reduce accreditation hurdles and speed up payments to local health facilities to strengthen local health systems and advance Universal Health Care (UHC).PhilHealth Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Beverly Lorraine Ho made the pledge during the High-Level UHC Summit 2026 on Thursday at the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific. "The best measure for us is if our spending translates to care felt by our members. Our commitment to LGUs is simple: fewer hurdles to get accredited and faster payment once services are delivered," Ho said. "The goal here is to have a financing system that fits how local facilities actually run," she added.The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), the Department of Health (DOH), WHO, and PhilHealth organized the summit under the theme "Accelerating Universal Health Care through Optimized Financial Management and Evidence-informed Local Leadership." It brought together national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), development partners, and private sector representatives.Discussions focused on implementing the Special Health Fund (SHF), integrating local health systems, and using health data and resources.The summit also discussed efforts to streamline accreditation and reimbursement processes and strengthen coordination among stakeholders to ensure financing mechanisms respond to the operational needs of local health facilities.Health Secretary Edwin Mercado underscored the need to strengthen local governance and align national health priorities with local implementation. "The success of Universal Health Care is not measured solely by the number

of integration sites or the amount of funds pooled in the SHF, but by how effectively these resources are transformed into accessible, equitable, and quality health services for every Filipino," he said. He also cited the need to strengthen primary healthcare, establish functional referral networks, improve health facility management and ensure access to quality health services.WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Dr. Saia Ma'u Piukala said local chief executives play a critical role in planning, financing and coordinating health services. "With national governments and partners working alongside local leaders, we can strengthen health systems and accelerate progress toward Universal Health Coverage," Piukala said.WHO Representative to the Philippines Dr. Eunyoung Ko said the Philippines had made progress toward universal health coverage but challenges remained in ensuring access to health services without financial hardship.She said WHO was providing evidence and technical assistance, including developing 82 provincial health profiles to identify gaps and guide local health priorities.Discussions on the SHF also covered transparent resource allocation, financial management, and stakeholder coordination to ensure health financing mechanisms meet the needs of local health facilities.Local government presentations from Davao de Oro, Quezon province, Dagupan City, and Leyte featured their experiences and approaches to health financing and service delivery.The summit concluded with ULAP and its member leagues, DOH, PhilHealth, and WHO Philippines, endorsing a Commitment to Action on Accelerating Universal Health Care through Optimized Financial Management and Evidence-Informed Local Planning.The four organizations reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening local health systems through collaboration between national and local governments.

- BOC posts historic P97.5B collection (2026-11-06 16:05)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) recorded its highest monthly collection in history, reaching P97.463 billion in October 2026 despite a decline in import volume.Preliminary data showed October collections were P14.501 billion higher than the P82.962 billion collected in October 2025. It also reached 99.42 percent of the month's P98.028 billion revenue target, BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said on Friday.Nepomuceno said the BOC's total collection from January to October 2026 reached P853.662 billion — the highest in the agency's history for the first 10 months of the year.This surpassed the P846.522 billion target by P7.140 billion. It was also P69.029 billion higher than the P784.633 billion collected during the same period in 2025.According to the bureau, its collections help fund infrastructure projects, health services, and other vital government programs and operations. "For every peso collected, the agency contributes to the delivery of services that improve the lives of Filipinos, especially communities that need support the most," Nepomuceno said.He said the new records resulted from stricter collection monitoring, improved customs administration, and the collective efforts of Customs personnel nationwide. "Every record we achieve reflects the dedication and hard work of our Customs personnel nationwide. My heartfelt thanks to all our collection districts for their tireless efforts and commitment to delivering results," Nepomuceno said.However, he said the agency still needs to collect more than P157 billion in November and December to meet its full-year revenue target of P1.011 trillion.To achieve this, the agency will focus further on

revenue monitoring, strengthen customs enforcement, and continue reforms that speed up the processing of legitimate trade and ensure proper payment of duties and taxes, he said.In line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s directive, Nepomuceno said the BOC will continue to intensify revenue collection, transparency, and accountability to support the government’s key programs and strengthen the economy.

- QC honors grassroots innovations (2026-11-06 16:04)

FROM seismic risk assessments of buildings to livelihood programs built on textile waste, the 2026 Quezon City Green Awards celebrate local initiatives that demonstrate how community-driven solutions build safer, more sustainable communities, Mayor Joy Belmonte said on Friday.Belmonte said the city government honored villages, schools, businesses, institutions, and community organizations for programs that strengthen disaster resilience, improve food security, promote greener buildings, and reduce plastic and textile waste.The winning organizations received grants of up to P300,000 to support their proposed innovations, plus opportunities to integrate their initiatives into the city's green and resilience programs, the mayor said.Launched in 2023, the QC Green Awards is the country's first local government-led awards program recognizing initiatives that promote disaster resilience and environmental sustainability.This year, the awards moved away from grouping entries by sector and instead recognized programs addressing specific climate and disaster challenges. Of the 123 entries, 82 reached the semifinals and 50 advanced to the finals, according to the local government.Among the winners in the Resilient category was the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers, Inc. – Quezon City Chapter, whose pre-earthquake assessment project uses rapid visual screening to identify potential seismic vulnerabilities in existing buildings before a major earthquake strikes.The awards also recognized iFIVE Inc. for its disaster risk reduction and emergency response management program, which combines workplace policies, employee training, and emergency response procedures to protect workers, safeguard assets, and keep operations running during disruptions.In the Green category, Avida Towers Cloverleaf Condominium Corporation and One Vertis Plaza Condominium Corporation were honored for green building initiatives supporting the city's transition to clean, renewable, and sustainable electricity.MABU Philippines Inc., a food surplus marketplace, was cited for its food rescue and surplus donation tracking, while FOOD Reskyu of Barangay Pasong Putik was recognized for collecting safe, usable excess food from establishments and redistributing it to families who need it most.HeritageFinds Clothing Shop was recognized for a community-based design and sewing initiative that trains community sewists to work with Philippine tropical fabrics and indigenous weaves.The program incorporates these materials into apparel, corporate gifts, and small-batch team uniforms, linking textile circularity with skills development and livelihood opportunities.Beyond honoring winners, Belmonte emphasized that QC Green Awards help promising initiatives grow.Semifinalists received expert coaching from disaster risk reduction and climate action practitioners, participated in a full-day workshop to develop their ideas, and received technical feedback from the review panel, she said.Finalists also received pitch coaching, publicity through the city's communication platforms, and opportunities to build

future partnerships with the city government."Let us continue to operate on a hope — not on a passive wish, but as our strongest weapon. A cooler, greener, and safer Quezon City is not just a dream; it is already being built by the people in this room," Belmonte said."When we work together, there is no crisis we cannot face. We are 'One City Rising.' Together, hand in hand, toward a dream where everyone is included in progress," she added.

• Ombudsman to file complaints vs fake news peddlers (2026-11-06 16:03)

OMBUDSMAN Jesus Crispin Remulla said Friday his office will file complaints with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and Facebook against social media accounts spreading fake news about him and the Office of the Ombudsman.Remulla said the complaints seek to stop the proliferation of misleading posts, including those targeting his health and attempting to influence public opinion on corruption cases pending before the Sandiganbayan. “We are filing a complaint with DICT and Facebook itself to stop the proliferation of fake news,” Remulla said in a press briefing.He cited online posts about former speaker Martin Romualdez's case, which he said appeared intended to influence the proceedings and public perception ahead of a bail hearing.Remulla said said that the complaints would also cover troll farms and other social media accounts used to deceive the public.The Ombudsman said his office was investigating who owned and operated the blogs and accounts involved. He clarified that the immediate action would be to file a complaint, while filing criminal cases would depend on the investigation's findings. “There is freedom of speech, but we should have fairness,” Remulla said. “It’s really a careless use of a very powerful medium — careless or indecent use.”

• Supreme Court lauds Gesmundo’s legacy (2026-11-06 16:02)

THE Supreme Court said the reforms initiated by Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo resulted in improved access to justice, as the head magistrate retired on Friday.In a special en banc ceremony on Thursday, Gesmundo was presented the Judicial Medal of Distinction and The Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos Award.The Supreme Court said that the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations (SPJI) 2022–2027, which was drafted under Gesmundo, will serve as the blueprint for modernizing the judiciary.” The SPJI was a plan. You were the reason it became a reality,” Gesmundo said in his farewell message.Reminiscing his beginning as a young boy in San Pablo City, Laguna, to the highest post in the judiciary, Gesmundo said he never sought the position and attributed his rise to “God’s grace and providence.” “The Court endures; its members are only temporary stewards. We are entrusted with its care, not its ownership,” Gesmundo said.He thanked the Filipino people for the opportunity to serve them, noting the judiciary’s work did not begin with him, and it will not end with his retirement.The reforms initiated by Gesmundo include the enactment of the Judiciary Fiscal Autonomy Act, the deployment of Regional Court Managers and Judiciary Marshals, the reorganization of the Judicial Integrity Board into the Judicial Integrity Office, the completion of more than 100 Halls of Justice nationwide, rollout of eCourt PH, introduction of electronic notarization, digitalization and regionalization of the bar examinations, governance framework for the use of human-centered

augmented intelligence in the judiciary, implementation of the Unified Legal Aid Service, and the adoption of rules on gender-fair language and courtroom etiquette and guidelines for Filipino Sign Language interpretation in court proceedings.Gesmundo credited judges, court officials and employees for carrying out reforms, saying they were results of collective efforts.Senior Associate Justice Marvic Leonen, who served as master of ceremonies, described Gesmundo as a trusted confidant, mentor and friend.Gesmundo earned his law degree from Ateneo de Manila University in 1984, and succeedingly joined the Office of the Solicitor General. He was appointed associate justice of the Sandiganbayan in 2005 and became an associate justice of the Supreme Court on Aug. 14, 2017.Gesmundo assumed office on April 5, 2021, as the country's 27th chief justice.

- Duterte allies top congressional poll (2026-11-06 16:01)

CANDIDATES identified with the Duterte family were the preferred choice of 38 percent of Filipino adults for district representatives in the 2028 elections, a survey by Momentum Research showed.The October 2026 National Momentum Survey found that nearly 4 in 10 respondents preferred candidates allied with the Duterte camp, while 26 percent favored independent candidates, 16 percent preferred opposition-aligned candidates and 10 percent chose candidates aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Six percent remained undecided, while 3 percent refused to answer.The Duterte camp's strongest support was in Mindanao, where 70 percent of respondents said they preferred Duterte-aligned candidates for their congressional representatives.The survey found Duterte-aligned candidates leading in Metro Manila and Visayas, although the preferences in these regions were considerably less pronounced.In Visayas, 38 percent preferred Duterte-aligned candidates, followed by independent candidates at 19 percent and opposition-aligned candidates at 18 percent.Metro Manila showed a closer contest between Duterte-aligned and opposition-aligned candidates, with 34 percent favoring the former and 31 percent the latter.The Rest of Luzon, meanwhile, stood out as the only region where independent candidates were the most preferred, receiving 38 percent, compared with 24 percent for Duterte-aligned candidates.The findings suggest differing regional preferences for congressional candidates as political groups position themselves ahead of the May 2028 national and local elections.Generational differences emerged in the survey.Millennials showed the strongest preference for Duterte-aligned congressional candidates, with 54 percent choosing candidates from the former president's political camp.Among adult members of Generation Z, 36 percent preferred Duterte-aligned candidates, while 33 percent favored independents.Preferences among Generation X were more evenly distributed, with 28 percent choosing Duterte-aligned candidates, 26 percent independent candidates and 19 percent each for Marcos-aligned and opposition-aligned candidates.Baby boomers and members of the Silent Generation showed a different pattern, with Marcos-aligned candidates receiving the highest preference at 24 percent. Duterte-aligned and opposition-aligned candidates each received 19 percent.The survey found that political identification was closely associated with respondents' preferred congressional candidates.Among respondents identifying with the Duterte camp, 85.2 percent preferred

Duterte-aligned candidates. More than half of pro-Marcos respondents, or 53.3 percent, favored candidates aligned with Marcos, while 58.4 percent of opposition supporters preferred opposition-aligned candidates.Among independent respondents, 44.7 percent preferred independent congressional candidates, followed by Duterte-aligned candidates at 24.2 percent.The National Momentum Survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults from Oct. 16 to 19.It has a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level. The margins of error for the regional samples are plus or minus 7 percentage points for Metro Manila, 3.8 points for the Rest of Luzon, 6.1 points for Visayas and 5.8 points for Mindanao.

• Ombudsman to inspect jails over alleged Romualdez VIP treatment (2026-11-06 15:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla will personally conduct surprise inspections of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) facilities housing detainees facing Sandiganbayan cases to check for alleged special treatment, including the reported arrangement allowing former House speaker Martin Romualdez to have personal staff inside detention.Remulla said Friday that the inspections would be conducted at unpredictable hours, including midnight, to ensure jail personnel follow regulations and treat detainees equally. “If there’s special treatment. You know, special treatment for anybody,” Remulla said when asked about the focus of the inspections.The announcement came a day after BJMP Quezon City Jail superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion testified before the Sandiganbayan that she allowed Romualdez to have personal staff stay with him inside his cell around the clock to attend to his daily needs.The hearing was called to address reports that Romualdez, who is detained over a P7.44-billion plunder case, had allegedly been leaving the facility by ambulance. Pacion denied that he had left the jail, while journalist Ramon Tulfo later retracted his claim.Remulla said he would personally visit the facilities, initially targeting the jail in Payatas, and use a body camera during the inspections.Regarding the reported personal assistant arrangement involving Romualdez, Remulla said the Ombudsman would first validate the allegation, stressing that such a setup was prohibited. “We will have to validate it. That is not allowed,” he said.Pacion earlier said she approved the arrangement because of her assessment of Romualdez’s mental health condition and the facility’s inability to provide round-the-clock assistance.Remulla described the arrangement, if established to constitute an infraction, as favoring a detainee and warned that jail personnel involved could be dismissed from government service, including the facility superintendent. “I will not hesitate. If we find something, we will dismiss them from the service,” he said.He also questioned the security implications of allowing a personal assistant inside the facility and said the Ombudsman could install its own CCTV cameras if necessary.Remulla said jail personnel would be held accountable first if irregularities were found, particularly those responsible for enforcing detention rules. “The ones who will first be held accountable are the people in charge of the jail,” he said.

• Times’ Myka Arceo wins 2 awards from EJAP (2026-11-06 13:09)

Manila Times business reporter Niña Myka Arceo won two awards at the 35th Economic Journalists' Association of the Philippines (EJAP)-Ayala Business Journalism Awards held Friday at Fairmont Makati.Arceo was named Banking Reporter of the Year and Macroeconomy Reporter of the Year during the awards ceremony.She joined The Manila Times in 2023 and currently covers the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev), and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

- PH Pavilion brings local farm goods to China expo (2026-11-06 12:24)

SHANGHAI — The Philippine Pavilion at the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) has officially opened on Friday, showcasing Filipino fruits and food to a potential market of over one billion people.The CIIE is China's premier exposition to promote international imports to China's domestic market.The Philippine Pavilion, under the "FOODPhilippines" export brand, brought together 30 food manufactuers and exporters to solidify the country as a premier sourcing destination for high value tropical food, beverage and ingredients in the Southeast Asian region.In his address in the opening of the pavilion at the National Convention and Exhibition Center here, Philippine Ambassador to China Jaime FlorCruz said that the purpose of the mission remained consistent and clear, which is to bring Philippine products into the Chinese market, and into the shops, restaurants, and homes of Chinese consumers."Together, these efforts tell the story of our islands of opportunity–which served as a very visual theme for our trade promotion efforts in China. For many Chinese friends, the Philippines bring to mind beautiful beaches, tropical landscapes, and warm hospitality," FlorCruz said.He added that the Philippine islands also produce a rich variety of food and other goods that the country is proud to share with the world."This pavilion brings a taste of those islands to Shanghai. Behind every product are farmers, artisans, and entrepreneurs whose livelihoods benefit when Philippine goods find customers overseas," FlorCruz said.He urged Chinese buyers and distributors to taste the products, ask its origins and how will they reach their customers."Whether you serve a supermarket, a restaurant, or a neighborhood shop, we hope you will find something Filipino-made, grown, or produced, to add to your offering," FlorCruz said.He said that the Embassy in Beijing, its consulates, and trade and agriculture offices are ready to help connect with Filipino suppliers and sustain relationshops beyond the expo.Department of Trade and Industry - Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions Executive Director Leah Pulido Ocampo said the country's participation in the CIIE comes off after its record participation in the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning with over 70 companies and 300 delegates."China remains to be a vital trading partner and a catalyst for growth for our country. Let us take advantage of opportunities being offered by trade shows such as CIIE as our gateway for trade and collaboration," Ocampo said.Some of the products being showcased in the fair included durians and bananas from Mindanao, coconut products and other Filipino snacks such as banana chips.Agriculture Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria Guevarra said the DA is facilitating market linkages between farmers and possible buyers through farm inputs."We link them with those buyers who are in need of agriproducts na in demand ngayon

(that are in demand) and we make it a point na talagang yung farmers na sinusuportahan ng DA ang (those that the DA supports are among those) first in line," Guevarra told The Manila Times.She also said that with the anticipated demand for the Chinese market, they are strengthening the production side of farm products.

• BJMP given 48 hours to explain Romualdez aide's access to detention cell (2026-11-06 11:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has given the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) 48 hours to explain why a personal aide of Leyte First District Rep. and former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez was allowed inside his detention cell, warning that officials responsible for any violations could face administrative and criminal charges.In a statement Friday, DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla ordered the BJMP leadership to submit a comprehensive report detailing the legal and administrative basis for allowing the aide inside Romualdez's detention cell, the circumstances surrounding the authorization and the officials or personnel involved.The report must be backed by relevant records and documentation and establish whether applicable laws and regulations were followed, Remulla said.He described the arrangement as requiring immediate scrutiny, stressing that political position, influence or personal connections should not exempt anyone from the rules governing jail facilities.Remulla also directed the BJMP to preserve all relevant records and warned that incomplete findings, unsupported explanations or failure to meet the 48-hour deadline would not be accepted.Any violations established by the report would be addressed promptly, regardless of the individuals involved, he said."The authority entrusted to jail officials must be exercised strictly within the bounds of the law," Remulla said. "No special treatment. No selective enforcement. No one is above the law.”

• Tropical depression may intensify into super typhoon — Pagasa (2026-11-06 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is monitoring a tropical depression outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) that may enter the country on Sunday, Nov. 8.In its 5 p.m. weather forecast on Friday, Pagasa weather specialist John Manalo said that the tropical depression was located 2,865 kilometers east of Northern Luzon, packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 70 kph.It was moving northwestward at 30 kph and was gradually strengthening. “If it enters the PAR, we will name it Samuel,” Manalo said in FilipinoManalo said the tropical depression could intensify and reach super typhoon category.

• NBI files complaint vs pet crematorium operators (2026-11-06 11:04)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday filed multiple criminal complaints before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against a pet crematorium based in Bacoor, Cavite over the alleged improper and mass disposal of deceased pets.The NBI's Environmental Crime Division lodged the complaint against Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium after the discovery of dozens of decomposing remains of cats and dogs in vacant

lots and a septic tank in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.The operators face multiple criminal charges, including estafa (fraud), violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and violation of the Consumer Act of the Philippines, the complaint showed.Citing its investigation prior to the filing of the complaints, the NBI said the establishment did not possess the required equipment to perform cremations.The NBI also said that the couple who were contracted by the crematorium to do the animal cremation admitted to authorities that they resorted to dumping and burying because of the overwhelming volume of deceased pets transferred to them.Meanwhile, more than 250 affected pet owners have come forward to file separate complaints through police units.The NBI also asked the DOJ to issue an immigration lookout bulletin order against the three primary individuals involved in the case to prevent them from fleeing the country.

- PAF retires Huey fleet (2026-11-06 10:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Air Force (PAF) has decommissioned its UH-1H Huey helicopter fleet, ending its 57 years of military and humanitarian service.Lt. Gen. Arthur Cordura, PAF commanding general, led the decommissioning ceremony at the Brig. Gen. Benito N. Ebuen Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu on November 5.The first four UH-1H helicopters arrived at Villamor Air Base on March 29, 1969. Two more were subsequently acquired, bringing the number to six.Over nearly six decades, the Hueys supported military operations, troop transport, humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions across the country.The PAF had previously retired most of its older Huey helicopters but retained upgraded variants, including the Huey II and Super Huey, for search-and-rescue and other support operations.The retirement is part of the Air Force's continuing modernization and capability development program as it transitions to newer aircraft.

- Air Force retires Huey helicopters (2026-11-06 10:48)

THE Philippine Air Force (PAF) has retired its UH-1H, or Huey, helicopter fleet after almost 60 years of military and humanitarian service.Last Nov. 5, Philippine Air Force Commanding General Arthur Cordura led the fleet’s decommissioning ceremony at Brig. Gen. Benito N. Ebuen Air Base in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.The PAF retired the last six Hueys in its inventory that were still operational before their decommissioning.Col. Alvin Jay Capinguian, PAF spokesman, said the Huey is an iconic asset of the Air Force in the last six decades that was used practically in every major combat or humanitarian mission. “Whether to take troops into combat, to pick up wounded, to deliver relief goods, to drop off rescue personnel, they were always there,” Capinguian told reporters on Friday.The PAF is shifting to platforms better suited for the requirements of a modern armed forces, Capinguian said.Taking over the Huey’s role is the S-70i Black Hawk, which Capinguian said is bigger, more powerful and is equipped with a digital communications system.He said the Huey’s analog radio system sometimes poses a problem in communicating with aircraft with a digital system.Iconic as it is, the Huey cannot catch up “with the modern needs of the armed forces,” Capinguian said.Having been turned over from the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing to the Air Logistics and Support Command, the six Hueys will

go into storage until the PAF decides how to dispose of them.

• Brazil’s president to attend Asean Summit (2026-11-06 10:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will attend the 49th Association of Southeast Asia Nations (Asean) Summit upon the invitation of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed that the president, as this year's Asean chairman, invited Lula to the regional summit.Manila will host the summit from November 15 to 17."Brazil was invited as guest of the chair. Pres. Lula will attend the Summit," said DFA Assistant Secretary Dax Imperial.Lula visited the Asean headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia in October 2025. He was welcomed by Asean Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn.The Asean Secretariat said Lula's "historic visit, the first of its kind by a Brazilian head of state, underscored the growing significance of Asean–Brazil Sectoral Dialogue Relations, which was established in 2022."

• SC upholds extension of village, SK officials' terms until 2028 (2026-11-06 10:34)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has upheld a law allowing incumbent village (barangay) officials and youth council (Sangguniang Kabataan) members elected in October 2023 to remain in office until their successors are elected in November 2028, rejecting a challenge that the extended tenure violates the people's right to vote.In a decision written by Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda, who on Friday took his oath as chief justice, the high court dismissed a petition filed by election lawyer Romulo Macalintal questioning the constitutionality of Republic Act 12326.Enacted on Sept. 24, 2026, the law increased the terms of village officials from four years to five years and reduced the maximum number of consecutive terms they may serve from three to two. It also set the next village and SK elections in November 2028.Macalintal argued that the law violated the guidelines established by the high tribunal in its 2023 ruling in Macalintal v. Commission on Elections, which allows the postponement of elections only for important, substantial or compelling reasons.He also questioned the measure on substantive due process grounds and argued that it violated the people's right to vote and the constitutional requirement that village officials be elected.Rejecting the arguments, the high court said that the 2023 guidelines did not apply because RA 12326 was primarily a law fixing the terms of village officials, not a measure postponing elections.The court explained that the law's main purpose was to increase the officials' terms from four to five years, with the November 2028 election schedule merely implementing the new term.It stressed that a law fixing terms of office does not become an election-postponement measure simply because it affects the election calendar.The court said Congress has the authority to fix, change and extend the terms of village officials, provided the period before the start of the new term is reasonable and not unduly long.The high tribunal also rejected the argument that the law deprived voters of their right to choose their local officials. “The right to vote does not require a particular term length or election frequency for village officials, provided elections are held regularly at fixed and predictable intervals established by law,” it said.

• Padilla backs Bato: ‘I would not surrender either’ (2026-11-06 09:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Robinhood Padilla on Friday backed Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa’s refusal to surrender, saying the International Criminal Court (ICC) has no authority over Filipinos.Padilla issued the statement when he showed up at the Department of Justice (DOJ) where he filed his counter-affidavit in connection with the obstruction of justice complaint lodged against him and several other respondents.Interviewed by reporters, he described the ICC as a foreign body with no jurisdiction over Filipinos."Even if it's the ICC, I wouldn't surrender either. Why would I surrender to them? That is Bato's right," Padilla said. "Surrender to whom, a foreigner? No way. I haven't seen any local arrest warrant; no local court is looking for him. This is a foreign body," the senator said in Filipino.The complaint against Padilla stemmed from a May 13, 2026 incident at the Senate premises, where National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents attempted to serve an ICC-issued arrest warrant against dela Rosa who has since gone into hiding. The operation resulted in a tense standoff and confrontation between NBI agents and personnel from the Senate Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms.Authorities later accused Padilla and other respondents of helping dela Rosa, a former Philippine National Police chief, evade arrest.

- Jail detainees not allowed to have personal assistants — Ombudsman (2026-11-06 07:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Friday said detainees are not allowed to have round-the-clock personal assistants and warned that jail officials who allow such unauthorized practices can lose their jobs.Remulla issued the statement following the admission of Quezon City Jail Superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion that former speaker Martin Romualdez, who is in jail for plunder, has a personal assistant inside the jail’s male dormitory. Pacion said she approved the arrangement because of her assessment of Romualdez’s mental health condition and the facility’s inability to provide round-the-clock assistance. “We will have to validate it. That is not allowed,” Remulla said.He cited the security implications of allowing a personal assistant inside the facility and said the Ombudsman could install its own CCTV cameras if necessary.Remulla said jail personnel would be held accountable if irregularities were found, particularly those responsible for enforcing detention rules. “The ones who will first be held accountable are the people in charge of the jail,” he said.The Ombudsman said that he will inspect facilities of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to check if detainees are getting special treatment.

- LTFRB extends application period for TNVS regularization (2026-11-06 04:44)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has extended the application period for the regularization of ride-hailing partners operating under temporary or “tempo” status.Upon the directive of Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, acting LTFRB chairman Greg Pua Jr. said that the online application window for temporary Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) operators, which opened on October 8 for an initial 30 working days, will run for another 30 days. The extension is meant to ensure that no one will be left behind in the government's push to provide a decent source of income for workers in the public transportation sector, Pua said.The Manila Times was told that the regularization

initiative was expected to benefit thousands of TNVS partners, following discrepancies the LTFRB uncovered in the platforms of some Transport Network Companies (TNCs)."Tempo" refers to the practice of TNCs of onboarding TNVS units onto their digital platforms without the units first securing the required authority from the LTFRB. The practice violates the agency's rules, as it allows TNVS units to serve the riding public despite the absence of a valid franchise, according to the bureau."Our regularization move is aimed at helping thousands of TNVS drivers whose only fault was that they relied in good faith on their onboarding and assumed substantial financial commitments in the process," Pua said.He added that the measure was also in compliance with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to enforce fair rules and regulations while looking after the welfare of the public transport sector.Based on its latest data, the LTFRB has received 13,216 applications, of which 5,091 have already been issued a Provisional Authority (PA). Pua said the agency is now fast-tracking the processing of the remaining applications."We ask our partners in the TNVS community who are applying for regularization to follow the application process. The requirements are intended to prevent application cancellations due to challenges that include questions on vehicle ownership," he said.

- Cabinet officials take oath (2026-11-06 04:12)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday led the oath-taking ceremony of 10 ad interim appointees as he reaffirmed his confidence in their leadership and recognized their contributions to their respective offices. They are Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, Health Secretary Edwin Mercado, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Tourism Secretary Maria Bernardita Mathay, Transportation Secretary Vivencio Dizon, Budget Secretary Kim Robert De Leon, and Philippine Space Agency head Gay Jane Perez."This is the best team ever assembled here since my father's (late former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr.) Cabinet," the President said during the event."The President urged government officials to build on existing gains, address longstanding challenges, and ensure the effective implementation of priority programs," Malacañang said.The Palace said "stronger accountability, cleaner governance, and tangible results for every Filipino remain the administration’ s expectations of its department and agency leaders. "Public service must translate into concrete actions that protect the welfare and address the needs of Filipino families and workers," Malacañang said in a statement.

- LTO issues SCO against Lipa City over plate-switching incident (2026-11-06 02:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show cause order (SCO) against the Lipa City government after its driver was caught removing the vehicle's white rear plate and replacing it with a red one.In its follow-up investigation, the agency identified the SUV (sport utility vehicle) as registered to Lipa City, Batangas, LTO chief Markus Lacanilao said.Citing the use of two different plates on a single vehicle, the LTO has ordered the designated driver and a representative of the local government to appear before the agency for

a hearing. They are also required to submit their respective sworn statements, along with supporting documents and an explanation of why they should not be held liable for the violations stated in the SCO, Lacanilao said.Among the violations they must explain is failure to attach or improper attachment/tampering of authorized motor vehicle license plates and/or third plate stickers, the LTO head said.He said the driver, who has been ordered to surrender his driver's license, must also explain why his license should not be permanently suspended or revoked on grounds of being an improper person to operate a motor vehicle. “No one has the privilege to set their own rules when it comes to the use of vehicle plates. Whoever owns the vehicle must follow the law,” Lacanilao said. “And one thing is certain: we will not give special treatment to anyone,” he vowed.

• VP Sara to visit Hong Kong (2026-11-06 02:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte will travel to Hong Kong from November 6 to 8 to attend engagements, including an event organized by the Filipino community, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) said Friday. Duterte secured permission for the trip from the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 98 through an order dated November 3, the OVP said. The Office of the President also issued a corresponding travel authority. “The Vice President shall cover the cost of her travel using personal funds. No government money, resources, or facilities shall be used in connection with her travel,” the OVP said.

• Unemployment rate rises to 5.4% in September (2026-11-06 02:00)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of unemployed Filipinos rose to 2.86 million in September, up 909,000 from a year earlier and 95,000 from the previous month, as the unemployment rate climbed to 5.4 percent, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said Friday.Preliminary results of the September 2026 Labor Force Survey presented by National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Claire Dennis Mapa showed that the unemployment rate increased from 3.8 percent in September 2025 and 5.3 percent in August 2026.Meanwhile, the employment rate slipped to 94.6 percent from 96.2 percent a year earlier and 94.7 percent in the previous month.The country's labor force expanded to 53.19 million from 51.56 million in September last year and 52.56 million in August.Despite the increase in unemployment, underemployment declined by 348,000 from August.

• Big-time oil price rollback seen (2026-11-06 01:45)

MANILA, Philippines — Oil companies are expected to implement a big-time price rollback next week as the global market reacted to recent developments in the Middle East and the US mid-term elections, local oil industry sources said on Friday.They said that diesel prices may drop by around P4.30 to P4.50 per liter, while gasoline prices may go down by about P12.50 to P13.50 per liter.These estimates are based on the 4-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia.This week, diesel prices went down by P1 per liter, while the cost of gasoline increased by P3.50 per liter.

• Prosecutors seek ICC protection for 55 witnesses vs Duterte (2026-11-06 00:50)

MANILA, Philippines — International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors have cited security risks in the Philippines, reported security incidents involving witnesses and the continuing influence of former president Rodrigo Duterte's allies in seeking protective measures for 55 witnesses expected to testify in his trial.In a public redacted filing made Nov. 5, prosecutors told Trial Chamber III that the measures were necessary to protect witnesses whose testimony concerns alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's terms as Davao City mayor and president.The prosecution said numerous witnesses have reported security incidents, while some had made their cooperation conditional on being granted anonymity.It argued that direct threats were not necessary to establish an objectively justifiable risk to witnesses, citing previous ICC rulings that recognized the security situation in a particular territory as a relevant consideration when assessed alongside a witness's individual circumstances.The filing identifies six categories of witnesses requiring protection: insider witnesses residing in the Philippines, witnesses from the alleged crime scenes also residing in the country, witnesses whose specific circumstances were redacted, witnesses living abroad, individuals admitted into the ICC protection program, and prosecution staff members.Particularly concerning, prosecutors said, are insider witnesses whose accounts relate to alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's mayoral and presidential administrations and, in some cases, directly implicate the former president.Their testimony could also implicate former Philippine National Police chief and incumbent Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, whom prosecutors described as having sufficient influence and support in the Philippines to evade arrest despite an ICC warrant that has been public for five months.Dela Rosa remains at large.Prosecutors are seeking three categories of protective and special measures: the use of pseudonyms and face and voice distortion to conceal witness identities from the public; closed or private court sessions for sensitive portions of testimony; and psychological support for witnesses considered vulnerable.Duterte’s trial will start on November 30.

- Hontiveros sees Senate removing unjustified allocations from 2027 budget (2026-11-05 19:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Thursday expressed confidence that the Senate will remove unsubstantiated programs, projects, and questionable line items from the proposed 2027 national budget, backing efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability in government spending.Speaking to reporters, Hontiveros said she and her fellow vice chairpersons fully support Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito in continuing the budget reforms initiated last year, particularly the opening of bicameral conference committee (bicam) proceedings to the public."I'm very confident because we in the Senate are firmly committed to supporting the position taken by the Senate President two days ago," Hontiveros said, referring to Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian's commitment to remove programs, activities, projects, and line items that lack sufficient justification."We, the vice chairpersons, fully support Chair JV (Ejercito) in continuing the budget reforms initiated last year, including making the bicameral conference committee proceedings open to the public," she added.Hontiveros also cited efforts by some Senate finance committee vice chairpersons to open budget hearings to civil society organizations (CSOs), allowing public-interest groups to participate in scrutinizing government

spending proposals.The senator said that public participation should extend beyond congressional budget hearings and begin at the earliest stages of the budget preparation process."I think advocates want to push for their participation all the way back to the beginning of the process—from the President's budget call to the preparation of each department's budget request for submission to the DBM," she said.Hontiveros said broader public participation would help establish a more transparent and accountable budget process."So yes, I am confident that the Senate can pass the best version of the budget from our perspective, and we are committed to deliberating with our counterparts in the House during the bicameral conference committee proceedings," she added.

- DSWD lauds ex-4Ps child who won int'l young ecofeminist award (2026-11-05 18:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) congratulated Monitte Lantas, a former monitored child of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) who received the Irene Dankelman Young Ecofeminist Award at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference.Lantas received the award on Oct. 21, 2026 during the conference which was held in Yerevan, Armenia."The whole DSWD family is proud of Monitte Lantas," Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao, the department's spokesman, said on Wednesday."Aside from giving honor to our country, Monitte proved that being a 4Ps beneficiary helps us have good values and foundation to become an exemplary citizen," Dumlao said in Filipino and English.The award is named after the late Dutch ecofeminist Dankelman. International organizations established the award to honor her legacy, the DSWD said."The award recognizes a new generation of changemakers advancing environmental protection, human rights, and gender justice," the department said.It said that international organizations including the Women Engage for a Common Future, Women's Environment and Development Organization, International Union for Conservation of Nature Netherlands, and Both ENDS chose three young leaders—Sarah Adongo of Uganda, Yemi Knight of Barbados, and Lantas—for the 2026 edition.The DSWD described Lantas as a Tagbanwa indigenous leader.It said that through the Nagkakaisang Kabataang Katutubo ng Narra, Monitte "leads youth-driven mangrove conservation and restoration initiatives while strengthening local youth skills in environmental monitoring, mapping, leadership, and advocacy."Based on what Dumlao said, Lantas advocated for women's and children's rights, reproductive health, and the prevention of violence against women and children. Likewise based on what Dumlao said, Lantas also advocated "for elevating the status of indigenous peoples, that they are more included" in the government's decision making.

- Manila archbishop orders parishes to pray for rain amid very strong El niño (2026-11-05 18:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Cardinal Jose Advincula, the archbishop of Manila, ordered parishes to pray for rain after the communion part of masses starting Nov. 8 amid the very strong El Niño.In a circular dated Nov. 5, Advincula directed all parishes and communities in the Archdiocese of Manila to pray the Oratio Imperata ad Petendam Pluviam after the

post-communion prayer starting this Sunday until further notice."As we implore the Lord to grant us the gift of rain, let us be reminded of the power of united prayer. When we come together as one community of faith, we entrust our needs and concerns to God's loving providence, confident that He hears the prayers of His beloved people. May this common supplication also strengthen our solidarity with the poor and vulnerable communities who may be especially affected by the consequences of drought," he said.Advincula encouraged priests, catechists, religious educators, and people involved in faith formation to "take this opportunity to deepen the faithful's understanding of our Christian responsibility to care for creation."He urged them to "help our communities recognize that the natural world is not merely a resource to be consumed, but a precious gift entrusted by the Creator to our care and stewardship.""In particular, water is essential to all life and must never be taken for granted. We must cultivate habits of conservation, responsible consumption, and concern for the common good," he said."Let our prayers move us to concrete action. As we ask God to send us rain, may we also become more faithful stewards of His creation, mindful that caring for our common home is an essential expression of our love for God and our neighbors," Advincula said.On Wednesday, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DoST-Pagasa) said that a very strong El Niño is "present in the tropical Pacific and is expected to persist until the first half of 2027, potentially reaching its peak by the end of 2026."The DoST-Pagasa strongly advised the public and concerned agencies to " implement appropriate sectoral interventions, conservation and mitigation measures, particularly water conservation and efficient management of water resources, to minimize the potential impacts of El Niño."

- VP’s defense team to call 24 witnesses (2026-11-05 16:19)

VICE President Sara Duterte’s defense team has named 24 witnesses for the first week of its presentation of evidence in her impeachment trial, following the withdrawal of its initial witness, constitutional law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento.The list was contained in a Nov. 4 manifestation with a request for subpoenas filed by Duterte’s lawyers before the Senate impeachment court, according to a copy of the document provided by the prosecution.Defense counsel Michael Wesley Poa confirmed on Thursday that the defense had submitted its witness list. “We respect Dean Sarmiento’s personal decision and appreciate his initial consideration of our invitation. We wish him well in his continued contributions to constitutional discourse,” Poa said.He added that the defense understood Sarmiento’s decision, but declined to disclose the contents of its court submissions. “Consistent with our disposition since pretrial, we will refrain from disclosing the contents of our court submissions and filings,” Poa said.The 24 witnesses named in the manifestation are Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp.; Jaime Adalin, Davao City assessor; John Kenneth Enumerables, Island Garden City of Samal assessor; Vingelin Bajan, Davao City accountant; Cindy Colina, Matina Crossing barangay chairman; Olivia Barcarse, BDO Unibank first vice president; Alvin Go, BDO legal service group head; Paul Roderick Ysmael, Bank of the Philippine Islands senior vice president; Cesar Bernard Coloma, BPI vice president and head of

litigation; Marino Buban Jr., EastWest Bank first vice president and head of legal service division; Joselito Vallada, Land Bank of the Philippines senior vice president; Janella Marie Panlilio, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. legal and remedial services group head; Jose Manuel Jr., Philippine Savings Bank head of legal services division; Rodel Mediavillo, PSBank branch review and control unit head; May Ann Candaroma-Morales, PSBank loan securities department head; Joseph Anthony Lopez, Security Bank head of legal and first vice president; Joselito Banaag, UnionBank of the Philippines corporate secretary and general counsel; Louiemel Panes, UnionBank branch ambassador; Rogelio Villos Jr., UnionBank senior branch ambassador; Jayah Deneserie Scalf, UnionBank branch ambassador; Gemma Lynn Del Mundo, UnionBank senior branch ambassador; Anel Martin Antero; Chadrin Parian; and Vimar Barcellano, Quezon City prosecutor. The witnesses are expected to address various aspects of the defense's efforts to counter Article II of the Articles of Impeachment, which accuses Duterte of unexplained wealth.Balucanag-Punay, Adalin, Enumerables and Bajan are expected to testify on corporate records, property tax declarations and tax maps, as well as Duterte's remuneration during her tenure in Davao City.Colina, meanwhile, is expected to discuss matters concerning Matina Crossing, including its creation, official name and other names by which it is known.Bank representatives will testify on requests made by Duterte and her lawyer, Manases Carpio, through Poa Himala and Virtucio Law, along with the banks' responses and related documents.The manifestation also named Antero, Parian and Barcellano, although it did not specify their expected testimony.Former dean begs offSarmiento, former dean of the College of Law of the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City, declined to participate as a witness in the impeachment proceedings against Vice President Duterte.In a Facebook post on Thursday, Sarmiento thanked the defense team for recognizing the value of the constitutional and legal views he has been sharing on social media. "I had not anticipated that these views might potentially become part of the impeachment proceedings. After careful consideration, I have decided to decline participation as a witness in the proceedings," he said.He explained that his decision is personal, to preserve the independence of his constitutional law scholarship and the impartiality of his legal views and opinions.Sarmiento added that he has asked the defense team to withdraw their request for a subpoena for his appearance or, if one has already been issued, to seek its recall by the impeachment court.Earlier, in a formal manifestation filed with the court, Duterte's counsel said Sarmiento would testify on legal and constitutional principles relevant to the impeachment case.House lead prosecutor Gerville Luistro on Thursday praised Sarmiento for declining to testify.House prosecutor and Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon on Thursday welcomed Sarmiento's decision, saying his planned testimony on legal and constitutional principles was irrelevant to the remaining charge. "It is only right that Dean Ralph Sarmiento withdrew from appearing at the trial," Ridon said in Filipino. "Presenting evidence from the defense about what they claim to be legal and constitutional principles is misplaced and has no basis: next week's trial is about the defense against the allegations of unexplained wealth against the vice president, nothing else," he added.What the vice president's counsels should focus on, the lawmaker reiterated, is to "explain the P800 million to P1.5 billion in unexplained wealth" supposedly amassed by Duterte and her husband Manases Carpio. "More than P100 million deposited in financial accounts that were not

declared in the Vice President's SALN (statement of assets, liabilities and net worth), credit card transactions exceeding P200,000 just for dining out and shopping for shoes, and many more," Ridon said. WITH JAVIER JOE ISMAEL AND KRISTINA MARALIT

- Newly developed wells make first gas delivery (2026-11-05 16:17)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the first delivery of natural gas from Malampaya's new offshore wells in Batangas City on Thursday.Speaking at the ceremonial first flow of gas from Malampaya's Phase 4 Project (MP4), Marcos said the new wells would help move the Philippines closer to energy independence. "Maximizing the use of Malampaya gas could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices," he said.Marcos assured Filipinos that locally sourced energy would ensure stability amid global tensions, since most of the country's energy sources are imported. "What does this mean for every Filipino family? Our own gas, more reliable electricity, a more stable energy supply for our country," he said in Filipino, stressing the urgent necessity of developing domestic resources to guard against geopolitical tensions and supply disruptions. "As our economy grows, so does our demand for energy. Industrialization and energy grow hand in hand; one cannot exist without the other. We cannot fully rely on other countries to provide these resources all of the time," Marcos added.The successful drilling and testing of the Malampaya East-1 and Camago-3 wells earlier in the year uncovered an estimated 222 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves.By June, both wells were integrated into the existing Malampaya subsea production system, channeling indigenous gas from offshore Palawan through transmission infrastructure directly to gas-fired power plants serving the Luzon grid.The chief executive noted that the Malampaya project forms part of a broader administrative drive to strengthen national energy security. Under the current administration, 14 new petroleum service contracts have been awarded for oil, natural gas and native hydrogen exploration.The achievement marks a significant milestone for the Malampaya consortium and reinforces the project's role in sustaining the Philippines' indigenous natural gas supply. "From offshore Palawan, this indigenous natural gas will flow through the Malampaya gas transmission infrastructure to Batangas, and ultimately to the gas-fired power plants serving the Luzon grid," the president said.He cited the importance of maximizing indigenous natural gas to help manage electricity costs, noting that greater use of Malampaya gas "could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices." Prime Infra Chairman Enrique Razon Jr. highlighted Malampaya's enduring contribution to national development and the importance of continued investment in its resources. "For 25 years, Malampaya has demonstrated the value of developing our own energy resources. It has powered millions of Filipino households and businesses, supported economic growth and generated more than $14 billion in government revenues. But Malampaya's resources are finite. Sustaining production requires continued investment and the technical expertise to develop reserves that are increasingly challenging to access. That is what Malampaya Phase 4 (MP4) represents," Razon said.With an investment of close to a billion dollars, MP4 involved

drilling two deepwater wells and installing subsea infrastructure to connect them to the existing Malampaya production platform. The project added an estimated 222 billion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas reserves, capable of generating approximately 31.46 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough to power 13.11 million Filipino households for one year.MP4 was completed in 27 months after the final investment decision, five months ahead of its original schedule and five months ahead of the industry benchmark. Additionally, the Department of Energy has introduced special allowances for service contractors targeting frontier areas and gas development, alongside the implementation of the Philippine Gradiometry and Seismic Survey Project.Marcos urged investors to build on the success of this Malampaya Phase 4 Project. “Together, let us shape a Bagong Pilipinas with the foresight to explore, the resolve to develop and the wisdom to manage our resources responsibly for the benefit of generations of Filipinos to come,” he said.

- Tulfo admits he goofed; Romualdez tale untrue (2026-11-05 16:16)

AFTER his statement made headlines, broadcast journalist Ramon Tulfo on Thursday issued a retraction, saying there was no truth to his claim that former speaker Martin Romualdez was sneaking out of jail. “I was fed the wrong report that former speaker Martin Romualdez could go in and out of jail,” Tulfo said in a Facebook post on Thursday admitting that one of the most embarrassing and humiliating experiences as a journalist is spreading wrong information.Tulfo earlier claimed that Romualdez had been sneaking out and returning to the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory through a backdoor arrangement designed to conceal his movements.He even alleged that as per a “tweety bird,” electricity supply was intentionally interrupted to disable closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitoring to allow him to escape through a staircase where an ambulance was waiting for him.This claim prompted an immediate investigation by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), which found no evidence in CCTV footage dating back to September, of any power interruptions or of Romualdez leaving the facility.The Sandiganbayan Third Division, reacting to Tulfo’s initial report, had summoned two jail officials to testify on Thursday regarding the custody of the former speaker. “No such thing happened when the facts started coming in yesterday. It was fiction. I... goofed. No excuses,” Tulfo said.Even Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said the claims were not true as proven by the CCTV review and even invited journalists to personally observe the lawmaker’s presence and condition at the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory. “It is not true. He does not leave the BJMP, he does not receive visitors outside of the [allowed] areas, he practically receives very few visitors, just his counsel and family,” Remulla said.Remulla said the government is taking such allegations with all seriousness and reiterated that Romualdez receives the same treatment as all persons deprived of liberty in the facility.Romualdez, he said, is still under medical confinement due to a list of illnesses including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, primary hypothyroidism. The lawmaker has lost a hundred pounds since his medical problems began.Romualdez is facing graft and plunder charges, and is considered a central figure in the flood control bribery scandal.The Romualdez camp welcomed Tulfo’s retraction. “We welcome Mr. Ramon Tulfo’s public acknowledgment that the allegations he

circulated concerning former speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez's supposed unauthorized movements outside his detention facility were false. Mr. Tulfo has admitted that he was fed incorrect information, failed to independently verify it and subsequently passed it on to the public," the congressman's counsel, Ade Fajardo, said in a statement. "He has now described the allegations as fiction. This public retraction is significant, particularly because the allegations had already circulated widely and subjected our client to public suspicion and criticism," he added.The lawyer also cited the testimony of Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion, who denied that Romualdez had been allowed to leave the facility without authorization.The retraction followed a Nov. 4 demand letter from Romualdez's lawyers directing Tulfo to stop circulating the allegations, remove or correct his original post and issue a prominent clarification, while warning of possible legal action. "We appreciate Mr. Tulfo's willingness to acknowledge his mistake publicly. It takes responsibility to correct an erroneous report, especially after it has gained widespread attention," Fajardo said.

- Move It appeals P555.7M penalty for 'ghost riders' (2026-11-05 16:15)

MOTORCYCLE taxi platform Move It has filed a motion for reconsideration after receiving the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board's (LTFRB) preliminary decision imposing a penalty of P555.75 million for overshooting its rider allocation.In a statement, Move It said it had thoroughly reviewed the decision and its implications for the industry, and is engaging with LTFRB through proper processes. "We respect the board's authority, and we remain committed to working toward a sustainable and adaptive regulatory framework for motorcycle taxis," the company said.The LTFRB, now under the acting leadership of Greg Pua Jr., slapped Move It with a P555.75-million fine over "ghost riders" that exceeded its authorized allocation.In its Oct. 9 decision, the agency found that Move It had 73,321 active riders on its platform against an authorized allocation of only 17,746 — an excess of 55,575 riders.But in the same statement, Move It clarified its position, describing rider allocation as a dynamic measure of live, on-demand supply.The gig economy is built on flexibility, with riders going online and offline throughout the day based on their own schedules, it noted. "Because of this natural fluidity, maintaining continuous supply for commuters means monitoring the number of riders who are actively online and ready to accept trips at any given moment, especially during peak rush hours," the company said.Addressing its rider-partners, it reiterated that it would continue to work closely with the LTFRB and other regulators to protect their livelihood. "To commuters, the platform acknowledged how much they rely on its services, especially with the holiday rush approaching, and committed to working with regulators to ensure continued service when needed most," Move It said.It added that it would await the LTFRB's review of its motion for reconsideration.Pua said the LTFRB is drafting measures to deal with the issue in relation to the affected riders while ensuring that the online boarding system of ride-hailing services is strictly complying with the government's regulations. "What the agency is focused on is addressing the plight of the thousands of overboarded riders who invested their own resources to earn a decent living — and whose only fault was that they acted in good faith and trusted that they were allowed to operate under the

existing rules and regulations," he said.

