

# PHILIPPINES SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

**AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment**

Analysis Period: November 02, 2026 - November 09, 2026

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

## Executive Summary

The Philippines faced a dynamic security landscape from November 02 to November 09, 2026, marked by significant cybersecurity breaches targeting government agencies and persistent diplomatic tensions with China over the South China Sea. Concurrently, Manila continued to strengthen its defense alliance with the United States, receiving new maritime surveillance assets and engaging in extensive cooperative activities. Relations with the European Union saw positive momentum, with reaffirmations of enhanced partnership and progress on a Free Trade Agreement. The nation's defense posture is evolving with ambitions for an "expeditionary navy," while counter-terrorism efforts remain focused on internal threats.

## Key Security Developments

- Major Government Data Breach

On November 4, 2026, an unknown threat actor exfiltrated nearly 69GB of sensitive information from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), compromising records related to migrant workers, contracts, and financial data. The breach, which involved the theft of 27 backup databases within a 24-minute window, utilized sophisticated privilege escalation tools like GodPotato and SeImpersonate, and a Singaporean staging server. This incident highlights significant vulnerabilities in government cybersecurity infrastructure.

- Alleged Data Leak from Office of the Vice President

The Office of the Vice President (OVP) allegedly suffered a data leak of approximately 10 gigabytes of documents, as reported by cybersecurity advocacy group Deep Web Konek on November 5, 2026. A hacker identified as "DeathNoteHackers" claimed responsibility on an underground cybercrime forum, stating the compromised materials consisted of 12,979 PDF files from the OVP's scheduling platform. The National Privacy Commission (NPC) announced on November 6, 2026, that it would verify these reports and coordinate with affected agencies.

- Heightened Tensions in South China Sea with China

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi issued a warning to Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro during a telephone conversation on November 3, 2026, urging caution over the South China Sea dispute and accusing certain Philippine politicians of undermining bilateral relations. Despite the warning, both sides agreed to maintain diplomatic dialogue and manage differences peacefully, with Lazaro

describing the discussion as "frank, pragmatic and constructive".

• Philippines Considers Second Legal Case Against China

A Philippines-based security analyst revealed on November 8, 2026, that Manila is preparing for a potential second legal case against Beijing concerning the South China Sea. This move could involve seeking compensation for environmental destruction and economic losses, as well as addressing alleged violations of sovereign rights under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

• Strengthening US-Philippines Defense Alliance

The United States reaffirmed its "ironclad" commitment to Philippine security on November 3, 2026, following a visit by US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth. The Philippines and the US are on track to execute more than 500 defense activities in 2026, including exercises like Balikatan, Salaknib, and Kamandag, which increasingly emphasize coastal defense, anti-ship tactics, area denial, and air defense.

• US Transfers Turboprop Planes to Philippine Coast Guard

On November 8, 2026, the United States announced the transfer of three King Air 350 Extended Range turboprop planes to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to bolster maritime domain awareness operations. These planes will enhance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions, providing greater operational range and faster response times, particularly in the South China Sea.

• Philippines Aims for "Expeditionary Navy"

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. reiterated the country's ambition to develop an "expeditionary navy" to protect Filipino seafarers and maritime resources in the high seas. While the Philippine Navy has acquired modern frigates and offshore patrol vessels, an analysis on November 9, 2026, noted challenges in terms of weapons and fuel for sustained blue-water operations.

• EU-Philippines Enhanced Partnership Reaffirmed

The Philippines and the European Union reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation in governance, sustainable development, digital transformation, and peace-building in Mindanao during the sixth Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Development Cooperation in Manila on October 1, 2026, reported on November 8, 2026. This follows the formal establishment of an Enhanced Partnership in July 2026.

• Progress on EU-Philippines Free Trade Agreement

Negotiations for a Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) reached substantial conclusion in September 2026, with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressing intent to return to Manila in 2027 for the signing. This agreement is expected to deepen economic ties, unlock stronger trade and investment flows, and promote knowledge and skills transfer.

- Maritime Security for Undas 2026

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) was on heightened alert from October 29 to November 3, 2026, for "Oplan Biyaheng Ayos: Undas 2026," deploying over 17,000 personnel nationwide to ensure the safety and security of an estimated 2 million sea passengers during the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day observance. Authorities reported a generally peaceful observance of Undas 2026.

- Immigration Intercepts Filipinos Bound for Conflict Zones

On November 4, 2026, the Bureau of Immigration intercepted two Filipino men attempting to leave the country after uncovering suspicious online recruitment schemes promising lucrative salaries for jobs in armed conflict zones. This follows a similar interception of three Filipinos in Davao on October 17, 2026, allegedly bound for military work in Eastern Europe.

## Cyber Threat Landscape

The period from November 02 to November 09, 2026, saw a significant escalation in cyber incidents targeting Philippine government entities. On November 4, 2026, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) suffered a major data breach, with an unknown threat actor exfiltrating nearly 69GB of sensitive data, including migrant worker records, contracts, and financial information. The attackers employed sophisticated privilege escalation tools such as GodPotato and SeImpersonate, and utilized the Impacket network library for data exfiltration, with a Singaporean staging server identified in the attack chain. While Chinese language fragments were found in third-party code, Hunt.io, the threat intelligence firm analyzing the incident, has not attributed the attack to a specific nation-state or criminal group.

Adding to the concerns, on November 5, 2026, the Office of the Vice President (OVP) allegedly experienced a data leak of approximately 10 gigabytes of documents, claimed by a hacker group identified as "DeathNoteHackers" on an underground cybercrime forum. The alleged leak reportedly involved 12,979 PDF files from the OVP's scheduling platform, accompanied by politically charged statements criticizing government spending. The National Privacy Commission (NPC) announced on November 6, 2026, that it would investigate these and other reported cyberattacks on government agencies, emphasizing the need to verify if personal data was compromised. These incidents underscore a persistent vulnerability within Philippine government systems, building on previous breaches such as the September 2026 Qilin ransomware attack on the Philippine Ports Authority and the August 2026 Philippine SMS Provider Breach. The government's cyber policy and response are currently focused on investigation and verification, with a broader context of addressing critical PHP vulnerabilities (CVE-2026-109618 and CVE-2026-109619)

affecting many websites, as advised by the PHP Foundation in October 2026.

## Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

The Philippines' recent security developments have significant geopolitical implications, particularly concerning the South China Sea and its relations with major powers. The diplomatic exchange between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro on November 3, 2026, highlighted the ongoing friction, with China issuing warnings against perceived "malicious interference" and "irrational and intolerable" behavior by certain Philippine politicians. Despite this, both nations agreed to maintain dialogue and manage differences, indicating a complex dynamic of confrontation and communication. This persistent tension in the South China Sea, where China's expansive claims clash with a 2016 international arbitration ruling, continues to be a critical flashpoint affecting regional stability.

The United States remains a steadfast ally, reaffirming its "ironclad" commitment to Philippine security and engaging in extensive defense cooperation. The planned execution of over 500 defense activities in 2026, including joint exercises emphasizing coastal defense and anti-ship tactics, demonstrates a deepening alliance aimed at deterring state actor threats and enhancing interoperability. The transfer of US turboprop planes to the Philippine Coast Guard further bolsters Manila's maritime domain awareness capabilities in the contested waters. This strengthening of the US-Philippines alliance, alongside the Philippines' consideration of a second legal case against China over the South China Sea, signals Manila's resolve to assert its sovereign rights and contributes to a broader strategic alignment among regional partners to counter Chinese assertiveness. The Philippines' role as ASEAN chair in 2026 also positions it as a key player in regional security dialogues, advocating for multilateralism and the rule of law.

## EU Relations and Implications

Relations between the Philippines and the European Union demonstrated positive momentum during this period, building on the formal establishment of an Enhanced Partnership in July 2026. A significant development was the substantial conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in September 2026, with expectations for its signing in 2027. This FTA is anticipated to significantly boost bilateral trade and investment, facilitating greater market access for Philippine agricultural and manufactured goods in the EU, and vice versa for European pharmaceutical products and transport vehicles.

Beyond trade, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation across various sectors, including governance, sustainable development, digital transformation, and peace-building in Mindanao, during a sub-committee meeting on October 1, 2026, reported on November 8, 2026. Discussions covered the EU's Global Gateway initiative for investment projects and the expansion of Copernicus Earth Observation activities from the Philippines to other Southeast Asian countries. The cyber incidents affecting Philippine government agencies, such as the POEA and OVP breaches, underscore the critical need for enhanced digital security cooperation, aligning with the EU's existing digital projects like the Philippines — Digital Economy Package (Global Gateway) and SCOPE Digital — Copernicus Earth Observation Southeast Asia. These security challenges highlight the importance of the "Digital & ICT" cooperation sector and could prompt further EU support in cybersecurity capacity building, safeguarding both Philippine and EU interests in a secure digital environment.

## Military and Defense Analysis

The Philippine military is actively pursuing modernization and strategic shifts to address evolving security challenges, particularly in the maritime domain. The country is on track to execute over 500 defense activities with the United States in 2026, emphasizing coastal defense, anti-ship tactics, area denial, and air defense in joint exercises like Balikatan, Salaknib, and Kamandag. This extensive cooperation aims to enhance interoperability and deter potential state actor threats.

A key development in force posture is the ongoing effort to fully operationalize the BrahMos supersonic anti-ship missiles acquired from India, with the Philippine Marine Corps Coastal Defense Regiment gaining proficiency in Western Luzon. These long-range precision strike systems are crucial for strengthening the country's coastal defense network amid tensions in the South China Sea. Furthermore, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is bolstering its surveillance capabilities with the transfer of three King Air 350 Extended Range turboprop planes from the U.S., equipped for maritime domain awareness and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions. The U.S. is also helping fund the expansion of a PCG pier in Palawan province, strategically placing more PCG vessels closer to the disputed Spratly Islands.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. has articulated an ambition to develop an "expeditionary navy" capable of protecting Filipino seafarers and maritime resources beyond the country's immediate littorals. While the Philippine Navy has acquired a small yet modern fleet of guided missile frigates and offshore patrol vessels, an analysis on November 9, 2026, pointed out that these assets currently lack sufficient weapons and the fleet lacks the fuel capacity for sustained operations far from its coast. This indicates that while modernization programs are underway, significant

capability gaps remain in achieving a true blue-water navy.

## Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): The immediate future for the Philippines will likely be dominated by the fallout and investigations from the recent government cyberattacks. The National Privacy Commission's efforts to verify the alleged data leaks from the POEA and OVP will be closely watched, potentially leading to new cybersecurity directives or increased scrutiny of government IT infrastructure. Diplomatic tensions with China in the South China Sea are expected to remain elevated, with continued rhetoric and potential for further maritime incidents, especially given the Philippines' consideration of a second legal case. The deepening defense cooperation with the US, including the integration of new maritime surveillance assets, will likely continue at a steady pace.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The South China Sea, particularly areas like the West Philippine Sea and Scarborough Shoal, remains the primary flashpoint due to overlapping territorial claims and frequent confrontations between Philippine and Chinese vessels. Any miscalculation or aggressive action in these areas could rapidly escalate. Cybersecurity vulnerabilities within government agencies represent another critical risk area, as demonstrated by the recent breaches. The exposure of sensitive citizen data could lead to widespread identity theft, fraud, and potential state-sponsored surveillance, undermining public trust and national security. The persistent threat of private armed groups (PAGs) and clan feuds in Mindanao, despite overall declining terrorism, could destabilize local governance and peacebuilding efforts.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the progress of investigations into the POEA and OVP cyber incidents, any public attribution of the attacks, and the government's subsequent cybersecurity policy adjustments. In the South China Sea, observe the frequency and nature of maritime encounters, statements from both Philippine and Chinese officials, and any concrete steps taken towards the potential second legal case. Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of new defense assets, such as the US-transferred turboprop planes and the BrahMos missiles, and the progress of the Philippine Navy's "expeditionary navy" development. For EU relations, watch for the formal signing of the FTA and the initiation of new cooperation projects under the Global Gateway initiative.