- SKorean firm starts building 3rd Philippine Navy frigate (2026-11-05 16:14)

SOUTH Korean shipbuilder HD Hyundai Heavy Industries has begun construction of the third Miguel Malvar-class frigate for the Philippine Navy, with the company targeting delivery ahead of its contractual schedule.The company held a steel-cutting ceremony on Nov. 4 at its shipyard, marking the start of construction of the first of two additional 3,200-ton frigates ordered by the Philippine government in December 2025.The vessels, which will become the Navy's FFG-8 and FFG-9, are scheduled for delivery in 2029.HD Hyundai said it plans to speed up construction by drawing on its experience in building warships for the Philippine Navy and its expanded production capacity following its merger last year.The two new frigates will retain the basic specifications of the first batch of Miguel Malvar-class vessels, but will have improved weapons and sensor systems.Among the major upgrades is the installation of a Korean Vertical Launching System equipped with LIG Defense and Aerospace's K-SAAM, also known as Haegung, surface-to-air missile system.The new frigates will also be delivered with a towed array sonar system, enhancing their ability to detect and track underwater threats, particularly submarines.The second batch will replace the French-made MBDA VL-MICA air defense system used on the first two frigates with the South Korean K-SAAM system.The change will give the Navy another air defense capability while allowing the vessels to carry multiple surface-to-air missiles in vertical launch cells.The acquisition of the two more frigates is part of the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program's Re-Horizon 3 phase.The vessels are intended to expand the Navy's modern surface combatant fleet as the Philippines faces growing maritime security challenges, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.HD Hyundai said the new vessels would follow the same basic specifications as the first two, allowing the Navy to streamline crew training, ship operations, spare-parts procurement and maintenance.The latest contract represents the fourth shipbuilding project of the company for the Philippine Navy.It built two Jose Rizal-class frigates, two Miguel Malvar-class frigates and six offshore patrol vessels for the Navy.With the two additional frigates, the company's total orders from the Philippine Navy will reach 12 ships.The Jose Rizal-class vessels, the Jose Rizal and the Antonio Luna were the Navy's first modern guided-missile frigates and represent a significant upgrade in the service's surface warfare capabilities.The Miguel Malvar-class frigates, the Miguel Malvar and the Diego Silang further strengthened the Navy's capabilities with modern combat management systems, advanced sensors and weapons.The Navy's projected force structure also includes four Rajah Sulayman-class corvettes, three Del Pilar-class offshore patrol vessels, one Conrado Yap-class corvette, three Jacinto-class patrol vessels, four Tarlac-class landing platform docks, two Bacolod City-class logistics support vessels, five Ivatan-class vessels, nine Acero-class fast attack interdiction craft, three Cyclone-class patrol ships and multiple Multi-Purpose Attack Craft.

- 'Leave no room for corruption' (2026-11-05 16:13)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Thursday urged local chief executives to leave “no room for corruption” in the use of the government’s disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance program (DRRAP) funds for local government units (LGUs).In his keynote speech at the ceremonial turnover of the funds held in Malacañang, Marcos said the P8.6 billion distributed to 306 LGUs must be strictly used for disaster rehabilitation, drawing a firm red line against anomalies in public works."This is the people's money, intended for our fellow citizens who have been devastated by disaster. It is not a fund for profit-making, nor is it for anyone looking to enrich themselves amidst the tragedies we are experiencing," Marcos said in Filipino."There must be no room for corruption in this program. Ghost projects are prohibited. Commissions are prohibited. Substandard rehabilitation projects are prohibited,” he added, urging local chief executives to use the funds wisely.The funds were earmarked for critical rebuilding efforts, including shelter and resettlement, infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and public buildings, education and health services, agricultural and fisheries recovery, and social protection programs.The president warned that anyone trying to profit from public tragedies will face the law.Marcos said that funds were distributed based on community needs, devoid of political considerations. “It is with trust that we hand it to you based on need — no political color considered,” he said.Drawing from his past experience as a governor, Marcos underscored that LGUs are best positioned to understand the realities on the ground.The chief executive noted that the first batch exceeding P6 billion has already been released, while a second batch amounting to over P2.5 billion has been approved for immediate downloading to local governments.To ensure rapid response, the administration has streamlined bureaucratic procedures. While interventions through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund previously took eight to 11 months, the revised process cuts delivery time down to four to six months.However, he reminded local leaders to improve their capacity to document and report disaster impacts promptly to the Office of Civil Defense and the NDRRMC to facilitate national assistance.

- PH among countries with highest teen inactivity – WHO (2026-11-05 16:12)

ABOUT 40 percent of adolescents in the Philippines reported having no physically activity in a week, placing the country among those with the highest rates of inactivity among young people, according to country estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO).WHO said in a study that 40 percent of adolescents in the Philippines, Namibia and Nepal reported no active days, not even an hour of exercise a week.The study, published in The Lancet Global Health, draws on hundreds of population-based surveys from 140 countries and territories, involving more than 3.2 million teens, WHO said.In its global estimates released Wednesday, WHO found that one in four adolescents aged 11 to 17 worldwide reported no active days in the previous week, meaning they did not complete at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity on any day.The findings translate to about 240 million young people worldwide who reported no physically activity days in a week, WHO said.Adolescents in the study reported being physically active for an average of 2.7 days a week, while only 14 percent were active on all seven days.WHO also found a gender gap in physical activity, with 28 percent of girls reporting no

active days, compared with 22 percent of boys.Only 11 percent of girls reported being physically active every day, compared with 17 percent of boys.WHO warned that physical inactivity is a major risk factor for heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. “Helping young people develop active habits early in life is critical to protecting their health and reducing the global burden of these diseases,” the agency said.WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world had made almost no progress in getting young people to become physically active over the past 15 years, with girls being left furthest behind. “The answer is not to tell adolescents to try harder. It is to build schools, streets and communities where moving, playing and being active is safe, easy and normal,” he added.WHO said physical activity was shaped by where adolescents live, study, travel and spend their free time. Transport patterns, access to safe public spaces, opportunities for walking and cycling, school environments, affordability, social norms and screen-based lifestyles can all influence their opportunities to be active.The agency called for stronger action across education, transport, urban planning, sport and health, including policies that make physical activity an easy, safe and accessible part of everyday life.

- Gatchalian to LGUs: Fortify reading gains (2026-11-05 16:11)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian urged local government units (LGUs) to fortify reading gains and dismantle basic and functional illiteracy as the country observes National Reading Month in November.Gatchalian said that while the Philippines showed a welcome improvement in reading ability as reflected by its performance in the latest Program for International Student Assessment, deeply rooted systemic deficiencies remain a pressing concern. He added that approximately seven out of 10 Filipino learners aged 15 continue to score below the minimum global standards for reading proficiency.Gatchalian stressed the necessity of embedding localized grassroots interventions alongside national standard programs, such as the Department of Education’s Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning initiative.A centerpiece of this legislative push is the proposed National Literacy Council Act, which aims to legally institutionalize the participation of municipalities, cities, and provinces. Under the measure, Gatchalian proposes designating local school boards as de facto local literacy councils. This structural change would legally mandate local governments to formulate localized, data-driven roadmaps to eliminate illiteracy, backed by clear, measurable performance indicators. “In our efforts to improve literacy and the reading proficiency of our students, the role of our LGUs is crucial, especially since they have a better understanding of the challenges and needs of the students within their jurisdictions,” Gatchalian said.The proposed localized roadmaps are designed to sync with the country’s Community-Based Monitoring System Act and the Alternative Learning System, ensuring that resources are directly funneled to areas suffering from acute learning poverty.

- LTO revokes licenses of taxi drivers in ‘gas-and-run’ case (2026-11-05 16:10)

THE Land Transportation Office (LTO) has revoked the licenses of two taxi drivers involved in a gas-and-run racket, a form of theft where a motorist pulls up to a gas station, has their vehicle's

fuel tank filled by an attendant, and then drives off without paying. “It is wrong to flee after fueling up without paying. We know gas is expensive today, but that is no reason to evade payment. Workers struggle for every peso they earn, so it is unjust for them to be the ones to lose out because of such an act," LTO chief Markus Lacanilao said, noting the two were barred from securing a new license for the next two years.Lacanilao said a driver is expected not only to practice road safety but to pay his obligations as well. “This is why the LTO acts swiftly on such incidents to ensure that those proven to have violated the rules are held accountable. We do not condone such behavior and will not allow the responsibility of every motorist to be ignored or the aggrieved to be neglected," he added.

- Malabon pushes information literacy (2026-11-05 16:09)

MALABON Mayor Jeannie Sandoval said Thursday the city would embed media and information literacy (MIL) into local governance.During her talk at the MIL Cities Central Hybrid event on Nov. 3, 2026, Sandoval cited four pillars of implementation: institutionalization, access to information, citizens' engagement and action, and knowledge and information sharing.The virtual event was organized for the observance of Global Media and Information Literacy Week and World Cities Day by Al Rayyan, Qatar, Dubrovnik, Croatia, and Unesco.Sandoval said Malabon has been an MIL pilot city since 2025.City Administrator Alex Rosete said MIL has been woven into regular city programs since Sept. 15."Media and information literacy is not simply about providing information; it is about ensuring that our citizens can understand, evaluate, and use it responsibly," Rosete said.

- NAIA passenger volume tops 1.29M (2026-11-05 16:08)

PASSENGER volume at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) hit 1.29 million during the nine-day holiday rush from Oct. 27 to Nov. 4, 2026, beating initial forecasts and marking a 4.4-percent increase compared to last year.The New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) reported that actual volume reached 1,291,885 passengers, compared to 1,237,475 during the same period in 2025. This was 3.4-percent higher than the operator's conservative projection of 1.25 million, which had initially anticipated a modest 1-percent growth.International passenger traffic rose 3.94 percent to 649,691 from 625,056 a year earlier, while domestic traffic grew 4.86 percent to 642,194 from 612,419. Oct. 30 proved to be the busiest day, handling 153,901 passengers and exceeding the daily projection of 149,216.To prepare for the holiday surge, NNIC partnered closely with airlines, ground handlers, transport providers and key government offices — including the Department of Transportation, Manila International Airport Authority, and the bureaus of Immigration, Customs, and Quarantine.Operational adjustments included round-the-clock monitoring via a 24-hour Command Center at Terminal 2 to coordinate incident response. NNIC also deployed extra personnel to screening checkpoints and immigration counters, increased security patrols, and established Public Assistance Desks across Terminals 1, 2 and 3.Traffic management teams synchronized with road authorities to regulate vehicle flow around the airport, while inter-terminal shuttles facilitated smoother passenger transfers.According to the operator, these measures are part of an ongoing effort to improve

passenger processing, terminal access and facility management as NAIA adapts to growing travel demands.

• No tax hikes for businesses in Manila – Moreno (2026-11-05 16:07)

MANILA Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso said Thursday that business tax will not be increased to keep the cost of doing business in the city low.He cited the Minimum Basic Needs platform, which aims to create more business opportunities and predictable rules for businesses. “When you pay one peso, you get one peso receipt,” Moreno said during a courtesy call by representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) at Manila City Hall.Moreno informed the delegation of measures to ease doing business in Manila, including the reduction of zoning requirements from 22 to seven. “You are always welcome to do business in Manila. It is inexpensive to do business in Manila. We will not raise taxes,” Moreno said.AmCham Philippines Executive Director Ebb Hinchliffe said the meeting exceeded their expectations. “This is already more than we expected today. To meet with the mayor is always an honor and a privilege, and what we were looking for is to learn more about why American investors or other foreign investors should come and invest in the city of Manila,” Hinchliffe said. “Mission accomplished. He very clearly outlined the reasons that Manila is open for business, and I can now go back and very confidently recommend the city,” he added.AmCham Philippines has more than 900 members across the country, representing American and multinational companies.

• Drug suspect nabbed in Muntinlupa (2026-11-05 16:06)

THE Muntinlupa Police arrested a fugitive wanted for violating the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.Roque Sarbida Romano Jr., alias “Digoy,” was No. 7 in the November 2026 Muntinlupa Top Ten Most Wanted list.Romano was arrested by virtue of a warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 256, Muntinlupa City, in connection with Criminal Case Nos. 24-1114 and 24-1115 for violations of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. “We will not allow wanted individuals to evade the law. We will remain steadfast in our pursuit of those with standing warrants, ensuring that every operation reflects our commitment to professionalism, accountability, and the swift administration of justice,” said district director BGen. Rodel Pastor.

• Authorities raid illegal Caloocan lotto outlet (2026-11-05 16:05)

THE Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the National Bureau of Investigation raided a lotto outlet on Camarin Road, Caloocan City, on Wednesday for allegedly running an illegal numbers game. “The PCSO maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy for illegal gambling and fraudulent operations,” PCSO General Manager Mel Robles said. “Every peso spent on legitimate PCSO games goes directly toward funding essential health programs, medical assistance, and charitable services for Filipinos nationwide. Operations that issue unauthorized tickets actively deprive our countrymen of these vital benefits,” he added.Seized during the operation was bet money estimated at P5,000, one fake ticket, a mobile phone used for

point-of-sale operations, and gaming hardware and paraphernalia.

• Economic dependence on China seen to threaten PH sovereignty (2026-11-05 16:04)

ECONOMIC dependence on China could constrain the Philippines' ability to defend its sovereignty and make independent policy decisions, a civil society group warned on Thursday.Democracy Watch co-convenor Lloyd Zaragoza urged Manila to strengthen domestic industries rather than compromise its national interests for economic opportunities.The country's mounting diplomatic tensions with Beijing should serve as a wake-up call for the Philippines to build a stronger and more self-reliant economy, Zaragoza said in a statement. "The Philippines should not have to choose between protecting its economic interests and defending its sovereignty," he said in response to a joint appeal by business and sectoral groups for Manila and Beijing to ease diplomatic tensions. "The Philippines should pursue economic partnerships that strengthen our national capacity, not create dependencies that compromise our democratic independence. A strong economic partner should make the Philippines stronger, not more dependent," he said.Zaragoza pointed to the country's significant trade imbalance with China, noting that the Philippines imports substantially more goods from the country than it exports to its market.He questioned if such a relationship was generating sufficient benefits for domestic industries, employment and the country's long-term economic development.The group's position came after 22 business organizations, led by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, urged both countries to ease diplomatic tensions, warning that a prolonged standoff could have serious economic consequences for the Philippines.Zaragoza also cited figures showing that China's net share in Philippine foreign direct investments (FDIs) fell by more than 75 percent, from $13 million in 2024 to $3.2 million in 2025, accounting for 0.2 percent of the country's total FDIs.He said a genuinely beneficial economic partner should bring substantial investments that create opportunities for Filipinos without forcing the Philippines to choose between economic security and independence. "Economic dependence can become a vulnerability to our democracy. When our economy is overly reliant on external markets and supply chains, our ability to make independent policy decisions and stand firm on matters of national interest can be constrained by economic pressures," Zaragoza said.He added that the country's sovereignty and democratic institutions should never become bargaining chips in pursuing economic opportunities.

• Cayetano calls for equitable distribution of classroom funds (2026-11-05 16:03)

SAYING that 30 of the poorest municipalities receive no funding for additional classrooms, Sen. Pia Cayetano on Thursday called for a more equitable distribution of classroom construction funds. "Many communities across the country still lack enough classrooms. But the need is not the same everywhere. Some areas have much bigger shortages than others," Cayetano said in a statement. "Since government resources are limited, we must make sure that classrooms are built where they are needed most," she said.Citing data from the Second Congressional

Commission on Education (EdCom 2), Cayetano said that more than half of the local government units (LGUs) with the most severe classroom shortages did not receive funding for additional classrooms under the 2026 national budget.She said while nine out of 10 first-class LGUs received funding, only about half of fifth-class LGUs were allocated funds.Thirty of these poorer municipalities, despite having a combined requirement of 356 classrooms, received no funding at all.Cayetano said classroom shortages are not limited to poor and remote communities, since urban schools are also struggling to accommodate growing student populations.She noted that many schools have resorted to holding two to three class shifts daily to accommodate learners.She also cited United Nations projections that two-thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2050, pointing to the need to prepare for the growing demand for school facilities as more people move to cities. "And as more people move to cities, the need for classrooms will continue to grow," Cayetano said.As the Senate reviews the proposed 2027 national budget, Cayetano said lawmakers would take a closer look at how classroom construction funds are distributed.She stressed the need for updated and reliable data on classroom requirements, projected student enrollment and communities expected to experience increased demand for school facilities in the coming years.Cayetano also emphasized that budget planning must look beyond existing shortages and anticipate the future needs of schools and communities. "We must also think beyond today's shortages. Our budget planning should consider what our schools and communities will need in the future," she said.Cayetano said access to decent learning facilities should not depend on where a child lives or goes to school. "Our goal must be clear: no child should be left behind because of where they live or go to school," she said.

- Senators push zero tariffs on PH heated tobacco, agri exports (2026-11-05 16:02)

IN a major push to expand market access for Philippine exports, senators are seeking the total elimination of Japanese tariffs on locally manufactured heated tobacco products (HTPs), fruits and other agricultural products.The reciprocal trade proposal was pitched by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Vice Chairman Sen. Erwin Tulfo and Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform Chairman Sen. Francis Pangilinan during an official parliamentary visit to the Japanese Diet to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Philippines-Japan Friendship.The push for zero tariffs aims to modernize the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement. Signed originally in 2008, the treaty slashed or outright eliminated duties on over 90 percent of goods exchanged between the two Asian partners.However, emerging alternative sectors, such as HTPs, and shifting agricultural dynamics were completely unmapped when negotiations closed nearly two decades ago. The Department of Trade and Industry has been working to finalize renegotiation rounds to keep the bilateral framework relevant in the face of newer regional trade agreements. "With the emergence of new products from the Philippine tobacco industry and the increasing demand for them in Japan, we are respectfully asking the Japanese government to consider our proposal to exempt Philippine-made HTPs from tariffs," Tulfo said during the legislative sessions.The trade push aimed to address global competitive disadvantages. Currently, European Union exporters enjoy preferential terms that place

Philippine manufacturers at an economic handicap in the lucrative Japanese consumer market.The senators emphasized that removing the trade barriers will drive local manufacturing, optimize domestic agricultural supply chains, secure massive employment opportunities and establish a steady, resilient export pipeline to neighboring Asian economies.Heading the parliamentary mission were Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian and Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri.Joining them were Senators Lito Lapid, Raffy Tulfo, JV Ejercito, Erwin Tulfo and Pangilinan.The senators also held discussions with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, with Tulfo expressing profound institutional gratitude for the foundation's continuous humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance to the Philippines.The Tokyo summit capitalizes on a reciprocal visit last Sept. 16 by a Japanese legislative delegation, led by Japanese Senate Vice President Fukuyama Tetsuro.

- SC allows video testimony to spare child witnesses from courtroom trauma (2026-11-05 16:01)

THE Supreme Court has revamped its rules on examining child witnesses, allowing video-link testimonies, recorded depositions and professionally conducted interviews to spare children from repeatedly reliving traumatic experiences in court.Under the Revised Rule on the Examination of Child Witnesses (RRECW), approved by the Court en banc on June 17, 2026 but only announced Wednesday, courts may allow children to testify through videoconferencing from outside the courtroom when appearing in person is likely to cause them further trauma.The new rules also allow electronically recorded depositions and recorded interviews conducted by trained professionals to be presented as evidence, subject to safeguards protecting the rights of the accused and other parties.In announcing the revised rules, the Court said the changes aim to make court proceedings more child-friendly while ensuring that children's voices are heard without exposing them to unnecessary psychological harm.Under the rules, judges may limit the people a child witness can see and hear during testimony, including the accused, while preserving the latter's constitutional right to confront witnesses.If identification of the accused is necessary, the accused may briefly appear on camera or be identified by the child through an image displayed on screen.Children who cannot testify in court or through videoconferencing because of disability, health concerns or other circumstances may instead give an electronically recorded deposition in the presence of the judge and lawyers from both sides. The recording may be used in place of their actual courtroom testimony.The revised rules also recognize recorded interviews conducted by a team of professionals as evidence, reducing the need for children to repeatedly recount painful incidents.

- ATOM applauds US voters in recent elections (2026-11-05 15:38)

MANILA, Philippines — The August Twenty-One Movement (ATOM) lauded voters in the United States, following the wins of Democratic Party candidates in their midterm elections.In a statement on Thursday, ATOM called on the Philippine opposition to take down notes from the "stunning defeat of fascism" in the recent US polls, especially with the upcoming presidential

elections in 2028. “We call on our friends from the Philippine opposition to take notes from the stunning defeat of fascism in the recent US midterm elections. We must harness the lessons from this cycle and apply them to our own struggle to confront the two-pronged evil of the corrupt and fascist Marcos and Duterte dynasties as we inch closer to the 2028 elections,” ATOM said. “The innumerable damage inflicted by the corruption and brutality of the Marcos and Duterte fascist dynasties on our nation is no different from the destruction wrought on the people of America and the rest of the world. Democratic forces should continue the fight to finally bring their madness to an end,” the group added.ATOM, known for its involvement in the 1986 EDSA Revolution, said it is possible Filipino voters can do what the American voters did. “If the Americans can defeat their own fascist regime, even through an election, the Filipino people can also do this again at home,” the group said.Meanwhile, the Liberal Party (LP) of the Philippines, also hoped that Filipino voters could elect the right candidates in 2028. “We send our warmest congratulations to the Democrats of the United States of America on their historic victories in the 2026 midterm elections,” the party said on Wednesday. “Through their collective determination and perseverance, what we witnessed was more than just a blue wave. As several states flipped, we saw a blue tsunami sweep across the political landscape… These results demonstrate the power of grassroots organizing, collective action, and people coming together to make their voices heard and advance the interests of ordinary citizens,” it added.Candidates from the Democratic Party won the US midterm elections held on Tuesday.

- Laguna Copperplate Inscription, UST Baybayin Documents, Obusan cultural archive added to Unesco register (2026-11-05 15:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Three pieces of Philippine documentary heritage were added on Thursday to a register of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).The Unesco-Philippine National Commission or Unacom said in a post on Facebook that during the 11th general meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific in Jakarta, Indonesia on Nov. 5, "all three Philippine nominations were successfully inscribed in the" Unesco Memory of the World Regional Register.Those three are: The Laguna Copperplate Inscription (LCI); The Baybayin Documents in the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas; and The Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group (RoFG) Audiovisual Archive."This remarkable achievement brings greater international recognition to the Philippines' rich documentary heritage and opens new opportunities to preserve, share, and promote these invaluable treasures for future generations," the Unacom said.An infographic in the Unacom's post described the LCI as the Philippines' "earliest known historical document." The LCI has "a record on debt acquittal etched into a thin copperplate as early as" the year 900, the infographic said.Another infographic in the Unacom's post described the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Baybayin Documents as "the oldest known manuscripts written entirely in" Baybayin. The manuscripts, the infographic said, show "structural correspondences with Southeast Asian and North Indian writing systems..."An infographic in the Unacom's post said that the RoFG Audiovisual Archive is composed of over 3,700 "ethnographic films and

recordings (1970-2016) initiated by" Obusan who is a National Artist. "It documents indigenous dances, rituals, and community practices across the Philippines...," the infographic said.UST said on Facebook that it "is honored to be the home of a precious National Cultural Treasure that has now been inscribed in the" register."A little over a decade after Documents A and B of the Baybayin scripts became the country's first archival National Cultural Treasure, the Asia and the Pacific Region now recognizes the value of this piece of our country's history," UST said.The university congratulated the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas and thanked the stakeholders "who help us care for these important pieces of our heritage.""As we advance to face the challenges of the modern world, may we do so with renewed respect for the treasured past that we care for in the present," UST said.The 415-year-old university said it was "a proud moment" not only for Thomasians but also for Filipinos.

- Marikina launches free spaying and neutering program for rescued stray animals (2026-11-05 15:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Marikina City has launched a free spaying and neutering program for rescued stray dogs and cats at its Animal Rescue and Shelter.Mayor Maan Teodoro announced the program in a Facebook post on Wednesday, saying it would become a regular city service and would be brought to different barangays. “Aside from our free anti-rabies vaccination, spaying and neutering is also important. It is a humane way or practice for animal population control,” Teodoro said in Filipino.She said the program initially covers rescued stray dogs and cats at the city's Animal Rescue and Shelter. “For those asking, the free spaying and neutering [program] will now be a regular program. We will go around our barangays, so please watch out for the schedule in your area,” she added.

- PH to showcase "Tropical Flavors" in Shanghai Expo (2026-11-05 15:18)

SHANGHAI — The Philippines is expected to showcase its tropical flavors to the Chinese market as it participates in the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) from November 5-10.The CIIE is China's premier exposition to promote international imports to China's domestic market. It is held every year at the National Exhibition and Convention Center.Under the "FOODPhilippines" export brand, more than 30 food manufacturers and exporters will participate in the Philippine pavilion in a bid to solidify the country as a premier sourcing destination for high value tropical food, beverage and ingredients in the Southeast Asian region.It also reflects the Philippines' agricultural capabilities while it adapts to the global demand for health-focused, eco-conscious, and convenient nutrition.This year's delegation will focus on coconut innovations, with manny exhibitors showcasing high-value coconut derivatives, such as virgin coconut oil (VCO), fractionated coconut oils, organic sugar, coconut water, and beverages, among others.They will be complemented with the country's core tropical fruit offerings like the Puyat durian, Carabao mangoes, bananas. and processed calamansi products, as well as specialty snacks, artisanala tablea cacao, and plant-based health blends.Department of Trade and Industry - Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (DTI-CITEM) Executive Director Leah Pulido Ocampo said that the CIIE is a "crucial platform" to elevate Philippine food enterprised within

global supply chains."China’s massive import market provides a vital gateway for our local small and medium enterprises to transition from commodity suppliers into competitive, value-added global players.“ Ocampo said.She also said that the country's participation demonstrates the strength of Philippine agrifood as premium quality, with functional nutritional benefits and sustainable practices reinforces the Philippines' role as a "go-to sourcing destination in Southeast Asia, and creates lasting economic pathways that are inclusive of grassroots communities.” The country's participation in the CIIE builds on the country's performance in the 23rd China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO), where Philippine exhibitors secured a record US$60 million in export sales.It is the highest figure generated since CITEM first led the national delegation in 2004, and highlights the expanding market share, buyer confidence, and sustained demand for Filipino agrifood products across regional Chinese markets.The Philippine pavilion will be opened on November 6 and will be participated by officials from the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, Philippine Consulate-General in Shanghai, and officials from the DTI and Department of Agriculture.

- NTF-Elcac welcomes FBI probe of CPP-NPA networks in US (2026-11-05 12:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) welcomed reports that US authorities are investigating alleged recruitment, financing and logistical support networks of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) operating in the United States, following reports that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had questioned the family of an American activist detained in the Philippines.NTF-Elcac spokesman Liza Fidelis Cañada said Americans and organizations suspected of supporting the communist insurgency should expect scrutiny from US authorities, noting that Washington designated the CPP-NPA as a foreign terrorist organization in 2002.The task force issued the statement on Thursday following disclosures by the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) concerning alleged FBI inquiries involving the family of Gabe Pasion, an Anakbayan activist. Pasion reportedly said during a press conference in Baltimore organized by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines that FBI personnel and the US Embassy in Manila had repeatedly contacted his family through phone calls, home visits and inquiries at their workplaces.His sister, Christina Pasion, was arrested in July following a raid on a suspected communist safehouse in Laguna.Cañada said the reported inquiries should prompt closer examination of possible recruitment and support networks allegedly operating under the banner of human rights and social justice advocacy. "The allegations reported by the NDFP reinforce the need to investigate whether organizations operating under the banner of human rights and social justice are being exploited as recruitment and support networks for the CPP-NPA," she said.Cañada said the reported FBI inquiries came months after the US Embassy issued a security advisory in May warning Americans against NPA recruitment and involvement in armed insurgency activities. She cited several cases involving Americans who allegedly became involved with the communist movement in the Philippines.In January, Filipino-American Chantal Anicoche of Maryland was recovered near an armed encounter in Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro. She later

acknowledged traveling to the Philippines intending to join the NPA and staying in an insurgent camp before her repatriation, according to NTF-ELCAC.Christina Pasion, who had traveled with Anicoche, reportedly remained with the communist movement for several more months before being arrested in July alongside a wanted NPA member. In April, American activists Lyle Prijoles and Kai Dana-Rene Sorem, both linked to Anakbayan-USA, were among those killed during an armed encounter in Negros Occidental."These cases raise serious questions. Who recruited these young Americans? Who financed and facilitated their travel? What networks connected them with armed insurgents and ultimately placed their lives in danger?" Cañada said.She called for closer cooperation between Philippine and American authorities to investigate possible recruitment, financing and logistical support networks operating across borders."The Philippine government stands ready to cooperate and share relevant intelligence with the FBI and other competent American authorities," she said.Cañada also urged Filipino-American families, particularly parents of young people seeking to reconnect with their Philippine roots through activism, to remain vigilant against what she described as deceptive recruitment disguised as human rights or social justice advocacy."No political ideology justifies sacrificing young lives on the altar of a dying, violent rebellion," she said.

- Hontiveros pushes tighter citizenship checks (2026-11-05 11:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros said reforms in the country's civil registration and citizenship verification systems are crucial to national security.During a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Thursday, Hontiveros cited the case of businessman Joseph Sy as an example of how weaknesses in the civil registration system can pose broader national security concerns.Sy, chairman of Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc. and a former chairman of a major mining company, came under scrutiny after the Bureau of Immigration (BI) found that his fingerprints matched those of Chinese Chen Zhong Zhen.The investigation seeks to establish whether Sy is Joseph Cue Sy, as stated in his Philippine birth certificate, or the Chinese identified through the fingerprint match. Hontiveros said Sy's birth was registered only when he was 41 years old, with authorities subsequently finding serious irregularities in the documents supporting his late registration.These included the absence of records of the purported marriage of his declared parents, certifications that Sy and his supposed parents were not residents of their declared barangay, and a residential address that was reportedly found to be a vacant lot.A baptismal certificate submitted to support his birth registration also could not be authenticated by the purported parish, while the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reportedly found no civil registry records for his supposed parents.Despite these red flags, the birth certificate was accepted into the country's civil registry.Hontiveros said that the consequences of questionable birth registrations extend beyond the issuance of a single government document, as birth certificates can serve as the foundation for obtaining Philippine passports, claiming citizenship rights, and accessing privileges reserved for Filipinos.These include eligibility to own land, participate in constitutionally restricted industries, and hold positions in institutions where nationality is a determining factor. In Sy's case, Hontiveros said that the businessman had become chairman of

a major mining company and a member of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary.Hontiveros said the problem is also reflected in raids on illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), where foreign nationals have reportedly been found in possession of fraudulent Philippine identification documents."Every government document is ultimately an expression of trust. When the government declares that a person is Filipino, every other institution relies on that declaration. If the foundation of that identity can be manipulated, then the vulnerability does not end with the civil registry. It travels with that person throughout the entire government system. That is the loop we intend to close today," she said.Sy was absent from Thursday's hearing after reportedly being rushed to the emergency room of Makati Medical Center, according to his lawyer, Alma Fernandez-Mallonga."Early this morning, Mr. Sy called me up to say that he was in the emergency room of Makati Medical Center. He had been feeling unwell since last night," Mallonga told the panel.She said Sy had prepared to attend the hearing and respected the Senate proceedings but was unable to do so because of his medical condition. Mallonga committed to submitting medical documents to support her client's absence. She also informed the panel that Sy had been released from immigration detention almost a month ago and had undergone surgical procedures.Sy was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in 2025 after arriving from Hong Kong. The reported fingerprint match subsequently raised questions about the authenticity of the documents supporting his claim to Filipino citizenship.

- NBI says ‘Bato’ still in PH, chances of locating him 'high' (2026-11-05 11:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Thursday expressed confidence that authorities have a high chance of locating Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, citing intelligence reports indicating that the lawmaker remains in the Philippines.NBI Director Melvin Matibag said the bureau continues to gather information and is preparing possible operations in areas identified through intelligence reports. “I think with the information we're getting, the chances of locating him are quite high,” Matibag said in an ambush interview.Asked for an update on the search for dela Rosa, Matibag said the NBI was continuing its efforts and could launch operations in the coming days. “It’s still the same, but we may conduct operations anytime soon to eliminate the areas we have identified based on the intelligence reports we have gathered," he said.Asked whether the senator was believed to be hiding in Mindanao, Matibag declined to disclose details of his possible whereabouts. “I cannot tell. We have a strong belief that he is here in the Philippines,” the NBI chief said.

- Comelec sees 3M new voters (2026-11-05 10:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said Thursday it is expecting three million additional voters ahead of the 2028 national and local elections, with continuing voter registration set to begin on Nov. 10.Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia said the registration period would run nationwide until July 30, 2027, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. “We plan to be able to register around 3 million voters. Currently, we have 71 million voters, and we plan on an addition of 3 million. So we will have more or less 74 million voters in the 2028 National and

Local Elections," Garcia told reporters at the Comelec Main Office in Intramuros, Manila.The Comelec will launch the registration campaign at Luneta Park on Nov. 10, with activities scheduled for three days.Garcia warned candidates against vote-buying. "We will not hesitate to disqualify candidates or file appropriate cases against them," he said, urging voters not to sell their votes.Garcia said the Comelec aims to complete the purging of the voters' list before the end of 2027 through its Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

- India in final-stage talks to expand missile sale to Philippines, sources say (2026-11-05 10:24)

NEW DELHI/MANILA — India is in final-stage talks to expand its sale of supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters, as New Delhi nears completion of deliveries under a 2022 deal.The Philippines is expected to buy about five BrahMos systems, nearly 60 missiles in total, in a deal potentially worth $700 million to $800 million, two of the Indian sources said."Manila has shown interest again to procure about 5 systems of the BrahMos and they now view India as a very reliable partner," one Indian source said.New Delhi's latest likely deal with the Philippines, which is modernizing its military and strengthening coastal defenses as tensions rise in the disputed South China Sea, is much higher than the last $375 million order of BrahMos for naval use.BrahMos, developed jointly by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles and can be launched from land, sea and air platforms.Arsenio Andolong, Philippines defense ministry spokesperson, told Reuters that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr had expressed his desire to acquire additional BrahMos missiles. Andolong did not offer more details.Speaking virtually at the Delhi Defense Dialogue on Wednesday, Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the Philippines hoped to secure more BrahMos units and had shared a wish list with Indian authorities to make the system more tailored to the Philippine environment.Reuters is the first to report the size and value of the deal.The additional purchase comes at a time when Manila is building its military strength as tension escalates with Beijing on overlapping claims in the South China Sea, where the two countries have clashed in recent years.India's defense and foreign ministries, as well as missile maker BrahMos Aerospace, did not respond to requests for comment.Interest in the BrahMos system has increased since last year's four-day conflict between India and Pakistan, when India used the weapons system for the first time in battle.In July, Delhi announced the supply of BrahMos missiles to Indonesia and has also signed a deal with Vietnam. It is in talks on the system with a number of other countries including UAE, Thailand, South Africa and Brazil.India's defense exports for the fiscal year to March reached 384.24 billion rupees ($4.11 billion), a jump of more than 62% from the same period the year before, government data showed.

- PH authorities probe Markle Jr. (2026-11-05 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine authorities are investigating the possible involvement of Thomas Markle Jr. in a case involving thousands of explicit images and a video allegedly found in digital devices belonging to his father, American director Thomas Markle Sr.In a media

interview at Camp Crame on Thursday, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said investigators are treating the younger Markle as a person of interest (POI) after receiving information that minors were allegedly brought to his residence in Cebu.Remulla stressed that Markle Jr. is not a suspect as authorities continue to validate the information. “There are signs that point to the son being involved in the crime as well, but only as a person of interest, so far, he is not treated as a suspect,” he said.He said around 7,500 photographs and one video depicting the alleged sexual abuse of underage boys and girls of Asian, Latina and European descent as well as Filipino-looking victims were discovered in the older Markle’s devices. Some of the children in the video were estimated to be only 10 to 11 years old.The investigation began after Markle Jr. discovered the materials while searching for a cellphone at a friend's house in Cordova, Cebu, where his father's belongings had been left. He subsequently turned over the digital devices to authorities.Remulla described the recovered materials as among the most disturbing cases he had encountered, but said investigators have yet to establish whether the devices and contents indeed belonged to Markle Sr.The elder Markle, father of Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle, lived in a high-rise apartment in Cebu City from January 2025 until May 2026. He returned to the United States in May for medical treatment and a prosthetic limb after suffering a severe blood clot in late 2025 that led to the amputation of his left leg below the knee.Authorities are also seeking assistance from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation in determining the ownership of six mobile phones that originated from the US. Remulla said investigators expect to obtain developments in the case in the coming days as they continue examining the recovered devices and validating information on the possible involvement of the younger Markle.

• Drought to hit several provinces this month because of ‘very strong’ El Niño — Pagasa (2026-11-05 09:03)

MANILA, Philippines — Several provinces are expected to be hit by drought this month because of the super El Niño that has developed in the tropical Pacific, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said."A very strong El Niño is currently present in the tropical Pacific and is expected to persist until the first half of 2027, potentially reaching its peak by the end of 2026," Pagasa said in a statement on Thursday."For November 2026, below normal to way below normal rainfall is expected over most parts of the country, with several provinces likely to experience meteorological drought/dry spell conditions by the end of the month," it said."Warmer than average mean air temperatures are also expected across most parts of the country," it said.Expected to experience drought in november are Albay, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes, Capiz, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Siquijor and Misamis Oriental.Many provinces in Luzon, including Metro Manila, will experience dry spells.

• Animal Kingdom Foundation recovers 46 sacks of animal remains in Bulacan site (2026-11-05 07:15)

MANILA, Philippines — The Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) on Thursday recovered 46 sacks of animal remains at a dump site in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.In a Facebook post, AKF said the site is in Barangay Gaya-Gaya. “So far, 46 sacks containing animal remains have been recovered at the site. However, the exact number of animals remains undetermined, as multiple animals were found inside some sacks,” AKF said. “The remains are already in an advanced stage of decomposition. No identification tags or other identifying information were found, only the sacks containing the remains,” it added.The development came after 29 dead cats and dogs were discovered wrapped in plastic bags at a vacant lot in Barangay Minuyan in San Jose del Monte.

- Almost 28k former rebels given aid — Palace (2026-11-05 06:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 28,000 former rebels and their dependents have returned to the fold of the law since July 2022 and received P1 billion in government assistance to rebuild their lives, Malacañang said on Thursday.The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-Elcac) said that 27,897 former rebels and their dependents received livelihood opportunities, education, and other government aid.The administration continues to pursue reintegration and community development initiatives aimed at providing former rebels and their families with opportunities to contribute to lasting peace, the Palace said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday convened the 10th NTF-Elcac Executive Committee Meeting to review government efforts toward lasting peace and development in conflict-affected communities.The meeting assessed the task force’s accomplishments and the implementation of programs under the National Action Plan on Unity, Peace, and Development 2025–2028, the Palace said in a statement.The president directed concerned government agencies to prioritize the transformation program, which provides livelihood opportunities, educational assistance and other support to help former rebels reintegrate into their communities.Under the Barangay Development Program, the government has allocated P44.9 billion for development projects covering 5,638 of the 9,750 identified isolated areas.These projects include 978 classrooms, 1,601 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, 1,182 water and sanitation systems, and 556 health stations, benefiting an estimated 16.08 million Filipinos.The reintegration efforts form part of the administration’s broader peace and development agenda, which seeks to address the socioeconomic conditions in conflict-affected communities through improved access to basic services and sustainable livelihoods.The program also extends assistance to their families, with at least 3,911 dependents receiving scholarships under the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan Educational Assistance Program.

- Marcos names Rodil Zalameda new chief justice (2026-11-05 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda has been selected as the next chief justice to succeed Alexander Gesmundo, who will retire on Friday, Malacañang announced on Thursday.Zalameda will be the country's 28th chief justice."Today, I am pleased to announce that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has chosen Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda to serve as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, succeeding Chief

Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, who is set to retire tomorrow, November 6," Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano said."In selecting Justice Zalameda, the President recognizes the importance of experienced and principled leadership in preserving public confidence in our judicial institutions," he said.The President expressed his confidence that Zalameda will "discharge the responsibilities of chief justice with integrity, impartiality, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law," Cayetano added.

- LRMC opens 24/7 parking facility at LRT-1 (2026-11-05 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC), the private operator of the Light Railway Transit (LRT-1), has opened a 24/7 paid parking facility at its Dr. Santos Station in Parañaque City, enhancing its push for seamless multi-modal transit.The parking facility will allow commuters to leave their vehicles safely and skip the vehicular traffic, LRMC President and CEO Enrico Benipayo said.Benipayo said the facility supports the Department of Transportation's "Park and Ride" and "Road to Rail" initiatives by giving commuters from southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces direct access to the LRT-1 network.Operated by third-party partner GlobalParking Management Inc. under an agreement with LRMC, the lot accommodates four-wheel and two-wheel vehicles, offering 93 slots for cars and SUVs and 100 slots for motorcycles.The facility runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and features CCTV (closed-circuit television) surveillance, an automated boom gate system, and on-site parking attendants. Payments may be made in cash."Our goal at LRMC is to provide holistic mobility solutions that go beyond train operations. By providing a safe, accessible, and well-managed parking space, we are empowering commuters to easily transition from private vehicles to efficient rail transport," Benipayo said."This facility bridges road and rail transportation, making daily commutes faster, safer, and more convenient for everyone," he added.The LRMC said four-wheeled vehicles are charged P40 for the first five hours, with succeeding hours at P10 each while motorcycles and e-bikes pay a flat rate of P30 for the first eight hours, followed by P5 for each succeeding hour.An overnight rate of P100 applies to vehicles parked between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.Parking is free for persons with disabilities and senior citizens upon presentation of a valid identification card.

- SC allows video testimony, recorded interviews to spare child witnesses from courtroom trauma (2026-11-05 04:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court (SC) has revamped its rules on examining child witnesses, allowing video-link testimonies, recorded depositions and professionally conducted interviews to spare children from repeatedly reliving traumatic experiences in court.Under the Revised Rule on the Examination of Child Witnesses (RRECW), approved by the court en banc on June 17, 2026 but only announced Wednesday, courts may allow children to testify through videoconferencing from outside the courtroom when appearing in person is likely to cause them further trauma.The new rules also allow electronically recorded depositions and recorded interviews conducted by trained professionals to be presented as evidence, subject to safeguards protecting the rights of the accused and other parties.In announcing the revised

rules, the SC said the changes aim to make court proceedings more child-friendly while ensuring that children's voices are heard without exposing them to unnecessary psychological harm.Under the rules, judges may limit the people a child witness can see and hear during testimony, including the accused, while preserving the latter's constitutional right to confront witnesses.If identification of the accused is necessary, the accused may briefly appear on camera or be identified by the child through an image displayed on screen.Children who cannot testify in court or through videoconferencing because of disability, health concerns or other circumstances may instead give an electronically recorded deposition in the presence of the judge and lawyers from both sides. The recording may be used in place of their actual courtroom testimony.The revised rules also recognize recorded interviews conducted by a team of professionals as evidence, reducing the need for children to repeatedly recount painful incidents.

- Marcos leads first gas delivery from new Malampaya wells (2026-11-05 04:39)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the first delivery of natural gas from Malampaya’s newly developed offshore wells in Batangas City.Speaking at the Malampaya Onshore Gas Plant on Thursday, Marcos said the new wells would help move the Philippines closer to energy independence. “Maximizing the use of Malampaya gas could contribute to more competitive power rates because we are relying less on imported energy sources that are subject to volatile international energy prices,” he said in his speech.

- Padilla, Tulfo statistically tied — survey (2026-11-05 04:10)

MANILA, Philippines — If the elections were held today, Senators Robin Padilla and Raffy Tulfo would be statistically tied in the vice presidential race, a survey by Momentum Research showed.Padilla's support rose to 20 percent in October from 15 percent in August, while Tulfo's dropped to 18 percent from 25 percent during the same period, the October 2026 National Momentum Survey revealed.Sen. Bong Go maintained his 14 percent support, while Sen. Rodante Marcoleta remained at 9 percent.Sen. Bam Aquino gained two percentage points to 10 percent, while Sen. Kiko Pangilinan more than doubled his support from 3 percent to 7 percent.Sen. Risa Hontiveros, meanwhile, slipped from 8 percent to 6 percent.The survey also found that 7 percent of respondents were undecided, while 2 percent declined to disclose their preferred vice presidential candidate.In September, Padilla said that he no longer planned to seek public office in 2028.Tulfo and Aquino have also ruled out seeking the vice presidency, with Tulfo saying he intends to run for reelection.The survey results showed a sharp regional divide in voter preferences, with Padilla dominating Mindanao while Tulfo led in the rest of Luzon.

- Tulfo retracts claim on Romualdez: I was fed wrong info (2026-11-05 03:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Journalist Ramon Tulfo on Thursday retracted his claim that former speaker Martin Romualdez has been sneaking out of jail. “I was fed the wrong report that former speaker Martin Romualdez could go in and out of jail,” Tulfo said in a Facebook post. He admitted that one of the most embarrassing and humiliating experiences of a journalist is

spreading wrong information.Reports that Romualdez has been going out of the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory prompted the Sandiganbayan Third Division to order the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to review CCTV footage and account for his whereabouts from the time he was brought to jail until Nov. 4.The bureau was directed to submit a notarized report by Monday, Nov. 9, along with CCTV maintenance records, access logs, records of possible footage alterations, power interruptions, vehicle movements and ambulance use. “Accused Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez shall not be moved, removed, transferred and/or otherwise be released from his detention at the Quezon City Jail - Male Dormitory unless ordered by the court,” the Sandiganbayan said.

• VP defense team respects Sarmiento’s decision not to testify in impeachment trial (2026-11-05 02:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte said it respects the decision of law professor Dean Ralph Sarmiento declining their invitation for him to serve as a defense witness in her impeachment trial.Michael Poa, spokesman for the Vice President’s defense camp, said that they would honor the legal scholar’s decision. This development follows a manifestation filed by the defense on Wednesday requesting the Senate Impeachment Court to issue a subpoena duces tecum and subpoena testificandum to Sarmiento, a respected faculty member of political and constitutional law at the University of St. La Salle (USLS) College of Law and its former vice chancellor for administration.The defense planned to make Sarmiento as its anchor witness for November 9 to testify on the foundational constitutional principles relevant to Article II of the impeachment complaint, which focuses on allegations of unexplained wealth against Vice President Duterte.However, Sarmiento declined the invitation, citing a desire to protect his academic freedom. In a statement, he thanked the defense team for recognizing his work but noted that he never anticipated his digital commentary becoming part of an actual impeachment trial.Sarmiento has a substantial online footprint, commanding over 318,000 followers on Facebook, where he frequently posts balanced analyses, including recent commentary emphasizing the need for procedural fairness after the prosecution dropped three out of four charges against Duterte."After careful consideration, I have decided to decline participation as a witness in the proceedings," Sarmiento stated. "This is a personal decision to preserve the independence of my constitutional law scholarship and the impartiality of my legal views and opinions."Sarmiento added that he has reached out to the defense to request that they withdraw their motion for a subpoena, or move for its immediate recall if the court has already issued it. He maintained that he remains fully committed to fostering public understanding of the Constitution through an independent lens.Poa extended the defense team's gratitude for Sarmiento's initial consideration.

• Pangilinan pushes expanded agricultural insurance protection for famers, fisherfolk (2026-11-05 02:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan is pushing for stronger and more comprehensive agricultural insurance protection for farmers and fisherfolk through a measure seeking to

expand insurance coverage and ensure the continued operation of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).Pangilinan filed Senate Bill 2583 on Oct. 29, proposing to strengthen the PCIC by extending its corporate term and its insurance services through further amendments to Presidential Decree No. 1467.The measure seeks to bolster the agricultural sector’s resilience against climate-related risks, particularly with the looming threat of a strong El Niño that could trigger severe drought, disrupt agricultural production, and jeopardize the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk, as well as the country’s food security.“Agricultural insurance protects farmers and fisherfolk against losses, supports continued production, and facilitates access to financing. Strengthening and modernizing the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) is therefore essential to making insurance protection more accessible, responsive, and sustainable,” Pangilinan said in the bill’s explanatory note.Citing Philippine Statistics Authority data, he noted that poverty incidence among farmers and fisherfolk reached 27 percent and 27.4 percent, respectively, in 2023, highlighting the need for stronger government support for these vulnerable sectors.He said that agricultural insurance serves as a critical safety net, helping farmers and fisherfolk recover from losses caused by natural calamities, climate-related disruptions, and other agricultural risks. It also helps sustain food production and improves their access to credit.Under the measure, the PCIC’s insurance coverage would be expanded to cover a broader range of agricultural commodities and assets, including palay, corn, high-value crops, livestock, aquaculture and fishery products, agroforestry crops, and forest plantations.Coverage would also extend to agricultural machinery, equipment, transport facilities, and infrastructure.The bill likewise seeks to strengthen the PCIC’s authority to provide life and accident term insurance coverage for farmers and fisherfolk.

- DOTr deploys 20 buses to ease LRT-2 congestion (2026-11-05 01:57)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has deployed 20 buses to give Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) commuters an alternative during rush hour.The buses will initially serve commuters traveling from Antipolo City in Rizal to Cubao, Quezon City and Legarda, including students heading to schools and universities in Manila, DOTr Secretary Vince Dizon said on Thursday.The initiative aimed to ease pressure on the LRT-2, which has been unable to accommodate thousands of passengers because of its limited number of operational trains, Dizon said.Under the trial arrangement, the regular fare from Antipolo to Legarda, originally P80, was reduced by 20 percent to P66. Students will pay P55.The bus deployment was a temporary measure while the government works on longer-term solutions to the LRT-2's operational problems, said Dizon, a former Department of Public Works and Highways chief.During Wednesday’s inspection at the Masinag station in Antipolo, Dizon said around 4,000 passengers during the 6 to 8 a.m. peak period could not be served by the rail line.The DOTr chief noted that commuters sometimes had to wait 30 to 45 minutes in line before boarding a train. Only 10 trains are operational and that number could decline further when some break down.Dizon attributed the shortage to years of inadequate maintenance and funding, noting that the trains are 25 to 27 years old and have not been replaced.Buying new trains would not immediately solve the problem, as delivery could take three to four years and

the government has yet to allocate funds for the purchase."We cannot solve this overnight. I apologize to our commuters because this is not an easy problem to address," Dizon said.The DOTr is also studying the possibility of establishing a busway-style system along Marcos Highway in Rizal to make trips faster.