Strategic recommendations: The Philippines should prioritize a rapid and comprehensive overhaul of its government cybersecurity defenses, including mandatory security audits, enhanced employee training, and investment in advanced threat detection and response systems. Diplomatic efforts with China should be

carefully balanced with continued assertion of sovereign rights, leveraging multilateral platforms like ASEAN and international law. Strengthening alliances with partners like the US, Japan, and Australia should continue, focusing on interoperability and joint maritime domain awareness. Internally, sustained efforts are needed to dismantle private armed groups and address the root causes of violence in Mindanao, combining law enforcement with governance reforms and community engagement.

## Structured Assessment

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# ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

## Source: GMA Network

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

evidence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Philippines Lee Lipton on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Supreme Court (SC) has upheld the constitutionality of the law extending the term of office

of Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials to five years, while scheduling the next Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (BSKE) for November 2028.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda took his oath on Friday as the new Supreme Court Chief

Justice, succeeding outgoing Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, who retired on the same day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -- With less than a month before the International Criminal Court"s

(ICC) trial of Rodrigo Duterte, prosecutors are asking for “in-court protective and special measures” for 55 witnesses from the Philippines and abroad from various security risks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors are seeking to introduce additional testimony citing several high-profile killings to challenge Philippine National Police (PNP) claims that

officers acted in self-defense during former President Rodrigo Duterte"s drug war

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• 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.

## Source: PhilStar Global

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

Motorists face sharply lower pump prices Tuesday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bangsamoro Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua had tapped seven lawyers to oversee different ministries in the autonomous regional government that have extensive public service thrusts

benefiting Muslim, Christian and indigenous non-Moro communities in the autonomous region.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Capital Region Police Office has launched a campaign to dismantle scam hubs in Metro Manila by targeting not only their operators, but also the financiers, recruiters, property

owners and financial networks supporting their illegal activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• 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.

## Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer

- Church says suspect in Calapan student slay is not its pastor (2026-11-09 13:59)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Authorities have taken into police custody the prime suspect in the killing of a nursing student who was found dead at a vacant lot in Calapan City over the weekend, officials confirmed on Monday. The suspect was initially identified as a 26-year-old church pastor, who voluntarily surrendered to responding officers along

- Davao land assessor: Carpio's Matina property listed in Duterte's SALN (2026-11-09 13:51)

MANILA, Philippines — A Davao City land assessor testified that a property owned by Atty. Manases Carpio, which was supposedly not declared by his wife, Vice President Sara Duterte, was actually listed in her Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN). During the resumption of Duterte's impeachment trial on Monday, defense counsel Lindon Bacquel

• NFA sets palay buying price at P30 per kilo in 4 Ilocos provinces (2026-11-09 13:33)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur—The National Food Authority (NFA) in the Ilocos Region is buying clean, dry palay at P30 per kilogram in La Union, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, and Ilocos Sur for one week starting Monday, while offering P29 per kilogram in the Cordillera province of Abra. Based on an NFA Region 1 advisory on Monday,

• BJMP: Romualdez has 24/7 'on-call' aide for medical needs (2026-11-09 13:33)

MANILA, Philippines — Former House Speaker Martin Romualdez has an aide who is on call 24 hours a day to attend to his medical needs, a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) official told the Sandiganbayan Third Division on Monday. BJMP Chief Superintendent Maria Lourdes Pacion clarified her earlier testimony that Romualdez's aide, Arvin

• Atom hits 24/7 jail aide for Romualdez as 'special treatment' (2026-11-09 13:19)

MANILA, Philippines — The civil society group August Twenty-One Movement (Atom) slammed the alleged "special treatment" given to former House Speaker Martin Romualdez at the New Quezon City Jail, questioning why he was reportedly allowed to have an assistant stay with him inside his detention cell. "In other countries, these types of incidents are not

• Marcos leads distribution of laptops to public school teachers (2026-11-09 12:40)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday led the nationwide distribution of laptops to public school teachers, beginning with the ceremonial turnover of 209 Apple MacBook Neo units in Dagupan City, Pangasinan. The event, held at Dagupan City National High School, kicked off the distribution under the Department of Education's (DepEd) Computerization Program.

• Typhoon Cempaka enters PAR, named Samuel locally (2026-11-09 12:12)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Cempaka entered the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Monday morning and was given the local name Samuel, the state weather bureau said. READ: Amihan to bring cooler weather to much of Luzon on Nov. 9 According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), Samuel was last spotted

• Poa: Too early to discuss calling VP Duterte as witness in impeachment (2026-11-09 11:34)

MANILA, Philippines — Defense counsel and spokesperson Michael Poa said on Monday that it was too early to discuss whether the defense would call Vice President Sara Duterte to testify in her impeachment trial. He made the statement before the defense team began presenting its evidence-in-chief on the 40th day of Duterte's trial, when asked

• WATCH: Defense presents Davao City assessor as its first witness (2026-11-09 11:18)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin takes his oath as the first witness for Vice President Sara Duterte as her impeachment trial resumes on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026./dp WATCH: Escudero says Sara Duterte defense submits 24-witness list

• Bato dela Rosa manhunt: PNP says it received at least 500 tips (2026-11-09 11:18)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) has received at least 500 pieces of information related to the manhunt for Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said. "As I mentioned, there are no less than 500 [pieces of] information. These were properly validated; we went to the locations

• WATCH: Escudero says Sara Duterte's defense submits 24-witness list (2026-11-09 10:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court has received a list of 24 witnesses from Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team as the trial resumes on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026. Presiding officer Francis Escudero informed the chamber of the developments during the court's recess, including matters involving the sub judice rule and the presentation of

• 250 kilos of oil waste recovered after NGCP cable leak in Leyte (2026-11-09 10:42)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) recovered 250 kilos of oil-contaminated materials from the shoreline of Barangay Tugas in Tabango, Leyte, following an oil leak involving an underwater submarine cable belonging to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). The Marine Environmental Protection Unit-Western Leyte continued its shoreline cleanup operations on Monday,

• VP Duterte trial: Defense presents Davao City assessor as first witness (2026-11-09 10:40)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense panel in Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial on Monday called a Davao City assessor as its first witness to debunk allegations of Duterte's unexplained wealth. Davao City Assessor Engr. Jaime Adalin is set to testify that Duterte's property in Matina Crossing was disclosed in her statement of assets, liabilities

• Over P27-B projects allegedly inserted for Romualdez — witness (2026-11-09 10:37)

MANILA, Philippines — Over P27 billion worth of projects were allegedly inserted for former House Speaker Martin Romualdez upon the instructions of late Public Works Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral, a witness told the Sandiganbayan on Monday. READ: Cabral attempted suicide at home, says lawyer Peter Paul Cortez, chief of the Department of Public Works and

• College 'ban' on hijab stirs controversy in Northern Mindanao (2026-11-09 09:56)

ILIGAN CITY — An alleged ban on wearing a hijab, a traditional headscarf worn by Muslim women, by a college here has stirred controversy in Northern Mindanao (Region 10), prompting the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) to bring a complaint against the school before the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Ustadz Abdul Jabbar Montañer,

• Marcos swears in Zalameda as chief justice (2026-11-09 09:39)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday, Nov. 9, administered the oath of office to Chief Justice Rodil Zalameda. In a ceremony at Malacañang, Marcos formalized Zalameda's appointment as the country's 28th chief justice, succeeding Alexander Gesmundo. READ: Associate Justice Rodil Zalameda is new chief justice Gesmundo reached the mandatory retirement age of

• Lanao del Sur police recover P3M smuggled cigarettes on residents' tip (2026-11-09 09:21)

COTABATO CITY — Police recovered over P3 million worth of suspected smuggled cigarettes in Barangay Tacub, Pindolonan, Marantao, Lanao del Sur, following a tip from concerned residents. Authorities earlier received information from concerned citizens and local officials about the possible passage of three vehicles loaded with contraband on Saturday evening. Brig. Gen. Christopher Abecia, Police

• Bukidnon starts sugar milling season amid high production costs (2026-11-09 09:20)

MARAMAG, Bukidnon — Trucks laden with freshly cut sugarcane filled the industrial yards of Bukidnon's major milling plants on Monday, marking the official opening of the 2026–2027 sugarcane milling season amid soaring production costs. Bukidnon's milling season commenced roughly a month after operations opened on Negros Island on October 1. Before the official rollout, stakeholder

• House urged to exclude Labrador, Pangasinan from nuke plans (2026-11-09 09:02)

LABRADOR, Pangasinan — A community coalition in Labrador, Pangasinan, has asked a House technical working group to exclude their coastal town from proposed nuclear energy investments, citing threats to livelihoods and the risk of radioactive waste pollution. The request from Talindeg Pangasinan (TaPang) came in a formal opposition letter dated Oct. 14 addressed to the

• Amihan to bring cooler weather to much of Luzon on Nov. 9 (2026-11-09 07:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Much of Luzon is forecast to experience cooler weather on Monday, Nov. 9, the state weather bureau said. According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), the cooler weather is due to the expected strengthening of amihan or the northeast monsoon. READ: PH Weather Updates Today: Storm News and

• WATCH: Sara Duterte impeachment trial | Nov. 9, 2026 (2026-11-09 07:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's defense team is set to begin presenting evidence as the Senate impeachment trial resumes Monday, Nov. 9, following a nearly monthlong recess, with the panel facing the challenge of addressing allegations of unexplained wealth. Senate impeachment court spokesperson Reginald Tongol said the court had served 22

of the

• 3 motorcycle riders die in Quezon road crashes (2026-11-09 07:01)

LUCENA CITY — Three motorcycle riders died in separate road accidents in Quezon province on Saturday, Nov. 7, police said. In Calauag town, a 19-year-old male motorcycle rider and his 17-year-old back rider were traveling along a road in Barangay Sta. Maria when the driver suddenly lost control of the vehicle, according to a police

• Sara Duterte impeachment trial Day 40: Defense to call on first witness (2026-11-09 07:00)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial will resume on Monday morning, November 9, marked by the start of the defense's presentation of its exhibits. With three impeachment articles withdrawn, the defense is anticipated to call its witnesses on article II, or Duterte's alleged unexplained wealth. The defense requested subpoenas for 25 witnesses,

• VP's defense begins amid calls for her to testify (2026-11-09 05:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's lawyers face the task of disproving allegations that she amassed unexplained wealth while in office as her Senate impeachment trial resumes today, after a nearly monthlong recess and amid growing pressure for her to take the witness stand. Senate impeachment court spokesperson Reginald Tongol said the court has