• DepEd reports improved reading levels under ARAL program (2026-11-04 19:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) reported a decrease from 6.7 million to 4.5 million in the number of learners with reading difficulties under its Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) program.Education Secretary Sonny Angara said that the results were encouraging after one year of implementation."From 6.7 million, it became 4.5 million whose reading levels improved. So it's very encouraging and that's only after one year," Angara said in Filipino and English during an interview after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Iloilo Numeracy and Literacy Expo at Punta Villa Resort in Iloilo on Wednesday. Angara said that the ARAL program was intended to address learning deficiencies so that difficulties in reading would not carry over from one school year to another.He also said that DepEd had issued policy guidelines on weather conditions, providing for alternative learning modes when temperatures become too high.On classroom construction, Angara said local governments in Iloilo were providing funds to complement the national government's assistance, adding that the classroom deficit was decreasing in Iloilo and Panay.

• Sotto pushes rules to address prolonged absences of senators (2026-11-04 18:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Pro Tempore Vicente Sotto III is seeking clearer rules to address senators who remain absent from their duties for extended periods without authorization, saying prolonged absenteeism undermines public accountability and wastes taxpayers' money.In Senate Resolution No. 751, filed on Oct. 27, Sotto urged the Senate Committee on Rules to review existing regulations and establish mechanisms for addressing prolonged unauthorized absences among Senate members.Sotto said the measure seeks to address a gap in the chamber's existing rules, particularly when a senator's extended absence affects the performance of legislative functions."As public servants elected by the Filipino people and whose salaries and allowances are derived from the taxes they have paid, we owe it to them to perform our duties with diligence and to represent them in the legislative framework," Sotto said in the resolution.He invoked the constitutional principle that public office is a public trust, stressing that government officials must remain accountable to the people and discharge their responsibilities with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency.Sotto noted that prolonged absenteeism and alleged neglect of duty had become matters of public concern, with complaints against some senators already filed before the chamber's Committee on Ethics."Such absenteeism and neglect of duty is deemed a waste of taxpayer funds and has caused public clamor over the past months," he said.Sotto said the Senate must revisit its rules to determine the appropriate response to prolonged unauthorized absences and ensure that senators meet the standards of public service expected of them."There is a need to revisit the current Rules of the Senate to study the best possible

approach as regards the issue of prolonged unauthorized absence of the members of the Senate with the view of ensuring highest standards of public service commensurate to the trust reposed by the electorate," he said."No less than the 1987 Constitution has pronounced that public office is public trust and that all public officials and employees must at all times be accountable to the people they serve and must serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency," he added.

- Jail officials quizzed on Romualdez report (2026-11-04 16:21)

THE Sandiganbayan 3rd Division has summoned two jail officials to testify on Thursday on the custody of former speaker Martin Romualdez following reports alleging he had been secretly leaving his detention facility.Clerk of Court for the 3rd Division, Dennis Pulma, told The Manila Times on Wednesday that the court ordered Jail Supt. Maria Lourdes Pacion and medical officer Henry Fabro of the Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory in Payatas, Quezon City, to “personally appear and testify” at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 5.“In light of the recent online news articles,” the court issued the resolution to establish the “current status of accused Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez’s custody at BJMP Payatas,” Pulma said, referring to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).The summons followed allegations that Romualdez had been leaving jail without authorization. The BJMP has launched an investigation and said its initial closed-circuit television (CCTV) review found no recorded movement by Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined.The BJMP has launched an investigation into the claims, but BJMP chief JDIR Efren Nemeño said initial CCTV reviews showed no recorded power interruption at the Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory or any recorded movement of the lawmaker inside his cell.“Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or CCTV interruption at the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory, and no recorded movement of Rep. Martin Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined,” the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.The investigation came after columnist Ramon Tulfo claimed on social media that Romualdez is secretly leaving and returning to the jail through a backdoor arrangement designed to keep his movements hidden.Tulfo said an asset he called “Tweety Bird” alleged that Romualdez uses a staircase while the facility’s electricity is intentionally cut to prevent CCTV cameras from capturing his movements.The former speaker supposedly takes the backdoor stairs where an ambulance is waiting for him — a movement Tulfo alleged was also done by former senator Bong Revilla as well as Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who have both been committed to the same facility due over the flood control scandal.A CCTV clip sent to The Manila Times dated Nov. 4 showed Romualdez was inside the detention center wearing the yellow shirt for persons deprived of liberty on that day.In his post, Tulfo did not mention any particular date when the former speaker supposedly sneaked out, but the BJMP conducted a thorough CCTV review since September to confirm the allegations.Romualdez was committed to the New Quezon City Jail-Male Dormitory since Sept. 14 over his alleged connection to the flood control controversy.Bustinera reiterated that CCTV monitoring remained fully operational with no unrecorded movement or power outages recorded.The BJMP said it takes such allegations seriously but reiterated that “all PDL (person deprived of liberty) are subject to the same

custodial rules and that any movement outside the jail requires a proper court order.” “We welcome relevant information from the public and will cooperate with any investigation by other government agencies,” the agency said.The BJMP also assured the public of professionalism, transparency and commitment to equal treatment of all PDLs “without distinction or special privilege.”

- ‘VP defense team has no defense vs bank records’ (2026-11-04 16:20)

THE defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte is “defenseless,” a member of the House prosecution team said on Wednesday.Trial spokesman and former Surigao del Norte representative Robert Ace Barbers made the assertion as he reiterated that Duterte’s counsels would be hard-pressed to counter evidence presented by the prosecution when the materials themselves came from the vice president’s camp.“The defense is defenseless. In other words, how can you refute the evidence presented by the prosecution — given that the very documents submitted actually originated from the defense camp itself?” Barbers said in Filipino in a press conference.“Bank records will never lie. I don’t think the bank managers will deny the existence of outstanding balances they reported before the impeachment court to controvert what the prosecution team laid down,” he added.The former lawmaker also noted that the panel already expected the defense team to object to its formal offer of evidence.In its comment before the Senate Impeachment Court, Duterte’s defense team sought to exclude key documentary evidence, including records from the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Anti-Money Laundering Council, citing technical defects, lack of witness authentication and failure to establish a direct link to impeachable offenses.“We already expected that they would do that. They will attack the technicality of the trial. They will attack the documents that we have presented as evidence,” Barbers said.“They will attack that. They will say it’s wrong, that it’s not allowed — simply because they have no counterargument,” he added.The panel has withdrawn three of the four Articles of Impeachment against the vice president, leaving only Article II, which accuses Duterte of amassing unexplained wealth disproportionate to her lawful income, failing to truthfully disclose her assets and liabilities in her SALNs (statements of assets, liabilities and net worth) and maintaining prohibited business interests.One of the panel’s witnesses, forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera, earlier identified about P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed.“The evidence is substantial, and it is extremely difficult to refute or disprove — not least because it consists of actual documents, which cannot lie; this is not evidence that could have been fabricated,” Barbers said.“So, once again, I would like to say that it will be difficult for the defense to challenge, or perhaps even rebut, the evidence we have presented,” he added.The impeachment proceedings will resume on Nov. 9, with the Duterte defense team reportedly out to present 90 witnesses.Barbers argued that the opposing side cannot simply overwhelm the proceedings with witnesses, lengthy arguments or procedural objections while leaving fundamental questions about the vice president’s declared wealth,

income, assets and financial transactions unanswered. “The number of witnesses is not the measure of the truth. What matters is whether they can address the documents and figures presented by the prosecution,” he said.Duterte, he said, must explain whether her declared income reasonably accounts for the accumulation of her wealth and whether all business interests, investments and other financial holdings were properly disclosed. “If all transactions were proper and above board, every figure should be explainable. Simply denying or casting doubt on the documents is not enough. These must be addressed with clear, concrete explanations and evidence,” Barbers said. “The defense has the right to defend their client, but this process should not be used as an excuse to evade serious questions that need to be answered,” he added.

- PNP vows ‘Bato’ arrest despite his police ties (2026-11-04 16:19)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) reiterated their unwavering vow to implement the arrest warrant against Sen. Ronald dela Rosa regardless of his ties with the law enforcement agency he once led and served almost all his life. “Our chief PNP made it abundantly clear that we will not allow any hindrance, regardless of the person’s position or previous public position, we will do our duty, we will implement the warrant of arrest,” Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, said in a press briefing.The PNP’s answer came following the challenge issued by Palace Press Secretary Claire Castro to PNP chief Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. to pursue the arrest of dela Rosa despite his historical connections.Dela Rosa is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity for his role in the bloody war on drugs, when he was then-president Rodrigo Duterte’s PNP chief.Castro made the challenge following Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla’s pronouncement that dela Rosa’s connection as former PNP chief and a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy are making his arrest more difficult. “We understand that this is not a matter of personal discretion or political consideration. The PNP does not play politics. We remain true to our oath of fulfilling our duty within the law,” Co said.Remulla repeatedly said that dela Rosa is being coddled by a powerful armed group whom the government would rather negotiate with than risk 10,000 just for the arrest of one man.While not divulging the results of the negotiations, the government has issued a P50-million bounty for information leading to the arrest of dela Rosa, tagged him as “armed and dangerous,” and gave him a week to surrender.The week has passed with no surrender or feelers from the fugitive senator. His camp, through his lawyer, even renewed their petition before the Supreme Court to block the ICC arrest citing recent developments such as the bounty and the armed and dangerous tag as dangers to his life.Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief himself, said the PNP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government should refrain from divulging information on manhunts.The PNP expressed agreement with Lacson’s statement and maintained that indeed, they are keeping the integrity of operational details.Lacson on Wednesday said that Philippine courts must be respected and local legal procedures observed if dela Rosa is arrested.Lacson said dela Rosa should be placed under the custody of a Philippine court, even in a ministerial capacity, if authorities apprehend him so he can avail himself of all legal remedies available under Philippine law, including

recourse to the Supreme Court. “That’s part of due process — if he is arrested, he may be placed under the custody of a local court where he can avail of all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of the law,” Lacson said in an interview on radio DZMM.He cited Section 17 of Republic Act 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes Against Humanity, which establishes the country’s jurisdiction over persons suspected or accused of crimes covered by the law under specified circumstances.These include cases in which the accused is a Filipino citizen, is present in the Philippines regardless of citizenship or residence, or has committed the alleged crime against a Filipino citizen.However, the law also allows Philippine authorities, in the interest of justice, to defer investigation or prosecution when another court or international tribunal is already investigating or prosecuting the same crime. Authorities may instead surrender or extradite the accused to the appropriate international court or another state, subject to applicable laws and treaties.Lacson also cited Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, which provides that a case may be deemed inadmissible before the ICC if it is being investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it, unless that state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the proceedings.The same provision covers cases in which a state has investigated an alleged crime but decided not to prosecute, unless the decision resulted from its unwillingness or inability to genuinely pursue the case.

- Duterte lead over Robredo narrows to 7 points – OCTA (2026-11-04 16:18)

VICE President Sara Duterte’s lead over former vice president and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup has narrowed to 7 percentage points, the smallest recorded by OCTA Research in its 2026 surveys.Duterte obtained 40 percent against Robredo’s 33 percent in the third-quarter 2026 Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos nationwide.The seven-point margin was down from 11 points in the first quarter, when Duterte registered 46 percent against Robredo’s 35 percent, and nine points in the second quarter, when the figures stood at 43 percent and 34 percent, respectively.OCTA said Duterte’s preference had declined by 6 percentage points over the three survey rounds, while Robredo’s remained relatively stable, ranging from 33 percent to 35 percent.The proportion of respondents who chose neither candidate or did not know whom to vote for rose to 26 percent in the latest survey, from 22 percent in the second quarter and 19 percent in the first quarter.The growing undecided bloc suggests that voters moving away from Duterte have not necessarily shifted their preference to Robredo, OCTA said.Despite the narrowing margin, Duterte remained ahead nationally, with her seven-point lead outside the survey’s plus-or-minus 3-percentage-point margin of error.The survey results also showed significant regional differences in the hypothetical matchup.Robredo led Duterte in the National Capital Region, with 39 percent against 32 percent, and in Balance Luzon, where she received 49 percent against Duterte’s 24 percent.Duterte, meanwhile, maintained a commanding lead in Mindanao, with 71 percent against Robredo’s 2 percent. She also led in Visayas, 46 percent to 27 percent.By socioeconomic grouping, Robredo led among Class ABC respondents, with 40 percent against Duterte’s 32 percent.She also made an 11-point gain

among Class E respondents, rising from 31 percent in the second quarter to 42 percent in the latest survey, while Duterte's preference fell from 51 percent to 41 percent.OCTA said the two were statistically tied in Class E, although the relatively small sample of 109 respondents warranted caution in interpreting the results.Duterte continued to lead in Class D, which accounts for roughly 4 in 5 adult Filipinos, with 41 percent against Robredo's 31 percent. Twenty-eight percent in this group were undecided.The survey also showed Robredo narrowly leading among women, 38 percent to 35 percent, and urban residents, 38 percent to 35 percent. Duterte led among men, 45 percent to 28 percent, and rural residents, 47 percent to 25 percent.Duterte maintained her advantage among voters below 45 years old, while Robredo held narrow leads among those aged 45 and older.OCTA said the findings should be treated as an early measure of public sentiment rather than a prediction of the May 2028 elections.The survey was conducted while Duterte's impeachment trial was ongoing. However, OCTA cautioned that its findings did not establish whether the proceedings influenced respondents' voting preferences.Robredo has repeatedly said she would not seek national office in 2028 and was likely to pursue another term as Naga City mayor.OCTA noted that the hypothetical matchup therefore measured Robredo's standing among voters rather than support for an actual presidential candidacy.The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

- Democrats win US Congress in midterm rout of Trump (2026-11-04 16:18)

WASHINGTON D.C. — Democrats seized control of the United States Congress on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his presidency.The Democratic landslide will give the opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Trump's administration, and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.The results reflected deep anger over living costs, tariffs and Trump's war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring and compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular president. "I'm just so happy. I'm so eager," 22-year-old paralegal Michael Diaz said in Georgia, celebrating a big win by rising Democratic star Jon Ossoff in the Senate.Trump struck a conciliatory note despite his history of questioning elections, telling The New York Times he was "absolutely willing" to accept the results. "I think the Democrats did a good job, I really do," the 80-year-old told Fox News, in rare praise for his political opponents. "They fought hard."But he sought to distance himself from his own party's poor showing, adding that "I don't view it as a hit on me."He acknowledged that the Iran conflict had contributed to the defeat, while defending the military campaign, and he suggested the rival parties could find common ground on immigration, long one of the most divisive issues of his presidency.Republican heartlandAs Trump was conceding, the scale of the Democratic victory grew further when former logger Troy Jackson defeated longtime Republican senator Susan Collins in Maine, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans.Earlier breakthroughs in Kansas and Iowa had clinched the Senate majority for Democrats, following stunning victories in Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina and Ohio.In

Kansas, Methodist minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative state since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic senator since 2008.Texas Democrat James Talarico declared he had defeated “Goliath” in winning a Senate seat while Gina Hinojosa unseated the state’s Republican governor Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule.Democrats also protected key Senate seats of their own, including Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.The party’s House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina and New Jersey, including districts Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.In one closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Trump won by 17 points two years earlier.Democrats also won Georgia’s governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in US history.Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state’s first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat — but only after seeing off surprisingly strong Democratic challenges.The night was “a big wipeout and a strong repudiation of Donald Trump and his policies,” George Washington University professor Todd Belt told Agence France-Presse (AFP).Trump on defensiveDemocratic control of Congress will allow the party to pursue investigations into the Iran war, immigration enforcement and allegations of corruption, while blocking Trump’s legislation and senior appointments.Robert Garcia, now expected to lead the powerful House Oversight Committee, warned Republicans on social media: “LAWYER UP.” House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Trump’s MAGA movement “on the run from sea to shining sea.” Jeffries could become the first Black speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January.Despite his conciliatory remarks, Trump also insisted on social media that Republicans would have won “IN A LANDSLIDE” if he had been running, after repeatedly urging supporters throughout the campaign to “pretend I’m on the ballot.” He also repeated his threat to use the presidential veto on Democratic-passed laws, posting a picture on social media of a red baseball cap reading just: “VETO.”

- P555M fine vs Move It for ‘ghost riders’ hailed (2026-11-04 16:17)

A BROAD coalition of consumer, transport, legal and motorcycle rider groups has commended the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for slapping Move It with a P555.75-million fine over “ghost riders” that exceeded its authorized allocation.The group vowed on Wednesday to keep a close watch on how the penalty is enforced while pressing for stronger safeguards for commuter safety and rider livelihoods.The groups backing the statement are the National Confederation of Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines (Nactodap); National Public Transport Coalition (NPTC); Digital Pinoys; Lawyers for Commuters’ Safety and Protection; Kapatiran ng Dalawang Gulong (Kagulong); Motorcycle Taxi Rider Organization (Metro); Samahang Manibela Mananakay at Nagkaisang Terminal ng Transportasyon (Manibela); and Pilipino Society and Development Advocates for Commuters and Consumers.The LTFRB in its Oct. 9 decision found that Move It had 73,321 active riders on its platform against an authorized allocation of only 17,746 — an excess of 55,575 riders. “We

previously filed a case against the excessive number of motorcycle taxis affecting the livelihood of tricycle drivers. Now, it has been proven that what we were fighting for was right," said Ariel Lim of NPTC and Nactodap in a press briefing.The coalition raised concerns over how mandatory rider accreditation, training and safety standards were verified given the scale of the excess onboarding cited by the LTFRB. "For commuters, the question is not simply motorcycle availability during rush hour. It is whether every rider is properly documented, trained and safe to provide the service," said Ronald Gustilo, Digital Pinoys national campaigner. "Safety and commuter protection cannot be set aside just to meet demand," Gustilo added.The coalition also recalled the earlier controversy over government fuel assistance when discrepancies in rider and driver records forced the Department of Social Welfare and Development to conduct additional verification. "We have long questioned the overboarding and its impact on commuter safety. Public funds are also at stake when the records used in distributing aid are inaccurate. We must ensure that assistance goes to legitimate beneficiaries," Gustilo said.Metro said ordinary riders should not be held responsible for onboarding decisions made by platform management. "For our fellow MC Taxi riders, we all ride to earn a decent living and bring something home to our families. It was not the riders who made the decisions on how many the company should onboard," said Jayson Luna, Metro's lead convenor.Don Pangan, Kagulong secretary-general, emphasized the need to shield rider livelihoods. "If a platform exceeds its authorized rider allocation, the company should explain and be held accountable. Riders should not be used as a shield for the company's decisions and violations," Pangan said.Manibela likewise emphasized that adherence to existing regulations is indispensable to the legitimacy of motorcycle taxi operations. "How can a sector become fully legal if, even now, the rules are not being followed? It must be clear that compliance with the law is everyone's obligation, without exception," said Mar Valbuena, Manibela chairman.The groups said they would closely track the LTFRB's and the Department of Transportation's next moves in enforcing the fine, urging transparent and consistent action that holds operators accountable, protects commuters and avoids unfairly penalizing ordinary riders.The LTFRB said that Move It filed a motion for reconsideration before the bureau. "What the agency is focused on is addressing the plight of the thousands of overboarded riders who invested their own resources to earn a decent living — and whose only fault was that they acted in good faith and trusted that they were allowed to operate under the existing rules and regulations," acting LTFRB Chairman Greg Pua Jr. said.He said the LTFRB is currently crafting measures in dealing with the issue in relation to the affected riders while ensuring that the online boarding system of ride-hailing services is strictly complying with the government's regulations.

- Marcos to name next chief justice this week (2026-11-04 16:16)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. will announce this week the successor to Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who is set to retire on Friday, Malacañang said on Wednesday.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said all of the contenders for the top judiciary position "have their own strengths and their own integrity." "Don't worry, the next chief justice will be announced this week. We will not

preempt our president.” The Judicial and Bar Council shortlisted five Supreme Court associate justices to succeed Gesmundo. They are Marvic Leonen, Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Rodil Zalameda, Japar Dimaampao and Jose Midas Marquez.In a letter to the president dated Oct. 14, former Chief Justice Reynato Puno endorsed Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez for the top post in the judiciary.Puno said Marquez’s extensive administrative background, familiarity with the Supreme Court’s internal operations and experience coordinating with other branches of government make him a strong candidate to lead the judiciary.Puno, who served as chief justice from December 2006 to 2010, said he had personally witnessed Marquez’s work ethic and professional competence during his 17 years at the Supreme Court.When Puno assumed the chief justice post in December 2006, Marquez served as his chief of staff while concurrently holding key positions as assistant court administrator, head of the Public Information Office and Supreme Court spokesman.Puno said Marquez performed these responsibilities with consistent excellence.Marquez has served the Supreme Court for 30 years, including about 12 years as court administrator before becoming an associate justice five years ago.”More than any aspirant, Justice Marquez is most familiar with how the Supreme Court works, especially its internal processes,” he added.Beyond his experience within the judiciary, Puno highlighted Marquez’s exposure to inter-branch relations through assignments that required him to coordinate with officials of the executive and legislative departments.

- House checks delivery of P6.2B El Niño aid (2026-11-04 16:15)

THE House of Representatives’ Committee on Agriculture and Food continued its inquiry on Wednesday into government preparations and responses to El Niño, including the distribution of the P6.2 billion in aid to 310,000 farmers and fisherfolk.”We must verify whether field disbursements in hit regions are reaching intended beneficiaries,” the panel’s head, Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga, said, pertaining to the assistance under the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food and Transport program.The committee is examining the P371-million shortfall for interventions such as cloud seeding and measures to combat pests threatening sugarcane production.The Department of Agriculture (DA) has proposed a consolidated P61.99-billion action plan, which lawmakers are assessing for its capacity to protect agricultural communities.Enverga emphasized the immediacy of the need.”Our farmers and fisherfolk can no longer afford to wait. We are asking all agencies attending today to provide clear and honest answers so we can immediately deliver swift and targeted assistance to the agricultural sector,” he said.Sultan Kudarat Rep. Bella Vanessa Suansing, who introduced House Resolution 967, said Wednesday’s hearing should establish what has been accomplished since the issue was discussed in June.She sought updates on Republic Act 12287, or the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act, particularly whether disaster declarations had led to the release of funds for preventive measures.”We hope to hear from the DA on updates to its commitments from last June, as well as its plans and mandate to provide alternative sources of income and livelihood for our farmers and fisherfolk,” Suansing said.At the Senate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Wednesday to establish an online public accountability dashboard to track government spending and the delivery of interventions on El Niño.”I call on

the President to direct the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), through OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the concerned agencies, to maintain a single, coordinated El Niño action plan with named leads, measurable targets, and regular public reporting," Pangilinan said." The backbone of all these efforts is the proper use of taxpayers' money. The public must know clearly where the funds are going, what the government is doing, and what results these measures are achieving," he added.Meanwhile, Malacañang said it has ordered the pre-positioning of irrigation pipes and solar-powered water pumps for farmers expected to be affected by the super El Niño.This comes after the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said that 12 areas may experience drought by the end of November, particularly Nueva Vizcaya and other parts of Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)." Our fellow citizens in Nueva Vizcaya need not worry, as preparations are indeed being made for the effects of El Niño — especially here in Cagayan Valley, in Region 2," Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said in Filipino.Castro said the government began implementing preventive measures as early as June.On Oct. 28, she said P20 million in funds were allocated to provide solar-powered water pumps and fuel assistance to farmers.Castro said the DA has invested P17.9 million in farm inputs to help farmers mitigate the impacts of the drought.The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has allocated P702.62 million in financial assistance to benefit 68,905 individuals through a unified package for livelihood, industry, food and transport assistance." So, in all affected areas — especially those specifically targeted by the very strong El Niño — assistance from the National Irrigation Administration, the DSWD, and the DA is being provided to help alleviate any hardships that may arise from this very strong El Niño," Castro said.

- Procurement integrity bill pushed (2026-11-04 16:14)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian said Senate Bill 1962, or the proposed Government Contracting and Procurement Integrity Act, is a vital safeguard to transparency in government contracts, as his colleagues approved the measure on third and final reading." It is important that we enact this into law as soon as possible to ensure that public funds are directed toward programs and projects that benefit the people, rather than merely serving the relatives of those in power," said Gatchalian, a principal author of the bill.Under the bill, relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are strictly prohibited from entering into contracts with government agencies where their kin exercise official functions or influence. The anti-nepotism ban encompasses immediate family as well as extended relations up to first cousins, including parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.The broad coverage applies to elected national and local officials, Cabinet secretaries, undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, officers and board members of government-owned and -controlled corporations, and officials of state universities and colleges, along with their designated alternates.The bill covers a comprehensive scope of government transactions, including public infrastructure projects, procurement of goods and services, supplies, machinery, joint ventures and public-private partnership agreements involving public funds or government property.To enforce compliance, the proposed law imposes severe penal

sanctions. Public officials and personnel who violate the prohibition face imprisonment ranging from one to three years, fines of at least P100,000 and perpetual disqualification from holding any public office.The measure will undergo bicameral reconciliation before it is submitted to the president for signature.

- Asean chief leads call for regional cooperation on 'ethical, safe AI' (2026-11-04 16:13)

FUZHOU, China — Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn led the call for regional cooperation on "responsible governance and ethics, a safety network, and harnessing infrastructure" amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a media forum here on Wednesday.In a video speech at the 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum, Kao warned that AI's "rapid rise raises serious questions about trust, accountability and safety in the media."Kao highlighted Asean’ s efforts to "promote responsible AI governance, including the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap, and the Asean AI Safety Network."He encouraged practical cooperation in content verification, investment in journalists' professional capacity, and the responsible use of AI in newsrooms.He cited the important role of credible and responsible media in strengthening cross-border understanding, supporting social cohesion and advancing people-to-people connectivity.He also underscored the media's growing responsibilities amid the rapid circulation of information and increasing use of AI.He stressed the need to ensure that the development of AI infrastructure was "responsible and safe."Kao said a 10-year plan for the Plus 3 countries — China, South Korea and Japan — was in the works to enable them to forge a strong partnership with Asean built on a "consensus of respect for diversity, [and a] wider effort to make a dynamic and people-centered region amid numerous challenges, including AI."Media executives from the Asean Region echoed the call, recognizing an "invisible wall of misunderstanding and misinformation that has grown thicker and thicker, creating animosity that has increased the divide."Geopolitical tension and emergencies caused by climate change are among the issues that can create misinformation, with media responsible for either "building a bridge of mutual understanding or severing it."Michael Ang, director and board member of The Manila Times and one of the speakers, said “he rapid shift toward digital distribution, platform dominance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence present challenges no single outlet can navigate alone.""Generative AI tools offer operational efficiency, but they also raise urgent questions about verification, copyright and public trust," Ang said in his speech, which carried the common theme of "Openness and Cooperation for Shared Development.""To build an accountable, future-ready media network across East Asia, we must move toward practical structured collaboration anchored on technical exchange programs on best practices in the newsroom, build collaborative reporting initiatives that protect diversity and elevate underrepresented stories and establish fact-checking networks to counter misinformation," he said.Zosito da Silva, vice president and editor-in-chief of the Tatoli News Agency in Timor-Leste, sought the creation of a "self-fact-checking network" and for stories to come not only from the "big countries" but from the "small countries" as well.Other media executives present were Syvanh Homsayadeth, editor-in-chief of the Pasaxon Newspaper in

Laos; Heng Sovann, editor-in-chief, Apsara Media Services; Thanchanok Jongyotying, editor-in-chief, Thai News Network; Han Yonghong, associate editor, Lianhe Zaobao, Singapore; and Kang Miao, deputy director, Xinhua, News Agency Fujian Branch.The 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum and the 2026 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road were organized by the People's Daily, China's English-language newspaper, and Fujian province.

• Corruption top concern of Filipinos — survey (2026-11-04 16:12)

FIGHTING corruption, including the flood control scandal, has overtaken high prices of basic goods as the top issue Filipinos want the government to address, a nationwide survey conducted in October showed.The National Momentum Survey by Momentum Research found that 59 percent of Filipino adults cited corruption as one of the three most important issues the government should prioritize, ahead of the 53 percent who wanted lower prices of food and basic goods.The findings point to a shift in public priorities as the controversy over alleged irregularities in flood control projects continues to fuel scrutiny of government spending and infrastructure allocations.In July, fighting corruption ranked only fourth among issues respondents wanted President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to address, with 32 percent citing it as a priority.The October survey also found that 40 percent wanted the government to increase workers' wages, while 21 percent each cited combating poverty and hunger and lowering electricity and fuel prices.Corruption was the leading concern among respondents from low-income and middle-income households, cited by 64 percent and 67 percent, respectively.Among poor households, however, 56 percent wanted the government to prioritize lowering food and basic goods prices.Regional findings showed that corruption was the leading concern in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, cited by 67 percent and 64 percent of respondents, respectively.In Visayas and Mindanao, the cost of food and basic goods was the leading concern, cited by 59 percent and 54 percent, respectively.In Metro Manila, increasing workers' wages ranked second at 47 percent, ahead of lowering food and basic goods prices at 38.7 percent.The survey also found that younger respondents were more likely to cite corruption as a priority.Nearly seven in 10 Gen Z respondents, or 69 percent, wanted the government to prioritize addressing corruption, compared with 57 percent of millennials, 51 percent of Gen X respondents and 52 percent of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation.For older respondents, the rising cost of goods remained a more pressing concern. It was cited by 60 percent of Gen X respondents and 64 percent of Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation.The survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults from Oct. 16 to 19. It had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level.Respondents were asked to select up to three issues from a list of 18 national concerns that they believed the government should prioritize.

• PH, China agree on peaceful, responsible dispute resolution (2026-11-04 16:12)

THE Philippines and China have agreed to resolve their disputes peacefully and manage differences responsibly in order to maintain "stable and predictable" relations, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Wednesday.The Philippines "remains committed to a

stable, predictable, mutually respectful, and mutually beneficial relationship with China," the DFA said in a statement.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has repeatedly affirmed that the Philippines "must rely on diplomatic means to resolve disputes and manage differences with other countries, including China," it added.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro on Tuesday received a telephone call from Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, during which they discussed the state of bilateral ties between Manila and Beijing. "The exchange was frank, pragmatic, and constructive, and reflected the interest of both sides in a stable and predictable relationship founded on mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation," the DFA said.The two officials shared the understanding that Manila and Beijing should "avoid actions and rhetoric that could needlessly undermine relations or heighten tensions," the DFA said.Meanwhile, the DFA welcomed the joint appeal issued on Nov. 3 by Philippine business and sectoral organizations for the stabilization of Philippines-China relations.It said the appeal served "as a constructive contribution that underscores the value of candor, composure, principled conduct, sound judgment, and measured engagement in the conduct of foreign relations." "The DFA has consistently maintained that diplomacy, dialogue, and mutually beneficial practical cooperation can be pursued without compromising the assertion and protection of the country's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction," it added.Lazaro underscored that good relations between the Philippines and China serve the interests of both countries and of the region.She said the Philippines-China relations "must be sustained through regular high-level exchanges, ministry-to-ministry channels, and the appropriate bilateral and regional mechanisms." The discussion also covered other matters of concern, including maritime issues, "but focused on returning the relationship to an even keel" and on upholding the 1975 Joint Communiqué, which remains the enduring basis of Philippines-China cooperation and of the Philippines' One China Policy, the DFA said.The Foreign Affairs Department underscored that Manila's relations with Beijing are "in accordance with the national interest and in pursuit of an independent foreign policy as enshrined in the Philippine Constitution."

- Student leaders slam social media ban (2026-11-04 16:09)

STUDENT leaders warned that a proposed blanket ban on social media access for Filipinos under 18 could further widen barriers to education by cutting students off from digital learning resources, academic communities, and opportunities beyond the classroom, as the country continues to grapple with a learning crisis.The Student Council Alliance of the Philippines (SCAP) joined student representatives from universities and secondary schools nationwide at a press conference titled "Ban Predators, Ban Groomers, Not Learners" in Quezon City on Wednesday. "For many young people, social media extends learning beyond the four walls of the classroom. Social media helps us stay informed, connect with others, and find learning opportunities," said Edrianna Villaruz, SCAP undersecretary-general.SCAP made clear that it does not take online dangers lightly, acknowledging that cyberbullying, grooming, online sexual exploitation, misinformation and scams are real threats to young Filipinos.It argued, however, that locking an entire generation out of digital spaces does not stop the people who cause

harm. “We recognize that young people face risks online, but the answer is not to take away their access to digital spaces that also support their learning and development,” Villaruz said. “If a predator is the problem, go after the predator. Don’t shut the door on millions of learners,” she pointed out.The group stressed that for many students, social media is also where they learn, organize, and find opportunities, with scholarship announcements, academic communities, educational resources, and civic conversations all taking place online.A blanket ban would cut off the very students who rely on these platforms to study, connect and take part in public life, it warned. “For a lot of young people, social media is the classroom after the classroom, and sometimes it is the only one they have,” Villaruz said.Instead of a ban, SCAP laid out a five-point agenda: protect children without punishing responsible young users; keep social media open as a space for learning; strengthen law enforcement and reporting systems against online predators and groomers; hold platforms accountable for privacy, content moderation, age-appropriate safeguards, and abuse reporting; and invest in digital literacy so students can recognize threats and practice responsible digital citizenship.Student leaders from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Batasan Hills National High School, and Adamson University, along with a representative from the National Federation of Supreme Secondary Learner Government (SSLG) and Student Leaders for Good Governance (SLGG), shared their views on education, online safety and digital rights.Lawmakers, government agencies, and technology companies should work with young people, not around them, in crafting online safety policies that are balanced, rights-based, and youth-inclusive. “Protect the youth, hold abusers accountable, and preserve opportunities for every Filipino student,” Villaruz said.

- Pax Silica deal signed during Asean Summit? (2026-11-04 16:08)

MALACAÑANG hinted on Wednesday that the draft framework for the proposed US-led Pax Silica initiative may be signed during the 49th Asean Summit in Manila.” Let us see,” said Palace Press Officer Claire Castro during a press briefing when asked if President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would sign the draft framework during the summit.Castro said that the Philippines is still awaiting the response of the United States to the proposed agreement, being the initiative’s leader. The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), which oversees the project, said it had already discussed with the president the preliminaries of the endeavor.” The BCDA has met with the Office of the President — through the Office of the Executive Secretary regarding a memorandum submitted jointly with the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry),” Castro said in Filipino, quoting the BCDA.” Guidance has been provided for the BCDA to follow during the negotiations and the finalization of the framework arrangement with the US counterpart. Essentially, we are now just awaiting a response from the US side concerning the draft agreement; that is the message they conveyed,” she added.When asked by The Manila Times on the issue of communities that would be displaced because of the project, Castro said the government will ensure that those who would be affected will receive assistance.” Of course, financial assistance will certainly be provided should anyone actually end up being displaced,” she said.Castro said that only 3,000-plus hectares of the over 6,000 hectares total designated spot for the project are considered a “buildable zone.” ” If they

(locals) are located within the buildable zone, they will not be left to fend for themselves or lose their place to live," Castro said, noting the remaining land outside the buildable areas was reserved for Indigenous peoples.The BCDA said consultation has been done in Capas, Tarlac, on the possible displacement of Aeta communities in the area because of the project.The Palace previously confirmed that US President Donald Trump will attend the Asean Summit, leading to speculations that the Pax Silica deal may be signed during the event.

• Alarm raised on lack of developmental pediatricians (2026-11-04 16:07)

SEN. Joel Villanueva said the country's shortage of developmental pediatricians must be promptly addressed.Villanueva suggested hiring additional consultants and fellow positions in public training hospitals to remedy the shortage.This comes as the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EdCom 2) noted that severe regional disparity in specialists has left hundreds of thousands of public-school learners with disabilities without formal medical diagnoses."These are low-hanging fruit. If we can capacitate these hospitals to train more specialists, maybe we can help expand access to developmental assessment and support services," said Villanueva. The co-chairman of EdCom 2 noted the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center and National Children's Hospital as immediate targets for capacity expansion.Data from the Philippine Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (PSDBP) showed that as of June 2026, only 109 certified developmental pediatricians operate across 156 clinics nationwide. This nominal workforce is tasked with serving an estimated 5 million learners with disabilities.Compounding the crisis is a stark geographic concentration. Nearly half of the available clinic listings — 47 percent — are located in the National Capital Region. Calabarzon follows with 15 percent, and Central Luzon holds 12 percent. By contrast, the Visayas and Mindanao are left with just 7.7 percent and 9 percent of specialists, respectively. Regions such as Bicol, Mimaropa, Eastern Visayas and Soccsksargen have only one listed specialist each, while Caraga and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have none.PSDBP Vice President Dr. Lourdes Tanchanco said the country has only five institutions offering the required fellowship training, most of which are in Metro Manila."We can accommodate around two to three pediatricians in each of the training programs," Tanchanco said during an EdCom 2 consultation.This training bottleneck, she said, severely restricts timely interventions. An EdCom 2 analysis of Department of Education data for School Year 2025–2026 revealed that of 492,902 public-school learners flagged as having disabilities, 63.4 percent had recorded behavioral manifestations. Only 36.6 percent have secured a formal clinical diagnosis.EdCom 2 Executive Director Karol Mark Yee emphasized that patient-to-doctor ratios have soared to 1:37,068 in Region 5 (Bicol Region) and 1:24,728 in Region 12 (Soccsksargen). "This is of great concern because learners do not just need diagnosis but also continued support from specialists," Yee said.

• Matobato, Lascañas, Mancao among 3 unidentified ICC witnesses? (2026-11-04 16:06)

COULD self-confessed former Davao Death Squad (DDS) members Edgar Matobato and Arturo Lascañas, and retired police officer Cezar Mancao be among three witnesses whose recorded

testimonies the prosecution wants admitted in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte before the International Criminal Court (ICC)?The question arose after the ICC prosecution sought permission to introduce the previously recorded testimonies of three witnesses identified only as P-0019, P-1032 and P-1409, whose accounts cover alleged DDS operations, extrajudicial killings in Davao City and Duterte's alleged involvement in the killings.In a public redacted application dated Nov. 3, the prosecution withheld the identities of the three witnesses but detailed their accounts of the alleged death squad's operations, including its targeting of suspected criminals, the use of Laud Quarry as a burial site and alleged financial rewards for killings.Matobato and Lascañas were previously identified as potential insider witnesses in the ICC proceedings.ICC Assistant to Counsel Kristina Conti had said the two could provide evidence on the planning and implementation of alleged DDS operations, the people involved, and how killings were ordered, financed and carried out.However, the prosecution's latest filing does not identify P-0019, P-1032 or P-1409 by name.The prosecution described P-0019's testimony as covering extrajudicial killings in Davao City during Duterte's tenure as mayor, the pattern and widespread nature of the killings, and the atmosphere of fear and impunity in the city.The witness also recounted Duterte's alleged practice of reading the names of suspected criminals on his local television program, "Gikan sa Masa, Para sa Masa," some of whom were subsequently killed, according to the prosecution.P-1032, meanwhile, provided an account of the existence and composition of the DDS, its targeting of suspected criminals and its alleged use of Laud Quarry as a burial site.The witness also recounted being threatened with death and fleeing to another part of the Philippines after being warned that a group had been ordered to kill him.The third witness, P-1409, provided evidence concerning the DDS' alleged involvement in extrajudicial killings from 2016 to 2017.His recorded testimony also discussed alleged financial rewards for killings given by Duterte to DDS handlers through co-perpetrator Sonny Buenaventura.Buenaventura is a retired police officer who served as Duterte's driver and security aide when he was Davao City mayor.He has also been identified by Lascañas as the alleged logistics and finance officer of DDS who facilitated payments for killings.The prosecution said P-1409's account included independent observations that corroborated other evidence concerning killings allegedly carried out pursuant to Duterte's orders.The three testimonies, the prosecution argued, are relevant to establishing the contextual elements of crimes against humanity in Davao City and Duterte's individual criminal responsibility.The prosecution asked Trial Chamber III to admit the witnesses' previous statements, interview transcripts and supporting materials under Rule 68(3) of the ICC Rules of Procedure and Evidence.It also sought permission to conduct one-hour supplementary examinations of each witness, instead of the estimated three hours needed for their direct examinations if the recorded testimonies were not admitted.Granting the request would save at least six hours of court time, the prosecution said.It maintained that admitting the recorded testimonies would not prejudice Duterte's rights because the witnesses would appear in court, confirm their statements and remain available for cross-examination by the defense, as well as questioning by the prosecution, the judges and the legal representatives of victims.The chamber has yet to rule on the prosecution's request.

• Palace: Never stop youth seeking jobs abroad (2026-11-04 16:05)

MALACAÑANG said the government will not prevent young Filipinos seeking a better life abroad from migrating, noting that their success abroad benefits the economy.The Palace's statement follows a Philippine Institute for Development Studies study finding that the country's labor supply is at risk, as more Filipinos — especially the youth — are leaving or planning to leave to work abroad because of low wages at home.In response to the study's findings, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro acknowledged concerns about potential labor losses and job mismatches but said the administration supports Filipino workers' professional growth overseas. "We should not hinder young people who wish to work abroad," Castro said in Filipino during a press briefing on Wednesday. "Just because they go abroad, it does not mean they can no longer be relied upon. Whatever they earn overseas will help their families, support their personal needs and even contribute to our country's economy," she added.To address underlying issues, Castro noted that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed the Commission on Higher Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), and the Department of Education to sharpen youth training.Through these targeted programs, the government ensures Filipino workers remain competitive whether they build their careers locally or tap international job markets.Addressing questions on whether supporting overseas employment contradicts investment promotion strategies that pitch the country's young domestic workforce as a primary economic advantage, Castro clarified that outflow is not absolute.Castro said that while many young professionals find better career paths abroad, ongoing government initiatives to attract foreign and local investment aim to create well-matched domestic jobs.Rather than restricting freedom of movement, the administration prioritizes upskilling Filipino youth so they can thrive wherever their careers take them, ensuring their capabilities serve as an asset at home and abroad. "While the government works to address these gaps — aiming to attract more investment to the Philippines and create jobs that truly align with the skills of our workforce — we will not hold our youth back. Instead, we will continue to enhance the capabilities of our fellow Filipinos, ensuring that should they choose to work abroad, they are well-equipped to benefit from such opportunities," Castro concluded.

• Truth-telling session to tackle 2 deaths from police operation (2026-11-04 16:04)

THE Drug War Truth Commission late on Tuesday said that the upcoming truth-telling session on Friday, Nov. 6, will tackle two deaths from the same police operation.On Aug. 5, 2017, Christopher de Leon Lazaro and Alberto Umali Paragas died in a police operation in Barangay Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan.Marissa Lazaro, Christopher's mother, and Rizza Quiamco, Alberto's sister, will speak in the truth-telling session at the Co Po Ty Audio Visual Room of Adamson University in Manila on Friday at 9:30 a.m. "Lazaro and Quiamco will describe how their families learned of the deaths, what happened next, and their efforts to find answers. Their testimony will place two family perspectives on the same reported operation before the public," the truth commission said. "The Department of Justice case file reproduces police statements describing an alleged attempted robbery followed by an exchange of gunfire. The

department’s resolution did not independently determine the circumstances of the deaths. It dismissed the complaint against the two men because they had died, but it did not rule on the legality of the operation or on whether any officers bear responsibility,” it added.According to the postmortem certificate of Paragas, he had gunshot wounds to the head, trunk and right arm, while the medico-legal report for Lazaro also saw gunshot wounds to the head and left leg, as well as ligature marks on both wrists.“The session will consider these records alongside the families’ accounts and the police statements in the Justice Department file,” the commission said.The Truth Commission will also broadcast this truth-telling session live on its Facebook page.

- BOC seizes P99.4M ketamine at Clark Airport (2026-11-04 16:03)

COFFEE equipment and cleaning powder turned out to be cover for nearly 20 kilos of ketamine worth P99.4 million in the latest drug-smuggling attempt foiled by Customs authorities at the Clark International Airport.The two shipments, containing a combined 19.89 kilograms of ketamine valued at P99.445 million, originated from Switzerland and Amsterdam and were bound for recipients in Mandaluyong City and Montalban, Rizal, respectively.The BOC-Port of Clark, working with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), intercepted the shipments after intelligence from the PDEA Airport Interdiction Unit.One shipment, weighing 9,882 grams, was declared as roasted coffee beans, a coffee machine, and coffee-making equipment. The other, weighing 10,007 grams, was misdeclared as sodium bicarbonate cleaning powder.Both shipments were subjected to physical examination after authorities flagged them for inspection.Laboratory tests subsequently confirmed that the seized substances were ketamine, a dangerous drug regulated under Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as amended.The latest seizure adds to a growing list of drug-smuggling attempts foiled at the Port of Clark, where authorities have repeatedly uncovered ketamine concealed in seemingly ordinary commercial goods and household items.In October alone, Customs intercepted another shipment containing 4.14 kilograms of suspected ketamine worth P20.7 million from Amsterdam, disguised as a compact ceramic fan and bound for Valenzuela City.Authorities seized the shipment after X-ray screening detected suspicious images.In August, authorities also intercepted 1.675 kilograms of ketamine worth P8.375 million concealed inside a resin rabbit figurine shipped from France.Earlier, in March, Customs seized 6.156 kilograms of ketamine worth P30.78 million concealed in a shipment declared as solar cables from the Netherlands.The drugs were discovered following X-ray inspection and a PDEA K-9 examination.In 2025, the Port of Clark likewise intercepted 5.062 kilograms of ketamine worth P25.31 million hidden inside a wooden cable reel declared as a data cable roll and shipped from Belgium.The recurring seizures highlight how drug smugglers exploit international parcel and air cargo services, using ordinary merchandise and misleading declarations to evade customs inspection.District Collector Jairus Reyes said the Port of Clark would further tighten its inspection measures in anticipation of increased parcel volumes during the holiday season.“We expect an increase in parcels arriving through air express carriers. Thus, we will intensify document checks and physical inspections, while ensuring that our X-ray machines are

properly maintained and operational," Reyes said.BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno, meanwhile, vowed to sustain the agency's campaign against illegal drugs in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "As we expect an increase in shipments this holiday season, we will also tighten our vigilance. We will continue strengthening our inspections and operations to ensure that illegal drugs do not enter the country," Nepomuceno said.The BOC said it would continue intelligence-driven operations and strengthen coordination with law enforcement agencies to prevent the smuggling of illegal drugs through the country's ports of entry.

- BI stops 2 Filipinos headed for conflict zones abroad (2026-11-04 16:02)

IMMIGRATION officers prevented two Filipino men from leaving the country after discovering they were targeted by suspicious recruitment schemes offering significant payments and high salaries for employment in conflict-stricken areas abroad.Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents intercepted the two passengers in separate incidents on Oct. 24 and 27, amid concerns they would fall victim to illegal recruitment, human trafficking or forced labor.The victims were allegedly lured by overseas job offers promising as much as $27,000 in payments and thousands of dollars in monthly salaries. Immigration officers barred them from leaving the country after uncovering suspicious recruitment arrangements linked to conflict-stricken destinations.In the first case, a former protection agent and security guard who was unemployed told immigration officers that he was recruited through Facebook and later contacted via WhatsApp.He was allegedly promised a $12,000 signing bonus upon arrival and a monthly salary of $2,500. The recruiter also offered to cover his travel expenses and make the arrangements.The second passenger initially claimed he was traveling to Hong Kong for vacation, with a friend supposedly sponsoring his trip.Further questioning, however, revealed that he had also encountered a recruitment advertisement on Facebook before being redirected to WhatsApp, where he was allegedly offered overseas employment with a promised payment of $27,000 and a monthly salary of $3,000.He told immigration officers that he had not spent a centavo for the trip.The BI did not identify the recruiters, employers or specific destinations involved but said the job offers were intended to send the Filipinos to areas plagued by armed conflict.BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado warned Filipinos against accepting suspicious overseas employment offers, particularly those promising unusually high salaries and signing bonuses. "No job offer is worth risking your freedom or your life," Viado said, warning that unscrupulous recruiters could exploit Filipinos' hopes of earning more money to expose them to armed conflict, human trafficking and forced labor.He said the BI would continue scrutinizing suspicious travel arrangements and disrupting potential illegal recruitment networks to prevent Filipinos from falling victim to exploitation abroad.The two interceptions are part of the government's efforts to protect Filipinos from human trafficking and illegal recruitment, in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive.The BI urged jobseekers to verify the legitimacy of recruiters, employers and overseas employment arrangements before accepting offers or leaving the country.

- SSS backs govt drive for one-stop digital services (2026-11-04 16:01)

THE Social Security System (SSS) on Wednesday said it supported the government's push for more connected and accessible public services by bringing the MySSS Card's front-facing ID feature and selected member services to the eGovPH superapp.On Oct. 21, 2026, SSS President and CEO Victor Alfonso Limlingan said he and his predecessor, now Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Robert Joseph de Claro, signed a data-sharing agreement to enable the integration.The partnership came shortly after de Claro's appointment as DICT secretary, following his tenure as SSS chief, and advances collaboration between the two agencies. "This partnership marks a major step in making SSS services more accessible and convenient for our members. By integrating the digital MySSS Card and key services into the eGovPH superapp, we are bringing social security closer to every Filipino — right at their fingertips," Limlingan said.Once integrated, members will be able to access the front-facing digital representation of their MySSS Card as one of the identification cards (IDs) available through the eGovPH superapp, Limlingan said. "They will also be able to view their contribution history, total number of contributions, latest membership type, and most recent employer information," the SSS chief executive said.The state pension fund said these services will help members check whether contributions have been posted and verify their membership and employer information through a shared government platform.Limlingan stressed that the integration reflects the SSS' commitment to digital transformation and member convenience. "Our members should not have to visit multiple offices or use multiple applications just to access basic services. Through the eGovPH superapp, we are making it easier for Filipinos to check their contributions, verify their membership status, and access their MySSS Card — all in one place," he said.He explained that the move was part of the government's broader digital transformation agenda, which sought to connect agencies' services through a shared digital platform that unifies government services in one application.Both de Claro and Limlingan agreed that the partnership also aimed to expand social-protection access for digital workers, including freelancers and online professionals, by making SSS services easier to find and use online.While members can already access their membership and contribution records through the MySSS mobile app, the integration will provide another convenient way to view these records, along with the MySSS Card ID feature and other government services, the SSS said.The agreement signals that the SSS will be among the government agencies feeding services into the eGovPH superapp, supporting the administration's goal of integrating all government services into the platform, Limlingan said. "We are proud to be part of this national effort to unify government services. The SSS remains committed to leveraging technology to deliver faster, more secure, and more member-centered service," he said.

- Lacson: Dela Rosa entitled to due process before local courts if arrested (2026-11-04 15:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson on Wednesday said that Philippine courts must be respected and local legal procedures observed if Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa is arrested, saying these are essential to ensuring his constitutional right to due process.Lacson said Dela Rosa should be placed under the custody of a Philippine court, even in a ministerial

capacity, if authorities apprehend him so he can avail himself of all legal remedies available under Philippine law, including recourse to the Supreme Court."That's part of due process — if he is arrested, he may be placed under the custody of a local court where he can avail of all legal remedies up to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will be the final arbiter of the law," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio.He cited Section 17 of Republic Act No. 9851, or the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide, and Other Crimes Against Humanity, which establishes the country's jurisdiction over persons suspected or accused of crimes covered by the law under specified circumstances.These include cases in which the accused is a Filipino citizen, is present in the Philippines regardless of citizenship or residence, or has committed the alleged crime against a Filipino citizen.However, the law also allows Philippine authorities, in the interest of justice, to defer investigation or prosecution when another court or international tribunal is already investigating or prosecuting the same crime. Authorities may instead surrender or extradite the accused to the appropriate international court or another state, subject to applicable laws and treaties."No criminal proceedings shall be initiated against foreign nationals suspected or accused of having committed the crimes defined and penalized in this Act if they have been tried by a competent court outside the Philippines in respect of the same offense and acquitted, or having been convicted, already served their sentence," the law read.Lacson also cited Article 17 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which provides that a case may be deemed inadmissible before the ICC if it is being investigated or prosecuted by a state with jurisdiction over it, unless that state is unwilling or unable genuinely to carry out the proceedings.The same provision covers cases in which a state has investigated an alleged crime but decided not to prosecute, unless the decision resulted from its unwillingness or inability to genuinely pursue the case.Lacson further invoked Article III, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution, which protects Filipinos against unreasonable searches and seizures and requires that arrest warrants be issued by judges upon a determination of probable cause.He also recalled signing a Senate resolution expressing the chamber's position that Filipinos should be protected against extraordinary rendition and given reasonable time before their surrender or extradition from the country to seek judicial relief and exhaust available legal remedies."Our local courts should be respected. If he is arrested, he should be placed under the custody of the local court, even if this is ministerial because the local court is not handling his case so it cannot determine his guilt or innocence. It's almost ministerial but just the same, we have our law and it should be respected," Lacson said."Even subpoenas and summonses issued by international or foreign courts must go through Philippine local or regional trial courts, which will issue the corresponding subpoenas and summonses," he added.

- OWWA brings home 52 OFWs from Riyadh (2026-11-04 15:28)

MANILA, Philippines — Fifty-two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, returned to the Philippines aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR928, which arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on Tuesday, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.In a statement dated November 3 and posted on Wednesday,

OWWA said it provided the returning workers with food, land and air transportation, temporary accommodation for some of them, and financial assistance for their immediate needs.The agency said it continues to coordinate with the Department of Migrant Workers, the Philippine Embassy and Migrant Workers Offices in Saudi Arabia to assist OFWs affected by the situation there. “OWWA is here to assist you as you recover and prepare for your next steps with your family,” the agency said in its message to the returning workers.

• Northeast monsoon to bring cooler mornings (2026-11-04 11:20)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon or amihan will bring cooler temperatures in parts of Luzon, while the easterlies will continue to cause rain in several areas of the country, the state weather bureau said Wednesday.In its 5 p.m. weather forecast, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) Weather Specialist Benison Estareja said amihan was bringing cloudy skies and light rain over Batanes and the Babuyan Islands, with isolated light rain possible in Cagayan Valley, the Cordillera Administrative Region, and the Ilocos Region.Meanwhile, the easterlies will bring a higher chance of rain in Bicol Region, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Quezon, and Marinduque."Bring an umbrella if you are leaving the house overnight," Estareja said in Filipino.Typhoon In-fa, which remains outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), is moving northward and away from the country toward the North Pacific Ocean. No new tropical cyclone is expected to enter PAR for the rest of the week, Pagasa said.Estareja said cooler temperatures are expected during the early morning, with Metro Manila recording a minimum of 22 degrees Celsius, Tagaytay 20 degrees, and Baguio City 15 degrees on Thursday.For the weekend, the northeast monsoon is expected to strengthen slightly and extend toward Central Luzon, while the easterlies will continue to bring rain to parts of the Bicol Region, Visayas, and Mindanao.Pagasa also warned of possible flash floods and landslides in Eastern Visayas, including Tacloban City, due to expected rain.

• SC drops Romualdez petition to stop Ombudsman’s plunder probe (2026-11-04 11:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has dropped the petition of former speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez seeking to stop the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating his alleged involvement in the multibillion-peso flood control scam, ruling that the petition has become moot after a ₱7.4-billion plunder case was filed against him before the Sandiganbayan.In a press briefing on Wednesday, the SC en banc said there was no longer a need to resolve Romualdez’s petition for certiorari because the Ombudsman already filed the criminal case, and the former House leader has been arraigned and pleaded not guilty.The high court also denied his request for a temporary restraining order and/or writ of preliminary injunction to prevent the Ombudsman from continuing its preliminary investigation.Romualdez had questioned the conduct of the investigation, including the Ombudsman's application for a preliminary hold departure order and freeze order against him, as well as the alleged use of inadmissible evidence.The ₱7.4-billion plunder case stemmed from allegations that Romualdez and former Ako Bicol party-list representative Zaldy Co orchestrated a kickback scheme

involving government-funded flood control and other infrastructure projects from 2022 to 2025.The controversy erupted in 2025 after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered an investigation into alleged irregularities in flood control projects, following revelations of questionable government-funded infrastructure works, including allegedly substandard and non-existent projects.The scandal triggered congressional investigations and a government-wide examination of public works contracts, with contractors, government officials and lawmakers facing scrutiny.

- Chinese president to skip Asean Summit (2026-11-04 10:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected not to attend the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit and Related Summits in Manila because Chinese Premier Premier Li Qiang will represent China in these events.The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shared this information on Wednesday when asked to confirm reports that Xi will not participate in the yearly regional summit to be hosted by the Philippines.Li has " customarily led the Chinese delegation to Asean-related summits in recent years," the DFA said."On the questions regarding the representative of China for Asean Summits, it is the Chinese Premier (Premier Li Qiang) who attends the Summits, not President Xi," DFA Assistant Secretary Dax Imperial said in a text message."We have not received the official confirmation of Premier Li Qiang's attendance, as this usually comes much closer to the Summit," said Imperial, DFA spokesman on Asean affairs.Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro during her phone conversation on Tuesday with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang said that the Philippines takes its responsibilities as Asean chairman seriously.The DFA said Lazaro conveyed that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. "looks forward" to the participation of Chinese Premier Li Qiang in the 49th Asean Summit and Related Summits in Manila.Wang conveyed China's anticipation of Marcos' participation in the 33rd Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen, China from November 18 to 19.Lazaro and Wang assured each other that their respective leaders would be accorded the proper courtesies and assistance during these meetings, the DFA added.

- Ombudsman suspends eight DPWH personnel over Surigao infra projects (2026-11-04 10:09)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman ordered Wednesday the preventive suspension without pay for up to six months of eight Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel over alleged irregularities in infrastructure projects in Surigao del Norte.In a six-page order, the Ombudsman said the suspension would remain in effect pending the resolution of administrative cases against the seven engineers and one accountant. "Sufficient grounds exist to impose preventive suspension on Respondents," the order read. "Without delving into the merits of the case and based on the evidence submitted by Complainant, the allegations against Respondents appear to be supported by strong evidence at this stage," it added.Preventive suspension was ordered to prevent the respondents from potentially abusing the authority of their current positions while the administrative cases are being

investigated.Those suspended were Annie Dela Vega, DPWH Regional Office XI district engineer; Federico Gotico III, Demilyn Castrence, Quintinano Armendariz Jr. and Edward Tinio, all Engineer III; Florencio Sulana, Engineer II and acting chief of Quality Assurance; Ricky Arciga, Engineer II; and Jerome Sulapas, Accountant III.In August, the Ombudsman recommended the filing of criminal and administrative complaints against the respondents, along with former Surigao del Norte Representatives Francisco Matugas and Francisco Matugas II, over the anomalous ₱80.61-million Mahayhay–Tuburan Road project in Del Carmen which was declared fully complete.The OMB’s Field Investigation Office II filed administrative charges of conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, grave misconduct, and serious dishonesty following allegations that substantially incomplete projects under the DPWH Surigao del Norte 1st District Engineering Office had been fully paid.Site inspection conducted in April found the project only 65 to 70 percent accomplished. At least ₱31,586,438.91 was released despite its actual condition.The Independent Commission for Infrastructure earlier submitted a list of reportedly completed DPWH projects in the area that were allegedly not fully delivered.

- Asean chief leads call for regional cooperation on 'ethical, safe AI' (2026-11-04 08:20)

FUZHOU, China — Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Kao Kim Hourn led the call for regional cooperation on "responsible governance and ethics, a safety network, and harnessing infrastructure" amid the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) at a media forum here on Wednesday.In a video speech at the 12th Asean Plus Three Media Cooperation Forum, Kao warned that AI's "rapid rise raises serious questions about trust, accountability and safety in the media."Kao highlighted Asean’s efforts to "promote responsible AI governance, including the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap, and the Asean AI Safety Network." He encouraged practical cooperation in content verification, investment in journalists' professional capacity, and the responsible use of AI in newsrooms.He cited the important role of credible and responsible media in strengthening cross-border understanding, supporting social cohesion and advancing people-to-people connectivity. He also underscored the media's growing responsibilities amid the rapid circulation of information and increasing use of AI.He stressed the need to ensure that the development of AI infrastructure was "responsible and safe."Kao said a 10-year plan for the Plus 3 countries—China, South Korea and Japan—was in the works to enable them to forge a strong partnership with Asean built on a "consensus of respect for diversity, [and a] wider effort to make a dynamic and people-centered region amid numerous challenges, including AI."Media executives from the Asean Region echoed the call, recognizing an "invisible wall of misunderstanding and misinformation that has grown thicker and thicker, creating animosity that has increased the divide."Geopolitical tension and emergencies caused by climate change are among the issues that can create misinformation, with media responsible for either " building a bridge of mutual understanding or severing it."Michael Ang, director and board member of The Manila Times and one of the speakers, said “the rapid shift toward digital distribution, platform dominance and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence present challenges no single outlet can navigate alone.""Generative AI tools offer operational efficiency,

but they also raise urgent questions about verification, copyright and public trust," Ang said in his speech, which carried the common theme of "Openness and Cooperation for Shared Development.""To build an accountable, future-ready media network across East Asia, we must move toward practical structured collaboration anchored on technical exchange programs on best practices in the newsroom, build collaborative reporting initiatives that protect diversity and elevate underrepresented stories and establish fact-checking networks to counter misinformation," he said.

• Lacson: Public anger, vigilance can foil 'pork' insertions (2026-11-04 08:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Public indignation coupled with sustained vigilance could help thwart attempts by unscrupulous lawmakers to insert questionable allocations into the proposed 2027 national budget, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Wednesday.Lacson expressed hope that persons behind the attempts to mangle the budget anew would be proven wrong by the efforts of lawmakers and budget advocacy groups pushing for accountability.“When anger meets vigilance, greed and callousness face a fierce fight. The flood control scandal has barely settled, yet the ‘kapalmuks’ of the world are testing the limits of the people’s patience yet again. I would like to think they are wrong this time... Thanks to the People’s Budget Coalition and all like-minded individuals standing together for accountability,” he said in a social media post.“Anger alone or vigilance alone will not be enough. But combine them and the ‘kapalmuks’ will have something to reckon with,” he added in an interview on DZMM radio.Lacson welcomed moves by some members of the House of Representatives to engage with budget advocacy groups, saying growing public support for their demands for accountability could help strengthen efforts to ensure transparency in the budget process.He also renewed his call for greater transparency in budget deliberations, including keeping livestreams running even during breaks, particularly throughout the proceedings of the bicameral conference committee, where differences between the Senate and House versions of the budget are reconciled.Meanwhile, Lacson said he and his staff continued to scrutinize the proposed spending measure, checking for questionable insertions and determining whether listed projects were viable and had complied with documentary and other requirements.“We in the majority bloc have agreed that there will be no sacred cows. As former Justice Adolfo Azcuna said, all means all. There will be no sacred cows as far as those who made insertions are concerned. If there are projects that cannot be implemented or lack the needed requirements, they will be removed,” he said.Lacson stressed that his efforts to scrutinize the budget were driven by his commitment to honest public service rather than political ambitions.“I am left with no further political ambitions. Whatever I do now is pure advocacy in pursuit of honest public service which I love doing no matter the cost,” he said.

• DepEd mourns passing of former Education secretary Mona Valisno (2026-11-04 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Wednesday expressed its condolences to the family of former Education secretary Mona Dumlao-Valisno.“The Department of Education extends its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and the entire

DepEd community on the passing of former Education Secretary Mona Dumlao-Valisno," the department said in a statement.Valisno served as education secretary in 2010 and devoted her time and service to advancing education in the country, the department said."During this time of mourning, DepEd grieves with her bereaved family and pays tribute to her contribution to the history of the department," it added.

- Romualdez sneaking out of jail? BJMP launches probe (2026-11-04 06:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has launched an investigation into claims that former speaker Martin Romualdez has been secretly sneaking out of jail.BJMP chief Efren Nemeño ordered the probe on November 3 but initial CCTV reviews showed no recorded power interruption at the Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory or any movement of the lawmaker outside his cell."Initial CCTV verification by BJMP National Headquarters showed no recorded power or CCTV interruption at the New Quezon City Jail–Male Dormitory, and no recorded movement of Rep. Martin Romualdez outside the facility during the period examined," the agency said in a statement on Wednesday.

- AirAsia PH fly-thru traffic soars as Filipinos seek alternative destinations (2026-11-04 03:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino travelers are increasingly seeking alternative holiday destinations, driving substantial growth for AirAsia Philippines' connecting flight services in 2026.Passenger data released by the airline showed traffic between Manila and Almaty, Kazakhstan surged by 1,000 percent, the highest growth among the carrier's Fly-Thru routes.Other destinations also posted notable growth, including Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which increased by 705 percent, Manila-Penang, Malaysia, by 50 percent, and New Delhi, India, by 43 percent.The figures point to an emerging opportunity for Filipino travelers to discover more of Asia and beyond, supported by AirAsia's extensive network and Fly-Thru service, which connects passengers to multiple destinations through a single booking."It's exciting to see more Filipinos becoming open to exploring destinations they may not have considered before. Travel is not just about visiting the usual holiday spots anymore, it's about discovering new places, experiencing different cultures, and making more meaningful memories. The strong growth in Almaty is a good example of this changing interest," AirAsia President and General Manager Anna Victoria Lu said in a statement.From the mountains of Almaty to the beaches of Maldives and Bali, more international adventures await Filipino travelers through AirAsia Fly-Thru connectivity.The airline said passengers can fly from Manila to Almaty, Kazakhstan; Jaipur and New Delhi, India; Penang, Malaysia; the Maldives; Phuket, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Shenzhen, China; Yangon, Myanmar; Sarawak, Indonesia; Sabah, Malaysia and Sri Lanka.From Cebu, travelers can discover more of Asia: Penang, Malaysia; Bali, Indonesia; Siem Reap, Cambodia; Hanoi and Da Nang, Vietnam; Singapore; Jakarta, Indonesia; Sri Lanka; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia.For a limited time, AirAsia Philippines is offering its largest Fly-Thru sale from November 3 to November 9. The promotion provides Filipinos with expanded options to travel to destinations beyond Asia, with fares starting as low as P7,699.

- International parcel scam busted by CIDG (2026-11-04 03:34)

MANILA, Philippines — At least 159 foreigners, mostly Indonesians, Malaysians, Vietnamese and Chinese were rescued during a police operation at a scam hub in Pasay City on November 3.Three masterminds of the parcel scam were arrested.Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. and Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla led the raid.Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) saw make-believe law enforcement offices of China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia, and workers disguised as law enforcers, along with their accomplices.Philippine authorities were informed of the scam when three Indonesian workers escaped. “We are now studying the pieces of evidence. The laptops, cellphones and ipads that they used and we will see there the people who were victimized,” Nartatez told reporters in an interview on the site after the raid. “And now with the help of Indonesian police and others, we will prosecute them and we will share the necessary pieces of evidence to pursue cases against these personalities especially the masterminds,” he said.ModusVarious law enforcement uniforms were found in the scam site during the raid. According to Col. John Guiagui, CIDG-National Capital Region chief, the modus is done in four stages.The scammers choose their victims from their voluminous database and inform them of a parcel delivery which was already paid to lure the targets. However, they will then be told that the parcel contained contraband, particularly illegal drugs.Scripts are prepared in the four Asia languages, which showed that there was no intent to victimize Filipinos since the actors do not know Tagalog.This is where the characters will come in. Lower ranked officers will threaten the target that they will be investigated and their money and assets will be frozen.Higher ranking officers would then come in and offer a way out for the victim by giving them an account number, supposedly secured and guaranteed, where they can send money.Once the money is deposited, the scammers disappear.The group lures workers online through social media and messaging apps like Telegram, offering them virtual assistant work but upon arrival in the Philippines, they will be locked in the building and forced to work.Guiagui said the workers also endured physical abuse.

- Candidates with Filipino roots score victories in Northern Marianas elections (2026-11-04 02:53)

SAIPAN, Northern Marianas — Several candidates with Filipino ancestry won in the Northern Mariana Islands' general election last Nov. 3, including lawmakers tracing their family roots to Pangasinan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Quezon City.Another candidate with Filipino heritage is poised to advance to a runoff for attorney general.Unofficial results released by the Commonwealth Election Commission on Wednesday showed incumbent Sen. Jude Untalan Hofschneider, whose maternal family traces its roots to Pangasinan, received 806 votes in his uncontested reelection bid on Tinian.Hofschneider, a Republican, was among four candidates with documented Filipino ancestry who occupied winning positions in the legislative elections.In Saipan's six-seat Precinct 3 House race, incumbent Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, an independent, received 1,353 votes, placing third behind Marissa Flores and Elias Rangamar.Yumul, who traces his Filipino ancestry to Pangasinan and Pampanga, previously told The Manila Times that his family's roots in the Commonwealth extend several generations."My Filipino roots are an

important part of who I am today. My Naraja side has been in the CNMI for four generations, and my Yumul side for three generations," he said.Yumul said his grandfather migrated from Pangasinan, while his father came from Pampanga."Our family has maintained a strong connection to Filipino heritage and culture, which has shaped my values," he said.Yumul said his legislative priorities include strengthening economic cooperation between the CNMI and the Philippines, particularly in agriculture, food distribution, tourism, and labor protections.He supports efforts to include the Philippines in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which he believes could expand tourism and help diversify the Commonwealth's economy.He also favors strengthening the CNMI's foreign worker program and addressing the disruption caused by the federal touchback requirement, which forces certain foreign workers to leave the United States temporarily before their employers can seek further work authorization.Another incumbent, Rep. Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr., secured a winning position in Saipan's Precinct 2, receiving 606 votes to finish second behind fellow independent John Paul Sablan, who garnered 670 votes.Two seats were contested in the precinct.Aquino traces his Filipino heritage to his great-grandfather, who came from Tarlac, while his Japanese ancestry comes from his mother and grandmother."My identity is shaped by a rich tapestry of resilience, migration, and deep-rooted cultural values," Aquino previously told The Manila Times."My great-grandfather traced his roots back to Tarlac in the Philippines, embodying the timeless Filipino spirit of hard work, adaptability, and perseverance."Aquino said growing up with Filipino and Japanese influences shaped his commitment to public service, particularly the Filipino values of malasakit or genuine compassion, and bayanihan, or community cooperation."Ang tunay na lider ay hindi lamang nakaupo sa opisina; siya ay lumulusong sa komunidad (A true leader does not stay in his office, he should be seen in communities)," Aquino said, emphasizing that genuine leadership requires working directly with the community.Aquino said his legislative priorities include reducing living costs, supporting small businesses, improving healthcare access, and strengthening infrastructure.He also hopes to deepen CNMI-Philippines ties through direct trade and shipping links, educational partnerships between Northern Marianas College and Philippine universities, and expanded cultural exchanges.Aquino has proposed establishing a Filipino-American community advisory board and strengthening labor protections for foreign workers, alongside regular community consultations.In Precinct 5, incumbent Rep. Angelo Camacho, another independent with Filipino roots, received 958 votes, finishing second behind Democratic incumbent Leila Staffler, who garnered 1,344 votes.Camacho previously confirmed that his Filipino family hailed from Quezon City.The election results put all four lawmakers in position to continue serving in the CNMI legislature, subject to certification by the CEC.Meanwhile, attorney general candidate Michael Evangelista, who has also acknowledged his Filipino ancestry, placed second in the three-way contest with 3,854 votes, or 30.2 percent.Evangelista finished just 18 votes ahead of Jonathan Glass, who received 3,836 votes, or 30.1 percent.Joaquin DLG Torres led the race with 5,073 votes, or 39.7 percent.With none of the candidates securing more than half of the votes, a runoff is expected between the top two candidates following certification of the results.The narrow margin between Evangelista and Glass makes the official count particularly significant in determining who will face Torres in the runoff.In the broader election, former governor Ralph DLG Torres and running mate Ben Jones

led the gubernatorial contest with 6,437 votes, or 49.5 percent, followed by independent candidates BJ T. Attao and Edmund Villagomez with 5,043 votes, or 38.7 percent.The third ticket of Lawrence F. Camacho and Edith Deleon Guerrero received 1,537 votes, or 11.8 percent.With neither leading ticket securing the required majority, the gubernatorial election is headed for a runoff.Incumbent US congressional Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds also secured a second term based on the unofficial results, receiving 8,194 votes against challenger Galvin Sablan Deleon Guerrero's 4,675 votes.In the legislature, independents occupied 14 of the 20 House seats, compared with five Republicans and one Democrat, while Republicans appeared headed for a five-seat majority in the nine-member Senate.All results remain unofficial and subject to verification and certification by the CEC.

- DPWH backs Senate removal of 295 projects from 2027 budget (2026-11-04 02:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has thrown its support behind the Senate's decision to strip P8.8 billion in funding for 295 projects from the proposed 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP).The removal was due to insufficient documentation as the agency escalates its campaign against ghost infrastructure projects, DPWH Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Wednesday.The move follows a directive from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. requiring the DPWH to ensure that every project proposed for the 2027 spending plan is backed by supporting documents, Lopez said. “It was very clear from the President himself: No complete documents, no projects,” the DPWH chief said.The issue surfaced after former Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon told the Senate that 295 projects lacked the required documentation from district engineering offices (DEOs) and recommended that they be dropped from the proposal.Lopez affirmed that the reforms launched under Dizon will carry forward, noting that project proponents must now submit an Approved Program of Work and validated geo-tagged photos, among others.They are also required to submit a Certificate of Implementability, and either a Masterplan, Feasibility Study, or Regional Development Council/Local Development Council endorsement—or a Certificate of Non-Objection—before any project can be included in the 2027 NEP, the DPWH said."The strict instruction of President Marcos to us is that no project lacking documents should be allowed to slip through, so that we can ensure our fellow Filipinos will physically and actually feel the projects we implement," Lopez said. "Secretary Vince Dizon made sure that projects included in the government budget must be transparent, which is why we must implement them properly and correctly," he said.

- Pangilinan calls for online dashboard to track El Niño funds (2026-11-04 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Wednesday urged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to establish an online public accountability dashboard to track government spending and monitor the delivery of interventions as the country braces for the potentially devastating effects of a strong El Niño.The chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform said the proposed platform should provide Filipinos with timely information on how public funds are allocated and spent, what government agencies are doing to mitigate

the effects of the weather phenomenon, and whether these interventions are producing results. “I call on the President to direct the NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council), through OCD (Office of Civil Defense) and the concerned agencies, to maintain a single, coordinated El Niño action plan with named leads, measurable targets, and regular public reporting,” Pangilinan said in his eight-point action plan. “The backbone of all these efforts is the proper use of taxpayers’ money. The public must know clearly where the funds are going, what the government is doing, and what results these measures are achieving,” he added.The proposed dashboard would consolidate critical information, including weather forecasts, damage assessments, water conditions, priority needs, funding allocations, relief supply inventories and price-control advisories.Pangilinan proposed requiring government agencies to submit updates every 24 hours, 48 hours or weekly, depending on the urgency and nature of the information.The platform should go beyond reporting available resources and track the actual release and utilization of funds, delivery of relief supplies, number of households assisted, completion of farm and water-system interventions, resolution of price complaints, and filing of cases against violators.

- Cagayan Valley to test response to magnitude 8.5 quake in drill (2026-11-04 01:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The government will again test its disaster preparedness on Thursday as emergency responders, local government units and communities simulate their response to a magnitude 8.5 earthquake and tsunami off Cagayan in yet another drill, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said.The full-scale exercise in Santa Ana, Cagayan, will simulate an earthquake triggered by movement along the East Luzon Trough, with the epicenter located 180 kilometers southeast of the coastal town.The simulation will be the highlight of the Fourth Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) on November 5, which aims to assess the readiness of government agencies, emergency responders and communities to deal with a major earthquake and tsunami.The exercise will test the implementation of Santa Ana's Earthquake and Tsunami Contingency Plan and the Regional Disaster Response Plan of the Cagayan Valley Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.Among the response capabilities to be tested are early warning system activation, community evacuation, emergency telecommunications, search and rescue, mass casualty incident management and the activation of emergency operations centers.The drill will also simulate the management of evacuation camps and internally displaced persons, water search and rescue, management of the dead and missing, and responses to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear hazards and oil spills.The OCD will lead the exercise in coordination with member agencies of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and local government units.The NSED will begin at 8 a.m., with the ceremonial pressing of the button at 9 a.m. to signal the start of the nationwide "Duck, Cover and Hold" procedure and evacuation drills, followed by the full-scale simulation.Similar earthquake drills and related exercises will be conducted in other parts of the country under the supervision of OCD regional offices.The fourth-quarter exercise will also coincide with the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day 2026, which carries the theme " Resilience Starts with You."

• Duterte's lead over Robredo narrows to 7 points in OCTA survey (2026-11-04 01:20)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's lead over former vice president and current Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup has narrowed to seven percentage points, the smallest recorded by OCTA Research in its 2026 surveys, as the number of undecided voters continued to increase.Duterte obtained 40 percent against Robredo's 33 percent in the third-quarter Tugon ng Masa survey conducted from September 28 to October 4 among 1,200 adult Filipinos nationwide.The seven-point margin was down from 11 points in the first quarter, when Duterte registered 46 percent against Robredo's 35 percent, and nine points in the second quarter, when the figures stood at 43 percent and 34 percent, respectively.OCTA said Duterte's preference had declined by six percentage points over the three survey rounds, while Robredo's remained relatively stable, ranging from 33 percent to 35 percent.The proportion of respondents who chose neither candidate or did not know whom to vote for rose to 26 percent in the latest survey, from 22 percent in the second quarter and 19 percent in the first quarter.The growing undecided bloc suggests that voters moving away from Duterte have not necessarily shifted their preference to Robredo, OCTA said.Despite the narrowing margin, Duterte remained ahead nationally, with her seven-point lead outside the survey's plus-or-minus three-percentage-point margin of error.The survey results also showed significant regional differences in the hypothetical matchup.Robredo led Duterte in the National Capital Region, with 39 percent against 32 percent, and in Balance Luzon, where she received 49 percent against Duterte's 24 percent.Duterte, meanwhile, maintained a commanding lead in Mindanao, with 71 percent against Robredo's 2 percent. She also led in Visayas, 46 percent to 27 percent.

• Ombudsman meets with restaurateurs, discuss business, regulatory problems (2026-11-03 22:11)

MANILA, Philippines — Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla on Tuesday met with restaurateurs to discuss industry challenges and identify government regulations and processes that could possibly be opportunities for corruption.The meeting was part of the agency's study on establishing an Investment Ombudsman to address regulatory bottlenecks, protect businesses, and encourage investments. "Let's make a compendium of the problems that we are facing," Remulla said, as he identified government agencies dealing with micro, small and medium enterprises and asked about processes requiring immediate attention.Representatives of about 1,000 restaurant business owners attended the dialogue and raised concerns, including the proliferation of fake persons with disability (PWD) identification cards as well as problems with tax collection.The proposed Investment Ombudsman would expand the agency's preventive mandate by identifying systemic problems that expose businesses to corruption and unnecessary bureaucratic requirements.Prior to this, Remulla met with Cebu business owners last month to discuss ways to address difficulties investors face in dealing with government agencies.

• Malacañang urges scrutiny of proposed P7.2T national budget (2026-11-03 22:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacanang has urged budget watchdogs and civil society groups (CSGs) to help President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Tie identify potential "red flags" in the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget.Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro on Tuesday said Malacañang is ready to cooperate with budget watchdogs and CSGs to review the budget to ensure transparency and efficiency in government spending.The Palace press officer urged them to directly submit documents containing potential irregularities to Malacanang. “To those monitoring the budget, if you have a copy of something you noticed and found to be a red flag, just let us know, give us a copy — the PCO itself — because the President will also need this,” Castro said during a press briefing."The president’s directive is that public funds must not be abused. Public funds should go to the people, not into anyone’s pockets,” she said in Filipino.Castro cited that the role of budget watchdogs in helping the government ensure the protection of public funds from abuse and corruption. "Budget watchdogs are needed by the government."Castro assured that the president will not allow budget amendments that lack sufficient documentation, clear descriptions, and concrete project bases.She noted that the proposed 2027 budget will still undergo review by the bicameral conference committee and the president’s economic team before being submitted to the Chief Executive for his signature.Budget watchdogs and CSGs recently raised concerns over alleged insertions in the House of Representatives’ version of the 2027 General Appropriations Bill.The House approved the P7.2 trillion spending measure on third and final reading on October 12.

- Palace denies PH blocked China's participation in ASEAN (2026-11-03 19:06)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang denied that the Philippines used its position as host of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit to hinder the participation of China.This comes after Beijing accused Manila of “erecting multiple obstacles” to its participation in the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting in Cebu last week.In a press briefing on Tuesday, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro maintained that the Philippines would continue to take a diplomatic approach in dealing with China. “No power or position will be used to gain an advantage over anyone,” said Castro in Filipino.

- Over 2.5M visit Manila cemeteries during Undas 2026 (2026-11-03 19:02)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 2,556,607 people visited four major cemeteries in Manila from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 during Undas 2026, according to the Manila Police District (MPD).In a post on Tuesday, the Manila Public Information Office (PIO), citing MPD figures, reported that Manila North Cemetery recorded the highest number of visitors at 2,116,600.Manila South Cemetery recorded 390,327 visitors, followed by La Loma Cemetery with 41,600 and Manila Chinese Cemetery with 8,080.The city government, led by Mayor Francisco “Isko” Moreno Domagoso, thanked the offices and personnel who provided services and helped ensure an orderly and safe observance of Undas 2026.

- No shoot-to-kill order vs dela Rosa – PNP (2026-11-03 16:18)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) on Tuesday said that no shoot-to-kill order has been issued against Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa as security forces press on with their manhunt operations to arrest the fugitive lawmaker. Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, issued the statement after Cagayan de Oro Rep. Lordan Suan denied calling for a resolution seeking the issuance of a shoot-to-kill order against the senator. “May I remind the public to only share or believe information coming from verified and official sources. Wala pong shoot to kill na inilalabas (No shoot-to-kill order was issued),” Co said.As to claims that police are raiding homes of dela Rosa’s relatives and friends, Co clarified that police operations are being done lawfully.The police intensified manhunt operations after the deadline given to the senator to surrender lapsed on Friday, Oct. 30.The PNP mobilized tracker teams to find dela Rosa, who was ordered arrested by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity linked to the implementation of the war on drugs under former president Rodrigo Duterte.A P50-million bounty was offered for information leading to the senator’s arrest.The PNP also said dela Rosa is still in the Philippines.The police said photos of dela Rosa in a cemetery in Davao del Sur that went viral on social media were not new. “It’s not true that he showed up,” Co told reporters in an interview on Tuesday.Malacañang said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has not shown any dissatisfaction in the progress of the manhunt for dela Rosa amid concerns that some policemen loyal to him were helping him escape the dragnet. “Right now, our president does not show any frustration, as long as he sees that our police force and the leadership of the DILG are fulfilling their duties. So, no frustration is being seen,” Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said in Filipino on Tuesday.Dela Rosa, who was named a co-conspirator of former president Duterte, refused to acknowledge the ICC arrest warrant and went into hiding last year.Meanwhile, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said that due process for dela Rosa does not mean shielding him from facing trial before the ICC.He said that the fugitive senator should be allowed to answer the charges against him without risking violence during his arrest.Lacson said his call for due process for his embattled colleague was not an appeal to protect him from the ICC’s jurisdiction, but to ensure that authorities carry out his arrest without bloodshed. “To me, due process means allowing Senator dela Rosa to face trial before the ICC rather than risk violence and, worse, tragedy,” Lacson said.He reiterated that due process is a fundamental right that applies to everyone, including dela Rosa, who served under him in the Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the ICC in connection with killings linked to the war on drugs implemented under former president Rodrigo Duterte.The senator has been in hiding since last year. He briefly surfaced at the Senate last May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president then fled following a shooting incident. WITH CATHERINE VALENTE

- Ombudsman files cases vs 6 DPWH personnel (2026-11-03 16:17)

THE Office of the Ombudsman said Tuesday it has filed graft and malversation cases before the Sandiganbayan against six Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel and seven private individuals over an alleged P491.9-million road right-of-way scam in General

Santos City.The charges involve compensation for 18 parcels of land affected by the construction of the Digos-Makar National Road in Lagao, General Santos City.Former DPWH Region 12 regional director Subair Saro Diron and former assistant regional director Laureano Suan Jr. were among those charged.According to the Ombudsman, the DPWH Region 12 technical working group approved P491,931,120.20 in payments to claimants who were later found to have submitted falsified documents.The alleged scheme involved the use of a 2009 appraisal value of P3,500 per square meter to determine compensation for properties acquired by the government in the early 1990s, resulting in inflated right-of-way claims.Witness Roberto Catapang Jr., who admitted involvement in the alleged fraudulent act in a 2017 affidavit, said the group, "in collusion with respondent public officers," collected government funds by fabricating and submitting fake documents.The Ombudsman said the charges followed National Bureau of Investigation reports submitted in 2018 and 2019. It also ordered the dismissal of former DPWH Region XII legal officer Ansare Mariga Busran in a separate administrative decision.

- Ease tensions with China, business, labor groups urge gov't (2026-11-03 16:15)

A COALITION of 24 business, labor, industry and other organizations urged the government to ease tensions with China and pursue a more coordinated diplomatic approach, warning that strained bilateral relations could jeopardize trade, investments, jobs and other Philippine economic interests.In a joint appeal, the organizations called on the Philippine and Chinese governments to exercise restraint, avoid inflammatory rhetoric and resolve disagreements through established diplomatic channels rather than public exchanges.They stressed that the Philippines must protect its sovereignty and sovereign rights under international law while maintaining economic cooperation with China.The groups cited the two economies' deep trade and investment ties, noting that China and Hong Kong accounted for nearly 30 percent of Philippine international trade, with China accounting for 26.3 percent of exports and 27 to 29.5 percent of imports, based on figures cited in the appeal from the Philippine Statistics Authority for the first semester of 2026.In contrast, the Philippines represents only 0.3 to 0.5 percent of China's total global trade, they said.The organizations warned that worsening tensions could undermine investor confidence, disrupt supply chains, increase costs and affect businesses, workers, consumers and communities.They also pointed to China's role as a supplier of essential goods, industrial inputs, machinery, electronics, strategic raw materials and renewable energy technologies supporting Philippine industries and the country's clean energy transition. "The Filipino people deserve a government that protects sovereignty while expanding prosperity. Entrepreneurs need stable markets; workers, secure livelihoods; consumers, affordable essentials; and farmers and manufacturers, reliable inputs and wider market access. The country also needs investment, technology, energy security, clean energy solutions, and sustained growth. These priorities should take precedence over public exchanges that distract from practical cooperation," they said.The signatories urged the government to adopt a centralized, coherent and consistent foreign policy, with diplomatic positions articulated by designated authorities through coordinated institutions and established

channels.They also called for stronger economic cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, energy security, electric mobility and solar deployment, as well as technology transfer, local production and the creation of decent jobs.At the same time, the groups said the country should pursue strategic diversification by strengthening domestic industries, expanding local manufacturing and developing alternative sources of critical supplies. “Constructive relations with China do not require abandoning Philippine sovereignty, overlooking legitimate concerns, or compromising an independent foreign policy,” the groups said. “Effective diplomacy means defending national interests while avoiding unnecessary escalation.” The organizations said the Philippines should pursue a foreign policy that is principled but pragmatic, resolute but diplomatic, and anchored in protecting sovereignty, economic security and long-term development. “We respectfully appeal to Philippine and Chinese authorities to lower the temperature, restore disciplined diplomatic engagement, and build a stable, respectful, and productive bilateral relationship. Let us pursue principled diplomacy over public antagonism, economic cooperation over avoidable friction, and strategic foresight over short-term political posturing,” they said. “The ultimate measure of diplomacy is whether it protects national interests, prevents avoidable conflict, creates opportunities, and improves the lives of our people — not who prevails in a public exchange,” the groups added.Among the signatories were the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Free Workers, Philippine Exporters Confederation, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc., and Foundation for Economic Freedom.

- NBI expands probe as more animal dumpsites found (2026-11-03 16:13)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it will expand its investigation into a pet crematorium accused of illegal dumping of animal carcasses, following the discovery of additional suspected disposal sites in Bulacan.The Environmental Crimes Division of the NBI is leading the investigation into Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, amid mounting complaints from pet owners for alleged improper disposal of animal carcasses intended for cremation.This comes after the remains of 25 dogs and cats were recovered from a vacant lot in Barangay Minuyan Proper, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.Animal welfare volunteers from Luna and Furry Siblings subsequently reported finding additional suspected dumping sites in Barangay Minuyan 4 and Minuyan 5, also in San Jose del Monte.The group estimated that around 14 animal remains were found in Minuyan 4 and 30 to 40 in Minuyan 5. The figures have yet to be verified by authorities.NBI Director Melvin Matibag said forensic examinations would be conducted to establish whether the recovered remains came from the Cavite crematorium.He added that the business permit, cremation equipment, closed-circuit television footage, and records documenting the handling and disposal of animal remains of Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium would be reviewed.The NBI is looking into possible estafa charges under Article 315(2)(a) of the Revised Penal Code if evidence is found that the crematorium collected payments for services that were never performed.Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the establishment closed on Oct. 31.Matibag urged affected pet owners to

submit cremation receipts, certificates, transaction records, and communications with the establishment to help investigators build their case.Representatives of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society and the Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF) went to the NBI headquarters on Tuesday in response to the call. “AKF is seeking answers and accountability. We are calling on the NBI to conduct a deeper investigation, including the verification of ashes returned to grieving pet owners,” AKF said in a Facebook post on Tuesday. “We hope this encourages more affected families to come forward and file complaints,” it added.The Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) on Monday condemned the act. “The incident raises deeply troubling questions about the handling, transport, and proper disposition of animal remains, particularly in light of reports involving a pet afterlife service provider based in Bacoor, Cavite. The circumstances surrounding the incident warrant a thorough investigation and appropriate accountability from all parties found responsible,” PVMA said in a statement. “Pet owners entrust afterlife service providers with something deeply personal: the final care of their beloved companions. This trust carries a profound responsibility. Every animal deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, even in death. Any act of negligence, abandonment, misrepresentation, or failure to fulfill this responsibility is unacceptable,” it added.The Philippine National Police (PNP) urged pet owners who may have been victimized to file complaints and submit evidence to authorities. “Any form of deception that exploits the trust of grieving pet owners is deeply concerning and must be addressed with the full force of the law. We will not tolerate acts that victimize the public and undermine the trust that should exist between service providers and the communities they serve,” PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said. “Fraud is not measured solely by the amount of money taken, but also by the damage inflicted on the people whose trust has been betrayed. The PNP will support efforts to establish accountability and ensure that all evidence of possible criminal wrongdoing is properly investigated,” he said.Sen. Pia Cayetano said she would file a resolution seeking a Senate investigation into the incident. “Pets are beloved members of many families. As a pet owner, I understand the grief of losing a pet. Many of us observe rituals to give our beloved animals a proper farewell,” Cayetano said in a statement. “Pet owners have the right to demand that their contracts be honored and seek damages for the harm and distress they have suffered,” she said.Sen. Francis Pangilinan, meanwhile, demanded accountability for deceived pet owners, saying it was unacceptable to profit from the grief of families who paid for their animals to receive a proper and dignified final resting place. “It is unacceptable to take advantage of the grief of pet owners who paid to ensure that their beloved animals would have a proper and dignified final resting place,” Pangilinan said in a statement.He said the alleged dumping of animal carcasses could be a violation of Republic Act 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, as well as local sanitation ordinances.The controversy has intensified calls for tighter government oversight of pet crematoriums and other animal aftercare businesses, with Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian seeking a nationwide inspection and audit of service providers.Gatchalian said the inspections should determine whether these establishments were properly licensed, complied with environmental requirements, and observed clear standards of integrity. “The distressing discovery of 29 deceased pets abandoned in sacks in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, is a blatant violation of environmental and

sanitation laws," Gatchalian added.

• China turns to intl media to promote gains of Belt and Road Initiative (2026-11-03 16:12)

FUZHOU, China — China called on international media to report on the gains and benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) program to participating countries.At the opening of the 2026 Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road here on Tuesday, Chinese officials and business leaders cited the need for global action in what they called "the world's largest international platform for economic cooperation in terms of scale, reach and impact." Xian Hui, vice chairman of the National Communist of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPC), said the BRI, which President Xi Jinping started in 2013, was no longer just focused on development and investment initiatives originally intended to link East Asia and Europe through physical infrastructure.He said it has evolved into "modernist socialization," which called for a "deeper alignment of development strategies, improving connectivity networks and balancing development with security by providing an environment that would bring peace, prosperity, openness and civilization." Hu Heping, the executive deputy head of publicity for the department of the CPC Central Committee, said that amid the "rise of conflicts, unilateralism and challenges of copyright infringements," there was a need to "build a consensus for development, tell stories that benefit people and deepen exchanges of cooperation by building bridges of communication." Zhang Tao, president of the China National Nuclear Corp.; Wang Jihang, president of the Agricultural Bank of China; Oleg Kopylov, deputy secretary general, Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Miao Jiianmin, chairman, China Merchants Group; Zhao Fei, board member and general manager, China Changan Automobile Group; Xu Siwei, chairman, China Reform Holdings Corp.; and Zhang Wenwu, vice chairman and president, CITIC Group Corp., were among the business leaders who pushed for greater "connectivity" through the media to help boost international cooperation by sharing "people-to-people experiences, cultural and financial integration." The event brought together over 200 foreign representatives from 100 countries, as well as international and regional organizations, and 182 media outlets and institutions, People's Daily, China's English-language newspaper, said.BRI, sometimes referred to as the New Silk Road, is considered "one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived." To date, about 150 countries were known to have signed memoranda of understanding with China.The Philippines became a member of the BRI in 2018 under then-president Rodrigo Duterte, linking Chinese foreign investments to the administration's "Build, Build, Build" program.The initiative involved proposed and active transport, water and energy projects — such as the Binondo-Intramuros Bridge, the Chico River Pump Irrigation Project, and the New Centennial Water Source (Kaliwa Dam).Under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., however, enthusiasm for the BRI waned over tensions in the South China Sea.

• OSG to ask court to review unprogrammed funds ruling (2026-11-03 16:11)

MALACAÑANG said Tuesday that the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) would submit today, Nov. 4, a motion for reconsideration to the Supreme Court on its ruling that the 2024 and 2025

General Appropriations Acts were unconstitutional due to unauthorized increases in unprogrammed funds. “They will file a motion for reconsideration tomorrow,” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said in Filipino during a press briefing on Tuesday.Castro said she cannot give a definitive answer when asked which specific government programs could be impacted by the court’s decision. “Even if it has been discussed, I cannot provide the details once a motion for reconsideration has been filed,” she said.Solicitor General Darlene Berberabe earlier said that the OSG would clarify if the guardrails set by the Supreme Court were according to the separation of powers of the executive, legislative, and judiciary under the law. Berberabe said that guardrails are important to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds. “The OSG will respectfully request clarification to ensure that the limits and standards set in the decision conform to the separation of these powers under the Constitution,” Berberabe said in Filipino in an earlier Palace briefing. “There is something that the president, in particular, wants to clarify because the execution of the budget will be affected,” she added.Berberabe said she has recommended to the Department of Budget and Management to put on hold the use of the affected funds. “For those that are not covered, we will assist the executive branch in making a determination by providing legal advice,” said Berberabe.

- Palace releases class suspension guidelines (2026-11-03 16:10)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has signed Executive Order No. 130, detailing the rules on suspension of classes, Malacañang said. “Every day of absence from school represents a significant loss; the new executive order aims to ensure that students remain safe and that their education continues,” Press Officer Claire Castro said in a press briefing on Tuesday.The order enumerated three types of suspensions: automatic suspension when specific criteria regarding weather or hazards are met, localized suspensions when local leaders decide to suspend classes based on their situation, and granular suspension, where schools themselves may suspend classes if hazards within the vicinity of the schools are seen. “This grants local governments greater authority to decide which specific areas or schools should suspend classes, based on the actual conditions on the ground,” Castro said. “This allows for more direct action and ensures that the response from local government units is appropriate. Schools will also have the discretion to suspend classes whenever it is truly necessary for the sake of the students, as the safety of the children is always the top priority,” she added.The executive order said that suspension of in-person classes does not automatically mean a halt to learning, as schools are mandated to implement alternative delivery modes and learning continuity measures consistent with guidelines set by the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Early Childhood Care and Development Council. “There is a need to rationalize and harmonize the rules governing the suspension and resumption of classes and activities, and on-site work in educational institutions and learning centers due to natural or human-induced hazards, while ensuring uninterrupted delivery of quality education through risk-informed, science-based, locally responsive policies that support learning continuity,” the order read.

- DepEd secures laptops for teachers, staff (2026-11-03 16:09)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) said it has secured 172,654 units of Apple MacBook Neo laptops for public school teachers and administrative staff through a proper bidding process.Each unit, it said, costs approximately P43,000 and comes with a five-year warranty, longer than the standard one-year retail warranty. The procurement price is about P6,900 lower than the MacBook Neo base model's Philippine suggested retail price of P49, 900.Distribution of the units was set from November 2026 to March 2027. "For the longest time, our teachers have carried the heavy personal burden of buying their own laptops or maintaining outdated equipment just to keep up with lesson plans. Under the vision of President Marcos, we are changing the narrative," Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement on Tuesday. "We welcome Apple's participation in this procurement to bring MacBook Neo to our teachers. It isn't just about handing out world-class hardware with five-year warranties; it's about giving our educators the best tools, backed by robust training so they can focus on what matters most: teaching our children," he added.DepEd has so far awarded procurement contracts for 231,725 laptops for teachers nationwide under its computerization program. These include 169,008 MacBook Neo units and 62,717 Windows-based laptops.The deal also covers 3,646 MacBook Neo laptops for administrative officers. "As one example, we recently secured our biggest education deal ever for Mac, with the Department of Education in the Philippines. They're going to deploy 170,000 MacBook Neos to teachers and staff," Apple Chief Executive Officer John Ternus said.

- Go pushes full implementation of disaster law (2026-11-03 16:08)

SEN. Bong Go renewed his call for the full implementation of Republic Act (RA) 12076, or the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act, and the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience, after the Philippines topped a new global disaster risks survey.The 2026 World Risk Poll conducted by Gallup for the Lloyd's Register Foundation showed that 80 percent of Filipino adults reported being personally affected by disasters in the past five years — the highest proportion among 140 countries surveyed. Tropical storms were the most cited hazard (52 percent), hitting 67 percent of respondents in the Visayas, while 44 percent of Mindanao respondents reported earthquake impacts. "We cannot prevent every disaster, but we can prepare for them. There must be safe evacuation centers, adequate equipment, a rapid response, and continuous support for the affected families," Go said.Signed into law on Dec. 6, 2024, RA 12076, which Go principally authored, mandates the construction of permanent, disaster-resilient evacuation centers in every city and municipality to replace makeshift shelters such as public school classrooms. Coordinated by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, constructed by the Department of Public Works and Highways, and maintained by LGUs, these facilities require dedicated sleeping quarters, sanitation, healthcare areas, and emergency power and water systems.Go refiled Senate Bill 173 in the 20th Congress to establish the Department of Disaster Resilience. The proposed Cabinet-level agency would streamline risk reduction, emergency response, and recovery efforts across national and local agencies during large-scale calamities. Go also introduced SB 415 to provide rental housing subsidies for displaced families.