• Gov't workers to get bonus, cash gift (2026-11-09 05:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Government employees will receive their year-end bonus equivalent to one month's salary and a P5,000 cash gift with their November pay, with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) directing agencies to ensure the benefits are released on schedule. The DBM said it had released P82.998 billion to cover the benefits of

• P7.2-T budget, tax relief among legislative agenda (2026-11-09 05:25)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will put the P7.2-trillion 2027 budget on top of its agenda when it resumes session on Monday after its month-long break, with senators vowing tighter scrutiny and greater budget transparency. The House of Representatives, meanwhile, is seeking to fast-track President Marcos' priority measures, including tax relief for workers, the removal

• 13 years after Yolanda, Tacloban carries lessons into every typhoon (2026-11-09 04:40)

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE, Philippines — For 38-year-old Marian Edano, moving forward 13 years after Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) devastated this city does not mean forgetting the husband and relatives she lost to the disaster. Edano lost her husband, Jesus, and several relatives when their house in Sitio Alimasag, Barangay 88, San Jose district,

• LTO summons bus driver, operator in Quezon road accident (2026-11-09 04:35)

MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show-cause order against the driver of a passenger bus and its operator after a loose engine cover flew off and struck a bystander on the side of the road in Atimonan, Quezon, killing the victim. In a statement on Saturday, the LTO directed the

• Bishops in Visayas, Romblon renew opposition to Boracay casino (2026-11-09 04:30)

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Catholic Church leaders in Western Visayas and Romblon province have renewed their opposition to casino operations in Boracay, warning that gambling could undermine family welfare and expose vulnerable communities to social and economic risks. In a joint statement made public on Sunday, the Church leaders expressed support for Kalibo Bishop Cyril

• Typhoon Cempaka to enter PAR Monday, briefly stay before exiting Tuesday (2026-11-09 00:24)

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Cempaka is expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Monday morning and will get the local name Samuel, but is not expected to directly affect the country's weather, according to the weather bureau. In its 11 p.m. advisory on Sunday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

• Hontiveros: Too early to say there's already a number for VP conviction (2026-11-08 21:53)

MANILA, Philippines — It's still premature to say that there is already a number enough to convict or acquit Vice President Sara Duterte as her impeachment trial remains ongoing, according to Sen. Risa Hontiveros. "I think premature for me or for anyone to say that there is already a number for conviction or number for

• Lotto draw results on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026 (2026-11-08 21:51)

MANILA, Philippines—No bettor won the ₱500.61 million Ultra Lotto 6/58 jackpot or the ₱92.85 million Super Lotto 6/49 jackpot on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026, according to the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. Ultra Lotto 6/58 draw result: 22-14-01-42-09-08 Jackpot prize: ₱500.61 million Super Lotto 6/49 draw result: 34-39-38-18-47-36 Jackpot prize: ₱92.85 million Minor games The PCSO

• Private prosecutor Kapunan questions Cale88 production records (2026-11-08 21:47)

MANILA, Philippines – Counsel for the House prosecution panel Atty. Lorna Kapunan has questioned how Cale88 Foods Corp. organized its banana-chip export operations, pointing to workforce entries and production-inventory records examined during Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial. Kapunan contrasted the company's reported business activity with the limited staffing reflected in its corporate filings and

• VP’s lawyers didn’t dispute authenticity of financial records – prosecution (2026-11-08 21:38)

MANILA, Philippines – The House prosecution panel over the weekend said Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s lawyers failed to challenge the authenticity of key financial records during the impeachment trial, focusing instead on bank secrecy and confidentiality objections that the Senate impeachment court has largely rejected. House prosecution legal spokesperson and private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa

• Prosecution sees VP’s possible ‘I didn’t know’ defense on bank accounts (2026-11-08 21:27)

MANILA, Philippines – The House impeachment trial prosecution panel believes Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s lawyers may argue that she was unaware of certain bank accounts and financial transactions linked to her and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, its legal spokesperson and. counsel Benjamin “Jay” Tolosa Jr. said over the weekend. Tolosa said questions raised

• 26 wanted persons nabbed in Caraga operations (2026-11-08 19:36)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— The Caraga (Region 13) police arrested 26 wanted individuals in a series of coordinated operations on Saturday, November 7, highlighted by the capture of the region’s fourth most wanted person (MWP) in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, Police Regional Office-13 (PRO-13) director, said the one-day operations yielded

• Cops probe into shooting of Leyte anti-mining advocate (2026-11-08 19:30)

TACLOBAN CITY — Police are continuing the probe into the shooting of a known anti-mining advocate at his residence in MacArthur, Leyte, on Nov. 6 as an environmental group condemned the attack and called for the immediate identification and arrest of those responsible. The victim, identified by police as Jesus Cabias, 53, a farmer and

• Skating ban on Siargao’s ‘Skate Road’ met with opposition (2026-11-08 18:41)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Online protests and strong opposition from residents, community advocates, and tourism stakeholders met the imposed ban on skating, vendors and gatherings / activities on the iconic Malinao’s “Skate Road” in General Luna, Siargao Island, with critics warning that the shutdown is a “severe blow” to grassroots livelihoods and island

• WALANG PASOK: Class suspensions on Monday, Nov. 9 (2026-11-08 17:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Classes are suspended in some parts of the country on Monday, November 9. Classes in all levels (for public and private schools) are suspended in Cavite City to give way to the disinfection of schools and buildings. READ: WALANG PASOK: Marcos sets new rules on class suspension, resumption Meanwhile, November 9 was

• Cempaka intensifies into typhoon outside PAR (2026-11-08 17:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka intensified into a typhoon Sunday afternoon ahead of its expected entry into the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), according to the state weather bureau. In the tropical cyclone formation outlook issued at 4 p.m., the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that the tropical cyclone

• MILF vows to work with gov't to deliver Bangsamoro peace deal in full (2026-11-08 16:20)

COTABATO CITY — The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has committed to work with the national government to fully deliver the promises of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), saying it wants more than the formal conclusion of the peace process. "For its part, the MILF does not seek merely the formal conclusion of

• Family of nursing student found dead in Calapan seeks justice (2026-11-08 16:06)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — The family of a 20-year-old nursing student found dead in a vacant lot in Barangay Sapul here is seeking justice, vowing to continue speaking out until the truth behind her death is uncovered and those responsible are held accountable. Police said the body of the victim, identified only as "Maru,"

• Woman found dead in Calapan was 20-year-old college student (2026-11-08 15:57)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — A 20-year-old college student from Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro, whose body was earlier found in a vacant lot in Barangay Sapul, Calapan City, is now being mourned by her school community as police intensify the investigation into her death. The Calapan City Police Station earlier reported that a woman's body was

• Act on environmental woes, learn from Yolanda catastrophe, says church (2026-11-08 15:50)

TACLOBAN CITY — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Borongan called on communities to take concrete action against environmental destruction and protect vulnerable populations, saying the lessons of Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) should result in greater responsibility toward the environment. In a pastoral message issued on Sunday, coinciding with the 13th anniversary of Yolanda's

• Suspected fake dentist busted in Agusan del Norte (2026-11-08 15:29)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Police operatives arrested a 36-year-old woman for allegedly practicing dentistry without a license during an entrapment operation at her home in Santiago, Agusan del Norte. Brig. Gen. Rolindo Suguilon, Police Regional Office-13 (PRO-13) director, said personnel of the Regional Intelligence Division-13 carried out the operation last Friday afternoon in

• Valencia City LGU, farmers receive P6.6M agri equipment from DA (2026-11-08 14:52)

VALENCIA CITY, Bukidnon — The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Northern Mindanao (Region 10) has extended farm equipment assistance to the city government and farmers' groups here worth around P6.6 million to boost farm production and livelihood opportunities. Jose Apollo Pacamalan, DA-10 regional director, and Valencia City Vice Mayor Greizl Galario-Fernandez signed the Memorandum of

• Laguna businessman shot dead (2026-11-08 14:30)

LUCENA CITY – A 40-year-old businessman was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding gunmen in Lumban, Laguna, on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 7, police said. In a report on Sunday, the Police Regional Office 4-A said the victim was standing in front of his water refilling station along Rizal Street in Barangay Primera Parang at 1:40 p.m.

• Clans in Lanao del Sur rido to face frustrated murder raps (2026-11-08 14:24)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Authorities will file criminal charges against two warring families that clashed on Saturday in Picong, Lanao del Sur, which stranded hundreds of motorists for several hours along the national highway connecting the cities of Pagadian and Cotabato. Col. Caezar Cabuhat, Lanao del Sur Provincial Police Office director, said that frustrated

• Hontiveros expects Sara Duterte to attend OVP budget deliberations (2026-11-08 14:20)

MANILA, Philippines – Sen. Risa Hontiveros on Sunday said she expects Vice President Sara Duterte to attend the budget deliberations of the Office of the Vice President (OVP) just like the heads of other government agencies do. "I expect her to appear, that was explicitly mentioned by Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian during the committee hearing

• PNP chief orders cybercrime probe into socmed account impersonating him (2026-11-08 14:17)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has launched a cybercrime probe into a fraudulent Facebook account posing as its chief, while cautioning the public against fake social media profiles impersonating police officials. —Photo from PNP MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) ordered a cybercrime investigation into a fake Facebook account using its

• High daytime heat index, chilly nights logged in Pangasinan (2026-11-08 14:16)

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — The clash between the Super El Niño and the northeast monsoon, or "amihan," is bringing cooler nights and scorching daytime temperatures to Pangasinan, where the heat index has reached 40°C and above. The unusual weather pattern is associated with the shear line, a meteorological boundary where contrasting air masses meet. The interaction

• Storm Cempaka retains strength ahead of PAR entry (2026-11-08 14:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka maintained its strength on Sunday morning ahead of its expected entry into the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), when it will

be given the local name Samuel, according to the weather bureau. In its 11 a.m. bulletin, thePhilippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) saidCempaka

• Sara Duterte conviction unlikely to spark mass protests – Ridon (2026-11-08 13:36)

MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte's conviction is unlikely to spark massive protests, with a survey showing that half of Filipinos would accept the Senate Impeachment Court's ruling, according to Bicol Saro Rep. Terry Ridon. Ridon, one of the prosecutors in Duterte's trial, said the vice president's supporters may instead rally support online rather

• PCG recovers 1.66 kgs of oil-contaminated waste in Bataan oil spill (2026-11-08 13:33)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has transitioned to monitoring operations in Barangay Ipag, Mariveles, Bataan, after its active response efforts recovered 1,660 kilograms of oil-contaminated waste as of Nov. 7. —Photo from PCG MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has shifted to monitoring operations in Barangay Ipag, Mariveles, Bataan, after recovering 1,660 kilograms

• 13 years after Yolanda, Borongan diocese warns vs destructive mining (2026-11-08 13:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Thirteen years after Super Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) wreaked havoc in parts of Visayas, the Diocese of Borongan has called on the faithful to reject destructive mining, emphasizing that remembering the tragedy is not enough. In its message on Sunday, the Diocese of Borongan remembered the tragic incident that killed people,

• Senate to release transcripts of 2027 budget bicam proceedings – Lacson (2026-11-08 12:59)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate will release transcripts of 2027 budget bicam proceedings to boost transparency, alongside continuous livestreaming of the proceedings, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Sunday. Lacson said the transcripts would help lawmakers and the public identify who initiated amendments to the budget bill and who pushed for realignments of its items. "In the