- ‘Evidence vs VP Sara will speak for itself’ (2026-11-03 16:07)

THE evidence presented against Vice President Sara Duterte will stand on its own merit whether or not she will testify in her impeachment trial, a member of the House prosecution team said on Tuesday. “Irrespective of whether the vice president actually presents herself in the proceedings, the staggering weight of the evidence will probably speak for itself,” Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said in Filipino in an interview.Ridon was responding to Deputy Speaker Janette Garin’s assessment that the prosecution could secure the 16 votes needed for conviction even if Duterte refuses to take the witness stand. “Let us see how this trial will conclude. We do not want to preempt the Senate impeachment court on this matter,” he said.The prosecution’s remaining case, Article II, involves alleged unexplained wealth and inaccurate asset declarations.Forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera earlier identified approximately P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed. “Our hope is that the defense will answer each and every allegation, each and every piece of evidence that has been submitted for the consideration of the Senate impeachment court,” Ridon said. “We will see when the vice president takes the witness stand,” he added.He likewise cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that 78 percent of Filipino adults considered it important for Duterte to testify. “The surveys are clear. I think a majority of the nation would want to see the vice president there explaining each and every part of her defense, particularly those properties that were not declared in her statements of assets, liabilities and net worth,” the lawmaker said.Blanket objectionRidon said the defense team has objected to all documentary evidence submitted by the prosecution, including Duterte’s asset declarations and financial records from banks and government agencies. “The defense’s formal offer of evidence objections consists of objections to every single piece of evidence submitted by the prosecution for the consideration of the Senate impeachment court,” he said in Filipino in an interview.He said the objections covered all statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs); bank records; insurance documents; Bureau of Internal Revenue records; and Anti-Money Laundering Council documents. “So, that means all the documents, all the SALNs, all the bank records, all the insurance documents, BIR records, AMLC documents, every single piece of evidence is being denied and objected to by the defense,” he said.The lawmaker questioned the blanket objections, noting that the defense had participated in the proceedings and cross-examined prosecution witnesses who identified and authenticated the financial records.The prosecution presented testimony from banking officials and financial regulators. “It is somewhat amusing that they have a blanket objection to every single piece of evidence submitted by the prosecution,” Ridon said. “I don’t think the Senate Impeachment Court will grant their blanket objection because that would mean there would no longer be any evidence available for our trial, and I don’t think that is something the Senate Impeachment Court will allow,” he added.

- Tighter police ties with LGUs (2026-11-03 16:05)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday called for stronger collaborative ties among school communities, local governments, and law enforcement agencies.The appeal follows a wave of malicious bomb threats targeting major universities in Metro Manila, disrupting academic operations and raising public anxiety. “Amid the various threats to the safety of our schools, it is crucial that we strengthen community involvement in bolstering school security,” Gatchalian said. “We can achieve this through the Comprehensive School Safety Act, which we approved in the Senate.” Gatchalian’s call follows a directive from the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), which ordered an intensified bomb threat awareness campaign in Metro Manila campuses.The alert was triggered after several institutions — including the University of Santo Tomas (UST), De La Salle University (DLSU), and Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC) — received threatening messages that prompted campus evacuations and a temporary shift to remote learning mode.In response, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered an exhaustive review of explosive-threat response protocols.Concurrently, NCRPO authorities reminded the public that circulating false bomb scares is a severe criminal offense under Presidential Decree (PD) 1727, also known as the Anti-Bomb Joke Law. Violators face up to five years of imprisonment, a fine of up to P40,000, or both.Furthermore, because these recent threats were transmitted online, the PNP warned it will file charges under the Cybercrime Prevention Act (Republic Act (RA) 10175), which raises the criminal penalty by one degree.To build a proactive defense framework against these disruptions, Gatchalian sought the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 2426, or the Comprehensive School Safety Act.The Senate unanimously approved the bill on its third and final reading, and it seeks to institutionalize a permanent National Comprehensive School Safety Framework.At its core, the measure mandates enhanced physical infrastructure and security hardware. The bill strictly requires both public and private schools to integrate upgraded safety screening systems at all campus access points.This includes installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in common areas, mandating walk-through or handheld metal detectors, and requiring trained security personnel to conduct strict bag checks to prevent weapons and hazardous materials from entering school grounds.Once fully enacted, the law mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to lead the implementation and regular updating of safety standards alongside local government units (LGUs) and the PNP.Under this system, the PNP will actively assist schools with infrastructure security, screening procedures, and visible campus policing, while LGUs will finance and support localized safety programs. “It is important to ensure the safety of our students so that their studies can proceed smoothly and without interruption,” Gatchalian emphasized, reiterating that a whole-of-community approach is paramount to shielding learners from campus terror.

- SKorean fugitives linked to online scams nabbed (2026-11-03 16:04)

PHILIPPINE immigration authorities have intercepted two South Korean fugitives wanted for their alleged involvement in online fraud that reportedly raked in more than 3.7 billion won, roughly $2.8 million (around P160 million).The two suspects, identified as Lee Jaeryeon, 32, and An Intae, 29, were separately intercepted by Bureau of Immigration (BI) officers at Ninoy

Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 1 while preparing to board flights to Vietnam.Immigration officers flagged the two after confirming they were subjects of International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) Red Notices issued in connection with criminal cases filed against them in South Korea.BI-Interpol acting chief Peter De Guzman reported the interceptions to Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado, who ordered the bureau to place the two foreigners on its blacklist to prevent their return to the Philippines.Investigators accused Lee of working as an agent and operator for a romance scam syndicate based in Sihanoukville, Cambodia.In 2024, Lee allegedly targeted people who responded to the group’s advertisements on Facebook and other social media platforms, building romantic relationships with unsuspecting victims before directing them to a fraudulent website.Victims were then allegedly made to pay charges, including so-called verification and “woman’s choice” fees, with the money collected by the website’s administrator.An, meanwhile, was allegedly involved in a stock investment scam that used fake websites and social media platforms, including KakaoTalk and Instagram, to lure investors with fraudulent investment opportunities.Authorities said victims were persuaded to deposit money into bank accounts owned or controlled by An and his accomplices.The latest interceptions underscore the growing reach of Southeast Asia-based online fraud networks, which exploit social media, fake investment platforms and fabricated romantic relationships to defraud victims across borders.The Philippines has repeatedly encountered foreigners allegedly involved in similar operations, prompting intensified immigration and law enforcement operations against online scam hubs and fugitives.In March 2026, the BI reported intercepting another South Korean, Kim Kwangsin, at NAIA Terminal 3 as he tried to fly to Taipei.Kim was wanted over an alleged stock investment scam syndicate operating in Cambodia that reportedly defrauded at least 57 victims, mostly South Koreans, of more than 3.5 billion won.In May 2026, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) also dismantled an alleged online love-scamming and cryptocurrency fraud operation in Parañaque City, arresting 17 people, including three foreigners.Investigators said the operation used fake online identities, dating applications, and deceptive romantic approaches to gain victims’ trust and induce them to send money.On July 21, 2026, the NBI announced the arrest of a Nigerian allegedly involved in an online love scam, following an investigation into the sale of pre-registered SIM cards to suspected operators of scam hubs and other cybercriminals.Viado said the BI would not allow the Philippines to become a transit point or refuge for foreign nationals wanted for transnational crimes. “Fraud syndicates operate across borders, and our response must be just as coordinated. We will not allow individuals linked to these criminal networks to pass through our airports unchecked or use the Philippines to evade accountability,” he said.The two South Koreans are currently detained at the BI detention facility in Taguig City pending deportation proceedings.

- BOC joins dialogue on air cargo modernization (2026-11-03 16:03)

THE Bureau of Customs-Ninoy Aquino International Airport (BOC-NAIA) participated in a logistics roundtable late last month to discuss the digitalization of global air cargo.According to the bureau, District Collector Yasmin Mapa attended the ONE Record Roundtable on Oct. 27,

2026.Logistics technology provider Champ, e-commerce service provider E-Konek Pilipinas, and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) hosted the event.The gathering brought together key government officials, airline representatives, and freight forwarding stakeholders to discuss cargo digitalization, standard data exchange protocols, and the local adoption of the IATA ONE Record standard.BOC-NAIA's participation underscores the bureau's proactive commitment to strengthening public-private sector collaboration and advancing comprehensive digital transformation.By integrating cutting-edge data solutions into customs processes, the agency aims to drive trade facilitation, enhance border security, and elevate operational efficiency to meet world-class modernization standards.

- Belmonte: QC contributed P1.4T to economy (2026-11-03 16:02)

QUEZON City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Tuesday said the local government contributed P1.4 trillion to the national economy in 2025, accounting for roughly 6 percent of the country's gross domestic product.Belmonte told The Manila Times that she reported this to her constituents at her State of the City Address early last week, where she also presented stringent measures that effectively cut red tape and simplified government transactions.She praised her co-workers at City Hall, particularly the local department and bureau heads led by City Treasurer Edgar "Edvil" Villanueva, for their dedication and competence, which led to record-breaking revenue collections. “Fewer forms, easier payments, and documents delivered straight to business establishments are the results of these efforts,” said the mayor, citing the city's key role as a major engine of the Philippine economy.Ranking first among all cities in the country in revenue collection for 2025 and surpassing its previous years' figures, Quezon City is home to more than 70,000 registered businesses.Belmonte reiterated that the city government is building on this momentum by reducing paperwork, connecting government systems, and making services more accessible to business owners.She said QC was the first local government unit (LGU) to integrate with the Philippine Business Hub, eGovPH, and the Department of Trade and Industry's Business Name Registration System. “These linkages help streamline registration and eliminate the need to submit the same information to multiple government offices,” Belmonte said.A recent agreement with the Bureau of Fire Protection would further simplify applications for Fire Safety Inspection Certificates. By year-end, the BFP could retrieve information directly from the city's online business permit applications, reducing duplicate data entry, she said.Extending digital payments to its 142 villages, Belmonte said that under its barangay e-payment ordinance, each village will have an electronic payment system linked to the city's online business permit system.These reforms build on QC BizEasy for business registration, QC Pay Easy for electronic payments, and QC Delivers, which has delivered more than 289,000 official documents to establishments, sparing business owners trips to City Hall.The mayor said these efforts have earned Quezon City Hall of Fame recognition as the Most Business-Friendly LGU from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as a Gold Asia-Pacific Stevie Award for Innovation in Government earlier this year."We will continue to break barriers, modernize our services, and build an environment where businesses can grow with confidence, because when our businesses succeed, our people succeed," Belmonte

vowed.

• Suspect in Parañaque fatal stabbing arrested (2026-11-03 16:01)

SWIFT police action led to the arrest of a 41-year-old man linked to the fatal stabbing of a victim in Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque City.Southern Police District (SPD) operatives said a 30-year-old man was stabbed dead on Nov. 2, 2026.Immediately after the incident, police personnel launched an investigation and follow-up operations to establish the motive and identify the suspect.During the investigation, witnesses positively identified the suspect as the alleged perpetrator. CCTV footage from a nearby establishment supported their accounts.Initial findings indicated that the victim was attacked suddenly, leaving him totally off guard and defenseless.In light of these circumstances, the investigation is considering treachery, which may warrant the filing of a murder complaint against the suspect.BGen. Rodel Pastor highlighted the importance of swift police response and decisive action against criminality."We will continue to act swiftly and decisively against criminal activities. We will pursue those responsible, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that justice is served while keeping our communities safe," he said.

• UP top PH university in 2027 QS Asia rankings (2026-11-03 15:24)

MANILA, Philippines - The University of the Philippines (UP) remained the top Philippine university in the 2027 edition of the QS World University Rankings: Asia.QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the latest edition on Tuesday.UP was ranked 123rd. It topped other institutions in the Philippines in the rankings for the 16th consecutive year, based on a statement from QS.It is followed by the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) which was ranked 151st.ADMU was followed by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) which was ranked 202nd.UST was followed by the De La Salle University which was ranked 204th.Based on the statement from QS, there were 45 universities from the Philippines in the rankings. "This means the Philippines is the 13th most represented higher education system in the rankings this year," QS said.Aside from those already mentioned above, some of them were: Mapúa University was ranked 494th; Adamson University, 509th; University of San Carlos, 549th; Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology, 678th; Silliman University, 741st to 750th; Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 751st to 760th; Far Eastern University, 781st to 790th; and Ateneo de Davao University, 951st to 1000th."The rankings evaluate more than 1720 universities across 26 locations in Asia," QS said."The University of Hong Kong is ranked first in the region for another year, with second place Peking University also remaining unchanged. Tsinghua University climbs six places to rank third," QS said.

• 3,988 out of 10,746 examinees pass CPA exam (2026-11-03 11:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) on Tuesday announced that 3,988 out of 10,746 (37.11 percent) examinees passed the Certified Public Accountant Licensure Examination (CPALE) held last October.The top examinees are as follows:1. Tyron Jones Timoteo Acuña – Kingfisher School of Business and Finance (92 percent)2. Andrea Rose

Lapid Yanson – University of Saint La Salle (91.83 percent)3. Vincent Noel Cuaresma – Far Eastern University-Manila (91.50 percent)4. Carlos Miguel Ngie Legaspi Jr. – De La Salle University-Manila, Cesar Paul Jr. Tumaljuan Quilang – University of Saint Louis-Tuguegarao (91.33 percent)5. Leonardo Navarrete Galang II – Far Eastern University-Manila (91 percent)6. Princess Michaela Dellagas Base – University of Nueva Caceres (90.83 percent)7. Wymvee Claire Manlunas Bugna – Mindanao State University-General Santos City, Razilee Panday De Vera – Kingfisher School of Business and Finance (90.67 percent)8. Roxine Anne Bucana Barrion – University of the Philippines-Visayas-Iloilo City, Hanz-Aron Tañedo Mendoza – University of Caloocan City, Robert Cuyong Toledano Jr. – University of San Jose-Recoletos (90.50 percent)9. Luis Gabriel Seneta Ante – De La Salle University-Manila, Maria Alliza May Cruz – Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Josh Machlian Gallera Espino – University of Mindanao-Davao City, Marion Andrei Dela Cruz Lopez – University of Caloocan City (90.33 percent)10. Lawrence Dave Estrada Macaraeg – Kingfisher School of Business and Finance, Marynvi Datu Timbol – De La Salle University-Manila (90.17 percent)The CPA Licensure Examinations were held on Oct. 23 and 24, 2026 in testing centers in the National Capital Region, Baguio, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Calapan, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Koronadal, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Palawan, Pampanga, Rosales, Tacloban, Tuguegarao, and Zamboanga.

- No Filipinos in Markle's videos — police (2026-11-03 11:44)

CEBU CITY — No Filipinos appeared in the alleged child sexual abuse materials that the police recovered from digital devices linked to Thomas Markle Sr., the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.Major General Wilson Asueta, assistant director for Investigation and Detective Management of the PNP, disclosed the initial findings during a press conference in Cebu on Tuesday.Asueta said the Regional Anti-Cybercrime Unit Central Visayas (RACU 7) identified several files containing alleged child sexual abuse and exploitation materials during its initial forensic examination."Initially those materials or videos examined, based from RACU-7, they are not from here..., not here in the Philippines," he said.Asueta said some of the recovered videos showed minors engaged in sexual activities, while other files contained explicit materials involving individuals who were not minors."There's a video that a female minor and male doing sexual activities. We can say that they are from foreign countries, Asian, Caucasian, no [one from] Philippines," he said.Authorities have yet to identify the individuals in the recordings or establish whether Markle Sr. owned, possessed or appeared in any of the recovered materials.The initial findings have also not established that the alleged abuse depicted in the videos occurred in the Philippines.Markle Sr.'s son, Thomas Markle Jr., turned over the devices to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking on Oct. 23, 2026.Investigators examined nine mobile phones, three SD cards, five hard drives and one camera, along with other non-digital items, after securing a warrant to access the devices' contents.The Women and Children Protection Center, RACU 7 and Police Regional Office Central Visayas (PRO 7) are conducting the investigation. PRO 7 has formed a task force to gather evidence and determine possible violations of Republic Act 11930, or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials Act.Asueta said investigators continue to

examine the recovered files and verify information through field investigations.Asueta confirmed that Markle Sr. had left the Philippines.The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and other American authorities are conducting their own investigations in coordination with Philippine law enforcement agencies.Markle Sr. moved from Mexico to Cebu in 2025 and reportedly lived with his son. He stayed in a high-rise apartment in Cebu City from January 2025 until May 2026.

- Pasig opens free EV charging station (2026-11-03 10:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Pasig City has opened a charging station for electric vehicles (EV) in Barangay Manggahan, which is available to the public for free, Mayor Vico Sotto said.In a Facebook post on Monday, Sotto said that the station is open to the public and may be used on a “first come, first served” basis, with priority given to city buses and other local government vehicles.“New electric vehicle charging station in Pasig (Manggahan). For now, it is open to the public and may be used for FREE,” he said in Filipino.“The whole project cost around P4 million, including the bathrooms, pavement, and, of course, the station itself,” the mayor said.

- Staggering evidence vs VP Sara will speak for itself — Ridon (2026-11-03 08:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The evidence presented against Vice President Sara Duterte will stand on its own merit whether or not she testifies in her impeachment trial, a member of the House prosecution team said on Tuesday.“Irrespective of whether the vice president actually presents herself in the proceedings, the staggering weight of the evidence will probably speak for itself,” Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry Ridon said in Filipino in an interview.Ridon was responding to Deputy Speaker Janette Garin's assessment that the prosecution could secure the 16 votes needed for conviction even if Duterte refuses to take the witness stand.“Let us see how this trial will conclude. We do not want to preempt the Senate impeachment court on this matter,” he said.The prosecution's remaining case, Article II, involves alleged unexplained wealth and inaccurate asset declarations.Forensic accounting expert and lawyer Alexander Cabrera earlier identified approximately P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth involving Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, from 2022 to 2025. A broader computation placed the amount at about P1.5 billion, which the defense has disputed.“Our hope is that the defense will answer each and every allegation, each and every piece of evidence that has been submitted for the consideration of the Senate impeachment court,” Ridon said.“We will see when the Vice President takes the witness stand,” he added.He likewise cited a recent Social Weather Stations survey showing that 78 percent of Filipino adults considered it important for Duterte to testify.“The surveys are clear. I think a majority of the nation would want to see the Vice President there explaining each and every part of her defense, particularly those properties that were not declared in her statements of assets, liabilities and net worth,” the lawmaker said.Meanwhile, Ridon said the prosecution expects a shorter defense presentation following the withdrawal of three impeachment articles on October 13, leaving unexplained wealth as the sole remaining charge.“Our expectation is that they will need less time to present their evidence on this matter,” he said, adding that the

prosecution expects the defense to submit its witness list by Wednesday or Thursday ahead of the trial's resumption on November 9.

• 15 Metro Manila prosecutors back Zalameda for chief justice (2026-11-03 07:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Supreme Court Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda has secured the unanimous endorsement of 15 Metro Manila chief prosecutors for the country's top judicial post, as Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo prepares to retire on November 6.The NCR Chief Prosecutors Association Inc. declared Zalameda its sole choice to succeed Gesmundo, citing his extensive experience in prosecution and the judiciary, legal expertise, leadership capabilities and record of public service.In Resolution No. 03, Series of 2026, the association said Zalameda possessed the professional qualifications and personal attributes needed to lead the Supreme Court and strengthen public confidence in the justice system.The endorsement was unanimously approved by the association's members and trustees during a meeting in Muntinlupa City on September 2.The resolution was signed by the chief prosecutors of Caloocan, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Navotas, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City, Taguig and Valenzuela.The prosecutors described Zalameda's career in public service as evidence of his commitment to justice and his ability to lead the country's highest court.

• No shoot-to-kill order vs Bato — PNP (2026-11-03 06:56)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) said on Tuesday that no shoot-to-kill order has been issued against Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.Col. Allen Rae Co, PNP spokesman, issued the statement after Cagayan de Oro Rep. Lordan Suan denied calling for a resolution seeking a shoot-to-kill order against the fugitive senator."May I remind the public to only share or believe information coming from verified and official sources. Wala pong shoot to kill na inilalabas (No shoot-to-kill order was issued)," Co said.As to claims that police are raiding homes of Dela Rosa's relatives and friends, Co clarified that police operations are being done lawfully.The PNP also said Dela Rosa is still in the Philippines.

• No price hikes until December — Palace (2026-11-03 06:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The prices of basic necessities and prime commodities will remain the same until the end of the year, Malacañang said on Tuesday.These include 190 products that are monitored by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), serving as a guide for stores and consumers regarding the prices of goods, Presidential Communications Office Claire Castro said.Castro said Trade and Industry Secretary Cristina Roque gave the assurance in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. that prices of basic necessities and prime commodities included in the DTI's suggested retail price (SRP) should not increase."According to the DTI report, the prices of DTI-supervised basic necessities and prime commodities will remain unchanged until December 31, 2026," Castro said in a press briefing.The DTI also confirmed that the supply of essential goods nationwide will not be affected, she said."To ensure the public knows which products are covered, the official SRP bulletin will be displayed

in supermarkets and groceries across the country," Castro said in Filipino.

• Lacson: Due process does not mean shielding Bato from ICC trial (2026-11-03 05:51)

MANILA, Philippines — Due process for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa does not mean shielding him from facing trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC), Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson said Tuesday, stressing that the senator should be allowed to answer the charges against him without risking violence during his arrest.Lacson said his call for due process for his embattled colleague was not an appeal to protect him from the ICC’s jurisdiction, but to ensure that authorities carry out his arrest without bloodshed.“To me, due process means allowing Senator dela Rosa to face trial before the ICC rather than risk violence and, worse, tragedy,” Lacson said.He reiterated that due process is a fundamental right that applies to everyone, including dela Rosa, who served under him in the Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the ICC in connection with killings linked to the war on drugs implemented under former President Rodrigo Duterte.The senator has been in hiding since last year. He briefly surfaced at the Senate last May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president then fled following a shooting incident.

• Ombudsman files graft raps vs 6 DPWH personnel, 7 others (2026-11-03 05:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Office of the Ombudsman on Tuesday filed graft and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan against six personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and seven private individuals over an alleged P491.9-million road right-of-way scam in General Santos City.The charges involve compensation for 18 parcels of land affected by the construction of the Digos-Makar National Road in Lagao, General Santos City.Former DPWH Region 12 regional director Subair Saro Diron and former assistant regional director Laureano Suan Jr. are among those charged.The Ombudsman said that the DPWH Region XII technical working group approved P491,931,120.20 in payments to claimants who were later found to have submitted falsified documents.The alleged scheme involved the use of a 2009 appraisal value of P3,500 per square meter to determine compensation for properties acquired by the government in the early 1990s, resulting in inflated right-of-way claims.Witness Roberto Catapang Jr., who admitted involvement in the alleged syndicate in a 2017 affidavit, said the group, “in collusion with respondent public officers,” collected government funds by fabricating and submitting fake documents.The Ombudsman said the charges followed National Bureau of Investigation reports submitted in 2018 and 2019. It ordered the dismissal of former DPWH Region 12 legal officer Ansare Mariga Busran in a separate administrative decision.

• Pinoy groups in Netherlands await arrest of Bato (2026-11-03 03:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino groups based in the Netherlands said they are awaiting the arrest of Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, who is the subject of an intensified police manhunt.Joel Vega, convenor of Panagutin Netherlands Network, said the former police chief should be brought before the International Criminal Court (ICC).“The ICC warrant must be

enforced, and he must be brought to The Hague to answer for his crimes," Vega said.Fiona Magallanes of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Netherlands agreed. "The pursuit of justice cannot stop with Rodrigo Duterte. Bato dela Rosa, one of the principal implementers of the so-called war on drugs, must now be brought to The Hague. Bato once declared that he was willing to join Duterte in prison. He must now make good on those words and face accountability alongside his former boss," Magallanes said.The groups issued the statements hours after the ICC held its final status conference in the Duterte case on Monday.Duterte was absent in the fifth pre-trial status conference. His trial will start on Nov. 30.

• DOLE launches Hotline 15/30 for distressed workers (2026-11-03 02:52)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has replaced its former 1349 hotline with Hotline 15/30, a 24-hour service for workers seeking assistance with labor-related concerns.Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino announced the new hotline during the agency's flag-raising ceremony on Tuesday.Tolentino said that the service operates nationwide manned by personnel ready to respond to workers' concerns. "By dialing 15/30, there will be someone available nationwide, 24/7, to answer concerns about workers' problems," Tolentino said.The hotline was named after the 15th and 30th days of the month, when many Filipino workers receive their salaries.DOLE and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) are also working on a referral mechanism to direct concerns received through the hotline to the appropriate agency.TESDA Director General Kiko Benitez said that inquiries received by DOLE through the hotline could be referred to TESDA when these concern the agency's services.

• DPWH to start C-5 rehabilitation in late November (2026-11-03 01:55)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will begin rehabilitating a 23-kilometer stretch of C5 Road from Kalayaan Interchange to Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City in the last week of November, Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Tuesday.Lopez said the project will follow the model of the ongoing EDSA rehabilitation, including wider sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.The project will undergo post-qualification of bids while the notice of award could be issued on Nov. 18, followed by a notice to proceed a week later, the DPWH chief said.He said the rehabilitation will address the deteriorating condition of C5 Road, where sections have developed potholes and uneven surfaces.The funding for the C5 project will come partly from savings generated by the EDSA rehabilitation, whose original budget of about P15 billion to P17 billion was reduced to P6 billion under the supervision of Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, who previously headed the DPWH.The government aims to complete improvements to both major thoroughfares during the term of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Lopez said.Meanwhile, the DPWH reopened the northbound and southbound lanes of the C5 flyovers in Pasig ahead of schedule following retrofitting work.Lopez said the northbound lane of the Boni Serrano flyover was reopened at 3 p.m. on Monday, while the Pasig Boulevard flyover's northbound lane reopened at noon and its southbound lane at midnight.The early reopening was intended to ease traffic for motorists

returning from the provinces and those heading to work on Tuesday, he.Lopez credited Dizon for helping monitor the projects, including the work of DPWH regional directors and district engineers, to ensure their timely completion.

• Private vehicles allowed to use EDSA busway for two weeks (2026-11-03 01:04)

MANILA, Philippines — Private vehicles will be temporarily allowed to use a portion of the EDSA busway from Nepa Q-Mart to Boni Avenue while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completes rehabilitation works, Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said on Tuesday.Dizon said the temporary measure will help minimize traffic disruptions as the government continues the second phase of the EDSA rehabilitation project.The busway section was reopened to motorists after the DPWH completed reblocking work covering about 990 square meters, Dizon said during an inspection of the area.He said the department will continue asphalt paving to improve the road surface, but private vehicles could use the section in the meantime while barriers remained open.The DOTr chief said the temporary arrangement will remain in place until the rehabilitation work is completed, which could take about two weeks.He said busway officials were instructed to inform bus operators about the temporary arrangement.Once the work is finished, the busway will return to its normal operation.Dizon said the decision was in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure the continuity of government projects and accelerate their implementation while minimizing inconvenience to motorists.The EDSA rehabilitation is part of the government's efforts to improve road conditions along Metro Manila's main thoroughfare while managing the impact of construction on daily commuters and motorists.

• ICC adopts hourly hearing blocks for Duterte trial (2026-11-03 00:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) will hold the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte in one-hour hearing blocks separated by 30-minute breaks, taking into account his age and medical condition.During the fifth status conference on Nov. 2, Presiding Judge Joanna Korner said the court will follow the experts’ recommendations by dividing the daily proceedings into shorter sessions with regular breaks.Under the schedule, hearings will run from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Manila time), followed by a 30-minute break before the second session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Manila time).The court will then break for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m (7:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Manila time). Afternoon proceedings will resume from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Manila time), followed by another 30-minute break before the next session from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (10 p.m. to 11 p.m. Manila time).The schedule may be adjusted as the trial progresses.In a ruling made public on Oct. 8, the ICC Trial Chamber III declared Duterte fit to stand trial after considering the findings of a panel of medical experts who assessed his ability to participate in the proceedings.Duterte’s defense had raised concerns about his cognitive abilities, particularly his memory and capacity to follow the proceedings and assist in his defense.The medical assessment considered whether he could understand the charges against him, follow the evidence, comprehend the proceedings and communicate effectively with his

lawyers.Duterte, 81, faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder allegedly committed in connection with his administration's war on drugs and related operations between November 2011 and March 2019.The trial is scheduled to begin on Nov. 30.

• Gatchalian sees BARMM moving toward lasting peace, economic development (2026-11-02 21:35)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday expressed optimism that the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is moving closer to lasting peace and economic development following the election of Abdulraof Macacua as the region's new chief minister.In a statement, Gatchalian congratulated Macacua on his election, saying he expected the new leadership to prioritize good governance, economic progress and the welfare of residents across the region. "We congratulate our fellow Filipinos in BARMM and Abdulraof Macacua on his election as chief minister. We believe the new leadership will advance good governance and, with the support of stakeholders, promote economic development and the welfare of everyone in the region," he said.The Senate President made the statement after members of the Bangsamoro Parliament convened for their inaugural session, during which Macacua was elected chief minister.Gatchalian said political blocs, civil society organizations and local government units should unite behind the newly elected administration to help ensure political stability and inclusive development. "Everyone has long hoped for lasting peace and prosperity in BARMM and throughout Mindanao. We are confident that we can achieve our dream of building more prosperous communities for our Muslim brothers and sisters and the entire region," he said.

• Heightened security maintained as Undas travelers head home (2026-11-02 21:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained heightened security at major transport terminals and key thoroughfares as millions of Filipinos began their return trips after spending this year's "Undas" holidays with their families.PNP Chief, Police General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez, Jr. ordered police personnel nationwide to prevent criminal activities, maintain peace and order, and ensure the safety of motorists and commuters amid the expected surge in passenger traffic.This is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr., through the guidance of DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla, to ensure peace and order, public safety, and ease traffic flow as millions travel back from the provinces. "As travelers make their way back to their homes, schools, and workplaces, the PNP remains fully mobilized to keep roads secure, maintain public order, and respond swiftly to any incident that may disrupt travel. Our priority is to ensure that every Filipino reaches their destination safely," Nartatez said in a statement on Monday. The top cop has directed all Police Regional Offices to sustain heightened visibility patrols along major highways, bus terminals, seaports, airports, and transport interchanges, particularly in areas where large volumes of passengers and vehicles are expected.With long journeys and heavy traffic expected during the return rush, Nartatez also reminded motorists to exercise caution and strictly

observe road safety regulations. “No destination is worth risking lives for. We urge motorists to follow traffic laws, avoid speeding, never drive under the influence of alcohol, refrain from using mobile phones while driving, and take adequate rest before long trips,” he said.More than 1.16 million people visited Manila’s two major public cemeteries on Nov. 1 to observe All Saints’ Day. Elsewhere in other parts of the country, millions more also visited their departed loved ones with their families.Nartatez called on the public to remain vigilant and responsible as they return to their respective destinations. “As we conclude this meaningful observance, let us carry home not only cherished memories of our loved ones but also a renewed commitment to protect one another through responsible and law-abiding behavior. The PNP stands with every Filipino in ensuring a safe journey back to daily life,” he said.

- DOH includes HIV testing in YAKAP program expansion (2026-11-02 19:03)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) is including HIV testing in the Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) as part of its measures to expand access to HIV services in the country.The department also cited plans to expand access to HIV services in primary care facilities and social hygiene clinics, promote HIV awareness in schools, workplaces and communities, and strengthen treatment monitoring.The measures also include ensuring adequate supplies of HIV medicines and improving access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), the DOH said.Health Secretary Edwin Mercado said that HIV can be controlled through consistent medication.The DOH also reported that the annual coverage of PhilHealth's Outpatient HIV/AIDS Treatment (OHAT) package was raised to P58,500 from P30,000.These initiatives are part of the Unified National Agenda for Health, the health department said.Mercado presented the measures during the Philippine National Convention on AIDS 2026, the DOH said in a statement issued on Saturday, Oct. 31.

- Oplan Galugad nets 2 most wanted persons in Pasay (2026-11-02 18:56)

The Pasay City Police Station's Oplan Galugad operation netted a top most wanted person on November 1, 2026, at the corner of F.B. Harrison and Valhalla streets in Barangay 70, Pasay City.Operatives identified the suspect as alias "Jude," 48, Filipino, single, a construction worker and a resident of Barangay 181, Pasay City.The arrest was carried out by personnel of the Pasay City Police Station led by PSMS Czairon Paul M. Joson, officer-in-charge of the Warrant and Subpoena Section (WSS), along with eight other personnel, under the leadership of Police Col. Robert Baesa, officer-in-charge of the Pasay City Police Station.The operation stemmed from a warrant of arrest for violation of Section 5(a) of Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, under Criminal Case No. R-PSY-24-00406-CR.The warrant was issued on October 19, 2026, by Judge Jehan Batua Sampao-Hassiman, presiding judge of the Family Court, Branch 11, Pasay City, for service of sentence.In compliance with Supreme Court Resolution A.M. No. 21-06-08-SC, or the Rules on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants, the arresting officers used an alternative recording device because body-worn cameras were unavailable.The accused is currently detained at the Pasay City Police Station's custodial facility. The warrant of arrest will be returned to the issuing

court for proper disposition.In a separate operation, police arrested another most wantedperson, ranked ninth on the list, during a manhunt operation at around 9 p.m. at the corner ofCommandante Garcia and Park Avenue streets in Barangay 88, Pasay City.The arrestedindividual was identified as alias "Burnok," 33, Filipino, single, unemployed and a resident ofBarangay 88, Pasay City.The arrest was carried out by Pasay City Police Station personnel led byPSMS Czairon Paul M. Joson, officer-in-charge of the WSS, along with eight other personnel,under the leadership of Police Col. Robert Baesa.The suspect was arrested under OplanGalugad by virtue of a warrant of arrest for violation of Section 11, Article II of Republic Act9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, under Criminal Case No.R-PSY-21-02449-CR.The warrant was issued on October 15, 2026, by Judge Gidget Rose VertidoDuque, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 119, Pasay City. Bail was set atP200,000.The arrested individual was informed of the reason for his arrest and apprised of hisconstitutional rights in a language he understood. He, however, opted to remain silent.Theaccused is currently detained at the Pasay City Police Station's custodial facility, while thewarrant of arrest will be returned to the issuing court for proper disposition.

- Marcos recalls scary childhood experiences at Baguio Mansion (2026-11-02 18:04)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recalled his spooky childhood memories of visiting the Baguio Mansion House.In a statement during All Souls’ Day on Monday, Marcos said the haunting experiences were not limited to visitors but also to those who lived and worked inside the mansion. “When we were young, we used to go there during Holy Week. Perhaps—I don’t know, maybe it was just our imagination—but it really felt like we were sensing something,” Marcos said in Filipino. “Those who lived there—especially the caretakers—would say themselves that they truly sensed things, heard things, and experienced events that they couldn’t quite explain,” he added

- PHIVOLCS warns of possible Mayon Alert Level 4 escalation (2026-11-02 18:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Following Mayon Volcano’s recorded explosive eruption, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) warned of a possible upgrade to Alert Level 4 after continued signs of heightened volcanic activity.In an interview with state-run media PTV’s “Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon” program on Monday, PHIVOLCS Director Dr. Teresito Bacolcol said that while the volcano remains under Alert Level 3, volcanic activity has persisted, including a minor strombolian activity observed at dawn lasting 41 seconds with a plume reaching 300 meters above the crater. “We also monitor what we call RSAM—or Real-Time Seismic Amplitude Measurement—which measures the average strength of recorded seismic signals over a set interval,” he said in both English and Filipino. “These are the indicators we look at to determine if the situation might escalate—potentially requiring us to raise the alert level to 4. However, based on what we are seeing right now, it remains at alert level 3,” he added.On October 30, Mayon Volcano had a moderate eruption which prompted the agency to raise the status to Alert Level 3.

- MNLF denies giving refuge to dela Rosa (2026-11-02 16:16)

THE Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has denied harboring Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, saying the claim it was providing refuge to the fugitive lawmaker was “speculation, not a confirmed fact.” The MNLF’s denial came as the Philippine National Police (PNP) intensified its manhunt for dela Rosa following the lapse of a one-week deadline for his surrender and the government’s offer of a P50-million reward for information leading to his arrest.In a statement dated Oct. 30, the MNLF said it has no formal relationship with dela Rosa. “The claim that the MNLF may be protecting him is speculation, not a confirmed fact,” the group said.The group acknowledged that dela Rosa had personal and political connections to figures associated with the organization, particularly through former president Rodrigo Duterte’s relationship with MNLF founder Nur Misuari.But it stressed that such connections did not establish that the senator was an MNLF member, an operational ally or someone currently under its protection.The group also pointed to divisions within the MNLF, saying it remained uncertain whether Misuari’s faction would be willing or able to prevent dela Rosa’s arrest.The senator has been out of public view since leaving the Senate on May 14, when authorities tried to serve him an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) over alleged crimes against humanity linked to the Duterte administration’s war on drugs.Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla said on Oct. 20 dela Rosa was in Mindanao under the protection of a powerful armed group.Remulla warned that a forcible arrest could trigger a bloody confrontation and that as many as 10,000 people could die.Remulla did not identify the group or disclose the specific location where dela Rosa was allegedly hiding.He said he preferred to negotiate the senator’s arrest to prevent a potentially deadly confrontation.LtGen. Wilson Lopez, PNP deputy chief for administration and head of the task force leading the manhunt for dela Rosa, said Remulla’s claim was being validated.Remulla announced the P50-million reward for information on dela Rosa’s arrest, declaring him “armed and dangerous.” He said the reward was intended to boost efforts to locate the senator.The PNP has organized task groups in all 18 police regions and deployed tracker teams to go after dela Rosa.The National Bureau of Investigation said it was coordinating with the PNP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government in efforts to track down the senator.The MNLF said dela Rosa’s public references to the organization had largely concerned the conflict in Marawi and peace-building initiatives.As a student in Marawi, dela Rosa had experienced fighting between government forces and the MNLF, it said.He had also supported programs benefiting former combatants and their children.The MNLF cited his advocacy for the faster integration of qualified MNLF and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members into the police and the military.It said these activities reflected policy-level engagement rather than evidence of personal or organizational ties.The MNLF acknowledged reports that Misuari and dela Rosa knew each other personally, but they did not prove that the organization was harboring the senator.

- Senate majority united in purging budget (2026-11-02 16:15)

THE Senate majority bloc is united in stripping the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget of questionable and corruption-prone allocations, including projects inserted by lawmakers

without proper vetting, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.In a social media post, Lacson said the majority was all for weeding out unwarranted allocations and ensuring transparency at every stage of the budget-making process. “The majority of senators are rallying behind Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito’s efforts to cleanse the 2027 budget of unwarranted, whimsical, and corruption-prone items,” Lacson said.Over the weekend, Ejercito secured a commitment from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to strike out infrastructure projects without complete supporting documents from the House-approved budget bill before plenary debates, unless the agency submits the required papers by Nov. 3.Budget advocacy groups had flagged the lack of supporting documents in the House version of the proposed spending measure.A Senate review found that the number of DPWH projects had increased from 11,420 in the National Expenditure Program, the executive branch’s original spending proposal, to 16,244 in the House-transmitted General Appropriations Bill.Of these, 6,271 projects were introduced by lawmakers without prior vetting by the executive branch, raising questions about how the additional infrastructure allocations were selected, evaluated and justified.Ejercito also said civil society organizations would be invited to observe the bicameral conference committee’s budget deliberations, where the Senate and House of Representatives reconcile their versions of the spending measure.The proceedings would also be livestreamed to allow the public to monitor discussions and proposed changes.The transparency measures are part of efforts to prevent the return of questionable budget practices, particularly the insertion of projects and allocations outside the regular planning and evaluation process.Lacson said the Senate majority had agreed to uphold transparency in the budget process by adopting reforms introduced by former Senate finance committee chairman and now Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian.The Senate has also been pushing for tighter controls on unprogrammed appropriations — standby funds that may be released only when specific legal conditions are met.The Supreme Court has previously struck down certain provisions governing such appropriations.Lacson said senators were taking a “gung-ho” or united approach to scrutinizing questionable allocations in the House version, and that no one would be spared, including lawmakers considered close to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.Asked in an interview on One News whether the Senate’s scrutiny would extend to the congressional district of presidential son and Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos, who recorded the largest net increase in public works allocations in the House-approved budget, Lacson replied: “Yes, absolutely.” He said he was not aware of any member of the majority bloc attempting to insert favored projects into the proposed budget.The Senate will resume plenary sessions on Nov. 9, when debates on the proposed 2027 budget are expected to begin.It hopes to approve the spending bill in time for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to sign the measure by the second week of December.Ejercito said the Senate aims to submit its committee report on the proposed budget on Nov. 9, with plenary debates scheduled from Nov. 23 to Dec. 1.He said the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte, budget deliberations and other official commitments had made the legislative calendar particularly challenging.Ejercito said he had discussed the budget timeline with his counterparts in the House to find common ground before the bicameral conference committee deliberations.Among his priorities are restoring funding for foreign-assisted infrastructure projects and the Health Facilities Enhancement

Program, which he said had suffered substantial cuts.Delays in foreign-assisted projects could slow down infrastructure development and job creation, Ejercito said.He also wants to improve provincial and locally operated hospitals, many of which he said were overcrowded and needed additional support and facilities. “My advocacy is infrastructure development. We do not want foreign-assisted projects or other nation-building initiatives to be delayed. We are already lagging behind our neighboring countries,” he said.Ejercito stressed the need for a comprehensive master plan to guide infrastructure spending and ensure that public funds support projects with long-term national benefits.He said district-level projects should complement national priorities, particularly major infrastructure initiatives involving flood control and road development.On Monday, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco backed Ejercito’s call for complete documentation and justification of 6,271 infrastructure projects added by the House to the proposed 2027 budget. “I fully support Senator JV Ejercito. Every peso included in the national budget must have a clear justification, complete documentation, and someone who can be held accountable. Projects cannot simply be inserted without sufficient explanation,” Tiangco said in Filipino in a statement.Tiangco, who voted against the House-approved 2027 budget over transparency and accountability concerns, said Congress must be able to justify every allocation it approves. “If we cannot explain why a project is needed, why it is a priority, and how it will be implemented, why should we fund it?” he said.Tiangco has made public the proposed infrastructure projects and corresponding allocations for his city, urging other lawmakers to adopt the same disclosure standard.He warned that questionable allocations could come at the expense of essential public services, stressing the need for stricter scrutiny of taxpayers’ money. “Transparency is how we prevent corruption. Accountability is how we make sure it doesn’t happen again. If we are serious about cleaning up the national budget, every project must be explainable and every peso must be accounted for,” Tiangco said.

- Pangilinan calls for price freeze, crackdown on hoardersPangilinan calls for price freeze, crackdown on hoarders (2026-11-02 16:14)

TO prepare for a severe El Niño, Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to automatically freeze prices in areas placed under a state of calamity and intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers and cartels.In a statement, Pangilinan called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Health and Price Coordinating Council to step up market monitoring, enforce price controls, and recommend price ceilings to protect consumers from unreasonable increases. “We must not allow anyone to profit from an impending calamity at the expense of Filipinos who are already struggling, particularly farmers and fisherfolk who also have to buy food in the markets. During a crisis, consumers must be protected from exploitation,” he said.He cited Section 6 of Republic Act 7581, or the Price Act, as amended by Republic Act 10623, which sets an automatic price freeze on basic necessities in areas declared under a state of calamity.Under the law, prices are generally frozen at their prevailing levels for the duration of the condition that triggered the declaration, but for no more than 60 days.For wholly imported and deregulated basic necessities, such as household liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene, the price freeze is limited

to 15 days, taking into account existing inventory and supply levels.Pangilinan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, said government agencies and law enforcement authorities must also go after individuals and companies involved in hoarding, profiteering and cartel activities during periods of drought and water shortages.Section 5 of the Price Act prohibits hoarding, profiteering and cartels involving basic necessities and prime commodities.Pangilinan said the crackdown "must not end with frontline sellers. We must target those at the very top." "If we go after only small retailers, our efforts will be meaningless. We must hold big business operators, owners and the masterminds behind syndicates involved in hoarding and price manipulation accountable," he said.Under the Price Act, illegal price manipulation is punishable by imprisonment of five to 15 years and a fine ranging from P5,000 to P2 million.Violations of automatic price freezes or mandated price ceilings are punishable by imprisonment of one to 10 years, a fine of P5,000 to P1 million, or both.Pangilinan also warned that public officials who conspire in or knowingly conceal violations of the law could be held accountable.He said consumer protection must go hand in hand with safeguarding food production and the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk, who are particularly vulnerable to prolonged droughts and water shortages. "We know that a severe El Niño is approaching, so there is no reason for us not to prepare for its effects. It is time to be proactive rather than reactive. Our people will once again suffer if we fail to take the right, effective and immediate action," Pangilinan said.He urged the DA, National Irrigation Administration, concerned water agencies and utilities, and LGUs to repair and maintain irrigation facilities, communal water systems, pumps and distribution lines, while publishing irrigation schedules and water-supply advisories.Pangilinan said the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act (RA 12287) sets contingency plans to mitigate damage to agricultural products and the food supply in areas declared under a state of imminent disaster.The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121), meanwhile, provides for the programming or reprogramming of funds for the repair and safety upgrading of public infrastructure and facilities following a declaration of a state of calamity.

- Pangilinan calls for price freeze, crackdown on hoarders (2026-11-02 16:14)

TO prepare for a severe El Niño, Sen. Francis Pangilinan on Monday urged the government to automatically freeze prices in areas placed under a state of calamity and intensify its crackdown on hoarders, profiteers and cartels.In a statement, Pangilinan called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Health and Price Coordinating Council to step up market monitoring, enforce price controls, and recommend price ceilings to protect consumers from unreasonable increases. "We must not allow anyone to profit from an impending calamity at the expense of Filipinos who are already struggling, particularly farmers and fisherfolk who also have to buy food in the markets. During a crisis, consumers must be protected from exploitation," he said.He cited Section 6 of Republic Act 7581, or the Price Act, as amended by Republic Act 10623, which sets an automatic price freeze on basic necessities in areas declared under a state of calamity.Under the law, prices are generally frozen at their prevailing levels for the duration of the condition that triggered the

declaration, but for no more than 60 days.For wholly imported and deregulated basic necessities, such as household liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene, the price freeze is limited to 15 days, taking into account existing inventory and supply levels.Pangilinan, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, said government agencies and law enforcement authorities must also go after individuals and companies involved in hoarding, profiteering and cartel activities during periods of drought and water shortages.Section 5 of the Price Act prohibits hoarding, profiteering and cartels involving basic necessities and prime commodities.Pangilinan said the crackdown "must not end with frontline sellers. We must target those at the very top." "If we go after only small retailers, our efforts will be meaningless. We must hold big business operators, owners and the masterminds behind syndicates involved in hoarding and price manipulation accountable," he said.Under the Price Act, illegal price manipulation is punishable by imprisonment of five to 15 years and a fine ranging from P5,000 to P2 million.Violations of automatic price freezes or mandated price ceilings are punishable by imprisonment of one to 10 years, a fine of P5,000 to P1 million, or both.Pangilinan also warned that public officials who conspire in or knowingly conceal violations of the law could be held accountable.He said consumer protection must go hand in hand with safeguarding food production and the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolk, who are particularly vulnerable to prolonged droughts and water shortages. "We know that a severe El Niño is approaching, so there is no reason for us not to prepare for its effects. It is time to be proactive rather than reactive. Our people will once again suffer if we fail to take the right, effective and immediate action," Pangilinan said.He urged the DA, National Irrigation Administration, concerned water agencies and utilities, and LGUs to repair and maintain irrigation facilities, communal water systems, pumps and distribution lines, while publishing irrigation schedules and water-supply advisories.Pangilinan said the Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act (RA 12287) sets contingency plans to mitigate damage to agricultural products and the food supply in areas declared under a state of imminent disaster.The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121), meanwhile, provides for the programming or reprogramming of funds for the repair and safety upgrading of public infrastructure and facilities following a declaration of a state of calamity.

- ICC expects Duterte to attend trial daily (2026-11-02 16:13)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) on Monday said it expects former president Rodrigo Duterte to attend his trial for crimes against humanity daily when it opens on Nov. 30.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner said the chamber had allowed Duterte to skip Monday's status conference in his case. "Once the actual trial starts, we will expect, as we said, attendance on a daily basis," Korner told the parties during the open session.The chamber also agreed to allow Duterte's defense team to outline its position at the start of the trial, even if it does not deliver a formal opening statement.Korner said Duterte's counsel, Peter Haynes, could explain the defense's position to the public before the prosecution and the Common Legal Representatives of Victims deliver their opening statements.The arrangement would not prevent the defense from making an opening statement at the beginning of its case, although

the chamber may shorten the time allotted for it.Haynes said he was inclined to make an opening statement at the start of the trial, citing Duterte's status and the nature of the case.He said the defense would finalize its position within the next few days.The prosecution said it was working to reduce its opening statement from six hours to about three hours.The victims' representatives also plan to deliver an opening statement after the prosecution. Their counsel, Paolina Massidda, said the team was working on shortening its presentation.During the same hearing, the chamber rejected a request by the victims' representatives to use Tagalog for limited portions of their opening statement.Massidda told the judges that the team wanted to quote portions of victims' accounts in Tagalog to help Filipino victims following the proceedings connect with the experiences being presented to the court.She said the use of Tagalog would be limited to about 15 to 20 minutes of the overall presentation, with individual passages lasting only a minute or two.Korner said the Rome Statute identifies English and French as the ICC's working languages and that exceptional grounds would be needed to permit the use of another language.She noted that not all victims speak Tagalog, with some using other Philippine dialects.The judge said the court would ensure interpretation of the proceedings and consider whether Tagalog translations or transcripts could be made available on the ICC website.The chamber affirmed that the opening statements must be delivered in English, citing the court's language requirements and concerns that allowing exceptions could lead to additional requests, greater complexity and higher costs.Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder in connection with killings allegedly committed during his term as Davao City mayor and president.The charges cover alleged killings in Davao City between 2013 and June 2016, killings of so-called high-value targets nationwide from July 2016 to July 2017, and killings during barangay "clearing" operations from July 2016 to September 2018.Duterte was turned over to the ICC in March 2025 and is being held at the court's detention center in The Hague, the Netherlands.He has denied the allegations.