• Erwin Tulfo seeks safeguards for workers displaced by AI (2026-11-08 12:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo has filed a bill that seeks to provide safeguards for employees displaced by artificial intelligence (AI) amid reports of massive layoffs as companies adopt AI in their operations. While acknowledging that technological progress is inevitable, Tulfo, who chairs the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare, and Rural Development, stressed

• LTO issues show cause order vs bus driver, operator after fatal accident (2026-11-08 12:16)

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) issues a show cause order against a passenger bus driver and its operator following a fatal accident in Atimonan, Quezon, where a pedestrian was killed after being struck by the bus's detached engine cover. —Photo from LTO MANILA, Philippines

— The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has issued a show cause

• DSWD turns over 4,000-liter water depot to Alabat, Quezon amid dry spell (2026-11-08 12:07)

LUCENA CITY — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) turned over a community water depot to the local government of the island municipality of Alabat in Quezon province on Nov. 7, to help residents cope with water shortages caused by El Niño. The water depot has a storage capacity of 4,000 liters of

• Most wanted Dawlah Islamiyah member slain in Maguindanao del Sur (2026-11-08 10:52)

COTABATO CITY — Police killed the Bangsamoro region's most wanted fugitive and his companion before dawn Sunday, Nov. 8, after they allegedly resisted arrest and engaged lawmen in a gunfight in Ampatuan, Maguindanao del Sur. Col. John Michael Mangahis, Maguindanao del Sur police director, identified the fatalities as Amar Sansawi Usman, also known as Akhie

• 3 soldiers hurt in Lanao del Sur clan war (2026-11-08 10:43)

COTABATO CITY — Three soldiers were wounded after responding to a rido, or clan, war in Picong, Lanao del Sur, on Saturday, Nov. 7, police said. Capt. Steffi Salanguit, spokesperson for the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PRO-BAR), said the wounded soldiers were part of the government forces that responded to an

• Police probe discovery of unidentified woman's body in Calapan (2026-11-08 10:36)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Police are investigating the discovery of an unidentified woman's body in a vacant lot along a road in Barangay Sapul, Calapan City, early Saturday, Nov. 7. The Calapan City Police Station (CPS) said the body was discovered at 1:15 a.m. The victim was estimated to be between 20 and 30

• Over 1,500 tobacco farmers in Ilocos Sur receive financial aid (2026-11-08 10:28)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — The municipal government of Sinait in Ilocos Sur distributed financial assistance to 1,593 tobacco farmers in recognition of their contribution to the agriculture sector and local economy. The two-day distribution, held at the Municipal Auditorium, was led by Mayor Glenn Guzman through the Municipal Agriculture Office. Guzman assured the farmers

• PCG searches for missing fisherman off Polillo, Quezon (2026-11-08 10:11)

LUCENA CITY — Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel launched search and rescue operations for a 60-year-old fisherman who went missing in the waters off Polillo, Quezon, on Friday, Nov. 6. In a report, the PCG-Northern Quezon said the fisherman, a resident of Real town, left for a fishing trip aboard FBCA Triple J around noon

• Two arrested in Dipolog buy-bust, shabu worth P340,000 seized (2026-11-08 09:45)

PAGADIAN CITY, Zamboanga del Sur — Anti-narcotics agents arrested two suspected drug dealers and seized around 50 grams of suspected shabu worth P340,000 during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Sta. Isabel, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte, on Nov. 6. In a report released Saturday evening, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Regional Office 9 identified

• Severe tropical storm may enter PAR Sunday night or early Monday (2026-11-08 09:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka may enter the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by Sunday evening or early Monday morning, when it will be named Samuel, but it will not directly affect the country, according to the weather bureau. In its 5 a.m. Sunday weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services

• Police arrest 3 for stealing PCG member’s gun in Tawi-Tawi (2026-11-08 09:24)

COTABATO CITY — Police in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, arrested three men on Saturday afternoon for allegedly stealing a pistol from a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) member. Authorities also recovered other firearms from the suspects during the law enforcement operation in Barangay Pababag, Bongao. In a report to the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

• Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur among areas that have recovered from ASF (2026-11-08 08:30)

SAN ILDEFONSO, Ilocos Sur — Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur are among the provinces that have recovered from African swine fever (ASF), marking progress in efforts to revive the local hog industry. The provinces have moved all their ASF-affected areas from red (infected) zones to pink (buffer) or yellow (surveillance) zones, according to the Department

• Man shot in both legs in Palawan mangrove area; suspects flee (2026-11-08 08:05)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Police said two armed men shot a 39-year-old man several times in a mangrove area in Bataraza, Palawan, on Saturday night, Nov. 7, wounding him in both legs. The victim, identified only by the alias “James,” is a married resident of Barangay Tarusan. The attack occurred around 8 p.m., according

• Quezon’s ‘Gamble’: PH sheltering Jewish refugees recalled (2026-11-08 05:28)

Original poker cards owned by former President Manuel Quezon are on display at the Quezon Memorial Shrine in Quezon City as part of an exhibit revisiting his decision to shelter Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe before the breakout of World War II. The exhibit, titled “Ai360: Gamble of Compassion,” opened on Oct. 29

• 3 million PWD ID holders asked to register anew (2026-11-08 05:26)

About 3 million holders of persons with disabilities (PWDs) IDs will have to enroll in the new unified digital ID system that seeks to phase out the old physical IDs in the next three years and

flag bogus ones. Signed in July this year, Administrative Order (AO) No. 001, s. 2026, of theNational Council

• Deaf airline passenger wins in decade-long discrimination case (2026-11-08 05:24)

A court has fined a former AirAsia senior cabin crew member for refusing to transport deaf passenger Khalil Haj in 2017, ruling that there was no genuine safety concern to justify treating him differently because of his disability. On Oct. 29, the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC), Branch 1, in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

• Lawmakers to pass measure expanding nutrition program (2026-11-08 05:22)

Lawmakers have finalized the provisions of the proposed National Children's Nutrition Act, which will establish an expanded National Children's Nutrition Program that aims to address stunting among Filipino children. In a statement on Friday, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) said the new measure approved this month by the bicameral conference committee will

• Teachers without laptops top priority in DepEd rollout (2026-11-08 05:20)

The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued guidelines for the distribution of more than 231,000 laptops to public school teachers ahead of a nationwide rollout on Monday. "We want to ensure these laptops go to teachers who can maximize them most for teaching and learning, while keeping equity at the center by prioritizing teachers who

• Great bluff, true courage: Negros honors its heroes (2026-11-08 05:17)

BACOLOD CITY — The cannons roared, wooden rifles were raised, and "revolutionaries" marched through the streets of Bago City, bringing to life a daring episode in Negros Occidental's history when an army armed with little more than bamboo cannons and wooden guns fooled Spanish forces into surrendering. The spectacle unfolded on Thursday (Nov. 5) during

• This week's milestones: Nov. 8 to Nov. 14 (2026-11-08 05:15)

Nov. 9, 1965 The province of Samar was divided into three separate provinces—Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Western Samar (subsequently named Samar)—through a plebiscite which ratified Republic Act No. 4221, approved on June 19, 1965. The plebiscite coincided with the November 1965 general elections. Today, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar and Samar are all classified as

• Cagayan de Oro scraps year-end revelry to build 'Super El Niño' resilience (2026-11-08 01:48)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Mayor Rolando Uy has canceled City Hall's 2026 year-end party, shifting the local government's resources from holiday festivities to survival measures ahead of the anticipated "Super El Niño" In a video advisory Friday, November 6, the City

Information Office announced the pivot to strict austerity and disaster preparedness. The move channels

• Cops, MGB personnel seize P45-M gear of ‘Chinese-backed’ illegal mine (2026-11-08 01:41)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Authorities swooped down on a suspected illegal mining operation masquerading as a quarry in the hinterlands of this city before dawn on Friday, November 6, seizing some P45 million worth of heavy machinery. The 4 a.m. raid in Sitio Pin-as, Barangay Tuburan, also resulted in the arrest of six workers

• 16 local governments in Soccsksargen get P520M for quake recovery (2026-11-08 01:26)

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato — Some 16 local government units in Soccsksargen or Region 12 have received a total of P520 million in national government assistance to help rebuild communities damaged by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck off the coast of Sarangani province in June. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led the ceremonial turnover of

• Negros First CyberCentre goes solar (2026-11-08 01:21)

BACOLOD CITY – The Negros First CyberCentre here is following into the footsteps of an increasing number of establishments in the country seeking green options as it officially transitions to clean energy following the successful installation of 949 solar panels at the facility. Provincial Administrator Rayfrando Diaz announced Friday, Nov. 6, that the project was

• Siblings nabbed in Butuan buy-bust; P125,000 ‘shabu’ seized (2026-11-08 01:17)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur— Police arrested two siblings tagged as “high-value individuals” and seized more than P125,000 worth of suspected crystal meth, locally known as “shabu,” during a buy-bust operation in Butuan City on Thursday, Nov. 5. Brig. Gen. Rolindo M. Suguilon, director of Police Regional Office 13 (Caraga), identified the suspects through their

• Spending program, revenue code top agenda in first BARMM Cabinet meeting (2026-11-08 01:13)

COTABATO CITY – The preparation of the 2027 expenditure program as well as refinements in a proposed revenue code for the region topped the agenda of the first meeting of the Bangsamoro Cabinet on Friday. Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua presided over the meeting, reminding that “the success of the regular Bangsamoro Government would be measured

• Court orders arrest of ex-radioman in Bukidnon for cyberlibel (2026-11-08 00:23)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — A former radio personality is refusing to back down after a Bukidnon court ordered his arrest for cyber libel, claiming the charges are direct retaliation for his outspoken advocacy. Rodel Claro, who currently works as a senior publishing and marketing consultant for a US-based company, is facing three criminal charges

• Cops seize P430,000 worth of shabu, pistol in Cotabato town (2026-11-08 00:11)

KORONADAL CITY, South Cotabato — Police arrested a 43-year-old man and seized a haul of suspected shabu and a .45-caliber pistol during the implementation of a search warrant in Kabacan, Cotabato on Friday, Nov. 6. The suspect, identified by police only as alias “Sam,” was arrested around 4:20 a.m. at his residence in Purok 6,

• 1,000 initial college scholarship slots validated for Mimaropa (2026-11-07 23:16)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — Around 1,000 scholarship slots have been validated and evaluated in the Mimaropa (Mindoro Occidental and Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region under the Bagong Pilipinas Merit Scholarship Program (BPMSP), which will provide selected college students with P45,000 in financial assistance for School Year 2026–2027. The program supports academically deserving senior high

• Angara pushes stronger online safeguards as school shootings raise alarm (2026-11-07 23:03)

MANILA, Philippines – Education Secretary Sonny Angara urged technology and social media companies to strengthen age-verification measures and remove online content that promotes violence, as the government seeks to address a series of deadly school shootings and the growing threat of online radicalization among young learners. The call comes following three fatal school shootings in

• Oriental Mindoro logs 117,000 unemployed, underemployed in 2025 (2026-11-07 22:54)

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro — An estimated 117,000 residents of Oriental Mindoro were either unemployed or underemployed in 2025, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) published on its official website this week. Of this figure, 21,000 were unemployed, while another 96,000 were underemployed — meaning they had jobs but wanted to work

• Cebu archbishop: Budget insertions raise moral, accountability concerns (2026-11-07 21:56)

TAGBILARAN CITY — Cebu Archbishop Alberto “Abet” Uy on Friday (Nov. 6) warned that questionable insertions in the national budget could undermine public trust, fuel corruption and deprive poor communities of resources intended for essential services. In a pastoral reflection titled “Budget Insertions in the Philippines: A Question of Morality and Accountability,” Uy said budget

• PCSO lotto results Nov. 7: ₱341.27M jackpot not won (2026-11-07 21:50)

MANILA, Philippines — No bettor won the ₱341.27 million Grand Lotto 6/55 jackpot or the ₱10 million Lotto 6/42 jackpot in the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) draws on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026. According to the PCSO results provided, the Grand Lotto 6/55 winning combination was 22-43-34-12-06-27, with a jackpot of ₱341.27 million. No ticket

• 135 Naga City inmates registered for National ID (2026-11-07 21:39)

LEGAZPI CITY — At least 135 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the Naga City District Jail Male Dormitory have registered for the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) said. The registration was conducted on Oct. 29 and 30 by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)-Camarines Sur, which brought a

• Polangui picked as site of second science high school in Bicol (2026-11-07 21:19)

LIGAO CITY — Barangay Matacon in Polangui, Albay, has been selected as the site of the second Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campus in the Bicol Region. In a Nov. 6 letter to Albay Rep. Raymond Adrian Salceda, PSHS System executive director Ronnalee Orteza said the site was chosen following an inspection and evaluation of

• Baguio sees fewer tourists during Undas amid rising fuel prices (2026-11-07 21:09)

BAGUIO CITY — Tourist arrivals in Baguio declined by an estimated 15 percent to 18 percent during this year's observance of "Undas" (All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day), with rising fuel prices and the prevailing economic situation cited as possible factors behind the drop. In a statement on Saturday (Nov. 7), the city government

• Gov't workers to get year-end bonus, P5k cash gift with 1st November pay (2026-11-07 19:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Government workers should receive their year-end bonus and P5,000 cash gift together with their first salary this November, with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) reminding agencies to release the benefits on schedule. In a statement on Saturday, the DBM said it had already released the P82.998 billion needed to cover the

• DENR on maximum alert vs wildfires amid 'very strong' El Niño (2026-11-07 17:31)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has elevated wildfire prevention to maximum alert status nationwide as the onset of a "Very Strong" El Niño triggers extreme heat and severe vegetation drying across grasslands and forests. Environment Secretary Juan Miguel "Mitch" Cuna said regional offices have rolled out comprehensive interventions—including total

• Proposed law seeks to expand feeding program to address stunting (2026-11-07 17:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Lawmakers are seeking to establish a National Children's Nutrition Program that aims to address stunting among Filipino children through an expanded feeding program targeting learners in daycare centers and public schools. In a statement on Friday, Nov. 6, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (Edcom 2) noted that the Senate and House

• Pagasa: Cloudy skies, rains to affect most of PH on Sunday (2026-11-07 17:05)

MANILA, Philippines — Cloudy skies with rains may continue to affect parts of the country on Sunday, Nov. 8, due to the persistence of three weather systems, the state weather bureau reported. In its 4 p.m. weather forecast, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported that the easterlies may continue bring cloudy

• DepEd prioritizes 1st-time recipients in laptop rollout for teachers (2026-11-07 16:54)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued guidelines for the distribution of 231,725 newly procured laptops to public school teachers, with nationwide deployment scheduled to begin on Nov. 9. Education Secretary Sonny Angara announced that the guidelines under the Laptops for Teachers (L4T) initiative aim to prioritize educators who have never received

• Prosecution questions alleged lavish card spending by VP Duterte husband (2026-11-07 16:30)

MANILA, Philippines — A House impeachment prosecutor said Saturday that the alleged lavish credit card spending of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte’s husband, lawyer Manases “Mans” Carpio, is among the key issues the defense must explain when it begins presenting evidence before the Senate impeachment court on Monday, Nov. 9. Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry

• PNP logs 8 cybercrime convictions, 144 referred cases in October (2026-11-07 16:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded eight cybercrime convictions and 144 referred cases that involved various online offenses for the month of October. According to the PNP, the eight recorded convictions reflected its sustained efforts to prevent cyber-related criminal acts. Meanwhile, the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group also logged 144 referred cases that involved

• Prosecution: Answer Sara Duterte’s alleged ₱818-M unexplained wealth (2026-11-07 16:11)

MANILA, Philippines — The House prosecution panel is urging the defense team of Vice President Sara Z. Duterte to address nearly ₱818 million in alleged unexplained wealth as the Senate impeachment court prepares to hear defense evidence on Monday, Nov. 9. Speaking at the Saturday News Forum in Quezon City, Bicol Saro Party-list Rep. Terry

• Sara Duterte defense lacks counter-witness on P817M asset gap — Kapunan (2026-11-07 15:51)

MANILA, Philippines — The defense team of Vice President Sara Duterte-Carpio has failed to present an expert witness to counter the financial findings of the prosecution panel, lawyer Lorna Kapunan said Saturday. Kapunan, a counsel for the House prosecutors, expressed surprise after examining the list of 25 defense witnesses submitted to the Senate impeachment court,

• Kapunan questions P568-M gap between Cale88 sales, bank inflows (2026-11-07 15:23)

MANILA, Philippines — House private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan on Friday raised questions over a massive P568-million discrepancy between the declared sales and actual bank deposits of Cale88 Foods Corp., a firm linked to Vice President Sara Duterte's husband, lawyer Manases Carpio. At a press briefing, Kapunan noted that while Cale88 declared only P208.49 million in

• BOC: P4.1M illegal cigarettes seized in Negros Occidental (2026-11-07 15:09)

MANILA, Philippines — Around P4.1 million worth of illegal cigarettes hidden inside a refrigerated van was seized by authorities in Negros Occidental, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) reported. The BOC said on Saturday, Nov. 7, that the joint operation with the Philippine National Police (PNP) stemmed from an intelligence report regarding a suspected van carrying

• BFAR gears up for sardine fishing ban in northeastern Mindanao (2026-11-07 14:32)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — Commercial and municipal sardine fishing across 11 coastal towns and cities in northeastern Mindanao will temporarily halt starting next month. This comes after marine scientists warned that local fish populations have dropped to critical levels. The three-month annual moratorium, running from Dec. 1 to March 1 next year, is

• Surigao del Sur vegetable growers tap smartphone apps to wipe pests (2026-11-07 14:12)

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur — For years, local vegetable growers in the agricultural town of San Miguel in Surigao del Sur have followed a costly and exhausting routine. This practice constitutes dousing their plots with synthetic pesticides every week just to keep invasive insects at bay. Now, local growers are swapping routine chemical drenching

• 2 nabbed in illegal fuel operation in Batangas City (2026-11-07 14:10)

LUCENA CITY—Two men were arrested for allegedly engaging in the unauthorized transfer and trading of petroleum products during an anti-illegal fuel operation in Batangas City on Friday, Nov. 6, police said. The Police Regional Office 4A (PRO-4A) said in a report on Saturday that the Batangas police intelligence unit received information from a concerned citizen

• Ridon calls VP Duterte spox remarks a 'deluded statement' (2026-11-07 14:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Impeachment trial prosecutor and Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Terry Ridon called the camp of Vice President Sara Duterte's claim that the House prosecution had failed to establish its case a "deluded statement." READ: Sara Duterte's spox: Prosecution in impeach trial failed to prove its case Lawyer Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr., the vice

• 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 Claire Castro said this special treatment, if proven, would constitute "extravagance." READ: Palace wants

• 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 guidedby 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 Public Information Office said Magalong issued Executive Order No. 177, series of 2026, on Wednesday,

• 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 linked to 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 a Facebook 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 RodrigoDuterte. 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 easterliesare affecting all areas, except Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region and CagayanValley. 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 the winning combination 10-46-40-39-04-16, with a jackpot prize of ₱87.84 million. No bettor matched

• 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 Themen 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 numbers concerning 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 Communications Head 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, wasapprehended 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 adult Filipinos 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 the Busway,” 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 followingconsultations 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-charge was protecting illegal gambling operations, including "peryahan" activities in some municipalities. 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 Sixto Rodriguez 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 17,746rider-partners across Metro Manila, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro but exceeded this limit by55,575 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 amotorcycle 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 ofunexplained encounters shared by visitors and its caretakers. READ: Mansion House in BaguioCity

• 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 Visayasrecorded

• 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

## Source: The Manila Times

• Davao assessor confirms VP Sara SALN properties match tax declarations (2026-11-09 05:26)

MANILA, Philippines — Davao City Assessor Jaime Adalin on Monday confirmed that properties declared by Vice President Sara Duterte in her Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs) match tax declarations maintained by his office, including a residential lot and commercial building in Barangay 74-A, Davao City.Adalin made the confirmation during the 40th day of the impeachment trial. Defense counsel Lindon Bacquel presented Duterte's SALN and asked the witness to verify the declared properties against the city assessor's records.Looking at Duterte's SALN as of Dec. 31, 2025, Adalin confirmed that the residential lot in Barangay 74-A, with an assessed value of P82,046, and the commercial building in the same barangay corresponded to the tax declarations on file with his office.Presiding Officer Francis Escudero asked Adalin whether the residential property listed in Duterte's SALN, with an assessed value of P82,046 and a market value of P2,051,150, was the same property Bacquel was referring to. "Yes, it is the same property, Your Honor," Adalin said.

• Gasoline prices to go down by P16.80 per liter (2026-11-09 05:02)

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy on Monday said that the price of gasoline will go down by up to P16.80 per liter.Diesel prices will decline by up to P4.10 per liter and kerosene by up to P3.70 per liter.The price adjustments will be implemented on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026.

• Manila employees to get year-end bonus, P5,000 cash gift on Nov. 13 (2026-11-09 03:44)

MANILA, Philippines — Manila city government employees will receive their salaries, year-end bonus and P5,000 cash gift on Friday, Nov. 13, Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso announced on Monday."I am happy to announce that there is salary this Friday! And there is the 13th month [pay]! And the 5,000 bonus! You will receive them early and all at once," Isko said in Filipino and English during the flag-raising ceremony.The city government allocated P817.31 million for the year-end bonus and cash gifts of its employees, consisting of P762.46 million for year-end bonuses and P54.85 million for cash gifts.The mayor assured Contract of Service and Job Order workers that they would not be left behind, citing the city's commitment to its non-regular employees.Meanwhile, the city government is preparing to distribute Christmas provisions to 700,000 families in Manila, as well as holiday packages for senior citizens.

• Police receive hundreds of tips on Bato's whereabouts (2026-11-09 03:40)

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine National Police chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Monday said they have received no less than 500 information on the whereabouts of Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.Some of the information alleged that dela Rosa is hiding in islands that Nartatez said he has not heard of before.The fugitive senator is being hunted based on an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.The government has offered a P50 million bounty for information leading to his arrest.