- Senate urged to probe slay of 'green warriors' (2026-11-02 16:12)

SEN. Jinggoy Estrada wants the Senate to investigate the killings of environmental defenders in the Philippines, which Global Witness has again ranked as Asia's deadliest country for people protecting land, natural resources and communities.In Senate Resolution 697, Estrada urged the appropriate Senate committees to examine the findings of the Global Witness 2026 report and determine what legislative measures are needed to protect environmental defenders and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. "We must not turn a blind eye, especially as these killings continue. Ordinary people are simply defending their land, livelihoods and the environment, yet they end up losing their lives. This should never happen," Estrada said.The report identified the Philippines as the deadliest country in Asia for environmental defenders for the 13th consecutive year. It documented at least 124 land and environmental defenders killed worldwide in 2025.The Philippines recorded 12 killings, the highest number outside Latin America, tying with Honduras for the third-highest total globally, behind Colombia with 39 and Brazil with 26.Of the 12 victims in the Philippines, six were Indigenous people, three were

small-scale farmers and one was a journalist.Environmental defenders include individuals and communities who peacefully protect land rights, natural resources and the environment. They include Indigenous leaders, farmers, journalists and community advocates who speak out against activities they believe threaten their land, livelihoods or surroundings.Global Witness noted that land disputes were linked to more than half of the killings recorded worldwide in 2025. Mining, logging and agribusiness interests were also identified as contributing factors in attacks against defenders.The report flagged five killings in the Philippines in which members of the military were suspected of involvement. One of the cases cited was that of 65-year-old farmer Veronico Anterio, who was allegedly shot dead by soldiers after speaking out against restrictions on residents' working hours and movement.Global Witness also raised concerns over the use of criminalization and "red-tagging" — the practice of labeling individuals or groups as communist insurgents or terrorists — which exposes environmental advocates to threats, harassment and other forms of reprisal.The Commission on Human Rights has warned about the continuing threat posed by red-tagging. Following a nationwide inquiry in 2025, the commission called for stronger government action to protect human rights defenders, citing the practice of publicly labeling individuals and organizations as communists, terrorists or enemies of the state, often without due process.From 2012 to 2024, Global Witness recorded a total of 306 killings and disappearances in the Philippines.The organization cautioned that its figures may underestimate the actual scale of violence because attacks can go undocumented or remain difficult to verify, particularly in areas where conflict, restrictions on civic space and limited independent monitoring hamper investigations.Estrada said the figures tarnished the country's international reputation, particularly given its commitments under international human rights agreements, and pointed to shortcomings in protecting Filipinos from violence.He said the proposed Senate inquiry would allow lawmakers to scrutinize the report's findings, assess whether existing safeguards are adequate and identify gaps in the law that leave environmental defenders vulnerable to violence and intimidation. "More than a decade has passed, yet the killings continue. Those responsible must be held accountable, and justice must be served for the victims and their families," Estrada said.

- Puno backs Marquez's bid for chief justice post (2026-11-02 16:11)

THE next chief justice must be able to work beyond the Supreme Court and coordinate with other branches of government to speed up the delivery of justice, retired Chief Justice Reynato Puno said in endorsing Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez for the top post in the judiciary.In a letter to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. dated Oct. 14, Puno said Marquez's extensive administrative background, familiarity with the Supreme Court's internal operations and experience coordinating with other branches of government make him a strong candidate to lead the judiciary.Puno stressed that the country's mounting challenges require a coordinated, whole-of-government approach, including in the delivery of justice."Our problems today need the whole nation approach, and we need officials like Justice Marquez who can work out the speedy delivery of justice to our people in seamless coordination with the Executive and Legislative branches of our government," Puno said. Puno, who served as chief

justice from December 2006 to 2010, said he had personally witnessed Marquez's work ethic and professional competence during his 17 years at the Supreme Court.When Puno assumed the chief justice post in December 2006, Marquez served as his chief of staff while concurrently holding key positions as assistant court administrator, head of the Public Information Office and Supreme Court spokesman.Puno said Marquez performed these responsibilities with consistent excellence. Marquez has served the Supreme Court for 30 years, including about 12 years as court administrator before becoming an associate justice five years ago.His extensive administrative experience has given him an intimate understanding of the Judiciary's operations, particularly the internal processes and management demands involved in running the country's highest court, Puno said." More than any aspirant, Justice Marquez is most familiar with how the Supreme Court works, especially its internal processes," he added.Beyond his experience within the Judiciary, Puno highlighted Marquez's exposure to inter-branch relations through assignments that required him to coordinate with officials of the Executive and Legislative departments.He described Marquez as possessing "cerebral competence, compassionate heart and unquestionable dedication to public service." Puno also expressed confidence that Marquez enjoys the trust and respect of the Judiciary's various components, including Supreme Court justices, judges and court personnel."Given all his qualifications vis-à-vis the other aspirants, I am certain that Justice Marquez can lead the Judiciary to higher heights of achievements, for he is beloved by all its components, the Justices, the Judges and the Court Personnel," Puno said.He told Marcos that endorsing Marquez was not simply a privilege but a responsibility in the interest of the Filipino people."Mr. President, I do not only consider it a privilege but a duty to endorse Justice Midas P. Marquez as the next Chief Justice, as it is the demand of the greatest interest of our people," he said.Marquez is among the possible successors to Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, whose retirement will pave the way for the selection of the Supreme Court's next leader through the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) nomination process.

- Gasoline prices up (2026-11-02 16:10)

OIL companies raised the prices of gasoline on Tuesday but lowered the cost of diesel and kerosene.Shell, Seaoil, PetroGazz, and Jetti Petroleum hiked gasoline prices by P3.50 per liter, and lowered diesel prices by P1 per liter. Shell and Seaoil reduced kerosene prices by P1.90 per liter. Last week, gasoline prices went down by P0.30 per liter, while diesel and kerosene prices went up by P1.20 per liter and P0.50 per liter.

- BRP Sierra Madre: Eight decades of service (2026-11-02 16:09)

THE Philippine Navy's BRP Sierra Madre, an aging warship that has served as a military outpost at Ayungin Shoal for more than 27 years, carries a legacy of service spanning generations of Filipino servicemen who have stood watch in the West Philippine Sea, often far from their families.As the country observed All Souls' Day, the vessel's 82-year history offers an occasion to remember those who served aboard it and have since passed away, honor those who continue to defend the country's maritime interests, and recognize the families who have supported

them through years of separation and uncertainty.Originally commissioned as USS LST-821 on Oct. 27, 1944, the landing ship tank was built during World War II, when vessels of its class transported troops, vehicles and supplies for amphibious operations.The ship was transferred to the Philippines in 1976 and became part of the country's naval fleet as BRP Sierra Madre.More than two decades later, on May 9, 1999, it was deliberately grounded at Ayungin Shoal, also known internationally as Second Thomas Shoal, to establish a Philippine military outpost in the disputed waters.Since then, the vessel has assumed a role far removed from its original purpose. Once designed to transport military personnel and equipment, it became a fixed outpost for Filipino troops maintaining the country's presence in the West Philippine Sea.RefurbishmentAfter decades of exposure to the elements, the rusting vessel requires continued maintenance to sustain the Philippine outpost and improve conditions for the personnel stationed aboard it.The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been pursuing measures to maintain the ship and improve its habitability, including better facilities for troops living aboard the vessel.AFP spokesman for the West Philippine Sea Rear Adm. Roy Vincent Trinidad said that funds had long been allocated for the ship's upkeep and improvements to living conditions. He maintained that despite its weathered appearance, the commissioned warship remained structurally sound and would continue serving its purpose at Ayungin Shoal.The refurbishment effort follows earlier initiatives to repair the vessel and provide more decent sleeping and dining facilities for personnel assigned to the remote outpost.In 2023, then-AFP chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. said the military was undertaking superficial repairs to improve the troops' living conditions, including their sleeping quarters, dining facilities and internet access.Keeping the vessel serviceable and habitable helps sustain the Philippine military presence at Ayungin Shoal, where the country faces persistent challenges from China's maritime activities.China has objected to the repair and construction activities involving the ship. However, the Department of Foreign Affairs said the provisional understanding between Manila and Beijing governing rotation and resupply missions contained no provision prohibiting repairs or construction aboard the BRP Sierra Madre.The Philippines maintains that it has the right to maintain its commissioned naval vessel and sustain its personnel at the shoal.Beyond its strategic importance, the vessel's history is defined by the generations of military personnel who have lived and worked aboard it.For troops assigned to Ayungin Shoal, service means enduring isolation, difficult living conditions and the uncertainty of operating in waters where encounters with Chinese coast guard and maritime militia vessels can escalate into dangerous confrontations.The regular rotation and resupply missions that sustain the outpost have repeatedly faced challenges from Chinese vessels seeking to block or disrupt Philippine operations.These confrontations have drawn international attention to the shoal, but the daily realities of deployment extend beyond the geopolitical dispute.For servicemen stationed aboard the aging ship, their responsibilities include maintaining the outpost and carrying out their duties despite the hardships of living in a remote location far from their families.Their loved ones, meanwhile, must contend with prolonged separation and the anxiety that comes with having family members assigned to a contested maritime area.The vessel's legacy is therefore measured not only by its decades of service or its role in the Philippines' territorial position, but also by the sacrifices of the servicemen who have served aboard it and the families who have

supported them.Sustaining PH presenceMore than 80 years after its launch, the BRP Sierra Madre connects the country's wartime naval history with its present-day maritime challenges.Its continued presence at Ayungin Shoal demonstrates Manila's determination to maintain its position in the West Philippine Sea. The shoal lies within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, although China also claims the area.The 2016 arbitral ruling in the Philippines' case against China invalidated the legal basis for China's expansive claim to historic rights within the so-called nine-dash line. Beijing has rejected the ruling.The vessel remains a focal point of Philippine-China tensions, with Filipino personnel relying on regular resupply missions for food, water, fuel and other necessities.Maintaining the aging ship and improving conditions for its occupants are part of the broader effort to sustain that presence.But its story is also one of continuity: a vessel launched during World War II that has outlived its original purpose and became a symbol of national resolve, supported by generations of servicemen whose duties have taken them far from home.The ship's history recalls not only the passage of time but also the people who have given meaning to its service — the personnel who have stood watch, those who have passed on and the families who continue to wait for their loved ones to return safely home.

- Lazaro ends Myanmar trip with no Suu Kyi meeting (2026-11-02 16:08)

YANGON, Myanmar — Asean’s special Myanmar envoy, Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro, wrapped up a two-day visit to the nation Thursday, with no sign of meeting detained democratic ex-leader Aung San Suu Kyi.The Philippines, which holds the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), has repeatedly called this year for access to Suu Kyi, detained since being unseated in a 2021 military coup.The status of the 81-year-old has long been a sticking point for the 11-nation Asean bloc, which has frozen Myanmar’s leaders out of its summits since the putsch.Lazaro and Foreign Minister Tin Maung Swe “held substantive discussions on ways to restore Myanmar’s original role and rights within Asean,” according to a statement from Myanmar’s foreign ministry.It did not mention any meeting with the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi, who authorities say is under house arrest in the capital Naypyidaw.The foreign ministry earlier said Lazaro had spent Wednesday in the eastern state of Shan, overseeing humanitarian schemes aiding those displaced in the civil war triggered by the coup.This year, analysts say authorities have allowed Suu Kyi increasing — albeit still extremely limited — contact with the outside world in a bid to shake off their pariah status abroad.Last week, there were two rare updates on Suu Kyi.On Monday, authorities in Myanmar said she received a package from Britain’s King Charles, including two books about soil and a “sealed diplomatic communication” from the monarch.Her UK-based son Kim Aris was then allowed a 20-minute consular phone call with her last Thursday, their first spoken communication in more than half a decade.He told Agence France-Presse (AFP) his mother sounded “fairly healthy” but he feared she was being used as a pawn to improve the public image of those detaining her.The Philippines requested “brief access” for Lazaro to meet Suu Kyi in April, after authorities said she was moved from prison to house arrest.In August, when she met Myanmar’s senior Red Cross official, they made a renewed call for access.

• PH joins Asian countries, US in fight vs online scams (2026-11-02 16:07)

THE Philippines has joined eight other Asia-Pacific countries and the United States in strengthening cross-border law enforcement cooperation against online scams, fraudulent recruitment, and other transnational crimes.Rendel Ryan Sy, acting chief of the Bureau of Immigration's (BI) Fugitive Search Unit, represented the country in the US Department of State's three-week International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) held from Oct. 3 to 24, 2026. The program, titled "Law Enforcement Solutions to Combat Online Scams and Transnational Crime," brought together regional leaders to address the growing intersection of digital fraud and organized crime.The program gathered officials from the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand.Through this exchange, the BI aims to improve intelligence-sharing mechanisms, enhance its ability to track fugitives, and better protect potential victims from exploitative situations often linked to international criminal network.The three-week exchange covered Washington, D.C.; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Seattle, Washington, where delegates engaged with US government agencies, courts, financial institutions, technology organizations and community groups.Discussions focused on the growing threat of online fraud, including scams targeting ordinary citizens and fraudulent overseas job offers used to lure unsuspecting workers into potentially exploitative situations.Participants also explored ways to improve intelligence-sharing and coordination among law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and telecommunications companies to detect scams, gather digital evidence and disrupt criminal networks operating across borders.US officials shared strategies on fraud prevention, victim assistance and public-private partnerships, while community organizations discussed ways to protect vulnerable groups, particularly senior citizens, from online criminals.The exchange highlighted the increasingly blurred lines between online scams, human trafficking and other forms of organized crime, underscoring the need for countries to work together in tracking suspects, protecting victims and prosecuting offenders. "Behind every scam are real victims and families," Sy said, stressing that stronger partnerships with regional neighbors, US counterparts and communities are essential in confronting increasingly sophisticated criminal networks.BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said Sy's participation would help strengthen the agency's ability to track fugitives, exchange intelligence and prevent foreign criminal groups from using Philippine territory as a base for illegal activities. "Transnational crime demands a coordinated response that goes beyond borders," Viado said.He added that sharing intelligence and law enforcement expertise with international partners would improve the country's ability to dismantle criminal networks and protect Filipinos.

• Gatchalian wants pet crematoriums probed (2026-11-02 16:05)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian has called for a nationwide inspection of pet crematoriums and other animal aftercare businesses after 29 dead pets were found dumped along a roadside in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.Gatchalian said pet owners who paid for what they expected to be a dignified final farewell for their beloved companions were instead left with the distressing discovery that the animals had been discarded like garbage. "Grieving pet

owners paid for a decent final farewell for their beloved companion animals, only for them to be dumped like garbage on a roadside," he said in a statement. "This is a clear case of fraud, and those responsible for such an offense must be held accountable," he added.The remains of the dogs and cats were discovered in a vacant lot in Barangay Minuyan Proper. The animals were found inside plastic bags placed in several large sacks, with labels bearing their names and weights.Linked to the incident was Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite, after pet owners raised complaints over the fate of their deceased animals entrusted to the establishment for cremation.Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the crematorium closed after its owner failed to present sufficient documentation and CCTV footage proving that the cremations had actually been carried out. The owner reportedly said some animals had been brought to another facility in Caloocan City for cremation but could not provide adequate proof of the procedures.More than 30 pet owners sought answers from the establishment, with some considering legal action and seeking compensation for the alleged failure to deliver the services they had paid for.The Philippine Animal Welfare Society also urged affected pet owners to pursue legal action, saying the alleged misrepresentation of cremation services could constitute estafa under Article 315(2)(a) of the Revised Penal Code.Against this backdrop, Gatchalian urged local government units (LGUs) nationwide and concerned government agencies, particularly the Bureau of Animal Industry, to inspect and audit all operating pet service providers, including crematoriums.He said authorities must verify whether these establishments are properly licensed, comply with environmental and sanitation regulations, and observe clear standards of integrity in handling deceased animals.Gatchalian said he could relate to the grief of pet owners who consider their animals members of the family. "As a pet parent myself, it is heartbreaking and alarming to hear about our beloved pets being treated this way when we consider them members of our family," he said.

- Go bats for stronger fire prevention (2026-11-02 16:04)

SEN. Christopher "Bong" Go has called for stronger fire prevention measures, including more firefighting equipment, additional personnel and regular public safety campaigns, warning that a blaze in one house can put an entire neighborhood at risk.During his recent visit to fire-affected families in Barangay 75-A Matina Aplaya, Davao City, Go said the government must strengthen the capabilities of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and intensify community education to prevent fires and minimize their impact on neighboring households. "People must really be taught to take precautions because whenever one house catches fire, the neighbors are affected, too," Go said. "We cannot always predict what life will bring. We may encounter misfortune and suffer a house fire. That is why, as one of the authors of the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act in the Senate, we are pushing for additional firefighting equipment, more personnel, and monthly public education campaigns," he said.Go's visit came three days after a fire struck the community on Oct. 25. Together with his Malasakit Team, he provided 42 families with financial assistance, water containers, grocery packs, snacks, vitamins, shirts, and basketballs and volleyballs.The senator has pushed for legislative measures aimed at strengthening fire prevention, emergency preparedness and disaster response,

particularly by improving the capabilities of frontline responders and providing communities with better protection during emergencies.Among them is RA 11589, or the Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act, which he principally authored and co-sponsored.Go also cited RA 12076, or the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act, signed into law on Dec. 6, 2024. As principal author and co-sponsor, he helped advance the measure requiring the establishment of permanent, safe and well-equipped evacuation centers in every city and municipality.

- Police maintain tight security measures (2026-11-02 16:03)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained heightened security at major transport terminals and key thoroughfares as millions of Filipinos return home from a long holiday weekend. “As travelers make their way back to their homes, schools, and workplaces, the PNP remains fully mobilized to keep roads secure, maintain public order, and respond swiftly to any incident that may disrupt travel. Our priority is to ensure that every Filipino reaches their destination safely,” said PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. in a statement on Monday.Nartatez directed all police regional offices to sustain visibility patrols along major highways, bus terminals, seaports, airports, and transport interchanges, particularly in areas where large volumes of passengers and vehicles are expected.He also reminded motorists to exercise caution and strictly observe road safety rules. “No destination is worth risking lives for. We urge motorists to follow traffic laws, avoid speeding, never drive under the influence of alcohol, refrain from using mobile phones while driving, and take adequate rest before long trips,” he said.Millions flocked to cemeteries across the country during the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day. In Manila alone, more than 1.16 million people visited the city’s two major cemeteries.The National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) reported confiscating 4,922 prohibited items from cemetery visitors during All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day in Metro Manila.LtCol. Hazel Asilo, NCRPO spokesman, said Monday there were no reported disturbances in cemeteries, bus terminals and other places of convergence in the capital region.The confiscated items included cigarette lighters, cigarettes and electronic cigarettes or vapes, Asilo said.Despite annual reminders about cemetery regulations, some visitors continued to bring prohibited items, either because they were unaware of the restrictions or ignored the rules, she said.

- American with P17.46M marijuana stash nabbed (2026-11-02 16:02)

AN American passenger was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) after authorities seized P17.46 million worth of suspected marijuana kush concealed in his luggage, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said.The seizure at NAIA Terminal 3 over the weekend brought to nearly P24.8 million the value of marijuana kush intercepted at the airport within four days.The bureau, in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group, recovered 17,464 grams of marijuana kush from the American, who arrived from Bangkok, Thailand.Customs personnel flagged the passenger’s two checked-in suitcases after X-ray screening showed suspicious images. A subsequent K9 inspection also indicated the possible presence of illegal drugs, prompting a thorough physical

examination.Inspectors discovered the illegal substance in 15 vacuum-sealed packets concealed in food packages.Five packages weighing 5,122 grams, with an estimated street value of P5.12 million, were recovered from the first suitcase. The second contained 10 packages weighing 12,342 grams and valued at P12.34 million.The American's arrest came three days after the interception of 7,335 grams of suspected marijuana kush worth P7.33 million from abandoned luggage at NAIA Terminal 3 on Oct. 26.The bags also originated from Bangkok, and were concealed in aluminum food pouches and sealed plastic bags.The seized contraband was turned over to the PDEA for proper disposition and the filing of appropriate charges.BOC-NAIA District Collector Yasmin Obillos-Mapa credited the seizures to intensified airport surveillance and close coordination among law enforcement agencies.Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno commended the BOC personnel, PDEA and NAIA-IADITG, and said the fight against illegal drugs requires sustained vigilance and cooperation among law enforcement agencies.

- Science-based climate action pushed for LGUs (2026-11-02 16:01)

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC) stressed the need to make local climate plans better by using scientific data and creating practical solutions that fit each community's specific risks and goals.The agency said there is a need to strengthen the Enhanced Local Climate Change Action Plans (eLCCAPs) of local government units (LGUs) to ensure that their climate actions are scientifically sound and inclusive by conducting a workshop with officials from Iloilo, Misamis Oriental, and Oriental Mindoro. "It is through a science-driven eLCCAP that a provincial government can determine with mathematical precision which barangay requires an early warning system first, which critical watershed demands immediate ecological restoration, and which agricultural assistance programs must be restructured to withstand rising heat index levels," said CCC Commissioner Rachel Anne Herrera during the workshop, stressing that the initiative aims to cater to the local needs of each community to fortify their climate resilience.As of October 2026, 91 percent of LGUs nationwide submitted their climate plans. However, only 68 percent relied on science, highlighting the need to improve LGUs' technical skills so their plans are based on actual evidence and local vulnerabilities. Allen LimosThe two-day Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development was held to review climate data, share best practices, and improve their eLCCAPs.During the workshop, the provinces reviewed climate hazards, impacts, and adaptive capacity, refined impact chain analyses, and created priority recommendations. Their feedback will help improve the eLCCAP Quality Assurance Tool and guide the creation of an eLCCAP Quality Assurance Guide. "The eLCCAP turns our highest national commitments — our National Adaptation Plan and our Nationally Determined Contribution — from high-level policy declarations into concrete, life-saving local actions," Herrera added.The workshop also highlighted the need for climate action plans to be gender-responsive and socially inclusive. Herrera stressed the importance of including women in climate consultations and planning, noting that climate change disproportionately burdens women due to their household and caregiving roles.

- Intramuros home to some final resting places, memorials (2026-11-02 15:29)

MANILA, Philippines — Intramuros, the Walled City of Manila, is indeed historic: Within its walls are stories of many people who lived, or died, throughout Manila's history starting from the precolonial era.Some of its sites serve as final resting places or memorials through which the Intramuros Administration (IA) remembered the departed on All Souls' Day."Let us take a moment to honor the departed and remember the lives that continue to be part of Intramuros' rich heritage," the IA said in a post on Facebook wherein it shared photos of the sites.Among these are the White Cross in Fort Santiago and Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument.The White Cross is "a marble monument marking the mass grave of about 600 civilians found after the 1945 Battle of Manila," the IA said, adding, "It also honors those imprisoned in the fort whose remains were never recovered."Beside the White Cross stands a copy of St. Gertrude's prayer for the commemorated souls.The Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument was erected on the battle's 50th anniversary and "honors the 100,000 civilians who perished, including those whose remains were never recovered," the IA said.Also included in its post was the site of the World War II mass graves found in the 80s."In 1981, workers from the Intramuros Administration uncovered four graves at the Revellin del Parian containing the remains of 123 people, including Japanese soldiers and civilians," the IA said. The soldiers' remains have since been turned over to and interred in Japan while the civilian remains have likewise since been given a final resting place.Also included in its post was the Palacio del Gobernador which, it said, "served as the seat of executive power from the 1640s to 1863." The IA said, "It witnessed the 1719 assassination of Governor-General Fernando Bustamante, the 1823 Novales mutiny, and the 1945 massacre of 120 civilians by Japanese troops in air raid shelters within its ruins."General Luna St., which runs along the Palacio del Gobernador, leads visitors to the Memorare-Manila 1945 Monument and also to the San Agustin Church, a survivor of World War II."Miguel López de Legazpi, the founder of Manila and the Philippines' first governor-general, was buried at San Agustin Church after his death in 1572. His tomb, east of the main altar, also contains the remains of Juan de Salcedo and Guido de Lavezaris, which were desecrated during the British invasion in 1762," the IA said.The church has a crypt which, the IA said, "features a memorial to priests killed during the 1945 Battle of Manila and the tombs of patriots Juan Luna and Maria Orosa."While Luna is best known for the Spoliarium, Maria Orosa is known as the inventor of the banana ketchup.Meanwhile, a part of Jose Rizal's spine is at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' Museo ni Rizal in Fort Santiago. The IA said the fragment is "believed to bear marks from the bullets fired during his execution on" Dec. 30, 1896. "The rest of his remains lie beneath the Motto Stella, or Rizal Monument, at" the Rizal Park, the IA said.The other church in Intramuros, the Manila Cathedral, also has a crypt which, the IA said, "serves as the burial place of former Archbishops of Manila, including" Michael O'Doherty, Gabriel Reyes, Rufino Santos, and Jaime Sin."As we observe All Souls' Day, we remember the departed through the historic sites across Intramuros that serve as their final resting places and lasting memorials," the IA said."From tombstones and church crypts to war memorials, these heritage sites preserve the stories, sacrifices, and legacies of those who have become part of the Walled City's history," it said.And today, while some of the people mentioned above might have stood on sides opposite each other when Spain ruled the Philippines or during World War 2 and while their stories are not forgotten, the Philippines now has better relations with other countries including Spain and

Japan whose envoy to the Philippines, Ambassador Kitagawa Katsuro, its embassy in the Philippines said about a week ago, "emphasized the importance of remembering the devastation of war and the preciousness of peace" and "reaffirmed his commitment to further strengthen the friendship between Japan and the Philippines."From the information in the embassy's post on Facebook, he made the emphasis and the reaffirmation in a message for the memorial service for the war dead which was organized by an association and held at the Philippine-Japanese Friendship Memorial Shrine in Baguio. The embassy said that Chief Consul Yamazaki Masakazu delivered the message on his behalf.

- 14 Filipino seafarers rescued from sunken ship return home (2026-11-02 15:25)

MANILA, Philippines — Fourteen Filipino seafarers who were rescued after their ship was hit by maritime drones in the Black Sea returned to the Philippines on Monday, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.The seafarers arrived at Clark International Airport aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR926 from Doha, Qatar.They were among the 18 crew members of the Liberian-flagged container ship M/V Contship Jet, which was hit by three maritime drones on Oct. 28 while sailing from Haifa, Israel, to Constanta, Romania. The other four crew members were Ukrainians.All 18 crew members were rescued with the assistance of the Bulgarian Navy and border police vessels and brought to Varna, Bulgaria, for medical checks. The vessel later sank, according to the Bulgarian Maritime Administration.The Filipino seafarers temporarily stayed at a hotel in Varna while Bulgarian authorities interviewed them and their repatriation arrangements were being completed.OWWA Regional Welfare Office III provided airport assistance to the returning seafarers at Clark International Airport and said it was prepared to provide post-repatriation services.

- Fair weather forecast for most parts of PH on Tuesday (2026-11-02 13:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Generally good weather is expected in a large part of the Philippines on Tuesday."The weather will continue to be good in a large part of our country. Isolated light rain showers or drizzles are just possible here in the Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region as well as Cagayan Valley. This is still due to the northeast monsoon," Weather Specialist Grace Castañeda-Carpio said in Filipino and English the 5 p.m. weather update of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).As to the rest of Luzon including Metro Manila, she said that the skies would be partly cloudy to cloudy on Tuesday. It is possible that localized thunderstorms will cause isolated rain showers, based on Pagasa's forecast.Castañeda-Carpio said the skies would continue to be partly cloudy to cloudy on Tuesday in Palawan, the Visayas, and Midnanao. It is possible that localized thunderstorms will cause isolated rain showers by afternoon and evening, based on the forecast. "During severe thunderstorms, it is still possible for us to experience heavy rain," she said, cautioning the public.No gale warning was issued.

- ICC urges prosecution to limit nearly 20,000 evidence items in Duterte case (2026-11-02 12:32)

MANILA, Philippines — International Criminal Court (ICC) judges urged prosecutors to narrow their nearly 20,000-item evidence list in the crimes against humanity case against former president Rodrigo Duterte, saying they should select documents most capable of proving the charges rather than submit every piece of material connected to the alleged killings.During the fifth status conference on Monday, defense counsel Peter Haynes said the prosecution's evidence list contained 15,529 non-witness items and another 3,712 witness-related items, bringing the total to 19,241.The list has grown nearly fourfold from approximately 5,000 items presented during the confirmation of charges stage, Haynes told the chamber.Prosecutors said that a substantial portion of the evidence came from a large dataset of government and Philippine National Police records on drug-related killings.The dataset contained information on approximately 3,422 deaths nationwide that authorities attributed to police operations during the period under investigation.The prosecution said the material was initially unstructured and required years of manual review, with analysts coding individual pages and organizing the records into a searchable database.The prosecution said it had removed about 10,000 duplicate documents from the dataset and selected materials relevant to the 57 incidents identified in its trial brief, as well as alleged killing hotspots and matters particularly relevant to the third count.It maintained that it had not submitted the entire dataset as evidence but had selected what it considered the most important documents to support its case.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, however, questioned the need to include so many documents, particularly if several exhibits established the same facts.She said prosecutors should choose the strongest evidence rather than include every document connected to an incident.The defense, she noted, would have access to the other materials and could seek to introduce documents it considered necessary.The prosecution acknowledged that it could further reduce its evidence list and said it would review which items could be removed or streamlined.The prosecution explained that the list had been kept relatively broad partly because the team did not know which witnesses would ultimately be available to testify. It also wanted to avoid having to seek repeated permission to introduce additional documents during the trial.Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder allegedly committed during his tenure as Davao City mayor and president. He has denied the allegationsHis trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30 before ICC Trial Chamber III in The Hague, the Netherlands.

- ICC rejects request to use Tagalog in Duterte trial (2026-11-02 11:53)

MANILA, Philippines — The International Criminal Court (ICC) has rejected a request by victims' representatives to use Tagalog in portions of their opening statement in the trial of former president Rodrigo Duterte, ruling that the presentation must be delivered in English.Paolina Massidda, counsel for the victims, asked the court to allow limited use of Tagalog to quote portions of victims' accounts during the opening statement when Duterte's trial begins on Nov. 30.Massidda said the request was intended to help Filipino victims following the proceedings connect with the experiences being presented to the judges.She told the chamber that the use of Tagalog would be limited to about 15 to 20 minutes of the overall presentation, with individual passages lasting only a minute or two.Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, however, said

the Rome Statute identifies English and French as the ICC's working languages and that exceptional grounds would be needed to permit the use of another language. “The Rome Statute is quite clear. The working languages of the court are English and French,” Korner said.The judge also noted that Tagalog was not spoken by all victims, some of whom speak other Philippine languages.Korner said the court would ensure that the proceedings were interpreted and that it would consider whether Tagalog translations or transcripts could be made available on the ICC website.The ruling means the victims' representatives must deliver their opening statement in English, although interpretation will be provided during the proceedings.The prosecution is expected to deliver its opening statement first, followed by the victims' representatives. The prosecution said it was working to limit its presentation to about three hours or less, while the victims' team was also reviewing the time allotted for its statement.Duterte's trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30 before ICC Trial Chamber III in The Hague, the Netherlands.The former president faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving murder and attempted murder in connection with killings allegedly committed during his tenure as Davao City mayor and president.The charges cover alleged killings in Davao City between 2013 and June 2016, killings of so-called high-value targets nationwide from July 2016 to July 2017, and killings during barangay clearance operations from July 2016 to September 2018.

• Mayon continues to show heightened volcanic activity — Phivolcs (2026-11-02 08:50)

MANILA, Philippines — Mayon Volcano continued to show signs of heightened volcanic activity following its eruption last week, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Monday.Phivolcs Director Dr. Teresito Bacolcol said that while the volcano remains under Alert Level 3, volcanic activity has persisted, including a minor strombolian activity observed at dawn lasting 41 seconds with a plume reaching 300 meters above the crater. “We also monitor what we call RSAM—or Real-Time Seismic Amplitude Measurement—which measures the average strength of recorded seismic signals over a set interval,” he said in both English and Filipino in an interview with PTV. “These are the indicators we look at to determine if the situation might escalate—potentially requiring us to raise the alert level to 4. However, based on what we are seeing right now, it remains at alert level 3,” he added.On October 30, 2026, Mayon Volcano had a moderate eruption which prompted the agency to raise its status to Alert Level 3.

• BuCor denies charging NBP inmates for water (2026-11-02 07:46)

MANILA, Philippines — The superintendent of the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) has denied allegations that persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) were made to pay for their water supply amid the repair of the national penitentiary’s water pumps.NBP Superintendent Gary Garcia said on Monday that the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) was purchasing additional water from Maynilad Water Services Inc. and deploying fire trucks to ensure adequate supply.Garcia stressed that water delivered by Maynilad and BuCor fire trucks to inmates is free.He issued the clarification following reports that inmates were being required to pay for their water supply. “I held a

dialogue with the PDLs yesterday, and they confirmed that the water supplied by Maynilad and the water delivered by BuCor fire trucks are free of charge because the agency is shouldering the expenses," Garcia said.From Oct. 29 to Nov. 1, Maynilad delivered 80 cubic meters of water to the prison's Reception and Diagnostic Center (RDC).BuCor fire trucks made five deliveries during the same period.The RDC reported a daily cost of P14,538.54 and a total cost of P58,154.16 for the four days of Maynilad deliveries.Garcia said the prison's water pumps remained under repair, echoing BuCor Director General Gregorio Pio P. Catapang Jr.'s disclosure last week.The BuCor said it would continue working to restore the prison's water pumps while maintaining water deliveries through Maynilad and the use of fire trucks.

- PH, US ties stronger than ever — ambassador (2026-11-02 05:35)

MANILA, Philippines — United States Ambassador to Manila Lee Lipton said the recent visit of Secretary of War Pete Hegseth underscored the "genuine importance" the US places on Southeast Asia and on its "extraordinary alliance" with the Philippines.Hegseth attended the 13th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Cebu on October 29."Our commitment to Philippine security is ironclad," Lipton said on Monday, adding that Washington and Manila pursue a shared vision for a peaceful, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific."As we mark 75 years of the US-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty, our message is clear: our alliance is stronger than ever," the ambassador said."We stand firmly with the Filipino people in defending sovereignty, protecting territorial integrity, and upholding the freedom of navigation on which we all rely for vibrant global commerce," Lipton stressed."With President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., the United States and the Philippines have built a powerful partnership grounded in shared principles, mutual respect, and an unwavering commitment to regional stability," Lipton said."That partnership is demonstrated every year through hundreds of joint exercises and training events, hundreds of millions of dollars in US security assistance, expanded maritime cooperative activities, disaster response support, public health assistance, and frequent engagements between our senior defense and security leaders. We're in this for the long-term," he said.

- MNLF denies sheltering Bato (2026-11-02 05:01)

MANILA, Philippines — The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has denied sheltering Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, dismissing as speculation claims that the fugitive lawmaker may have sought refuge with an armed group in Mindanao.In a statement, the MNLF said it had no relationship with dela Rosa.The group said dela Rosa's public references to the MNLF stemmed mainly from his experiences during the Marawi conflict and his support for peace-building programs benefiting former combatants and their children.It also cited the senator's advocacy for the faster integration of qualified MNLF and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) members into the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), saying this reflected policy-level engagement rather than personal or organizational ties.The MNLF acknowledged that its founder, Nur Misuari, was known to be a friend of dela Rosa's political patron, former president Rodrigo Duterte. It also noted reports that Misuari and dela Rosa

personally knew each other.However, the organization stressed that these connections did not establish that dela Rosa was an MNLF member, an operational ally or someone currently under its protection.It said claims that the MNLF was protecting the senator remained speculative, adding that the organization was fragmented and it was uncertain whether Misuari's faction would be willing or able to shield him from arrest.The statement came amid speculation over dela Rosa's whereabouts and possible links to an armed group in Mindanao.

- On All Saints' Day, Philippine town honors dead with fire (2026-11-02 02:55)

SAGADA Philippines — Tiny pinewood bonfires burned through the night at a mountain cemetery as the largely Christian Philippines remembered its dead, turning the fog-shrouded hilltop into a vast, fragrant altar of light.The eerie Panag-aapoy ("to light a fire") ceremony in the tourist town of Sagada has marked All Saints' Day for the past 122 years, said Winston Garlejo Menong, director of the Episcopal Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, which owns the cemetery.As night crept in and darkness blanketed the four-hectare burial ground, the hum of activity and thick smoke gave way to a sepulchral glow as fires burned for its more than 2,000 dead.The Cordillera mountain region's animist residents adopted Christianity only after Spain ceded the Philippines to the United States in 1898, four centuries after Spanish friars had converted the people of the coasts to Catholicism.US Protestant missionaries encouraged Sagada's residents to bury their dead and light candles on their graves, he said."In our Biblical context, Christ is the light," Menong said.Be it with candles or the pine sticks preferred in Sagada, lighting a flame is " inviting the presence of Christ with us, having fellowship with our departed loved ones", he said.Respecting boundariesSagada's first Christians burned pinewood because candles were expensive and their flames were easily snuffed out by wind -- unlike the brisk burn of the aromatic, sap-rich pines that cover the Cordilleras, Sagada tourism officer Maria Teresa Abad said.The practice echoes the burning of incense in Buddhist rituals, though pine's sharp natural scent makes it stand out from the aromatic powders used in joss sticks.Cybil Domoguen returned to Sagada this year with her father and a bundle of 20-inch (51 centimetre) pine sticks to honour the grandparents who had raised her there."It's very unusual that people actually come here to watch. Usually one comes to the cemetery to pray for a dead relative," the 31-year-old teacher told AFP."If a grave does not have any visitors, people make sure to light some sticks for them."Like others participating in the ceremony, she has conflicted feelings about the growing tourist presence."Last year, there were tourists who were taking pictures of us, which was uncomfortable," she added."We have no problem with strangers as long as they respect boundaries."Hanging coffinsThe people of Sagada did not always light flames over their dead, or even bury them.Before the missionaries arrived, the preferred practice was to hang coffins from the walls of cliffs or wedge them into the mouths of caves, a custom that only fully died out in 2010, Abad, the tourism officer, said.Some of the "hanging coffins" can still be seen on nearby Sagada cliffs."Traditional burial beliefs associate caves and elevated burial places with the spirit's passage toward the ancestral realm", something burial would hinder, she said.It also had the practical benefit of keeping remains safe from wild animals and flooding.Over time, as Sagada's mild climate and abundant waterfalls turned it into a popular refuge from the

tropical heat, the Panag-aapoy -- and the hanging coffins -- became massive tourist draws in themselves, to the chagrin of residents.The church and local government have since taken steps to protect the region's cultural heritage. AFP

• Police deny Bantag escaped arrest in Ifugao (2026-11-02 02:21)

MANILA, Philippines — The Police Regional Office Cordillera Administrative Region (PROCOR) on Monday denied reports that former Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) chief Gerald Bantag escaped arrest during a police operation in Lamut, Ifugao.PROCOR clarified that no arrest was made during the operation, meaning Bantag remains at large.It said the Ifugao Police Provincial Office and the 15th Special Action Company of the 1st Regional Mobile Force Battalion conducted an operation in Sitio Alupapan, Barangay Pugol to verify information about Bantag's whereabouts.However, the former corrections chief was not found at the location.Lamut Mayor Mariano Bayawagan Jr. earlier claimed that Bantag escaped during the police operation.According to the mayor, police received information that Bantag was hiding at a poultry farm in Barangay Pugol and allegedly posing as a worker there.Bantag faces murder charges over the October 2022 killings of broadcaster Percival “Percy Lapid” Mabasa and New Bilibid Prison inmate Cristito “Jun” Villamor Palaña, the alleged middleman in the journalist’s murder.The Department of Justice (DOJ) indicted Bantag and his former deputy, Ricardo Zulueta, in March 2023 for the two killings.Lapid was shot dead by motorcycle-riding gunmen near his residence in Las Piñas City on Oct. 3, 2022.Villamor, who was allegedly involved in arranging the killing, died inside the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City on Oct. 18, 2022, shortly after the suspected gunman, Joel Escorial, surrendered to authorities and admitted his role in the broadcaster’s killing.A forensic examination found that Villamor died of asphyxia due to plastic-bag suffocation, prompting a separate murder investigation.Prosecutors alleged that Bantag masterminded Lapid’s killing and that Villamor was killed to prevent him from revealing details of the plot.Bantag and Zulueta denied the allegations. Arrest warrants were issued against them in 2023.Zulueta died in March 2024.

• Lacson: Senate majority to strip 2027 budget of ‘pork' (2026-11-02 01:41)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate majority bloc is united in stripping the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget of questionable and corruption-prone allocations, including projects inserted by lawmakers without proper vetting, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.Lacson said on Monday the majority, including himself, backed efforts to weed out unwarranted allocations and ensure transparency at every stage of the budget-making process. “The majority of senators are rallying behind Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito’s efforts to cleanse the 2027 budget of unwarranted, whimsical, and corruption-prone items. — ALL MEANS ALL!” Lacson said in a social media post.Over the weekend, Ejercito secured a commitment from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to remove infrastructure projects without complete supporting documents from the House-approved budget bill before plenary debates, unless the agency submits the required documents by Nov. 3.Budget advocacy groups earlier cited the lack of supporting documents as one of the red flags in the House version of the

proposed spending measure, warning that projects without clear documentation and proper justification could become vehicles for questionable spending.A Senate review found that the number of DPWH projects had increased from 11,420 in the National Expenditure Program, the executive branch's original spending proposal, to 16,244 in the House-transmitted General Appropriations Bill.Of these, 6,271 projects were introduced by lawmakers without prior vetting by the executive branch, raising questions about how the additional infrastructure allocations were selected, evaluated and justified.Ejercito also announced that civil society organizations would be invited to observe the bicameral conference committee deliberations on the budget, where the Senate and House of Representatives reconcile their respective versions of the spending measure. The proceedings would also be livestreamed to allow the public to monitor discussions and proposed changes.The transparency measures are part of broader efforts to prevent the return of questionable budget practices, particularly the insertion of projects and allocations outside the regular planning and evaluation process.

- Gatchalian seeks crackdown on pet crematoriums (2026-11-02 01:31)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian has called for a nationwide inspection of pet crematoriums and other animal aftercare businesses after 29 dead animals were found in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.Gatchalian said pet owners who paid for what they expected to be a dignified final farewell for their beloved companions were instead left with the distressing discovery that the animals had been discarded like garbage.He denounced the incident as a “clear case of fraud.” “Those responsible for such an offense must be held accountable,” he said.The pet dumping was linked to Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium in Bacoor City, Cavite.Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the crematorium closed after its owner failed to present sufficient documentation and CCTV footage proving that the cremations had actually been carried out. The owner reportedly said some animals had been brought to another facility in Caloocan City for cremation but could not provide adequate proof of the procedures.Gatchalian urged local government units (LGUs) nationwide and concerned government agencies, particularly the Bureau of Animal Industry, to conduct inspections and audits of all operating pet service providers, including crematoriums.He said authorities must verify whether these establishments are properly licensed, comply with environmental and sanitation regulations, and observe clear standards of integrity in handling deceased animals.He stressed that businesses offering pet cremation and aftercare services must be “licensed, environmentally compliant, and held to clear standards of integrity” to ensure that no other family experiences similar treatment.Gatchalian also expressed dismay over the incident, saying he could relate to the grief of pet owners who consider their animals members of the family. “As a pet parent myself, it is heartbreaking and alarming to hear about our beloved pets being treated this way when we consider them members of our family,” he said.

- Govt urged to extend soft loans to MSMEs, farmers (2026-11-01 22:16)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian called on the government to make available urgent financing assistance, including soft loans, to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and

the agriculture sector as the economy faces mounting risks of slower growth.In a statement, Gatchalian said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) recent 50-basis-point interest rate hike could make borrowing more expensive and further restrict access to credit at a time when businesses need support to stay afloat. "Economic growth is already slowing, and now interest rates have gone up. We do not want more Filipinos to lose their jobs and the unemployment rate to rise further," he said.The Monetary Board raised the BSP's target reverse repurchase rate to 5.5 percent on Oct. 22, its fourth consecutive rate increase this year and its first 50-basis-point hike since February 2023.The overnight deposit and lending facility rates were also raised to 5 percent and 6 percent, respectively.The central bank said it decided on a larger rate adjustment to address broadening price pressures and rising inflation risks. It warned that inflation could accelerate further in the coming months and remain elevated through 2027, with higher global oil prices, transportation fare increases and the potential effects of El Niño on agricultural production and food prices contributing to the outlook.The BSP also raised its 2027 inflation forecast to 6 percent from its previous projection of 5.4 percent, while keeping its 2026 forecast at 6.1 percent.It said the rate adjustment was intended to contain the wider effects of price increases and keep inflation expectations anchored.Gatchalian said the government should be ready to offer concessional loans to MSMEs and agricultural producers to help them manage higher financing costs, sustain operations and avoid layoffs.MSMEs account for the vast majority of businesses in the Philippines and provide a significant share of employment, making access to affordable credit important to business continuity and livelihood protection.Farmers, meanwhile, need financing for seeds, fertilizer, fuel and other production expenses, particularly as climate-related risks and volatile oil prices threaten agricultural output and incomes.While the BSP's rate increases are aimed at curbing inflation, higher policy rates can also translate into more expensive borrowing for businesses and consumers, depending on how banks adjust their lending rates.Gatchalian also cited other downside risks, including elevated inflation driven by rising petroleum prices amid continuing tensions in the Middle East, the threat of an extreme El Niño, and weak investor confidence amid corruption issues in government. "These challenges are piling up at a time when our economy is already facing difficulties. We must ensure that businesses, particularly MSMEs and those in the agriculture sector, have access to the financing they need," he said.Higher fuel prices could increase transportation, production and logistics costs, while prolonged dry conditions could affect farm output and drive up agricultural production expenses. Together with tighter credit conditions, these pressures could weigh on business activity, household purchasing power and employment.Gatchalian said timely government assistance would be crucial in helping businesses weather the economic headwinds and preventing further job losses. "We cannot afford to abandon the private sector, especially at a time when economic growth is slowing. The government must take the lead in providing support," he added. CATHERINE VALENTE

- BOC holds first Export Summit for Filipino businesses (2026-11-01 22:14)

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) said that Filipino products boast world-class quality but still struggle to break into foreign markets.Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said the BOC

is stepping up efforts to help Filipino businesses penetrate international markets by bringing exporters face-to-face with government agencies at its first-ever Export Summit over the week to address trade barriers and simplify export procedures.Nepomuceno said the BOC wants to make exporting easier and more predictable so Filipino entrepreneurs can concentrate on growing their businesses and reaching more customers abroad. “The quality of Filipino products is already there. What we need are more opportunities for them to reach more markets,” he said. “Our job at the Bureau of Customs is to make the process simpler and more efficient so our exporters can focus on growing their businesses,” he added.Organized under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Agaton Teodoro Uvero of the Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), the summit focused on customs procedures, free trade agreements, regulatory requirements and government support programs.The initiative comes as the government seeks to expand the country’s export footprint, with many Filipino businesses still struggling to navigate complex customs rules, comply with changing regulations, and maximize opportunities under existing trade agreements.Port Operations Service Director Melon Carlo Santiago said government agencies must remain responsive to exporters’ concerns and ensure policies and services keep pace with industry demands.Participants received updates on customs processes, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), export assistance programs, and developments involving the Asean Single Window. They also had the opportunity to raise operational concerns directly with government representatives.For Kayrel P. Buenafe, chief of the BOC Export Coordination Division, the summit was an opportunity to strengthen trust between government and the private sector. “Every shipment leaving our ports carries more than goods. It carries the hard work of our producers, the aspirations of our workers, and the promise of a stronger Philippine economy,” Buenafe said.Beyond facilitating shipments, the BOC also helps local producers compete internationally, opening opportunities for business expansion, increased export earnings, and wider access to foreign markets.The export summit is part of BOC’s trade facilitation reforms aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.‘s directive to improve the country’s competitiveness and expand opportunities for Philippine-made products in the global marketplace.