• Lawyer prods SC: Act now on Bato's petition (2026-11-09 03:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The lawyer of Sen. Ronald dela Rosa has urged the Supreme Court (SC) to act immediately on his petition challenging the Philippine government's cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC), warning that his possible arrest and transfer to The Hague could render the high tribunal's intervention ineffective.Israelito Torreon told The Manila Times that the petition remains pending before the Supreme Court en banc, which has yet to resolve the constitutional questions surrounding the enforcement of the ICC arrest warrant against the senator.Torreon said the legal situation had become more urgent following what he described as an escalation in the government's efforts to locate and arrest Dela Rosa, including the offer of a P50 million bounty on his capture and his designation as "armed and dangerous."In a 15-page manifestation filed on Oct. 27, Torreon informed the court of these developments and asked it to resolve urgently the pending motion for reconsideration of its May 20 denial of the senator's request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) and a status quo ante order.The Supreme Court denied the request by a 9-5-1 vote. Torreon said the denial did not resolve the main constitutional issues raised in the petition.He said the circumstances considered by the Court in May had since changed, particularly following the intensified manhunt for the senator.Torreon also cited the Oct. 23 statements by the Department of the Interior and Local Government secretary and the Philippine National Police chief declaring Dela Rosa armed and dangerous and the offer of a P50 million reward for information that would lead to his arrest.He argued that the bounty could encourage private individuals to take the law into their own hands."The right to life is now directly at stake, and a right does not get clearer than that," Torreon said in explaining why the Supreme Court should reconsider its earlier denial of interim relief.He stressed that the Supreme Court's denial of the TRO did not authorize Philippine authorities to enforce the ICC warrant or surrender Dela Rosa to the international tribunal."Denying a TRO is not a warrant of arrest. It is not a finding that the ICC warrant can be enforced here, and it is not a surrender order," he said.Among the questions Torreon said the SC must settle is whether an arrest warrant issued by an international tribunal can be enforced in the Philippines without a Philippine court first determining probable cause.

- PH growth slows to 2.1% in Q3 (2026-11-09 02:34)

The Philippines posted an economic growth of 2.1 percent in the third quarter of the year, the weakest quarterly growth since 2009 excluding the pandemic years, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported on MondayIt is lower than the 2.4-percent revised growth three months earlier and the 4.0 posted a year earlier. It is also well below the government’s downwardly revised 3.5- to 4.5-percent target for the year.Services posted a year-on-year growth of 3.7 percent in the third quarter of 2026.However, agriculture, forestry, and fishing and industry declined at 4.8 percent and 0.003 percent, respectively.

- VP Sara’s impeachment trial resumes (2026-11-09 02:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Senate impeachment court resumed the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte on Monday, with the defense team expected to begin presenting its evidence and witnesses to challenge the remaining impeachment charge.The proceedings will

focus on Article II, which involves allegations of unexplained wealth, incomplete declarations of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) and undisclosed business interests.The House prosecution panel earlier withdrew three articles of impeachment, leaving Article II as the sole remaining charge.Duterte's defense counsel, Michael Poa, said the first witness would be Jaime Adalin, an officer from the Davao City Assessor's Office.Meanwhile, Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries Inc. and Metro City Chow Foods Corp., will be unable to attend Monday's hearing due to a previously scheduled medical procedure.House lead prosecutor Rep. Gerville Luistro confirmed Punay's absence, saying she is scheduled to undergo a magnetic resonance imaging examination.Senate impeachment court spokesman Reginald Tongol over the weekend said the court served 22 of the 24 subpoenas requested by the defense panel ahead of its presentation of evidence.

- 62 OFWs from Riyadh back in Manila (2026-11-09 01:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Sixty-two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, returned to the Philippines on Sunday amid continuing repatriation operations in the Middle East, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) said.The OFWs arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 aboard Qatar Airways Flight QR928.OWWA personnel, along with representatives from the Department of Migrant Workers and the Manila International Airport Authority medical team, assisted them.The agency provided food, financial and transportation assistance, as well as temporary accommodation for those who needed it.OWWA said that the repatriation was part of the government's UPLIFT Assistance Program.

- Duterte influence remains strong among young voters — survey (2026-11-09 01:36)

MANILA, Philippines — The political influence of the Duterte family remains strong among younger Filipino voters, particularly in Mindanao, with Davao City Mayor Sebastian "Baste" Duterte emerging as the most preferred senatorial candidate among Generation Z respondents for the 2028 elections, a new survey showed.Baste Duterte was favored by 47 percent of Gen Z respondents, ahead of Sen. Robin Padilla (40 percent), Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto (33 percent) and Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano (27 percent), based on the October 16 to 19 National Momentum Survey conducted by Momentum Research.The findings also showed strong support for Duterte-aligned candidates in Mindanao, where 62 percent of respondents said they would vote for Baste Duterte as senator, followed by Padilla at 54 percent and Davao City First District Rep. Paolo "Pulong" Duterte at 45 percent.Cayetano ranked fourth in Mindanao with 44 percent.Nationally, Padilla topped the survey with 37 percent, narrowly ahead of Baste Duterte at 36 percent and Cayetano at 35 percent. Sen. Raffy Tulfo followed with 34 percent.Completing the national top 12 were Sotto (32 percent), former Sen. Grace Poe (29 percent), former Sen. Manny Pacquiao (26 percent), Sen. Francis Escudero (23 percent), Sen. Loren Legarda (23 percent), Pulong Duterte (21 percent), Makati City Mayor Nancy Binay (19 percent) and broadcaster Ben Tulfo (17 percent).The survey also found a sharp divide along political affiliations.Among respondents identified as pro-Duterte, 67 percent preferred Baste Duterte for senator, while 60 percent chose Padilla. Pulong Duterte received 43 percent, followed by

Cayetano at 41 percent.Among pro-Marcos respondents, Tulfo led with 57 percent, followed by Sotto (39 percent), Cayetano (38 percent), Poe (37 percent), Pacquiao (34 percent) and Ben Tulfo (30 percent).Sotto, meanwhile, was the leading choice among opposition supporters at 49 percent, followed by Tulfo at 40 percent. Independents also favored Sotto (36 percent), narrowly ahead of Tulfo (35 percent), Padilla (33 percent), Cayetano (32 percent) and Poe (32 percent).The generational breakdown showed that Duterte-aligned candidates were particularly competitive among younger voters.Among millennials, Padilla led with 48 percent, followed by Cayetano (40 percent) and Baste Duterte (39 percent). Gen X respondents preferred Cayetano (44 percent), Tulfo (42 percent) and Poe (35 percent).Among baby boomers and the Silent Generation, Tulfo led with 42 percent, followed by Sotto (37 percent) and Poe (30 percent).Baste Duterte registered the biggest increase in support since Momentum Research's August survey, gaining six percentage points. Revilla gained four points, while Poe, Pacquiao and Mark Villar each increased by three points.The non-commissioned survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews with 1,401 Filipino adults nationwide. Respondents could select up to 12 names from a list of 51 potential senatorial candidates.It had a national margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points at a 95-percent confidence level.

- Pagasa forecasts rain in most parts of Luzon (2026-11-09 00:26)

MANILA, Philippines — The northeast monsoon will bring rain in most parts of Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Monday.Pagasa weather specialist Aldczar Aurelio said these areas include Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Aurora and Quezon.Aurelio said Bicol will have cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms because of the easterlies."In the rest of Luzon including Metro Manila, the weather will be good and fair. The skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy except for isolated rain showers," he said in Filipino and English."Because of the northeast monsoon, we will feel the cool breeze in northern Luzon, in central Luzon, also here in Metro Manila, and Calabarzon," he added.Davao Oriental and Davao Occidental as well as Caraga will also have cloudy skies and scattered rain showers and thunderstorms because of the easterlies."Meanwhile, the rest of Mindanao as well as the entire Visayas will have good and fair weather except for localized thunderstorms," he said.No gale warning was issued but Aurelio urged those who will go out to sea in northern Luzon to exercise caution against moderate to rough seas.

- Legarda seeks stronger heritage protection (2026-11-08 23:35)

SEN. Loren Legarda called for stronger efforts to preserve the country's documentary heritage after Unesco included three Philippine historical and cultural collections in its Memory of the World Regional Register for Asia and the Pacific.Legarda welcomed the international recognition, describing it as a significant milestone in safeguarding the Philippines' history, cultural identity, and traditions for future generations.The Laguna Copperplate Inscription, the Baybayin Documents in the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas, and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group Audiovisual Archive were inscribed during the 11th General Meeting of the

Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MoWCAP) in Jakarta, Indonesia, onThursday."These treasures tell the story of who we are as Filipinos. They preserve our history,our writing traditions, and the cultural knowledge passed down through generations," Legardasaid."I congratulate the institutions, scholars, and cultural workers whose dedication has helpedbring these important collections greater international recognition," she added.The LagunaCopperplate Inscription, dated 900 CE, is the earliest known historical document from thePhilippines. Preserved at the National Museum of the Philippines, it provides valuable evidenceof early social, political, and economic relations in the region.The Baybayin Documents, housedat the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas (UST Archives) in Manila, offer importantinsights into precolonial Filipino writing traditions, land transactions, and social relations duringthe Spanish colonial period.Meanwhile, the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group Audiovisual Archive,maintained by the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Foundation Inc., documents Philippine traditionaldances, rituals, music, and other cultural practices through its extensive audiovisualcollection.Legarda, chairman of the Senate Committee on Culture and the Arts, said thatinternational recognition must be matched by sustained efforts to protect documentaryheritage and ensure its accessibility for education, research, and publicappreciation."Recognition is an important achievement, but our work does not end here. Wemust carefully preserve, study, and share these records so more Filipinos can understand therichness of our history. We must also support the institutions and cultural workers who havedevoted their lives to safeguarding them," she said.A longtime advocate of culturalpreservation, Legarda authored and co-sponsored Republic Act (RA) 10066, or the NationalCultural Heritage Act, which protects and conserves the country's cultural heritage.She alsoauthored and principally sponsored RA 11961, or the Cultural Mapping Law, which strengthensheritage conservation through comprehensive cultural mapping and an enhanced culturalheritage education program.Legarda, who has been on leave for weeks, said the Unescorecognition presents an opportunity to strengthen cooperation among cultural institutions,archives, researchers, and government agencies in protecting and promoting the country'sdocumentary heritage."Our history deserves to be known and understood by our own people.By protecting these treasures and making their stories accessible, we keep our cultural heritagealive and meaningful in the lives of Filipinos," she said.