- ‘No sacred cows in budget review’ (2026-11-01 16:20)

NO LAWMAKER will be spared scrutiny in the Senate's review of the proposed 2027 national budget, as senators correct questionable allocations and budget insertions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.Lacson said he and fellow members in the Senate majority bloc fully support Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. JV Ejercito in raising red flags in the House-approved version of the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA). “Our attitude now is to go gung-ho. If anyone gets hit, so be it,” he said in an interview with One News.Asked whether the scrutiny would cover the biggest net increase in public works allocations for the congressional district of presidential son and Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos in the House-approved budget, Lacson replied: “Yes, absolutely.” “If we make exceptions, many will ask for exceptions, and we won't succeed because there will be plea bargaining,” he said.The Senate is scheduled to

resume plenary sessions on Nov. 9, when debates on the proposed 2027 budget will begin.Lacson said he had submitted his subcommittee reports on the proposed budgets of government agencies assigned to him, which are now being reviewed by the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO). “Once the plenary sessions resume, the LBRMO would have finished its review, and we can introduce amendments to restore the changes the House made to its version of the General Appropriations Bill,” he said.Lacson expressed confidence that questionable insertions would not find their way into the Senate version of the budget, citing the sentiments of his colleagues in the majority bloc. “In the Senate, I don't know if someone sneaked in funds for pet projects, but I don't think so. When we in the majority bloc chat, I can feel my colleagues' sentiments,” he said.The Senate may invite civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly budget advocacy groups, to observe the bicameral conference committee proceedings and expose lawmakers who attempt to insert questionable allocations, he said.He said he had challenged budget watchdogs to be prepared to sit through lengthy deliberations so they could witness the proceedings firsthand. “We must not just be vigilant. We may have to resort to shaming because there are those who are shameless in making insertions, and we are still reeling from the flood control scandal,” Lacson said.The country, he added, needs a fundamental overhaul of its budget process to curb political patronage and ensure that government allocations reflect the actual needs and priorities of local government units (LGUs).He lamented that political affiliations appeared to influence budget allocations, with administration allies receiving larger funding while lawmakers in the minority were given little or nothing.He cited instances when contractors for infrastructure projects appeared to have been predetermined even before the contracts were awarded. “In Taguig, for example, before the contract is awarded, the contractor is already known. This is a matter of record. The evidence is with the Ombudsman,” he said.Lacson likewise raised concerns over the continued issuance of guarantee letters (GLs), despite provisions in the 2026 GAA banning it. “We need a re-engineering of the budget. We cannot have more of the same. Up to now there are guarantee letters even if the 2026 GAA banned them. These may be residues of past budgets. But I know congressmen who still offer GLs,” he said.He said reforms should begin with the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), which prepares the government's proposed spending program, to prevent questionable insertions from entering the National Expenditure Program (NEP) even before it reaches Congress.The proposed 2027 budget amounts to P7.2 trillion, about P407 billion or 6 percent higher than the 2026 budget.The House of Representatives approved its version of the General Appropriations Bill on third and final reading on Oct. 12, incorporating about P116 billion in amendments.The Senate is conducting its own review before the two chambers reconcile their respective versions in the bicameral conference committee.The bicameral stage is critical because lawmakers from both chambers settle differences in their respective budget proposals before submitting the final version for ratification and presidential approval.Ejercito said opening the bicameral proceedings to public observation would build on the transparency measures adopted by the Senate Finance Committee throughout its budget review. “All Senate Finance Committee budget hearings were livestreamed, which allowed the public to follow agency deliberations in real time,” he said.The committee held a dedicated hearing for CSOs on Oct. 26.Ejercito welcomed the

groups’ calls to remove budget insertions without technical justification and restore funding cuts to foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, disaster preparedness and preventive health programs.The push for closer scrutiny comes amid concerns raised by budget watchdogs over the details and locations of some proposed projects.The House Appropriations Committee has said the bicameral conference could still address reported discrepancies in farm-to-market road project coordinates, including locations allegedly pointing to bodies of water.Ejercito said public participation should extend beyond congressional hearings to citizens' access to budget information and tools for scrutinizing government spending.The committee has incorporated digital tools developed by civil society groups, including independent research organization BetterGov.ph, into the Senate’s budget transparency portal (https://budget-transparency-portal.senate.gov.ph).Through the portal, citizens can review agency budget documents, submit position papers and flag allocations they consider questionable. “Transparency is not just a policy statement; it is an active mechanism. These tools were built by watchdogs themselves, and we are glad to give them a home on the Senate website so ordinary citizens can scrutinize where public funds are going,” Ejercito said.

- What to expect at Duterte’s ICC trial (2026-11-01 16:09)

FORMER president Rodrigo Duterte’s trial at the International Criminal Court (ICC) will open on Nov. 30, with judges set to read the charges, ask him to enter a plea, and hear opening statements before the prosecution begins presenting its evidence.The proceedings, scheduled to start at 10 a.m. in The Hague (5 p.m. Manila time) will examine allegations that Duterte committed crimes against humanity of murder and attempted murder in the Philippines between Nov. 1, 2011, and March 16, 2019.The charges have been confirmed for trial. Prosecutors must prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt, and the defense will have the chance to challenge the evidence and present its own case.Here is how the trial is expected to proceed.Opening dayThe three-judge Trial Chamber III will first verify that Duterte understands the nature of the charges against him. The judges will then ask whether he admits guilt or pleads not guilty.The court will read the charges previously confirmed by the ICC’s Pre-Trial Chamber.The prosecution will deliver its opening statement first, followed by the Common Legal Representatives of Victims (CLRVs).The defense may also deliver an opening statement at the start of the trial or immediately before presenting its evidence.The prosecution has six hours to present its opening statement, while the victims’ representatives have three hours. The judges have yet to determine how much time to give to the defense.Duterte faces three counts of crimes against humanity involving alleged killings during his time as Davao City mayor and president.The first count concerns alleged murders in Davao City during his mayoral period, from 2013 to June 2016.The second concerns the killings of people described as “high-value targets” during his presidency, from around July 2016 to July 2017.The third involves alleged murders and attempted murders during barangay clearing operations across the country from July 2016 to September 2018.Prosecutors allege that the crimes were committed as part of a widespread and systematic attack against a civilian population.The charges relate to crimes committed between November 2011 and March 2019. Duterte has not

been convicted of these charges.The prosecution's caseAfter the opening statements, the prosecution will call its first witness. It will also present testimony and documentary, digital or physical evidence against Duterte.The judges have asked the prosecution for a detailed trial brief, which is intended to identify the principal facts the prosecution seeks to establish, the witnesses who will testify, relevant exhibits and the legal arguments.The prosecution must establish the accused's guilt to the standard required by the ICC.The party calling a witness will generally question that witness first. The victims' legal representatives may ask questions, followed by the prosecution.The defense can challenge prosecution witnesses by questioning their credibility and the reliability of their testimony.Not all testimony or evidence will necessarily be presented in the same way. Under the court's rules, certain previously recorded testimony may be submitted through procedures that do not require the witness to physically testify.The victims' representatives Victims will participate through the Common Legal Representatives of Victims, who can present their views and concerns and make submissions on matters affecting their personal interests.Their role is distinct from that of the prosecution, which carries the burden of proving the charges.The chamber's directions allow for a possible presentation of evidence by the representatives.The ICC intends, insofar as possible, to hear witness testimony in public.However, some portions of the proceedings may take place in private or closed session when necessary, including to protect sensitive information or witnesses.The court's directions require the parties to respect protective measures ordered for witnesses and to limit private or closed sessions to what is strictly necessary.After the prosecution completes its presentation, the victims' legal representatives may submit observations and, if authorized by the judges, present evidence.The defense will then present its case and call witnesses. It may challenge the prosecution's evidence and offer its own evidence in response to the charges.The chamber has directed the defense to identify the principal factual or legal issues it disputes with the prosecution and outline the general nature of its defense.The court has also clarified that this does not prevent the defense from raising additional issues later if they emerge during the trial or its investigations.Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou, will examine the arguments and evidence presented during the trial before delivering a judgment. They may convict Duterte only if they are satisfied that the charges have been proved beyond reasonable doubt.If the prosecution fails to meet that standard, the court cannot convict him.

- Secrecy key in hunting fugitives – LacsonSecrecy key in hunting fugitives – Lacson (2026-11-01 16:08)

SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Sunday stressed the importance of keeping sensitive information confidential when pursuing high-profile fugitives.Lacson made the remark as authorities intensified the hunt for Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, whose one-week deadline to surrender had lapsed. "SSSHHH... When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key — unless disinformation is necessary to flush the quarry into the open," Lacson said on a social media post.He said disclosing sensitive information ahead of an operation should be done only as a tactic to draw a wanted person out of hiding.Interior

Secretary Jonvic Remulla announced a P50-million reward for information leading to dela Rosa’s arrest.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court in connection with the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s campaign against drugs. He has not attended Senate sessions since late last year.He briefly resurfaced on May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president but was sneaked out of the Senate premises during a shooting incident two days later.Sen. JV Ejercito urged authorities to ensure a peaceful resolution to the manhunt for dela Rosa, stressing that the senator must be treated fairly and accorded due process.Ejercito’s appeal followed a plea from dela Rosa’s wife, Nancy, who called on her husband’s influential former allies to help him rather than persecute him.In a DWIZ radio interview, Ejercito said he hopes “the situation involving Senator dela Rosa can be resolved peacefully. After all, he is a former chief of the Philippine National Police.” Dela Rosa’s wife, Nancy, made her appeal in a Facebook post addressed to what she described as the “powerful few” who were once her husband’s friends. “Please do not use him for your personal agenda. He has helped you in countless ways, and he has done you no wrong personally. He needs your help, not your persecution,” she said.

- Secrecy key in hunting fugitives – Lacson (2026-11-01 16:08)

SEN. Panfilo Lacson on Sunday stressed the importance of keeping sensitive information confidential when pursuing high-profile fugitives.Lacson made the remark as authorities intensified the hunt for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa, whose one-week deadline to surrender had lapsed. “SSSHHH... When pursuing a high-profile target or handling a sensitive live case, secrecy discipline is key — unless disinformation is necessary to flush the quarry into the open,” Lacson said on a social media post.He said disclosing sensitive information ahead of an operation should be done only as a tactic to draw a wanted person out of hiding.Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla announced a P50-million reward for information leading to dela Rosa’s arrest.Dela Rosa is the subject of an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court in connection with the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s campaign against drugs. He has not attended Senate sessions since late last year.He briefly resurfaced on May 11 to vote for Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano as Senate president but was sneaked out of the Senate premises during a shooting incident two days later.Sen. JV Ejercito urged authorities to ensure a peaceful resolution to the manhunt for dela Rosa, stressing that the senator must be treated fairly and accorded due process.Ejercito’s appeal followed a plea from dela Rosa’s wife, Nancy, who called on her husband’s influential former allies to help him rather than persecute him.In a DWIZ radio interview, Ejercito said he hopes “the situation involving Senator dela Rosa can be resolved peacefully. After all, he is a former chief of the Philippine National Police.” Dela Rosa’s wife, Nancy, made her appeal in a Facebook post addressed to what she described as the “powerful few” who were once her husband’s friends. “Please do not use him for your personal agenda. He has helped you in countless ways, and he has done you no wrong personally. He needs your help, not your persecution,” she said.

- China denies ex-ambassador’s claim in column (2026-11-01 16:07)

THE Chinese Embassy in Manila described as “utterly wrong” the claim that China avoids conflict in the South China Sea because of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines.The embassy objected to what retired ambassador Jaime Yambao wrote in his The Manila Times column titled “Concerning the loose tongue of an ambassador.” It said the column was “filled with serious historical falsehoods, blatant bias, and unprofessional judgment.” Yambao wrote that “if China has not attacked the Philippines, it is not for love of peace, it is the deterrent effect of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the two countries.” “China’s consistent commitment to peace, dialogue, and regional stability stems from its independent foreign policy and sincere respect for regional peace, not external military deterrence,” the embassy said in a statement. “China chooses restraint out of goodwill for its neighbors, not fear of any alliance,” it added.Yambao said that if the Chinese truly love peace, they would abide by the United Nations (UN) Charter of solving disputes by peaceful means. “They would have followed the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea on disputes settlement.” “They would have considered as settled the dispute it has with the Philippines by the conclusions of the arbitral tribunal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague,” he said.The PCA in July 2016 invalidated China’s claim in the South China Sea, which encroached on the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ).The embassy stressed that the arbitral award “is legally invalid, politically biased, and lacks any binding force.” “China has never recognized this unlawful ruling, and no country can legitimately rely on it to make policy judgments or provoke maritime tensions,” it said.Yambao also mentioned calls from lawmakers and some sectors to declare Ambassador Jing Quan persona non grata for saying that “if we want to use force, we may easily win” — which was viewed as a “veiled threat against the Philippines. “It is quite likely that China would take the side of its ambassador and retaliate by declaring our innocent ambassador (Jaime FlorCruz) in Beijing persona non grata,” Yambao said.The embassy replied that “openly attacking another country’s political system in a public commentary demonstrates a severe lack of basic diplomatic courtesy and sovereign respect.” “Regrettably, the author Jaime Yambao, though a retired Philippine ambassador, shows none of the professionalism expected of a seasoned diplomat,” it said. “If a senior retired Philippine diplomat cannot objectively and accurately understand China’s consistent stance of promoting stable and peaceful China-Philippines relations, it reflects either poor cognitive judgment or regrettable diplomatic incompetence,” it said. “Such biased, confrontational, and factually erroneous remarks are truly unfortunate,” the embassy said.It also described as “entirely misleading and factually wrong” Yambao’s account of the Yultong Battle during the Korean War. “No official US or Chinese military archives support the exaggerated claim that 900 Filipino troops defeated 40,000 Chinese soldiers. In reality, Filipino forces retreated on US orders after the engagement, and Chinese troops secured full control of the battlefield,” it said.

- House prosecution: Defense could shorten impeach trial (2026-11-01 16:06)

THE impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could be over before the end of November if the defense team limits its presentation of evidence to 10 trial days, House lead

prosecutor and Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro said Sunday.Luistro said the prosecution expects a shorter defense presentation following the withdrawal of three of the four impeachment articles.The defense originally requested 30 trial days to present evidence on all four articles.Luistro said the prosecution expects the defense to seek only 10 full trial days for the remaining charge.The Senate impeachment court has scheduled hearings on Nov. 9 to 13, 19, 20 and 23, with some sessions extending into the evening.Completing the defense presentation within November, however, would depend on additional hearing dates or adjustments to the calendar.Luistro warned that the proceedings could extend into December if the defense requires more than 10 trial days to present its witnesses and documentary evidence. “Nevertheless, we are all hoping and praying that this impeachment trial will be over before Christmas so we can have closure and move on,” she said in Filipino.The withdrawal of the articles involving confidential funds, bribery and grave threats was approved on Oct. 13, leaving Article II, which accuses Duterte of amassed unexplained wealth, financial declarations, and maintaining income and business interests while serving as vice president.The impeachment proceedings stem from allegations against Duterte that have been the subject of congressional investigations since 2024.The senator-judges will decide the case after the presentation of evidence by both sides.Meanwhile, Luistro reiterated that officials of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Office of the Vice President (OVP) implicated in the alleged misuse of confidential funds and bribery could still face criminal or civil proceedings despite the withdrawal of three articles.Separate investigations by the Office of the Ombudsman cover allegations involving personnel of both agencies, while the prosecution remains prepared to provide evidence gathered during congressional hearings and the impeachment proceedings. “As a matter of fact, as early as 2024, the issue of confidential funds and bribery — involving officials from the Department of Education and the Office of the Vice President — has already been under investigation by the Ombudsman,” Luistro said.The House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability had investigated P612.5 million in confidential funds allocated to the Office of the Vice President and the Department of Education during Duterte’s tenure, including questions involving liquidation records, acknowledgment receipts and the disbursement of public funds.The committee transmitted its findings to the Ombudsman in 2024, while investigators have continued examining whether the financial transactions and supporting documents warrant further proceedings against Duterte or other responsible officials.Ombudsman Jesus Crispin “Boying” Remulla has said his office was gathering and evaluating evidence, including documents presented during the Senate impeachment trial, to determine whether there were sufficient grounds to file cases over the alleged misuse of confidential funds.The grave threats allegations are also subject to separate proceedings before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, following the filing of criminal charges over Duterte’s November 2024 statements concerning President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., first lady Liza Marcos, and former speaker Martin Romuladez.

- Don’t let El Niño worsen learning loss (2026-11-01 16:05)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to adopt localized class suspension measures during El Niño, warning that blanket cancellations could put students' learning further at risk.In a statement on Sunday, Gatchalian said the agency's protocols must protect students from extreme heat without worsening learning loss and deepening the country's education crisis.He stressed that class suspensions should be based on actual weather and heat conditions in specific communities, rather than imposed across entire cities, provinces or regions.Gatchalian urged DepEd to ensure that its response to extreme heat does not unnecessarily interrupt instruction, particularly for elementary pupils who depend heavily on classroom teaching to develop foundational reading and literacy skills.A policy note by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2), released in September, highlighted the learning costs of widespread class suspensions.The study found that a typical public elementary school lost approximately 20 teaching days during the previous school year because of class suspensions prompted by various hazards, equivalent to about one in every 10 days in the official school calendar.It also found that every suspended school day was associated with the loss of approximately 1.4 days of reading progress among early-grade learners, underscoring the long-term consequences of disruptions to classroom instruction.The findings were based on preliminary estimates from an ongoing study covering more than 37,000 public elementary schools.Edcom 2 emphasized that while suspensions are necessary when students face actual danger, blanket orders could unnecessarily deprive schools in unaffected areas of learning time.The commission has called for more granular, evidence-based decisions that allow school heads and local authorities to suspend or resume classes depending on actual conditions in their communities.The Philippines is bracing for a potential super El Niño, which the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration expects to persist through the first half of 2027, peaking before the end of 2026.Aside from extreme heat, it could bring prolonged dry spells and water shortages, potentially affecting school operations, students' health and the delivery of education services.To address these risks, DepEd has introduced its four-level Hayo, Hinay, Hinga and Hinto (4H) framework, which allows schools to adjust learning arrangements according to local heat conditions and water availability.Under the guidelines, schools may continue face-to-face classes with appropriate precautions during manageable conditions, including scheduled water breaks and adjustments to outdoor activities.As heat stress increases, school heads may shorten class hours or shift to hybrid and home-based learning.When conditions become more severe, academic requirements may be reduced, with learning materials and other alternative delivery methods used to maintain continuity.All physical and home-based learning activities will be suspended when temperatures reach the danger threshold of 42 degrees Celsius or higher.

- Tulfo pushes oil hub deal with UAE (2026-11-01 16:04)

THE Philippines is pursuing a partnership with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to build a strategic oil storage hub that could help protect consumers from global price shocks and fuel supply disruptions.Sen. Erwin Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy, led a Philippine delegation in talks with UAE officials on Oct. 29 on the proposed project, following an

earlier meeting involving Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, Tulfo and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (Adnoc) representatives.The initial meeting, held at the Senate, was attended by UAE Ambassador Mohamed Obaid Alqataam Alzaabi and Adnoc officials.Gatchalian described the discussions as meaningful.During the Oct. 29 discussions, Tulfo said he has been pushing for the oil hub "because we see how beneficial it would be for Filipinos who are experiencing price shocks from high oil prices because we lack access to it." The Philippine delegation included Ambassador to the UAE Alfonso Ver and Special Envoy to the UAE for Trade and Investment Kathryna Yu-Pimentel.The UAE delegation, led by Adnoc Chairman Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, expressed willingness to pursue the partnership.Adnoc supplies Petron Corp. with about 40,000 barrels of oil a day, and UAE officials said the proposed hub could help increase supply volumes.The UAE team also proposed sharing an existing storage contract framework for Philippine review as discussions move forward.The proposed partnership gained further backing from Gatchalian, who, on Oct. 26, urged the state-owned Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) to move quickly on the opportunity.Gatchalian said Adnoc was prepared to shoulder the cost of storage tanks and oil inventory, provided PNOC made suitable land available for the facility.He also said Adnoc wanted an arrangement granting the Philippines the right of first refusal to purchase the stored oil when needed. "PNOC should not dilly-dally because Adnoc is ready," Gatchalian said.The parties identified the second quarter of 2027 as a target for the project's rollout, subject to further agreements on the site, infrastructure responsibilities, commercial terms and implementation schedule.The hub would anchor a broader energy partnership covering crude oil supply, refinery investments, fuel retail networks, renewable energy and gas-to-power development.Tulfo said such a partnership had yet to be finalized but vowed to lead follow-up discussions to move the project forward.

- CFO joins in celebrating the lives of saints (2026-11-01 16:03)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) joined the faithful in celebrating the lives of saints, including St. Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint and patron saint of overseas Filipino workers and migrants.The Asian Catholic Initiative said Ruiz, of Chinese-Filipino parentage, became the Philippines' protomartyr after his execution by the Tokugawa Shogunate during its persecution of Japanese Christians in the 17th century.St. Pedro Calungsod, a young catechist from Visayas, is the second Filipino saint. He joined Spanish Jesuit missionaries in Guam to catechize the native Chamorros. He was killed when someone spread a rumor that the baptismal water used by missionaries was poisonous. "On this All Saints' Day, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas joins the faithful in celebrating the lives of saints whose faith, courage, and devotion continue to inspire people across generations," the CFO said on Sunday. "Their examples remind us of the enduring values of compassion, perseverance, and service that guide us in our daily lives," it added.Senate leaders urged Filipinos to draw inspiration from the saints, strengthen their faith, and cherish the memories of departed loved ones as the country observes All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian called on Filipinos to remain steadfast in doing what is right. "May the saints serve as our inspiration to have strong faith and the conviction to do what is right," Gatchalian said

in his message on Sunday.Marking All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2 is a longstanding Filipino tradition when families gather in cemeteries to offer prayers, flowers and candles in remembrance of their departed loved ones.Sen. Francis Escudero said it was an opportunity to honor the memories of loved ones whose influence and lessons continue to shape the lives of those they left behind. "Through our prayers and the light of every candle we light, the memories of our loved ones who helped shape who we are remain alive," Escudero said.He added that the observance reminds Filipinos that relationships do not end with death but continue to live in the hearts and memories of those left behind.Sen. JV Ejercito also urged Filipinos to look to the saints for guidance in choosing the right path in life and to offer sincere prayers for their departed loved ones.Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the teachings and examples of the saints should inspire Filipinos to live with love and concern for others.Sen. Camille Villar honored the saints for their faith, devotion and selfless service, saying their legacy should encourage people to practice kindness and compassion.Sen. Bam Aquino said the love, lessons and happy memories left by those who had passed away continued to provide strength and hope to grieving families.

- DPWH activates 24/7 hotlines (2026-11-01 16:02)

THE Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has institutionalized a nationwide 24/7 motorist assistance hotline that connects motorists directly with regional and district engineering offices. This extends beyond the observance of All Saints' Day to enhance public safety and improve infrastructure responsiveness for all travelers.Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said motorists heading to the provinces or visiting cemeteries during and after the All Souls' Day break can now seek immediate assistance from the DPWH for road-related emergencies.He said the initiative is part of the agency's Lakbay-Alalay 2026 program.Lakbay Alalay is the agency's annual motorist assistance initiative that deploys personnel and equipment to help travelers experiencing vehicle trouble or other roadside emergencies.According to the DPWH chief, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the activation of hotlines so travelers can access DPWH assistance when they encounter incidents, including damaged roads and other hazards during their trip.Lopez ordered all DPWH Regional and District Engineering Offices "to keep their contact numbers open 24 hours a day, seven days a week" to ensure a prompt response to motorists' concerns.He added that DPWH teams maintain around-the-clock shifts to provide emergency assistance and keep major thoroughfares free from obstructions.The initiative strengthens government efforts to make roads safer and travel more convenient during one of the country's busiest travel periods, when highways leading to provinces, transport hubs, and cemeteries typically experience unusual traffic flow.The DPWH is coordinating with other government entities, such as the Land Transportation Office, the Philippine National Police, and local government units.

- Cayetano renews push for PDL rehab, reintegration (2026-11-01 16:01)

SENATE Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano reaffirmed his commitment to rehabilitate and reintegrate persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), urging inmates to embrace change and work

toward a better life.Cayetano made the pledge during a visit to the Taguig City Jail, where he distributed food and hygiene supplies to thousands of inmates as part of his annual birthday outreach. “We want to do more because we know that God is not yet finished with your lives,” Cayetano told the inmates during his Oct. 31 visit.The senator urged the inmates not to let setbacks discourage them from pursuing personal transformation, stressing that changing their lives requires determination and a willingness to persevere. “He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus,” Cayetano said, quoting Philippians 1:6. “Even if we make mistakes, the Bible says that He will complete the work He has begun. But we must first have the desire to change,” he added.Cayetano’s appeal for individual change comes amid efforts by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to strengthen rehabilitation programs that prepare inmates for their eventual return to their families and communities.These programs include education through the Alternative Learning System, livelihood projects, vocational and skills training, health services, religious and spiritual activities, and behavioral management. The bureau also provides referrals for aftercare services, including employment assistance, educational opportunities, and medical and psychological interventions for PDLs preparing for release.The BJMP’s rehabilitation efforts are anchored on the principle that jail management goes beyond safekeeping of inmates and includes providing opportunities for personal development and successful reintegration into society.

- Pagasa sees fair weather Monday (2026-11-01 12:43)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said fair weather was expected in most of Luzon on Monday but extreme northern Luzon will have light rains."Because of the effect of the northeast monsoon, we will still experience light rains or drizzles in extreme northern Luzon," Pagasa weather specialist Daniel James Villamil said on Sunday."But for the rest of Luzon including Metro Manila, we expect generally fair weather with a chance of localized thunderstorms in the afternoon to evening," Villamil said.Palawan, Visayas, and Mindanao will also have fair weather but thunderstorms are possible in the afternoon or evening, he said.No gale warning was issued but Villamil cautioned those who would go out to sea because of gusts of winds and huge waves.

- Marcos joins Filipinos in honoring their dead (2026-11-01 09:32)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. joined the Catholic faithful and the entire nation in remembering their dearly departed on November 1.The president visited the tomb of his father, former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr., at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig City on Friday, ahead of the observance of All Saints’ Day.The president was accompanied by his mother, former first lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, his sister Irene Marcos-Araneta, and close family and friends.The family offered prayers and paid their respects during the private visit.In his message, the president invited Filipinos to extend the same devotion they show in remembering the departed to the way they treat one another, making time to listen to those who struggle and showing concern for their fellow Filipinos."As we

observe All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, we remember our departed loved ones and the lives and legacies they have left behind," Marcos said."Though they are no longer with us, the memories we shared and the values they taught us continue to bring our families closer together," he said."May we also draw inspiration from the saints, whose lives of selfless service and devotion remind us to show greater kindness and compassion toward one another," Marcos said.He asked Filipinos to "honor those who have passed not only through our prayers, but also through the way we care for those who remain.""May these solemn days bring peace to those who mourn and remind us to cherish the people we hold dear," the president said.

- Bishop lauds peaceful election of BARMM officials (2026-11-01 09:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Kidapawan Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo lauded all stakeholders for the peaceful and democratic election of the first chief minister and other officials of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).Abdulraof Macacua was elected chief minister with 51 votes against former chief minister Ahod Ebrahim. The members of the first regular BARMM parliament elected the chief minister during their first session on Oct. 30. One abstained and another was absent.Bagaforo, the chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue (CBCP-ECID) welcomed Macacua's election and described it as "a historic step for the peace process."The bishop lauded the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and its leaders led by Ahod Ebrahim and Vice Chairman Mohagher Iqbal for the peaceful and democratic transition from the transitional administration.Previously, the BARMM was administered by the Bangsamoro Transition Authority.The CBCP-ECID also recognized the role of the MILF in the peaceful and orderly leadership transition."On behalf of the CBCP-ECID, we express our support and solidarity with the new Bangsamoro government and parliament," Bagaforo said."The Church will continue to walk with our Muslim brothers and sisters, with Indigenous Peoples, and with all communities in the region in dialogue, friendship, and the common work of building a just and lasting peace," he said.The bishop expressed hope that the new administration would pursue open and just governance.The peaceful election of BARMM leaders reflected the message of President Ferdinan Marcos Jr. during the inaugural session which he described as a milestone in the peace process.The President called on the new parliamentary coalition to uphold unity, statesmanship and cooperation, stressing that the political arrangement is measured by their capacity to translate the gains of peace into responsive governance, economic opportunities and better public service. "It means ensuring that the dividends of peace are felt in the daily lives of every Bangsamoro family," Marcos said.He reaffirmed the government's support for Bangsamoro autonomy and its democratic institutions. "Your success is the success of the country," the President said.

- Be vigilant in cemeteries, public urged (2026-11-01 08:22)

MANILA, Philippines — National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Officer-in-Charge Brig. Gen Christopher Abrahano reiterated his call for the public to remain vigilant while visiting cemeteries and memorial parks as large crowds present opportunities for criminals to prey on

unsuspecting visitors.With hundreds of thousands expected to flock to cemeteries in Metro Manila, Abrahano reminded the public not to be complacent and to remain mindful of their personal belongings.He stressed the importance of keeping wallets, mobile phones, and other valuables secured, avoid the display of expensive jewelry, and never leaving bags or personal belongings unattended. Parents and guardians were likewise reminded to keep children and elderly family members within sight, especially in congested areas.The NCRPO chief also cautioned visitors against individuals who may exploit the occasion through fraudulent activities, including those posing as religious ministers offering unauthorized prayers or blessings in exchange for money. “Do not let your guard down just because you are in a place of remembrance and prayer. Criminals can take advantage of even a moment of distraction. Stay alert, secure your belongings, and look after your family members. We want everyone to fulfill this meaningful tradition without becoming victims of crime,” he said.Visitors to the Manila's north and south cemeteries reached 997,550 as of Sunday afternoon.Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso said on Facebook that about 811,200 people visited the Manila North Cemetery as of 2 p.m.He said that about 186,350 people visited the Manila South Cemetery as of 2 p.m. on Nov. 1.

- De Lima seeks tougher animal welfare laws (2026-11-01 07:16)

MANILA, Philippines — House Senior Deputy Minority Leader and Mamamayang Liberal Party-list Rep. Leila de Lima on Sunday called for stricter animal welfare laws and accountability following the recent discovery of 29 dead dogs and cats dumped in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.In a statement, De Lima condemned the incident as an act of cruelty, saying the animals were not garbage and that their deaths had caused grief among families who considered them members of their households. “What was done to the 29 furbabies found in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, is absolutely despicable,” she said in Filipino. “How could they have committed such an evil act against innocent souls and the families who are grieving the loss of their loved ones? THEY ARE NOT TRASH TO BE JUST THROWN AWAY!” she added.The lawmaker called for the identification and prosecution of those responsible, including others who may be involved in similar acts of animal cruelty. “This kind of violence should never be tolerated. It will not be the last unless we implement comprehensive and stricter laws to promote and protect animal rights and welfare,” De Lima said. “We call upon our fellow lawmakers: Let us also make it a priority to enact our proposed Animal Welfare Enforcement Act and the Revised Animal Welfare Act, in order to put an end to violence and foster a better understanding of the proper and humane treatment of animals,” she added.Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla ordered the closure of Ahjay Paws Aftercare Crematorium following complaints from pet owners.

- Ejercito seeks fair treatment, due process for Dela Rosa (2026-11-01 05:08)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. JV Ejercito called on authorities to ensure fair treatment and due process for Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa following the latter’s wife’s appeal for help, urging them to resolve the situation peacefully.Ejercito said that Dela Rosa, a former chief of the

Philippine National Police (PNP) and his former Senate colleague, deserves the same legal protections as anyone else. “As much as possible, I hope the situation involving Senator Dela Rosa can be resolved peacefully. After all, he is a former chief of the Philippine National Police. Everyone deserves to be given due process,” Ejercito said in an interview with DWIZ radio on Saturday. “I hope everything will be handled properly and peacefully. Senator Dela Rosa has also served our country. He was our colleague in the Senate and served as PNP chief,” he added.Ejercito appealed to all parties concerned to avoid confrontation and work toward a peaceful resolution. “I am calling on both sides, on everyone, to resolve this peacefully. I hope he will be treated fairly and given due process,” he said.Asked about Dela Rosa’s wife's appeal for assistance, Ejercito said, “That is what I am also saying. I hope he is given due process and treated fairly."

- FBI: Saipan child sex abuse suspect fled to PH (2026-11-01 04:23)

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — A Filipino accused of sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in Saipan fled to the Philippines in May 2024, prompting federal authorities to seek his arrest.The case against Rommel Bacani was disclosed in an FBI affidavit filed in the US District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands in May 2025 but only unsealed recently.Based on the affidavit, Bacani departed Saipan for the Philippines on May 10, 2024 following a police investigation into allegations that he sexually abused a minor with her mother's knowledge.FBI special agent Richard J. Bauer said Bacani was charged in the CNMI Superior Court on May 12, 2025 with first-and second-degree sexual abuse of a minor and disturbing the peace.The affidavit said that sexual abuse of a minor carries a possible prison sentence of up to 30 years.The case stems from a March 7, 2024 investigation by the Department of Public Safety after officials at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School raised concerns about a 13-year-old student who had been frequently absent from classes.The girl's relatives told police that she had an adult boyfriend and had moved with her mother and two younger siblings into his apartment.The boyfriend was later identified as Bacani.The girl's special education teacher told investigators that the student disclosed her mother had forced her into the relationship.During a forensic interview on March 12, 2024, the girl claimed that Bacani sexually assaulted her on several occasions.The affidavit also detailed allegations that Bacani sexually abused the girl's younger sister, who was 8 years old at the time.Investigators said the children's mother knew about the relationship and allowed her daughter to sleep in the same bed as Bacani.In a Jan. 8, 2025, interview with the FBI, the mother reportedly admitted witnessing Bacani having sex with her daughter on four or five occasions.She also told investigators that Bacani became nervous after being questioned by DPS detectives in March 2024 because he feared getting into trouble over his relationship with the minor.The mother subsequently moved out of Bacani's apartment and lost contact with him.Federal authorities determined through database checks that Bacani left Saipan for the Philippines on May 10, 2024.Bauer said there was probable cause to believe Bacani traveled outside the CNMI with the intent to avoid prosecution, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1073.The federal offense carries a possible prison sentence of up to five years, a fine, or both.The affidavit was sworn before US District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona

on May 22, 2025.

• EDSA southbound section from Boni to Guadalupe to reopen Monday (2026-11-01 03:29)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is set to reopen the rehabilitated southbound section of Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) from Boni Avenue to Guadalupe at 5 a.m. on Monday, November 2.Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said on Sunday that he will conduct an overnight inspection of the completed section prior to its reopening.The reopening marks another milestone in the second phase of the EDSA rehabilitation project, which aims to improve the condition of the capital's busiest thoroughfare, provide a smoother ride for motorists and make the highway more commuter-friendly.The latest round of repairs covered three southbound sections, including the stretch from the NEPA Q-Mart Bus Station, past the EDSA Kamuning Flyover, the EDSA Shaw underpass to Boni Avenue; and Boni Avenue to Guadalupe.The DPWH scheduled the work from October 30 to November 2, with activities including breaking up damaged pavement, debris hauling, base preparation, installation of reinforcing steel bars, concrete pouring, sealant application and curing.Temporary lane closures were implemented during construction, while the remaining lanes were kept open to motorists.

• Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite to have water interruptions this week (2026-11-01 03:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal and Cavite will have water interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Sunday.Manila Water said some areas in the villages of Nangka and Concepcion Uno in Marikina City will have water interruptions on November 3-4 between 10 p.m. and 4 p.m. because of line declogging activities.Some locations in the villages of Concepcion Uno, Concepcion Dos and Marikina Heights will have no water on November 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line declogging works near the Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College.Also, some areas in the villages of San Roque and Sta. Elena will have water service interruptions on November 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to line maintenance works at Shoe Ave. cor. H. Roxas St.Some parts of Brgy. Parang will have service interruptions on November 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line declogging activities at Dahlia St.Some portions of Brgy. Bagumbuhay in Quezon City will have water interruptions on November 3-4 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to line maintenance works at F. Castillo St. cor. A. Luna.Some places in Brgy. UP Campus will have service interruptions on November 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of pipe maintenance activities.In Rizal province, some sections of Brgy. San Jose in Rodriguez will have no water on November 3-4 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of mainline interconnection works at Kasiglahan Village Phase 1K, and Phase 1K1 to Phase 1K2.Maynilad meanwhile announced that some areas in the villages of 168 and 169 in Caloocan City and some sections in the villages of Kaligayahan, Nova Proper, San Agustin and Sta. Monica in Quezon City will have water interruptions on November 4-5 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of network diagnostics activities at Quirino Highway to detect

possible leaks.Several locations in the villages of Alabang, Bayanan, Poblacion, Putatan and Tunasan in Muntinlupa City will have water service interruptions on November 5-6 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to facility maintenance activities at Putatan Water Treatment Plant 2.In Cavite, various areas in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II- B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI in Imus City will have water service interruptions everyday on November 2-8 between 5 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. because of network and facility limitations of the Patindig Araw pumping station.

- No room for shady insertions: Ejercito says watchdogs allowed to join budget bicam proceedings (2026-11-01 02:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate Finance Committee Chairman JV Ejercito said that civil society organizations (CSOs) will participate in the bicameral deliberations on the proposed 2027 national budget, saying more public scrutiny is needed to catch unvetted projects and prevent last-minute insertions.Ejercito said the move responds to calls from business coalitions, civic groups and budget watchdogs for greater transparency and accountability in the budget process. He also confirmed that the bicameral proceedings would be livestreamed. “We are continuing to build on our best practices. This year, we will be inviting CSOs to sit in and observe the bicameral proceedings. Having more eyes on the budget will help us spot any unvetted projects or last-minute insertions that may be introduced during the bicam,” he said in a statement.Ejercito said the planned public access to the deliberations would extend the transparency measures adopted by the Senate Finance Committee throughout its review. “All Senate Finance Committee budget hearings were livestreamed, which allowed the public to follow agency deliberations in real time,” he said.The committee also held a dedicated hearing for CSOs on Oct. 26, giving participating groups an opportunity to present recommendations and raise concerns about proposed allocations.Ejercito welcomed the groups’ call to remove budget insertions without technical justification and restore funding cuts to foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, disaster preparedness and preventive health programs.He said public participation should extend beyond congressional hearings to citizens' access to budget information and tools for scrutinizing government spending.The committee has incorporated digital tools developed by civil society groups, including independent research organization BetterGov.ph, into the Senate’s budget transparency portal (https://budget-transparency-portal.senate.gov.ph).Through the portal, citizens can examine agency budget documents, submit position papers and flag allocations they consider questionable. “Transparency is not just a policy statement; it is an active mechanism. These tools were built by watchdogs themselves, and we are glad to give them a home on the Senate website so ordinary citizens can scrutinize where public funds are going,” Ejercito said.

• No sacred cows in Senate budget review — Lacson (2026-11-01 02:05)

MANILA, Philippines — No lawmaker will be spared scrutiny in the Senate's review of the proposed 2027 national budget as senators take a “gung-ho” approach in correcting questionable allocations and budget insertions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said.Lacson said he and fellow members of the Senate majority bloc fully support Senate Finance Committee chairman Sen. JV Ejercito in addressing red flags in the House-approved version of the proposed General Appropriations Act. “Our attitude now is to go gung-ho. If anyone gets hit, so be it. There will be no exceptions, otherwise the exception could become the general rule,” Lacson said in an interview with One News.Asked whether the scrutiny would also cover the biggest net increase in public works allocations for the congressional district of presidential son and Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos in the House-approved budget, Lacson replied: “Yes, absolutely.” “If we make exceptions, many will ask for exceptions and we won't succeed because there will be plea bargaining,” he said.The Senate is scheduled to resume plenary sessions on Nov. 9, when debates on the proposed 2027 budget will begin.Lacson said he already submitted his subcommittee reports on the proposed budgets of government agencies assigned to him, which are now being reviewed by the Legislative Budget Research and Monitoring Office (LBRMO). “Once the plenary sessions resume, the LBRMO would have finished its review and we can introduce amendments to restore the changes the House made to its version of the General Appropriations Bill,” he said.Lacson expressed confidence that questionable insertions would not find their way into the Senate version of the budget. “In the Senate, I don't know if someone sneaked in funds for pet projects, but I don't think so. When we in the majority bloc chat, I can feel my colleagues' sentiments,” he said.

• Some areas in Metro Manila, four provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works (2026-11-01 01:56)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila and the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal will have power interruptions this week due to maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday.Some parts of Marikina Heights in Marikina City and some sections of Brgy. Cupang in Antipolo City, Rizal will have power interruptions on November 4 between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. because of the retirement of electricity facilities and line reconstruction works along Rumbler St. and Villa Grande St. in Villa Grande Subd.Some locations in the villages of Malibong Bata and Malibong Matanda in Pandi, Bulacan will have no electricity on November 3-4 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement and installation of electricity facilities and line reconductoring works along Malibong Matanda Road.Some portions of Gateway Business Park in Brgy. Javalera, General Trias in Cavite will have no power on November 2 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. because of line reconstruction works.Several places in the villages of Barandal, Batino, Mayapa, Paciano Rizal, and Punta in Calamba City, Laguna will have power service interruptions on November 2-3 between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. because of the relocation of electricity facilities affected by a road widening project along Batino Road.Some places in Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City, Rizal will have no electricity on November 4 between 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. because of line reconstruction works along Kaimito Ave. and Mahogany Ave.

• Thousands join zombie-themed fun run in Manila (2026-11-01 01:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Three thousand people participated in the 5-kilometer, zombie-themed Run For Your Life early on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026.The route started and ended at Magallanes Drive in Intramuros.Participants passed historic sites in Manila as the route traversed Padre Burgos Avenue which gave a view of the lit Manila City Hall before taking them to Victoria Street, beside Intramuros' walls at Muralla, Anda which runs along the Memorare Manila 1945 monument as well as the former site of what is now Ateneo de Manila University, Sta. Lucia where the Cuartel de Santa Lucia ruins are, Muralla, a part of General Luna, back to Padre Burgos, then Bonifacio Drive, and Soriano Avenue from which one can see the Manila Cathedral, Ayuntamiento, and Aduana.A halloween street party will be held today under the Intramuros Administration's Intramumu program.

• Pet crematorium in Bacoor shut down (2026-11-01 01:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Bacoor, Cavite Mayor Strike Revilla said the city has shut down the pet crematorium that was linked online to the alleged dumping of dead animals in Bulacan.In a Facebook post on Saturday night, Revilla said that Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium was ordered closed in response to several complaints.The closure came amid the discovery of 29 deceased dogs and cats at a vacant lot in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan late on Friday. "In response to the complaints we received from our fellow citizens, we immediately directed the City Legal Office and the Business Permit and Licensing Department (BPLD), together with our police force and other concerned offices, to conduct an investigation. We have officially implemented a closure order against the establishment in question," Revilla wrote in Filipino. "The investigation is ongoing to establish the full truth and ensure that anyone found to have violated the law is held accountable," he added.He also met with representatives of the crematorium and 30 pet owners.Revilla said the establishment had two cremation machines in Bacoor and in Caloocan City. "The owner admitted that some pets were brought to Caloocan for cremation. However, there is still insufficient documentation or evidence to prove that the cremations were actually carried out," the mayor said.He added that the columbarium owner could not confirm whether or not the animals that were dumped in Bulacan were among those entrusted to them.Whose ashes?Rose Ann dela Peña said she lost her dog Blue, also known as B2, on May 29.She told The Manila Times in a message early on Sunday that while B2 was not among the animals discovered in Bulacan, she was concerned about whether or not she got the ashes of her pet. "We entrusted B2 to Ahjay's, believing that we would receive her ashes and nothing else. But with everything that has come to light, how can we be sure? We deserve the truth, transparency, and proper answers from Ahjay's. We just want to make sure that the ashes we received truly belong to our beloved B2," dela Peña said. "We trusted them during one of the most painful moments of our lives. Knowing that something like this allegedly happened makes us question whether our pets were truly handled with the care, respect, and dignity they deserved… As fur parents, our pets are family. They deserve respect even after they pass away, and we deserve peace of mind knowing that they were treated properly," she added.While dela Peña welcomed the closure of the pet columbarium, she called for a thorough

investigation. “We want clear answers, accountability from those responsible, and assurance that this will never happen again. I also hope the authorities will strengthen the monitoring and regulation of pet crematoriums to protect other fur parents from experiencing this kind of pain and uncertainty,” she said. “We are not just talking about animals; we are talking about beloved family members entrusted to their care. Every fur parent deserves the truth, and every pet deserves a dignified farewell,” she added.The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) has called on owners of pets that were deceived to come forward and pursue legal action. “The images of the dumped bodies of the dogs and cats were shocking, although not directly a violation of the Animal Welfare Act if the animals were already deceased when they were turned over to the crematorium,” PAWS said on Saturday.They pointed out that these actions constitute a grave betrayal of public trust. “Pet parents paid for a service that was supposed to provide their beloved companions with a dignified farewell. Instead, their remains were reportedly dumped like garbage in a vacant lot. This is not merely a failure to deliver a service but constitutes Estafa by means of deceit,” the group said. “We urge affected pet parents to preserve their receipts, cremation certificates, communications, photographs, and other evidence, and to seek legal assistance in filing the appropriate complaint,” PAWS said. “The emotional harm suffered by these pet parents must not be dismissed. They entrusted the remains of beloved family members for a dignified farewell, only to be deprived of that farewell at a particularly vulnerable moment of grief. The bond between a person and a companion animal does not end with death. The dignity with which a beloved animal is laid to rest matters deeply to those who loved and cared for them.”

- American ‘yields’ P17.46M worth of marijuana at NAIA (2026-10-31 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — An American passenger was arrested after the Bureau of Customs (BOC) intercepted about P17.46 million worth of marijuana kush allegedly concealed in his luggage at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3.BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said on Saturday that the foreigner, who arrived from Bangkok, Thailand, was caught on Oct. 29 by the bureau personnel in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and NAIA Inter-Agency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG). “He was said to be carrying two pieces of luggage containing food packages in which the suspected illegal drugs were hidden,” Nepomuceno said.Reports showed that the contraband was discovered after the two checked-in luggage items showed suspicious images during X-ray screening. Customs personnel immediately conducted a physical inspection after his luggage items were subjected to K9 inspection, during which the drug-sniffing dog gave a positive indication of the possible presence of illegal drugs. The inspection yielded 15 vacuum-sealed packages of suspected marijuana kush hidden in food packets. Five packages weighing a total of 5,122 grams and valued at approximately P5.12 million were recovered from the first luggage, while 10 packages weighing 12,342 grams and worth P12.34 million were found in the second.The American passenger was subsequently arrested for allegedly bringing prohibited drugs into the country, according to BOC.Three days before the operation, the joint team also intercepted on Oct. 26 some 7,335 grams of suspected marijuana kush worth P7.33

million from unclaimed luggage at NAIA Terminal 3. The luggage also came from Bangkok, Thailand, and the suspected illegal drugs were found concealed in aluminum food pouches and sealed transparent plastic bags.In just four days, a total of 24.8 kilograms of suspected marijuana kush valued at P24.79 million were seized in two separate operations, according to BOC-NAIA District Collector Yasmin Obillos-Mapa.The successive seizures were made possible by the strict vigilance of Customs personnel and swift coordination with partner agencies to strengthen security at the airport, Obillos-Mapa said.Commending the BOC, PDEA, and NAIA-IADITG personnel for their swift and coordinated action, Nepomuceno stressed the importance of maintaining strict vigilance and coordination to prevent attempts to smuggle illegal drugs into the country.

- Chinese research ship stirs security concerns (2026-10-31 16:20)

A NATIONAL security advocate on Saturday warned that civilian scientific research could be used to conceal activities that threaten Philippine security, as a Chinese vessel carrying unidentified equipment was spotted inside Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), while China deployed military aircraft and naval forces around the disputed feature.Jose Antonio Goitia, chairman emeritus of the Filipinos Do Not Yield Movement, said Beijing should not be allowed to use claims of scientific research to conceal potentially military activities, stressing the Philippines' right to protect its maritime interests and demand transparency from foreign vessels operating in its maritime domain.The warning came after The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said it was investigating the capabilities and purpose of unidentified equipment aboard a Chinese vessel spotted inside the lagoon of Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), including whether the equipment could be used for underwater operations.According to the PCG, the blue-and-white vessel was first monitored on Oct. 3 and had changed its configuration several times since then.During a maritime domain awareness flight on Thursday, Oct. 29, Philippine personnel observed the vessel towing a smaller boat and carrying an orange, boat-shaped object fitted with sensors and antennas on its rear deck.The PCG cautioned against identifying the vessel as a Chinese research ship, saying its bow number and International Maritime Organization number did not match those of known Chinese research vessels.The Coast Guard sought to determine the capabilities of the equipment and whether the vessel was supporting Chinese government operations in the area.The agency was particularly examining whether the orange object was a submersible or equipment intended for underwater operations.The PCG noted that China had previously used remotely operated vehicles to conduct seabed research and said underwater drones could also be involved.However, the PCG has not established the equipment's actual function or confirmed that it was being used for surveillance.The sighting coincided with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command's announcement on Friday that Chinese naval and air forces had conducted combat-readiness patrols in the waters and airspace around Huangyan Dao, Beijing's name for Bajo de Masinloc.The PLA said it had strengthened patrols around the shoal since early October to tighten control over the surrounding waters and airspace, describing the latest operations as a response to what it called Philippine rights violations and provocative acts.Footage aired by Chinese state

broadcaster CCTV-7's Junshi Baodao (Military Report) on Oct. 30 showed military aircraft and a naval vessel operating around the shoal, including scenes depicting Chinese forces monitoring a Philippine aircraft and issuing radio warnings.The broadcast did not independently establish when the encounters occurred or verify Beijing's claim that the Philippine aircraft had entered Chinese territorial airspace.Separately, the China Coast Guard said it conducted law enforcement patrols around the shoal on Friday, also citing alleged Philippine provocations.Goitia expressed concern over reports that Chinese maritime platforms described as "ghost research ships" could be used to deploy underwater drones to map submarine transit routes and collect information with potential military applications, including anti-submarine warfare.Available information, however, does not establish that the vessel spotted inside the shoal's lagoon carried out such activities."China must stop treating our waters as though they are its own. Filipinos have endured enough intimidation and harassment in our maritime domain. We have every right to know what foreign vessels are doing in our waters, and we will not accept activities that threaten our security or disregard our sovereign rights," said Goitia, who is also chairman emeritus of several civic society groups, including Alyansa ng Bantay sa Kapayapaan at Demokrasya (ABKD), and People’s Alliance for Democracy and Reforms (Pader).He cited the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), particularly Article 246, which generally requires coastal state consent for marine scientific research in a country's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, subject to the convention's provisions.Article 240 requires marine scientific research to be conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes.The latest developments add to tensions around Bajo de Masinloc, a longstanding flashpoint in the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China.The shoal lies about 124 nautical miles west of Zambales, within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone.China has maintained control over access to the shoal since a 2012 standoff with the Philippines.In 2016, an arbitral tribunal ruled that Filipino fishermen had traditional fishing rights there and that China had unlawfully prevented them from exercising those rights.The tribunal also rejected China's claims to historic rights over resources within its so-called nine-dash line to the extent that they exceeded the maritime entitlements allowed under Unclos.Beijing rejects the ruling and continues to assert sovereignty over the shoal.