- Lacson: Senate to step up budget transparency push (2026-11-08 23:34)

TO expand its budget transparency efforts, the Senate will push not only for continuous livestreaming of bicameral conference committee proceedings on the proposed 2027 national budget but also for transcripts of the discussions, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Sunday.Lacson said the transcripts would help lawmakers and the public identify who initiated amendments to the budget bill and track who pushed for realignments of its items."In the bicam, the minutes of the proceedings should be recorded through a transcript. The budget bill is the only measure whose bicameral proceedings do not have a transcript, so we cannot trace who made what amendment. Now there should be a transcript because for the longest time, it had none," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio."There should be a transcript containing the

minutes so it will be clear who initiated amendments and who pushed for realignments," he said.The measure seeks to address a longstanding transparency gap in the congressional budget process, particularly during the bicameral conference committee stage, when the House of Representatives and the Senate reconcile differences between their versions of the national budget.Unlike ordinary legislative proceedings, where committee discussions and amendments are generally documented, bicameral budget negotiation transcripts are not accessible to the public, raising concerns over the traceability of budget insertions, realignments and other adjustments made during the final stages of budget approval.The bicam is particularly significant because its reconciled version becomes the final congressional version of the appropriations bill submitted to the president for approval.Changes made during the reconciliation process can substantially affect the distribution of public funds.Lacson said the Senate intends to build on transparency measures introduced during deliberations on the 2026 national budget, which included identifying senators who proposed amendments to the budget bill and posting bicameral proceedings on the Senate website for public scrutiny.For the 2027 budget deliberations, Lacson said the Senate also plans to invite budget advocacy organizations, including the People's Budget Coalition, to participate in or observe bicameral proceedings to strengthen independent oversight."I told the groups that vigilance is not enough and that they should resort to shaming against lawmakers who sneak in questionable realignments," he said.Lacson also raised concerns about the practice of introducing project insertions at different stages of the budget process, which he described as "double kill."The National Expenditure Program (NEP), prepared by the executive branch through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), serves as the president's proposed spending plan and is submitted to Congress for deliberation.It contains the proposed appropriations for government agencies, programs and projects for the succeeding fiscal year.Congress then examines the proposal and may introduce amendments, subject to constitutional restrictions and the legislative appropriations process.Lacson said some lawmakers allegedly make project insertions during the preparation of the NEP and introduce additional changes after the spending proposal reaches Congress."Some lawmakers made insertions in the NEP, and then again when the NEP was transmitted to the House and Senate. It's double kill," he added.Lacson's call for greater scrutiny also followed concerns raised by budget advocacy groups over questionable geographical coordinates assigned to infrastructure projects in the proposed 2027 national budget.On Thursday, he questioned the coordinates of a project flagged by the People's Budget Coalition, which reportedly pointed to the Celebes Sea instead of an identifiable project site in Leyte."I thought Leyte was already far enough, until the People's Budget Coalition flagged a project whose coordinates pointed to the Celebes Sea. So this is not a mere typo error because the projects are geotagged and should be pinpointed. That's what geotagging is for — to make it easy to locate and inspect a project so its quality can be checked and verified," he said."This is not an oversight. It is almost obvious that this is deliberate," he added.Geotagging aims to provide the precise geographical location of government-funded infrastructure projects, allowing authorities, auditors and the public to verify whether projects exist at their declared locations and monitor their implementation.Incorrect or questionable coordinates could complicate inspections and raise concerns about the accuracy and reliability of project

information submitted as part of the budget proposal.Lacson said he and his fellow senators will rely on the guidelines and requirements set by Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez for the funding of projects — including program of works, feasibility study, and geotagging.He added that the Unified Account Code Structure (UACS) must be retained "all the way" throughout the budget process to ensure easier tracking of projects for implementation."The UACS provides codes that help track projects. The problem is that as the budget measure passes through the House and Senate, the UACS is lost," he said.

- Take witness stand, Luistro dares VP Sara (2026-11-08 17:32)

HOUSE lead prosecutor and Batangas 2nd District Rep. Gerville Luistro challenged Vice President Sara Duterte to take the witness stand in her impeachment trial, insisting she is the best person who could explain the financial records and property documents presented by the prosecution.Luistro said Duterte should account for her audited financial statements, income tax returns, statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), Anti-Money Laundering Council reports, property registrations, and business interests in GenCorp.Forensic financial analyst Alexander Cabrera, a prosecution witness, previously estimated Duterte and her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio, had approximately P817.87 million in alleged unexplained wealth from 2022 to 2025 under a conservative computation, potentially reaching P1.5 billion under a broader calculation. Duterte declared a net worth of P98.66 million in her 2025 SALN. “We can’t think of anyone else. The only person who can truly explain what happened is none other than the vice president,” Luistro said in Filipino in a radio interview on Sunday.She echoed Lorna Kapunan’s earlier remarks and dared the vice president to face the Senate impeachment court to prove her innocence. “And as we’ve said, if the defense truly maintains that she is innocent — that she committed no violation — why not come out into the open? Take the witness stand and defend yourself, right?” Luistro said. “The testimony provided by the prosecution’s witnesses will remain unrebutted. Still, let’s give them the benefit of the doubt; after all, it’s only the first week, and we’ve only seen the first list, right?” she added.Duterte’s defense team is scheduled to begin presenting evidence when proceedings resume on Monday, Nov. 9.Kristina Maralit

- VP’s defense team tackles wealth raps (2026-11-08 16:20)

VICE President Sara Duterte’s defense team will begin presenting evidence to counter allegations of unexplained wealth on Monday, opening a crucial phase of her impeachment trial with corporate, property and financial records, and 22 witnesses already served with subpoenas.The defense will open its case with a corporate lawyer who will testify on company records covering 2022 to 2025, followed by property assessors, an accountant, a barangay official and bank representatives in hearings that could run almost daily in the coming weeks. “We will hit the ground running on Monday and in the weeks ahead,” Senate impeachment court spokesman Reginald Tongol said in a radio interview on Saturday.Tongol said the court had largely cleared administrative matters ahead of the resumption, allowing the defense to proceed with its evidence on the remaining article of impeachment concerning

Duterte's alleged unexplained wealth.The defense is expected to call Suzette Balucanag-Punay, corporate counsel of GenCorp Industries and Metro City Chow Foods Corporation, as its first witness.She is expected to testify on the companies' general information sheets and audited financial statements covering 2022 to 2025.After Balucanag-Punay, Tongol said the defense is expected to call next representatives from the city assessor's offices of Davao City and the Island Garden City of Samal, an accountant from Davao City, and the barangay chairman of Matina Crossing in succeeding hearings.Tongol said the impeachment court had served subpoenas on 22 of the 24 witnesses for the defense.Former law school dean Rene Sarmiento was not issued a subpoena after the defense removed his name from its witness list.Tongol said the court acted on the defense's formal manifestation, not Sarmiento's earlier public statements declining the offer to testify.The impeachment court is preparing for an intensive hearing schedule, with proceedings potentially running almost daily from 10 a.m. until around 6 p.m., depending on developments.Tongol said Monday's proceedings will continue despite an afternoon break for the Senate's legislative session.The Nov. 11 schedule may also be affected by the plenary session, while hearings on Nov. 12 and 13 are expected to run for the entire day.He expressed confidence that the defense could accommodate all its proposed witnesses within the scheduled hearing days, citing the relatively brief testimonies of bank representatives during the prosecution's presentation.The court is aiming for a December conclusion, consistent with the timeline previously identified by Senate Presiding Officer Francis Escudero.But Tongol said that the target is not fixed and would depend on how the defense presentation unfolds. "This is not set in stone. It is a moving target," he said. "If additional hearing days are needed to ensure the respondent's due process and allow the defense to fully present its case-in-chief, then more days will be scheduled." Conversely, proceedings could end earlier if the defense drops witnesses or completes its presentation ahead of schedule.Tongol described the defense presentation as a crucial stage of the impeachment proceedings, as it will give senator-judges and the public a chance to hear Duterte's response to the prosecution's allegations. "What we saw during the prosecution's presentation was simply its effort to build its case. We have seen only one side so far. We have yet to hear the answer," he said.With the defense preparing to present its own documentary and testimonial evidence, Tongol said the senator-judges and the public would begin to get a clearer picture of Duterte's position.Tongol also said the defense has yet to inform the court whether Duterte will take the witness stand. "It is entirely the defense's prerogative whether to put the respondent on the witness stand," Tongol said.If the court requires Duterte to testify, Tongol said, it could trigger a major legal debate over the constitutional right against self-incrimination.He outlined two opposing legal interpretations. One is that impeachment proceedings are not criminal proceedings and that the right against self-incrimination may be invoked on a question-by-question basis.Under this interpretation, Duterte could be called to testify but could refuse to answer questions that might incriminate her.The other view treats impeachment as akin to a criminal proceeding because of its potentially severe consequences, including removal from office and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.Under this interpretation, the right against self-incrimination could be invoked more broadly to prevent the respondent from being compelled to testify against

herself.Tongol also defended the court's decision to admit financial records involving Duterte and her husband, including documents obtained from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), banks, and other institutions.The defense had objected to the documents, arguing that they were not attached to the articles of impeachment and that their submission amounted to a fishing expedition by the prosecution.Tongol said the court rejected the objection because articles of impeachment need only state the general or ultimate facts underlying the allegations, not every specific evidentiary detail.He said Escudero and his legal team have been conducting scenario planning and mock trials in preparation for the resumption of proceedings. "For every possible scenario, there are skeletal rulings prepared," Tongol said, adding that Escudero has three to four draft rulings ready.If the arguments raised during a hearing match a scenario already anticipated by the legal team, the presiding officer may read the prepared ruling.If new issues arise, the legal team incorporates additional instructions before the ruling is issued.Tongol said this explains the short breaks sometimes taken by the court before announcing decisions.He also explained the court's decision to restore the sub judice restriction on Articles 1, 3 and 4, which had been dropped by the House prosecution panel.Escudero initially lifted the restriction on Oct. 13. However, defense lead counsel Sheila Sison told the court that lifting it would serve little purpose for the defense, particularly regarding Article 4, which involves grave-threat allegations and is also the subject of a pending case before the Metropolitan Trial Court of Quezon City.Senator-judge Francis Pangilinan sought reconsideration of Escudero's ruling, with Senator-judge Bam Aquino seconding the appeal.The defense was given an opportunity to consult Duterte on whether she wanted the restriction lifted. After the defense did not pursue the lifting, Escudero restored the restriction.Another senator-judge, Risa Hontiveros, on Sunday said the case against Duterte must be decided on the strength of the evidence, not public opinion or speculation about how many senator-judges are prepared to convict or acquit her.Hontiveros cautioned against prematurely counting votes, stressing that the impeachment court must hear the defense's side and consider the entire case before reaching a verdict. "It is premature for me or anyone to say that there are already numbers for conviction or acquittal," Hontiveros said in an interview with DZBB radio. "We have only heard half of the sides. The defense presentation will begin tomorrow. We are obligated to listen to everything," she said.Hontiveros said the actual vote count would only be known on the day of the decision.She also rejected speculation that senators have already made their decision, describing their deliberations as an ongoing process. "All of the senator-judges are involved, not just the majority. In an impeachment trial, there are no majority or minority blocs," Hontiveros said.She acknowledged that the personalities involved naturally attract public attention because they are frequently seen in the news, but stressed that popularity is not the issue before the impeachment court.Hontiveros stressed that senator-judges would not be voting based on popularity. "For us, that is outside the issue of the impeachment trial because we will not be voting on popularity. We will look at accountability," she said. "That is what we will weigh — all the witnesses and evidence that we have studied for our final decision or vote," she said.Asked if she expected Duterte to personally appear before the Senate impeachment court, Hontiveros said it was the defense's call. "If the vice president is included, I will listen and ask clarificatory questions," Hontiveros

said.She said she expected Duterte to attend the Senate deliberations on the Office of the Vice President's (OVP) proposed 2027 budget.Hontiveros recalled that Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian had emphasized during the committee hearing that the head of the agency was expected to attend.Asked what would happen if Duterte again failed to attend, Hontiveros said senators would take notice "because that is not proper conduct for any head of an agency, even if that official is the vice president."