- Duterte to skip ICC hearing; co-conspirators’ fate unclear (2026-10-31 16:19)

FORMER president Rodrigo Duterte has waived his right to attend a Nov. 2 status conference in his crimes against humanity case before the International Criminal Court (ICC), as questions remain over why Sen. Ronald dela Rosa is the only one among eight alleged co-perpetrators publicly confirmed to face an arrest warrant.Duterte’s defense team submitted his signed waiver to ICC Trial Chamber III in a filing dated Oct. 30, complying with the chamber’s directive to formally place the document on record.The defense said Duterte notified the chamber on Oct. 28 of his decision to waive his right to attend the fifth status conference.The chamber granted his request the following day and directed his lawyers to submit a signed waiver.Duterte also instructed his lawyers to address the procedural matters on the conference agenda and any other issues that may arise during the hearing.The conference will take place

before Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou, ahead of Duterte's scheduled Nov. 30 trial.Meanwhile, the ICC has not publicly explained whether arrest warrants have been issued against the seven other officials whom prosecutors identified alongside Duterte and dela Rosa as alleged co-perpetrators in the former president's anti-drug campaign.Aside from dela Rosa, the officials named in the prosecution's updated trial brief include Sen. Christopher Lawrence Go; former Philippine National Police chiefs Vicente Danao, Oscar Albayalde and the late Camilo Cascolan; former justice secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II; former National Bureau of Investigation director Dante Gierran; and former Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Isidro Lapeña.Prosecutors allege that Duterte and the eight officials shared a "common plan" to neutralize people suspected of criminal activity through violent acts, including murder, from November 2011 to March 2019.However, being named in the prosecution's account does not automatically mean that an individual faces a separate charge or an arrest warrant. The ICC has not publicly confirmed warrants against the seven other officials.The ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber I issued an arrest warrant against dela Rosa under seal on Nov. 6, 2025, following a prosecution application filed three days earlier. The warrant was unsealed on May 11, 2026.The chamber found reasonable grounds to believe that dela Rosa was responsible as an indirect co-perpetrator for the crime against humanity of murder, alongside Duterte and other alleged co-perpetrators.The warrant covers killings committed between at least July 3, 2016, and the end of April 2018, when at least 32 people were killed. Dela Rosa served as PNP chief from July 1, 2016, to April 19, 2018.The chamber said the killings cited in the warrant represented a sample of a potentially broader pattern of conduct, leaving prosecutors the possibility of seeking to add other alleged criminal incidents later.Before the warrant was unsealed, an ICC spokesperson said no public arrest warrants had been issued in connection with the Philippines situation.The court later confirmed that dela Rosa's warrant had been issued confidentially before being made public.The disclosure showed that the absence of a publicly announced warrant does not necessarily mean that no sealed warrant exists.The ICC has not said whether similar warrants have been issued against other individuals named in the prosecution's account.ICC-accredited counsel Ross Tugade said in February that the identification of alleged co-perpetrators raised the possibility that the court was considering arrest warrants against them.In its April confirmation-of-charges decision, however, the Pre-Trial Chamber clarified that references to the alleged co-perpetrators did not constitute a determination of their criminal responsibility.

- Image of soldiers backing dela Rosa fake, Army says (2026-10-31 16:18)

THE Philippine Army's 10th Infantry Division has denounced an AI-generated image falsely portraying its troops endorsing the fugitive senator Ronald dela Rosa, warning that the fabricated image misrepresents the military's political neutrality.In a "Fake News Alert" issued over the weekend, the 10th Infantry (Agila) Division said the image circulating on social media falsely depicted its personnel expressing political support for dela Rosa.The division said the manipulated image could mislead the public and undermine the professionalism and political neutrality of military personnel.The image showed armed soldiers posing on an

armored vehicle in front of the division's main gate while holding a banner bearing the words, "We support Senator Bato dela Rosa." The circulating social media card carried a post attributed to the "1st Infantry Tabak Division Philippine Army" page and posted by a user identified as Regis Paller Enrique. Its caption read, "good job we salute 10ID troopers." The 10ID urged the public to verify information through official sources before sharing unverified posts, stressing that its official positions and statements are communicated only through authorized channels.It also reiterated its commitment to serving Filipinos without political affiliation or preference and condemned the misuse of artificial intelligence to misrepresent its personnel.Dela Rosa, in hiding since November 2025, is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity, in relation to his role as police chief during the Duterte administration's bloody war on drugs, in which thousands of suspects were killed. Former president Rodrigo Duterte is already in The Hague, awaiting trial.

- 29 dead pets found dumped in Bulacan (2026-10-31 16:17)

TWENTY-SIX dogs and three cats were found dumped in a vacant lot in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, inside individual plastic bags that had names and weight specifications labeled on them, an animal welfare group said over the weekend.Luna and Furry Siblings, on a Facebook post late Friday, said the 29 pets were "thrown away like trash" in the vacant lot.The animals are identified as Sakura, Sweet, Brandon, Dara, Red, Dos, Ivy, Jedy, Crunch, Akira, and Jennifer, who are all dogs, while the cats' names are Ira, Lucky, and Chelsea. Two dogs shared the name Brandon.The group also posted several live videos and, on Saturday, returned to the vacant lot where they discovered the animals, saying the owners of an unnamed pet crematorium admitted that they handled these animals. "We are waiting, just to make sure that's in writing and as soon as it's done, we're going to release the name and hopefully retrieve these pets. We will update everybody on this and let you guys know what's happening," the group said in a live video on Saturday.The animal rescue service also said the dogs and cats will be reburied in another location.The Manila Times has tried reaching out to the animal rescue service but has not returned calls as of press time.A pet crematorium based in Cavite was named as the one behind the dumping of the animals, and has since deactivated its Facebook and Instagram pages following the discovery of the pets.The Manila Times also tried reaching the pet crematorium on Saturday.Luna and Furry Siblings, along with the Animal Kingdom Foundation, called on pet owners who recently lost their pets to check the records.The animal rescue service tapped an animal clinic to lend them a microchip scanner to find a registration chip on the animals but said none of them had one. "Did you trust a clinic, handler, or aftercare provider with a pet matching one of these names and weights? If you paid a business to handle your pet's remains with dignity, they may have defrauded you and dumped them in a vacant lot instead," Luna and Furry Siblings wrote. "Please check your vet records and receipts. If you recognize your pet's name and weight, message us privately right now. Your paperwork will be the smoking gun we need to nail the exact establishment responsible for this heartless, illegal act... We cannot rest. We need the power of the internet to find the owners of Sakura, Brandon, Chelsea, and the rest of these babies," they added.Youth

organization Angat Kabataang San Joseño called on the local government of San Jose del Monte and other appropriate authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and identify those responsible. “We hope that available CCTV footage, witness accounts, and other pieces of evidence will be properly examined to establish what truly happened. We also urge the authorities to take the necessary steps to prevent similar incidents from happening again,” the group said on Friday night. “We believe that animal welfare should not be taken lightly. This incident deserves proper attention, and those found responsible must be held accountable in accordance with the law,” they added.Animal Kingdom Foundation on Saturday called on the public to search for the pets’ owners and to trace those responsible for dumping the 29 dogs and cats. “We are appealing to pet owners who recently lost a pet or availed cremation and aftercare services in SJDM and nearby areas to check their records and receipts,” the foundation said on Saturday. “Someone entrusted these animals’ remains to a service provider. They deserved dignity, not to be dumped like garbage,” they added.Not the first timeThe foundation also said that it was not the first time a case of animal dumping happened this year alone. “Similar reports of animal dumping surfaced as early as May, when only two dogs were identified. Now, another disturbing incident involving 29 dogs has been reported in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan,” Animal Kingdom Foundation said on Saturday. “The pattern is alarming. These animals were not simply abandoned; they were discarded, as if their lives meant nothing,” it added.

- Leo XIV is 1st pope to vote in a US poll (2026-10-31 16:16)

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV has become the first pontiff to vote in a US general election, casting a mail-in ballot in a contest that will decide America's political future as the Trump era slowly comes to an end.The Vatican confirmed Friday that the Chicago-born pontiff had submitted a mail-in ballot in the city ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections, citing his long-standing belief in civic participation.Leo, formerly Robert Prevost, “has exercised his right to vote as a United States citizen," as he has done “whenever he was eligible to do so,” the Holy See press office said.The statement said he had also voted while living in Peru, where he lived as a missionary priest and bishop for over 20 years. “The Holy Father expresses his belief in the right and the duty of citizens to participate in democratic processes,” it added.Leo holds US and Peruvian citizenship, and is also the head of state of a foreign country, the Holy See. The city-state is an absolute monarchy with no political elections.US federal law allows citizens living abroad, even those working for foreign governments, to vote via absentee ballot. Americans working for foreign governments aren’t automatically at risk of forfeiting their US citizenship, though the US State Department says on its website that it may “actively review” the citizenship status of Americans who “serve as a foreign head of state, foreign head of government, or foreign minister.” This election, Illinois voters are deciding whether to elect Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker to his third term, and they’re also filling an open US Senate seat after longtime Catholic Democrat Dick Durbin’s retirement. There are no statewide issues on the Illinois ballot.President Donald Trump is not on the ballot, but he has campaigned hard to try to preserve Republican control of the US House and Senate for the final two years of his second

term.The pope, registered at a New Lenox, Illinois, address, requested a mail-in ballot on Oct. 3, said Kim Fladhammer, chief of staff to the Will County clerk, on Friday. The Chicago Sun-Times first reported the request.The request was made just 10 days before Leo underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his right lung. Leo has been slowly resuming his activities at the Vatican after being released from the hospital on Oct. 17.It is unclear how Leo returned the ballot. The pope's older brother, John Prevost, was in Rome this week accompanying parishioners from St. Jude’s, an Augustinian-run parish in New Lenox, Illinois. The elder Prevost attends Mass there, and Leo gave a talk at the parish in 2024 while still a cardinal.Prevost's past votes have gone Democratic and Republican.Since 2000, Robert Prevost has voted in five primary elections, requesting Democratic ballots twice and Republican ballots three times, according to records held by the Illinois State Board of Elections.The records do not show which candidates he supported. Illinois voters must declare a party preference to receive a primary ballot. No such declaration is required in general elections.While registered in heavily Democratic Cook County, Prevost requested Democratic primary ballots in 2008 and 2010. After moving to the more conservative suburban Will County, he requested Republican primary ballots in 2012, 2014 and 2016.The records also show that he submitted ballots in every general election since 2000 except those in 2020 and 2022.Clashes with TrumpSince becoming pope, Leo has drawn criticism from Trump for repeatedly condemning the US-Israeli war in Iran and calling for dignified treatment of immigrants, following the Trump administration’s crackdown and mass deportation program.Earlier this year, Trump called Leo “weak” and captive to the “radical left,” kicking off a remarkable back-and-forth public argument that dominated Leo's April trip to Africa.Responding to Trump, Leo told reporters en route to Algeria: “I’m not afraid of the Trump administration or of speaking out loudly about the message of the Gospel, which is what the church works for.”The public dispute has subsided in recent months.“We try to let things pass if there are misunderstandings,” the Vatican foreign minister, Archbishop Richard Paul Gallagher, told reporters this week. "With anybody, we would be looking to approach it and say, ‘OK, there may be a misunderstanding, let’s move on and try to rebuild trust and confidence.’” Leo and Trump have not spoken by phone since the pope's May 2025 election. Last week, however, Leo spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the humanitarian crisis in the Ukrainian city of Oleshky.Asked why Trump and Leo haven't spoken, Gallagher said the Holy See has found a capable conduit in the US ambassador to the Holy See, Brian Burch, and hadn't needed to elevate any issue higher.A pope who follows US politics closelyLeo has made clear on several occasions that he follows local and national US politics closely and is not afraid to intervene.Recently, Leo reiterated official church teaching declaring the death penalty “inadmissible.”He made the pronouncement in a social media post on the World Day Against the Death Penalty, which came as the US announced plans to livestream an execution by firing squad. The plans were later scrapped.In 2025, Leo intervened in a debate over abortion, after Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich announced plans to give a lifetime achievement award to Sen. Dick Durbin. The plans drew objection from some conservative US bishops given the powerful Democratic senator’s support for abortion rights.Leo called for respect for both sides, but he also pointed out the contradiction between people who call themselves “pro-life” but also

support the death penalty.Also in 2025, Leo said he was “very disappointed” that his home state of Illinois approved a law allowing medically assisted dying, which is condemned by the Catholic Church.The US Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a note commenting on the confirmation of Leo’s midterm vote, urged Catholics to put “our faith before our politics” and uphold human dignity and the common good.“As Catholics and Americans, we are blessed to be able to participate in our nation’s political and public life,” said the conference’s director of public affairs, Chieko Noguchi. “In voting, our Holy Father sets the example that encourages each citizen to exercise their civic responsibility.”

- Senate chief assures business community (2026-10-31 16:15)

SENATE President Sherwin Gatchalian on Saturday assured the country’s business sector that senators will rigorously vet the proposed P7.2-trillion 2027 national budget, promising to strip away all politically driven, technically baseless congressional insertions.The statement comes in direct response to a joint manifesto issued by major business groups on Oct. 29, 2026, which raised grave concerns over P180 billion in realignments introduced by the House of Representatives under House Bill 10858.Gatchalian welcomed the private sector’s vigilance and maintained that a clean budget can be delivered without delaying its timely passage.Projects to be purgedGatchalian said a formal recall of the House-approved General Appropriations Bill is unnecessary.Instead, the Senate will address the discrepancies through its own rigorous committee and plenary review processes."The Senate Committee on Finance will remove from the General Appropriations Bill all projects lacking supporting documents, such as feasibility studies, programs of work, resolutions from the LGUs (local government units), and other required documents," Gatchalian said.To ensure public oversight, the Senate leader also committed to deep transparency reforms."We will continue the transparency reforms by uploading all relevant information to the Senate Transparency Portal," he added.Furthermore, Gatchalian asserted that the Senate will remove unconstitutional and lump-sum provisions previously flagged by the Supreme Court — specifically tightening safeguards on unprogrammed appropriations — while keeping final spending strictly within the president’s recommended ceiling in the National Expenditure Program (NEP).Massive realignmentThe business community’s joint call exposed a massive realignment by the House Budget Amendments and Review Subcommittee (Barsc), which added over P180 billion to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allocation.The adjustments reportedly inflated the DPWH project registry by 6,212 items — bringing the total to 16,270 projects — many of which are classified as vague lump-sum entries for multi-purpose buildings and bypass roads, lacking named proponents or published project lists.Of greater concern to the business sector was the source of the funding. The House reportedly carved out P130 billion from rigorously prepared, foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, P9.5 billion from calamity funds, P4.9 billion from vital health care programs, and P1.76 billion from the EDSA Busway project."Raiding calamity funds in a country that is exposed to disasters is indefensible," the business groups said in their manifesto, warning that cutting foreign-assisted projects delays high-impact infrastructure needed to reduce logistics costs and attract capital.The sector noted

that past unvetted insertions between 2023 and 2025 resulted in "ghost and substandard flood control projects" that wasted public funds.Signatories to the manifesto were the Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Federation of Philippine Industries, Foundation for Economic Freedom, Judicial Reform Initiative, Cebu Business Club, Cebu Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Alyansa Agrikultura, and the Move As One Coalition.Not an election fundIn response to fears that the allocations could be weaponized ahead of upcoming political cycles, Gatchalian firmly rejected the label of an "election budget."He emphasized that the final 2027 appropriations will be a growth and resilience budget explicitly mapped out to address inflation, job creation, food security, health care and disaster readiness.The Senate is scheduled to begin its plenary deliberations on Nov. 9, 2026. Both the Senate leadership and the business community agree that eliminating baseless insertions can be achieved comfortably within the current legislative calendar, thereby averting the economic risks of a reenacted budget."Investors, at home and abroad, read the national budget as a statement of how seriously a government takes integrity and value for money," the business sector statement read, adding that they will closely monitor the legislative process through to its final enactment.

- Road Crash Victims Day guidelines issued (2026-10-31 16:15)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Memorandum Circular 139 on Oct. 26, providing guidelines for this year’s observance of the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Their Families on Nov. 15.” The 2026 National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Their Families will be observed on the third Sunday of November with the theme, ‘Remember. Reflect. Act. Save Lives,’ and its successful observance will require the active participation of all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as the support of local government units and the private sector,” the memorandum read.Republic Act 11468, also known as the National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and Their Families Act, is a Philippine law approved on Jan. 23, 2020, during the administration of former president Rodrigo Duterte.Its main purpose is to honor people who lost their lives in road crashes, recognize survivors and their families, and promote road safety awareness throughout the country.The law promotes better support for road crash victims, survivors and their families. It recognizes that road crashes do not only affect the individuals involved. They also affect families, communities and society.The Department of Transportation was tasked to provide guidelines for all programs and activities, while the Presidential Communications Office will promote public awareness of the event.

- Lopez orders completion of stalled DPWH projects (2026-10-31 16:14)

PUBLIC Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez said he has ordered the completion of all projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).Lopez issued the statement during the reopening of a road in Tuba, Benguet, on Fridaay.” If you recall, Secretary Vince Dizon visited this site in May 2026, and iThe nstructed the regional director and district

engineering officials to address the problem here," Lopez said.President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. recently ordered a Cabinet reshuffle where Dizon and Lopez swapped places. Dizon returned to head the Department of Transportation to address mass transit and daily commuter issues, while Lopez assumed leadership of the DPWH to institutionalize ongoing anti-corruption and transparency reforms.The road in Benguet, Lopez said, had been operating on a one-way basis since 2025, causing inconvenience to residents and motorists.Lopez said the concerned DPWH officials were ordered to complete the work in five months."We will hold them to their commitment," he said.Lopez added that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. wants the road opened for the All Saints' Day travel rush."The President's instruction is that whatever commitments Secretary Vince made and whatever projects were delayed must be continued," he said."That commitment is not just to the President or to Secretary Vince. Above all, it is a commitment to the Filipino people," Lopez added.

• Govt favors public-private partnerships for airports (2026-10-31 16:12)

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Vince Dizon said on Saturday that the government is determined to pursue more public-private partnerships (PPPs) to improve airports around the country.The order of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Dizon said, is to pursue PPP arrangements for as many airports as possible."Clearly, we can see the difference in security, comfort and shorter queues," Dizon said, comparing airports operated under PPP arrangements with those still managed by the government.He cited Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Clark International Airport and Mactan-Cebu International Airport as examples."There's a huge difference when we compare these airports with those that have not yet been placed under PPP arrangements," Dizon said, noting such joint ventures would help accelerate the improvement of passenger services."We still have a lot to improve, but things have gotten much better and travel has become more convenient. We can make these improvements faster and more efficiently through public-private partnerships because the government alone cannot do it," he said.This comes as the government prepares to host the upcoming Asean Summit.Dizon said the Department of Transportation is in coordination with the Asean Organizing Committee on how the summit could impact flight schedules.

• Strait of Hormuz attack prompts heightened alert (2026-10-31 16:11)

THE Department of Migrant Workers and the Philippine Embassy in Muscat said strict monitoring of vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz was being implemented due to the high number of Filipino seafarers navigating these high-risk waters.This comes after official reports from the Omani Maritime Security Center and regional maritime agencies confirmed that 25 sailors were safely evacuated and provided medical care after their vessel was attacked off Musandam Governorate on Oct. 30.Authorities have not yet released the crew manifest of those aboard.The incident happened during a sharp surge in maritime hostilities across the vital shipping corridor. Reports from regional monitors and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps cited a wave of tanker interceptions, hull explosions from attached explosive devices and alleged naval mine strikes affecting commercial traffic.The recurring security threats in the

region prompted Philippine labor authorities to enforce protective measures for Filipino maritime workers.Under these official protocols, mariners retain the right to refuse deployment into designated high-risk or warlike zones, while those continuing transit are entitled to double compensation and immediate repatriation if their vessels are targeted.

• Ordanes pushes national artist category for culinary arts (2026-10-31 16:10)

SENIOR Citizens Party-list Rep. Rodolfo Ordanes on Saturday urged the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) to establish a national artist category for culinary arts.This comes as Philippine restaurants gain more Michelin recognition, an award bestowed upon a restaurant by the Michelin Guide, one of the world’s oldest, most prestigious and influential fine-dining evaluation systems.Culinary arts are not currently recognized as a separate category under the Order of National Artists, a gap he said deserves serious consideration by the two cultural institutions.” As Philippine cuisine gains wider international recognition, we must also honor the leading practitioners who have preserved, developed and elevated our country’s culinary traditions,” Ordanes said in a statement.” The culinary arts are not yet recognized as a separate category under the Order of National Artists. This deserves serious consideration by the NCCA and CCP,” he added.He called on leading Philippine universities to conduct scholarly research documenting the foundations, diversity and distinct traditions of the country’s cuisines.Ordanes emphasized the use of “Philippine cuisines” in the plural, saying the country’s culinary heritage extends beyond well-known dishes such as adobo, sinigang, kare-kare, lechon and sisig.” Establishing a National Artist category for Culinary Arts would bring greater national and international attention to Filipino culinary excellence,” Ordanes said.” It would also shine a spotlight on the many chefs, cooks, food service workers, farmers, fisherfolk and livestock raisers who sustain our rich food traditions,” he added.Establishing a new national artist category, he said, would also pave the way for the recognition of the communities, traditions and people behind the food that makes the Philippines proud.In its second Philippine edition, the Michelin Guide recognized 19 new food establishments across Manila, Cebu, Pampanga and Cavite, bringing the total number of honorees this year to 127.Among the new Bib Gourmand awardees are Apag Marangle and Tito Boy in Pampanga; Balay Dako and Bawai’s Vietnamese Kitchen in Cavite; Azela in Manila; Tatang’s Lechon and Kalipay in Cebu; and C.H.E. Bacolod Chicken House Express in Makati.

• Marcos approves climate change event guidelines (2026-10-31 16:09)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has approved the guidelines for the observance of the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on Nov. 19 to 25.Released through Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Memorandum Circular 140 orders government bodies, government-owned and -controlled corporations, and state universities and colleges to participate in the event.” The 2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week will be celebrated nationwide from 19 to 25 November 2026, to be led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the theme, ‘Komunidad, Kooperasyon at Koordinasyon para sa

Klima,' and its successful celebration will require the active participation of all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as the support of local government units, educational institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector," the memorandum read.The CCC is the government's primary policymaking agency on climate issues under Republic Act 9729 and its amendment, Republic Act 10174.The funding for the initiative will come from each agency's existing budget, following standard budget, accounting and auditing rules. The Presidential Communications Office, meanwhile, was instructed to raise public awareness on the event.

- Network anchor posts bail over cyber libel charges (2026-10-31 16:07)

CJ Hirro, known as an anchor of the Peanut Gallery Media Network (PGMN), appeared on Friday at the Regional Trial Court Branch 90 in Quezon City and posted bail of over P300,000 after a warrant of arrest was issued against her for seven counts of cyber libel by former congressman Marvin Rillo.Hirro posted bail of P336,000 in cash and was granted provisional liberty.In a statement on her Facebook page late Friday, Hirro said she respects the court's authority and thanked her legal team and colleagues. "I respect the authority of the Court and wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Court and its personnel for the prompt, orderly and efficient processing of my bail, particularly given the limited court hours preceding the long weekend. I am equally grateful to my legal team and colleagues at Peanut Gallery Media Network for their efforts to ensure that I could promptly comply with the Court's requirements," Hirro wrote. "The P336,000 bail is a substantial amount, particularly for private citizens who must rely on their own resources and the support of people willing to help. Unlike public officials whose salaries, allowances and official expenses are funded by taxpayers, ordinary citizens bear the financial consequences of defending themselves in court. It is a distinction worth keeping in mind when publicly discussing the financial burden of legal proceedings," she added.Hirro said that the cyber libel case stemmed from her reporting on the former lawmaker. "My reporting concerning the P71-million Carlos L. Albert High School gymnasium project was recognized as fair comment based on official government documents. A separate video questioning where public funds had gone was likewise found to concern a legitimate matter of public interest, resulting in the dismissal of that portion of the complaint. The complaints against PGMN's officers, including its President and CEO, Franco Mabanta, were also dismissed," she wrote. "These findings are particularly significant given the evidence underlying my reporting. Official bidding documents for the P71-million gymnasium project included roofing, floor tiles, doors and windows, but more than a year after the project was promised, the site had little more than foundations and posts to show for it. Mr. Rillo's camp claimed that this was only the first phase of construction, despite the absence of any indication in the original project documents that it was intended to be implemented in phases, or any identified funding for subsequent phases. Even assuming that explanation were true, it does not account for the glaring disparity between the P71-million allocation and the construction actually delivered. The public deserves an answer to that discrepancy. Mr. Rillo has had every opportunity to explain it. He chose to file a case against the journalist instead," Hirro

added.The online anchor said the warrant of arrest against her is “a preliminary finding of probable cause, not a vindication of Mr. Rillo’s allegations,” and she was not surprised by that.“I welcome the opportunity to present the evidence supporting my investigative reports and the findings I discussed in my episodes. My reporting concerned matters of legitimate public interest, particularly the conduct of an elected official, the use of public resources and representations made to the electorate. I stand by my work and am prepared to defend its factual and evidentiary foundations before the Court,” Hirro stated. “I have no intention of apologizing for doing my job as a journalist. I have no intention of retracting findings that I believe are supported by evidence. And I certainly have no intention of abandoning my responsibility to scrutinize public officials and how they exercise the authority entrusted to them by the Filipino people,” she added.PGMN is known as an online news and commentary platform established by Franco Mabanta in 2024, while a former host at TV networks such as PTV-4 and Net-25.

- Police, medical responders monitor Manila cemeteries (2026-10-31 16:06)

AT least 10,500 people visited Manila North Cemetery as of 12 noon on Saturday, according to the Manila Police District (MPD), as police personnel continued to ensure the safety of visitors paying respects to their deceased loved ones.Meanwhile, the Manila City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department (MCDRRMD) deployed its Emergency Medical Services team to different areas of Manila North Cemetery to provide immediate medical assistance to visitors.Volunteers also assisted medical responders in providing services to the public.Members of the Incident Management Team also visited the cemetery to inspect the readiness and condition of responders stationed in the area.The MCDRRMD also deployed its Emergency Medical Services team at Manila South Cemetery to provide immediate medical assistance to visitors, with volunteers assisting the responders.Manila City Mayor Francisco ”Isko Moreno” Domagoso earlier said the city government had completed its preparations for Undas 2026 after 10 days of coordination among various offices and agencies, including the MPD and MCDRRMD. He also said vendors would not be allowd inside cemeteries, with designated selling areas provided outside their perimeters.Security deploymentAt least 270 police officers have been deployed at the Manila North Cemetery to maintain peace and order as thousands of Filipinos visit their departed loved ones for All Saints’ Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls’ Day on Nov. 2.Police Lt. Col. Jolliet Soriano, MPD Station 3 commander and ground commander of the cemetery’s security deployment, said officers have been stationed at strategic points, including gates and passageways, to manage the expected influx of visitors and ensure public safety.The deployment is part of a wider security operation of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), which deployed 12,848 personnel across Metro Manila as of 6 a.m. on Saturday, with nearly 1,000 more scheduled to reinforce security through Nov. 2.Police Lt. Col. Hazel Asilo, NCRPO spokesman, said no untoward incidents had been monitored at cemeteries and transport terminals as of Saturday morning.The Philippine National Police (PNP) placed all its units nationwide on full alert from Oct. 30 until Nov. 3, mobilizing about 141,000 police personnel and augmentation forces to secure cemeteries,

transportation hubs and other areas expected to draw large crowds.In Metro Manila, about 25,000 personnel are available for Undas security operations, with around 7,000 assigned to priority areas, including cemeteries, major roads and transport hubs, NCRPO regional director Brig. Gen. Christopher Nortez Abrahano said.More than 3,600 police officers have also been assigned to patrol communities to deter criminal activity while residents visit cemeteries or travel to their home provinces.Mobile patrols will cover major roads, while foot patrols, in coordination with barangay officials and other force multipliers, will monitor residential areas where houses may be left unattended.Police are also monitoring commercial establishments and other areas to prevent crimes during the holiday period.The security preparations at Manila North Cemetery followed an Oct. 30 inspection by PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., Abrahano and MPD director Brig. Gen. Arnold Santiago, who assessed the cemetery’s readiness ahead of the observance.More than 1,000 people had visited Manila North Cemetery as of Oct. 30, according to police figures. The NCRPO recorded about 1.8 million cemetery visitors across Metro Manila during last year’s observance.Asilo clarified that cemetery administrators and their designated personnel are responsible for inspecting bags and screening visitors at entrances, while police provide secondary security and assistance when needed.Police officers are also authorized to patrol inside cemeteries to prevent incidents and respond to requests for assistance.Authorities are enforcing cemetery rules and local ordinances, including restrictions on bladed weapons and other prohibited items. Police assistance desks have been set up at transport terminals, where officers are also making public-address announcements, reminding passengers to stay vigilant.Asilo urged cemetery visitors to safeguard their belongings against pickpockets and other thieves, particularly as crowds increase.She also encouraged victims of theft to file formal complaints against suspects to facilitate appropriate legal action.The NCRPO said it would continue to assess security requirements and adjust deployments based on crowd movement and other developments during the observance, including the possible return of travelers from the provinces after the holidays.Cemetery securityThe NCRPO is enforcing existing cemetery rules and local ordinances, including restrictions on bladed weapons and other prohibited items.Asilo urged cemetery visitors to guard their belongings against pickpockets and other thieves, particularly as crowds grow during the observance.She encouraged victims of theft to file formal complaints against suspects to ensure that appropriate legal action can be taken.The NCRPO also advised residents to remain alert to possible criminal activity in crowded areas and to avoid leaving their mobile phones and other valuables unattended.Asilo said police will continue to monitor the situation and adjust deployments based on security assessments and the movement of people during the All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day period.

- Govt officials visit injured OFWs in Saudi attack (2026-10-31 16:05)

PHILIPPINE Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Raymond Balatbat and Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac visited overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who survived the Oct. 10 terrorist attacks at the King Khalid International Airport.Also present during the visit on Oct. 27 were Migrant Workers Undersecretary Jainal Rasul Jr., and labor officials Dominador

Salanga, Solaiman Mutia and Geraldine Mendez.The Oct. 10 incident marked the third and deadliest attack targeting the prominent Riyadh aviation hub within a single week. The Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation reported that the projectile strikes — claimed by Yemen-based Houthi forces using a combination of drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles — killed at least 13 individuals and wounded over 300 others.Among the fatalities were citizens from the United States, Egypt, Bangladesh, Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Sudan and Pakistan.Despite the threat, Cacdac said that the government is not considering a deployment ban to Saudi Arabia, noting the country's strong commitment to protecting foreign nationals.The Philippine Embassy has issued a stern reminder to all Filipinos in Saudi Arabia to maintain heightened vigilance and strictly avoid military installations, oil refineries and crowded public sectors.

• Coalition seeks justice for slain labor leaders (2026-10-31 16:04)

THE Nagkaisa labor coalition on Saturday called for justice for slain workers and protection for laborers' rights.As the nation remembers All Saints' Day, it said the government should hear the cry for justice for the families of slain labor leaders like Emmanuel "Manny" Asuncion, Leonides "Dennis" Sequeña and Orlando "Ka Lando" Abangan."While travel arrangements are being made for those visiting graves, ensure that justice also moves forward for those laid to rest and that the families they left behind have a means of livelihood," the coalition said in a statement issued by its convenors Sonny Matula, Judy Ann Chan Miranda and Josua Mata."Bury the dead, but do not bury their cases," it added.The coalition reiterated its call for the lifting of the injunction issued by the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 152 against a wage increase in the National Capital Region. The Office of the Solicitor General, it said, should submit its required comment on the case without seeking another extension."What should be increased is wages, not extensions of time. Families' meals cannot be put on hold while paperwork is delayed," Nagkaisa said."A just wage recognizes the contribution of labor to the economy. Workers need it now as they work every day to provide for their families and the country," it added.

• Malabon opens new crematory, interment building (2026-10-31 16:03)

Malabon Mayor Jeannie Sandoval led the inauguration of the city's new crematory and interment building at Tugatog Public Cemetery, expanding its funeral, cremation, and interment services.The inauguration was followed by the blessing of 51 urns and the cremation of 20 remains under the city government's free cremation program, Sandoval told The Manila Times on Saturday.She said families attended the ceremony to offer prayers and honor the memory of their departed loved ones ahead of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day collectively called 'Undas.' Built on a 417.50-square-meter lot, the new facility has two main structures: the administrative building and the crematory and interment place; both are dedicated to providing spaces for administrative operations and funeral-related services for families in need of assistance, City Administrator Alex Rosete said in a separate Viber interview.The administrative building houses an office, a conference area, storage space, a pantry, restrooms, and a porch and waiting area for visitors—facilities that support day-to-day operations and serve both

personnel and the public, Rosete said.The crematory and interment building contains a crematory and service area, two chapels with a transition area, and a waiting area, giving families designated areas for cremation-related services and gatherings where they can pay their last respects."We continue to improve our facilities to meet the needs of our fellow residents. Proper preparation and coordination are important to ensure that the services provided by our city government are appropriate, orderly, and delivered with care for every ‘Malabueño’ household," Sandoval said.The inauguration comes nearly a year after the October 21, 2025 opening of the first phase of The Risen Christ Hall, a multi-storey, apartment-style tomb facility with 360 niches where families can lay their departed loved ones to rest. “That facility was also inaugurated ahead of the Undas observance to add interment spaces for residents,” the city officials said.Residents and visitors were urged to follow cemetery rules, dispose of garbage properly, secure their belongings, and observe traffic advisories and instructions of personnel deployed to assist the public, according to Rosete.

- Lending your vehicle for Undas? Here’s how to avoid being flagged as colorum (2026-10-31 16:02)

AS government agencies ramp up their anti-colorum campaign this holiday season, and during the observance of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day (Undas), a transport group reminded private vehicle owners of their rights and responsibilities when lending out their cars.The reminder came after the Department of Transportation, along with its attached agencies — the Land Transportation Office and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and Highway Patrol Group — tightened flagging down of suspected colorum vehicles. “But what exactly constitutes colorum and when is a private vehicle simply on a legitimate private trip?” asked lawyer Ariel Inton, founder of Lawyers for Commuters Safety and Protection (LCSP).He explained that a vehicle is considered colorum if it is a private unit used for hire without a franchise or with an expired one; a vehicle that has a franchise but is used under a different denomination — for example, a school bus franchise operating as a UV (utility vehicle) Express; and a vehicle that is operating out of line, such as a unit with a Cubao-to-Antipolo route but plying Cavite. “Even ’ vans for hire advertised on Facebook are considered colorum if they operate without a franchise,” Inton told The Manila Times via Viber interview.But the issue becomes murky during the holiday season, particularly Undas, when families typically travel together, he said. What happens if a private vehicle owner lends his van to a friend or relative for a family outing — and enforcers flag the vehicle down on suspicion of being colorum?The LCSP founder said that if the vehicle was merely borrowed and no rent was paid, it is not colorum.But law enforcers may still pressure the driver and passengers based on “reasonable suspicion.” “They would insist that a private vehicle must be for private trips and not for public use,” Inton said.To avoid being wrongly flagged, the LCSP head said drivers and the passengers should bring identification cards (IDs) to prove their familial relationship.Bring an authorization letter indicating the destination and the relationship between the owner and the borrower, such as child or sibling, and always keep the official receipt, certificate of registration and other supporting documents for presentation to enforcers, said Inton, a former Quezon

City councilor and an LTFRB official. “Pick up passengers at one meeting place. If you pick up passengers, especially in areas where for-hire vehicles pass, and enforcers are watching, you may be suspected of operating as a public utility vehicle,” he said. “Talk calmly with enforcers. Maintain a respectful tone when dealing with the authorities who flagged you down,” he added.Expressing its full support for the government’s campaign, the LCSP said authorities should focus on going after colorum syndicates — groups that are genuinely making a living out of illegal transport operations.Inton said his group was also concerned that some colorum operators may have informants and are paying off officials, which is why they continue to operate openly to this day.

• Marcos urges Filipinos to honor departed loved ones through kindness (2026-10-31 16:01)

MANILA, Philippines — As the country observes All Saints' Day, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. implored Filipinos to honor their departed loved ones through acts of compassion and service. “I join the Catholic faithful and the entire Filipino nation in the solemn observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day,” Marcos said in his message.Many Filipinos are expected to visit the grave of their departed loved ones to honor their memory.As they travel to visit their departed loved ones, Marcos said honoring their lives is what keeps the nation strong. “Even in their absence, those we have lost continue to bring us closer together, keeping alive the bonds that have made the Filipino family and the whole nation resilient and strong through challenges,” he said.The Chief Executive also highlighted the Filipino’s strong devotion to saints, which he said inspires the nation to “find lasting purpose in every kindness we give and every burden we help carry for others.” “If we can make time to revere those who have passed, we can also make room to listen to those who struggle, and let that same concern guide our society and the work of government,” he said. “May these solemn days bring peace to those who mourn and remind us to cherish those who remain,” Marcos added.

• Research or spy ship? Maritime expert sees presence of Chinese vessel inside disputed Bajo de Masinloc 'threat to PH security' (2026-10-31 08:29)

MANILA, Philippines — A Chinese "scientific research vessel," escorted by China's military aircraft and naval forces, was spotted inside Bajo de Masinloc or Scarborough Shoal carrying unidentified equipment, which could be used to conceal activities that could threaten national security, according to an expert on Saturday.Jose Antonio Goitia said Beijing should not be allowed to use claims of scientific research to conceal potential military activities, stressing the Philippines' right to protect its maritime interests and demand transparency from foreign vessels operating in its maritime domain.The warning came after the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported the presence of an unidentified orange, boat-shaped object fitted with sensors and antennas aboard a Chinese vessel seen inside the shoal's lagoon on Oct. 30.The PCG has yet to determine the equipment's intended function or establish whether the vessel conducted underwater surveillance or deployed autonomous underwater vehicles.The sighting coincided with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command's announcement on Friday that Chinese naval and air forces had conducted combat-readiness patrols in the waters and

airspace around Huangyan Dao, Beijing's name for Bajo de Masinloc.The PLA said it had strengthened patrols around the shoal since early October to tighten control over the surrounding waters and airspace, describing the latest operations as a response to what it called Philippine rights violations and provocative acts.Footage aired by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV-7's Junshi Baodao (Military Report) on Oct. 30 showed military aircraft and a naval vessel operating around the shoal, including scenes depicting Chinese forces monitoring a Philippine aircraft and issuing radio warnings.The broadcast did not independently establish when the encounters occurred or verify Beijing's claim that the Philippine aircraft had entered Chinese territorial airspace.Separately, the China Coast Guard said it conducted law-enforcement patrols around the shoal on Friday, also citing alleged Philippine provocations.Goitia expressed concern over reports that Chinese maritime platforms described as "ghost research ships" could be used to deploy underwater drones to map submarine transit routes and collect information with potential military applications, including anti-submarine warfare.Available information, however, does not establish that the vessel spotted inside the shoal's lagoon carried out such activities."China must stop treating our waters as though they are its own. Filipinos have endured enough intimidation and harassment in our maritime domain. We have every right to know what foreign vessels are doing in our waters, and we will not accept activities that threaten our security or disregard our sovereign rights," Goitia said.He cited the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Unclos), particularly Article 246, which generally requires coastal state consent for marine scientific research in a country's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, subject to the convention's provisions.Article 240 requires marine scientific research to be conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes.The latest developments add to tensions around Bajo de Masinloc, a longstanding flashpoint in the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China.The shoal lies about 124 nautical miles west of Zambales, within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone.China has maintained control over access to the shoal since a 2012 standoff with the Philippines. In 2016, an arbitral tribunal ruled that Filipino fishermen had traditional fishing rights there and that China had unlawfully prevented them from exercising those rights.The tribunal also rejected China's claims to historic rights over resources within its so-called nine-dash line to the extent that they exceeded the maritime entitlements allowed under Unclos.Beijing rejects the ruling and continues to assert sovereignty over the shoal.

- Public-private partnerships pushed for more PH airports (2026-10-31 04:51)

MANILA, Philippines -- Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon said on Saturday that the government would pursue more public-private partnerships (PPPs) for airports nationwide, citing improvements in security, passenger comfort and queue management at facilities already turned over to private operators.Dizon said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had directed the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to pursue PPP arrangements for as many airports as possible, with announcements on additional projects expected in the coming days. “Clearly, we can see the difference in security, comfort and shorter queues,” Dizon said, comparing airports operated under PPP arrangements with those still managed by the government.He

cited the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Clark International Airport and Mactan-Cebu International Airport as examples of airports under private-sector participation.“There's a huge difference when we compare these airports with those that have not yet been placed under PPP arrangements,” according to the DOTr chief.Acknowledging that improvements at the country's airports remained a work in progress, Dizon stressed that the private-sector participation would help accelerate upgrades and improve passenger services.“We still have a lot to improve, but things have gotten much better and travel has become more convenient. We can make these improvements faster and more efficiently through public-private partnerships because the government alone cannot do it,” he said.Dizon’s remarks came as the government prepared for the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit, which will bring regional leaders and delegates to the Philippines.The DOTr was still coordinating with the Asean Organizing Committee to determine the summit's impact on flight schedules, including possible cancellations and adjustments to the arrivals and departures of heads of state and other delegates, the top transportation agency official said.

- Duterte waives appearance at ICC status conference (2026-10-31 04:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Former president Rodrigo Duterte has waived his right to attend the fifth status conference in his crimes against humanity case before the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Nov. 2, 2026, allowing his lawyers to handle procedural matters on his behalf.In a filing dated Oct. 30, Duterte's defense team submitted his signed waiver to the ICC Trial Chamber III, complying with the chamber's directive to formally place the document on record.The defense said Duterte had notified the chamber on Oct. 28 that he wished to waive his right to attend the scheduled conference.On Oct. 29, the chamber granted the request and ordered the defense to submit a signed waiver, according to the filing.Duterte also instructed his lawyers to address the procedural matters listed on the conference agenda, as well as any other matters that may arise during the hearing.The fifth status conference is scheduled for Nov. 2 before Trial Chamber III, composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner and Judges Keebong Paek and Nicolas Guillou.The status conference is a procedural hearing in the case of the prosecution against Duterte over alleged crimes against humanity in connection with his administration's anti-drug campaign.

- 4 injured after lights, audio trusses collapse at San Juan event venue (2026-10-31 04:07)

MANILA, Philippines — Four people were injured after lights and audio trusses collapsed during preparations for an event at the Filoil Centre in San Juan City on Friday, according to the city government.The four injured individuals were taken to Cardinal Santos Medical Center for treatment.“Based on initial reports from the San Juan City Police Station, three victims sustained minor injuries and have already been cleared for discharge, while one remains hospitalized for further medical evaluation and treatment,” the city government said in a statement on Friday.The incident occurred during ingress for an event by a private organizer renting the Filoil Centre, which is independently managed and operated by HOME Inc.The city

government identified the event organizer’s technical supplier as having set up the lights and audio trusses. The supplier has no ties or contractual relationship with the local government, the statement added. “We have formally reached out to the event organizer and are awaiting their full report,” the city government said.The city government and the San Juan City Police Station are investigating the incident. “Alongside the San Juan City Police Station, we are conducting a rigorous investigation into the incident to establish the facts and ensure full accountability,” the statement read.

- Lopez orders resumption of work on delayed road projects (2026-10-31 03:12)

MANILA, Philippines—Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Giovanni Lopez has ordered regional and district engineering officials to continue delayed infrastructure projects, saying the agency will honor commitments under the previous leadership.Lopez, who personally led the reopening of a road in Tuba, Benguet on Friday, said the administration would ensure the completion of projects previously committed to by his predecessor and now Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon, stressing that these were obligations to the public. “If you recall, Secretary Vince Dizon visited this site in May 2026 and instructed the regional director and district engineering officials to address the problem here,” Lopez said.The road had been operating one way since 2025, inconveniencing residents and motorists, he said.Lopez said the concerned local DPWH officials were directed to resolve the problem, with regional and district engineering personnel committing to complete the necessary work within five months. “We will hold them to their commitment,” Lopez said.He added that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. had ordered the reopening of the road, so motorists and residents could use it during the Undas holiday period.The President had also directed the DPWH to complete urgent major road repairs by Oct. 30, 2026 to ease travel during the annual observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, Lopez said.Despite changes in leadership at DPWH and DOTr, Lopez said the administration would continue projects initiated under Dizon. “The President's instruction is that whatever commitments Secretary Vince made and whatever projects were delayed must be continued,” he said. “That commitment is not just to the President or to Secretary Vince. Above all, it is a commitment to the Filipino people,” Lopez added.He then instructed DPWH regional directors and district engineers to ensure that ongoing projects proceeded without further delays, saying there was no sufficient reason to allow the work to be held up any longer.The top DPWH official said he would continue monitoring infrastructure projects to ensure that commitments made by the government were fulfilled.

- Marcos signs order requiring agencies to join climate change commemoration (2026-10-31 02:28)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged all government agencies to support the initiative as the nation commemorates the Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on Nov. 19 to 25, 2026.Marcos—through Executive Secretary Ralph Recto—signed Memorandum Circular 140, which orders government bodies,

government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), and state universities and colleges (SUCs) to participate in the commemoration led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC). “The 2026 Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week will be celebrated nationwide from 19 to 25 November 2026, to be led by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the theme, "Komunidad, Kooperasyon at Koordinasyon para sa Klima," and its successful celebration will require the active participation of all concerned government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as the support of local government units (LGUs), educational institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector,” the memorandum reads.

- LPA to bring rains to parts of PH on 'Undas' (2026-10-31 02:06)

MANILA, Philippines — A lowp ressure area (LPA) is expected to bring scattered rains and thunderstorms over parts of the Visayas, Mindanao, Mimaropa and Bicol Region on Saturday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).In its live weather forecast, Pagasa weather earlier in the day, specialist Obet Badrina said the LPA was last spotted 320 kilometers east of Borongan City, Eastern Samar. “It may move westward and possibly pass through Eastern Visayas and parts of the Visayas,” Badrina said.Meanwhile, the shear line is expected to bring scattered rains over Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora and Quezon.Metro Manila, Central Luzon and the rest of Luzon may experience isolated rain showers and thunderstorms from afternoon to evening, according to the weather bureau.Badrina advised those visiting cemeteries for Undas to bring umbrellas.

- Senate to scrutinize P7.2T budget after businessmen raise alarm over House insertions — Gatchalian (2026-10-31 01:27)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate President Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian on Saturday assured the country’s business sector that the Senate would vet the proposed P7.2 trillion 2027 national budget, promising to strip away all politically driven, technically baseless congressional insertions.The statement comes in direct response to a joint manifesto issued by major business groups on Oct. 29, 2026, which raised concerns over P180 billion in realignments introduced by the House of Representatives under House Bill 10858. Gatchalian welcomed the private sector’s vigilance and maintained that a clean budget can be delivered without delaying its timely passage.Senate to purge document-deficient projectsReassuring investors and the public of the Senate's commitment to fiscal discipline, Gatchalian said that a formal recall of the House-approved General Appropriations Bill was unnecessary. Instead, the Senate will address the discrepancies through its own committee and plenary review processes."The Senate Committee on Finance will remove from the General Appropriations Bill all projects lacking supporting documents, such as feasibility studies, programs of work, resolutions from the LGUs, and other required documents," Gatchalian said.To ensure public oversight, the Senate leader also committed to deep transparency reforms. "We will continue the transparency reforms by uploading all relevant information to the Senate Transparency Portal," he added.Furthermore, Gatchalian asserted that the upper chamber will actively remove unconstitutional and lump-sum provisions previously flagged by the Supreme

Court—specifically tightening safeguards on unprogrammed appropriations—while keeping final spending strictly within the president’s recommended ceiling in the National Expenditure Program (NEP).Business sector flag 'deeply troubling' realignmentThe business community’s joint call exposed a massive realignment by the House Budget Amendments and Review Subcommittee (BARSC), which added over P180 billion to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) allocation. The adjustments reportedly inflated the DPWH project registry by 6,212 items—bringing the total to 16,270 projects—many of which are classified as vague lump sums for multi-purpose buildings and bypass roads lacking named proponents or published project lists.Of greater concern to the business sector was the source of the funding. The House reportedly carved out P130 billion from rigorously prepared, foreign-assisted infrastructure projects, P9.5 billion from calamity funds, P4.9 billion from vital healthcare programs, and P1.76 billion from the EDSA Busway project."Raiding calamity funds in a country that is exposed to disasters is indefensible," the business groups stated in its manifesto, warning that cutting foreign-assisted projects delays high-impact infrastructure needed to reduce logistics costs and attract capital. The sector noted that past unvetted insertions between 2023 and 2025 resulted in "ghost and substandard flood control projects" that wasted public funds.A growth budget, not an election fundIn response to fears that the allocations could be weaponized ahead of upcoming political cycles, Gatchalian firmly rejected the label of an "election budget." He emphasized that the final 2027 appropriations would be a growth and resilience budget explicitly mapped out to address inflation, job creation, food security, healthcare, and disaster readiness.