- Filipino sailor dies in tanker blast (2026-11-08 16:15)

A FILIPINO sailor died in an explosion aboard an oil tanker in the Persian Gulf, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) reported on Saturday.Twenty-one other Filipino crew members of the MT Velos Sapphire "were reported unharmed," the department said.The explosion occurred in the early hours of Nov. 5, while the Marshall Islands-flagged vessel was sailing to Sitrah, Bahrain.Initial reports "suggested a possible drone attack," the department said, although the cause of the explosion "remains unverified." The DMW condoled with the family of the seaman, whose name it has withheld."We will provide all the support and guidance the bereaved family needs during this difficult time. As the president has consistently reminded us, we must always take care of the families of our Filipino seafarers," Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said.The licensed manning agency, "which received the shipowner's report of the death, has informed the family and is providing assistance and guidance. The shipowner has likewise conveyed its condolences and assured the family of its support," the DMW said.The department also said that no pollution or environmental damage was reported after the incident.Meanwhile, two oil tankers caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after hitting mines, Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Sunday, according to state news agency IRNA.Since the outbreak of the Iran war in late February, Tehran has severely restricted traffic through the strategic waterway, insisting vessels use routes authorized by the Islamic republic.The United States has, in response, imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and helped tankers travel the strait, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil consumption."Two oil tankers violating regulations — one in the eastern part of the Strait of Hormuz and the other within the strait — caught fire and are currently engulfed in intense flames after striking naval mines while attempting to cross through unauthorized routes," the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the ideological arm of Iran's military, said in a statement."The two tankers had reportedly committed multiple violations, including switching off their navigation and positioning systems, as they attempted to transit through an unauthorized route," the statement added.The Guards did not specify the name or nationality of the tankers.

- UN chief warns world leaders: Moment of truth (2026-11-08 16:14)

UNITED NATIONS — As United Nations talks kick off in Turkey on Monday, Secretary-General António Guterres has an urgent message for world leaders: "This is a moment of truth." He's delivered variations of this ominous warning about change, caused by the burning of fossil fuels like oil and gas, in the past decade, often with increasingly hyperbolic language. Three years ago, he even said, "the era of global boiling has arrived," referring to rising temperatures and

increasing extreme weather, both results of change.But this time, it will be his last global warming sermon as head of the United Nations, as his second and last term expires at the end of the year. And the sense of urgency is palpable in a world with worsening killer heat waves, storms, floods and droughts amid ever-higher temperatures and, on top of all of it, El Niño, a naturally occurring pattern that scrambles weather systems around the globe. “This is a moment of truth. We can no longer wait; we can no longer have endless discussions in which everybody tries to push the responsibility to someone else. Everybody must do more; everybody must do more now,” Guterres said he will tell leaders of the UN conference, known as COP31, scheduled from Nov. 9 to 20.The “moment of truth” message weighs so heavily that the secretary-general used the phrase three times in 20 minutes during a recent exclusive interview with The Associated Press from his 38th-floor conference room at UN headquarters.He discussed his one last push in the fight against change and a ten-year tenure where he became one of the most visible advocates urging often recalcitrant countries to do more to reduce their emissions of heat-trapping gases.The gravity of global warming reality also weighs heavily as he recalled his personal moment of truth. It was, he said, “one of the most difficult days of my life.” It came last year when he consulted with scientists before a major speech. As he had for nine years, Guterres was going to insist that the 2015 Paris Agreement’s main goal — limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times — was still alive.He was going to say the world needs to do far more to keep below that threshold, and that it was doable. “Scientists told me you cannot say that because that’s no longer true,” said Guterres, an engineer before his political career. Too much carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, the result of burning fossil fuels, had been released into the atmosphere. “That was an enormous shock for me,” he said. Now the UN is trying to limit how much past that threshold the world heads.It felt like a failure, Guterres said. “But it’s not the world that’s failed; it’s the political leadership that’s failed,” Guterres said.Protecting the planet, he said, requires a long-term strategic view.Yet in many political systems “there is no strategic view. And policies change frequently, not allowing the kind of constant determined investment that is necessary,” Guterres said.He pointed to his tenure as Portugal’s prime minister in the late 1990s to show it’s possible to invest long-term in a greener future.He added that a worldwide boom in wind and solar power as cheaper alternatives to fossil fuels gives him hope.With wars raging in Ukraine and Iran and worries about artificial intelligence — which he also tried to rally world leaders around — there are a lot of threats out there, Guterres said. “The problem is that all these things are getting combined,” Guterres said, noting the huge electricity and water consumption and carbon emissions of AI.War-related energy shocks show that relying on fossil fuels is a fundamental security problem, he said.Three years ago, Guterres toured the highest peaks of Nepal, warning of a future with swollen glacier-fed lakes bursting and devastating floods and landslides. “I am here today to cry out from the rooftop of the world: Stop the madness,” Guterres said in 2023. “The glaciers are retreating, but we cannot,” he said. “We must end the fossil fuel age.” AP “Unfortunately, they came sooner than what I expected,” he recalled in the interview.Floods in August killed more than 1,400 people with another 5,600 missing. Scientists said change played a role in the disasters.Guterres said someone needs to pay to help the

victims of change, who often didn’t cause the problem. “Fossil fuel companies are making huge profits and obviously those windfall profits should be taxed and those taxes should be applied in supporting the countries that are having the more dramatic impacts of change,” Guterres said.Talking earlier this month with a science team on a drifting platform in the middle of the Arctic Ocean, Guterres mentioned that his trip to Mount Everest and chats with researchers changed him.He said the conversations created “a sense of fury in relation to those who go on, if not denying, at least refusing to take the measures that are necessary to stop this madness.” “António Guterres has consistently been eloquent, forceful and right on target in all of his many statements and initiatives to address the crisis,” former US Vice President Al Gore said. “He’s been so active on this issue because he understands clearly that it is the greatest challenge facing humanity.”European Foundation CEO Laurence Tubiana, who presided over the negotiations that resulted in the Paris Agreement, said Guterres “has done what he could, even pushing the ball much, much farther than any other SG, to the point that he may have been represented in a very adversarial context.”Because nations don’t have to do what the UN or its leaders ask and superpowers have veto authority, Guterres said his position as secretary-general “has no real power. We have not much money you know. But there is one thing we have: A voice.”That’s why he simply has three words of advice to whoever succeeds him: “Tell the truth.” The UN Security Council is still deciding on who will be the next secretary-general.The one message Guterres said he wants the public to remember on change: “Take it seriously because it is an existential threat. And the first thing we need to fight is for our own lives.”

- Lopez to inspect Bulacan flood control project (2026-11-08 16:13)

NEWLY appointed Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez will inspect on Monday a flood mitigation structure in Calumpit, Bulacan.The inspection comes as the Marcos administration moves to ensure the uninterrupted implementation of critical flood control, drainage and road infrastructure projects despite the change in leadership at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).Calumpit is among the flood-prone areas in Bulacan where the government has been pushing flood mitigation interventions, including the construction of a replacement flood wall or revetment to better protect riverbanks and vulnerable communities. The new structure is nearly 1.5 meters higher than the previous one.Other flood control projects in Bulacan include the replacement of a defective dike in Barangay Calizon, where an earlier inspection revealed hollow sections and inadequate steel reinforcement.The replacement involves 15-meter sheet piles intended to protect around 3,000 residents.The DPWH is pursuing similar projects in neighboring Hagonoy, including the dredging of Iba-Wawa Creek, improvements to drainage channels leading to Labangan Channel and the Angat River, and the deployment of a mobile pump at the Iba Pumping Station.In Pampanga, the government plans the dredging and widening of the Pampanga River and its tributaries, particularly around Macabebe and Masantol, and building pumping stations, flood walls and dikes.These projects form part of the administration’s broader Oplan Kontra Baha, which seeks to address flooding by improving waterways, drainage systems, pumping facilities and protective structures.Lopez is

expected to sustain major road rehabilitation projects initiated under former Public Works secretary Vince Dizon.These include the second phase of the EDSA rehabilitation, covering the stretch from Orense Street in Makati City to Monumento in Caloocan City.The project involves asphalt overlay, concrete reblocking, road milling, drainage improvements and wider sidewalks, with completion targeted in 2027.The government has also ordered the rehabilitation of C5 Road, from Kalayaan Interchange in Taguig City to Capitol Hills Drive along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, with work expected to begin before the end of the year.

- Hontiveros pushes El Niño-ready budget (2026-11-08 16:12)

SEN. Risa Hontiveros is pushing for a super El Niño-ready and responsive 2027 national budget, calling on government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to strengthen measures to protect the public from extreme heat, water shortages and threats to public health.In an interview with DZBB radio on Sunday, Hontiveros said her proposal for LGUs to establish public cooling spaces and provide free drinking water in crowded areas was part of preparations for the expected effects of El Niño.She said that public cooling spaces could include shopping malls where people could seek temporary relief from extreme heat without being required to buy anything.She also called for free drinking water stations in crowded areas, particularly transport terminals, noting that access to water could sometimes mean the difference between life and death.As vice chairman of the Senate budget panel handling the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Hontiveros said she was pushing for additional funding for programs addressing water conservation, environmental protection and livelihood development.She specifically cited the DENR's Lawa at Binhi initiatives, which she said should receive stronger support as the country prepares for the climate phenomenon.On water security, Hontiveros said the government must identify, develop, protect and rationalize the use of available water sources.CATHERINE VALENTEShe also underscored the need for closer coordination between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA), particularly in ensuring adequate water supplies for agricultural irrigation. "We have to make sure that our farmers really have a source of water," she said.Hontiveros also vowed to actively participate in the budget deliberations of the Department of Health (DoH) to ensure the implementation of Universal Health Care (UHC), with particular attention to public health preparedness and protection during El Niño.She added that the Department of Labor and Employment should closely coordinate with the DENR and DSWD in generating jobs and livelihood opportunities as part of the government's response.Hontiveros said that the government had repeatedly discussed the creation of a Super El Niño task force, stressing the importance of a whole-of-government approach to preparations.She said the Senate will also exercise tighter oversight over government spending as it reviews the proposed 2027 national budget, drawing lessons from its investigation into flood control projects.Hontiveros said that Congress must ensure that government agencies properly use their allocations, citing its constitutional authority over the national budget.On possible sources of funding for priority programs, Hontiveros cited the commitment of Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian to continue budget reforms.She also pointed to Gatchalian's

announcement that more than P7 billion in items lacking sufficient justification would be removed from the proposed budget.The initiative was part of efforts to make budget deliberations more transparent and participatory, particularly through the increased involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs).She said she would pursue proactive budget interventions in light of the flood control controversy and the need to prepare for El Niño.Asked whether allocations for flood control projects or farm-to-market roads could be reduced to finance climate preparedness measures, Hontiveros said: “We will look at the big picture in the Senate and determine how we can come up with a Super El Niño-responsive budget within the rules.”

- Lawmaker seeks higher salaries for social workers (2026-11-08 16:11)

NUEVA Vizcaya Rep. Timothy Joseph Cayton has filed a bill seeking higher salaries, more benefits, and stronger legal protection for social workers nationwide.Cayton introduced the proposed Social Workers’ Welfare and Protection Act, a measure pushing for the upgrade of the entry-level position of Social Welfare Officer I from Salary Grade 11 to Salary Grade 15, matching the starting salary of other licensed government professionals.Higher positions would also receive corresponding salary grade adjustments.Social workers “quietly bear the saddest and most dangerous stories of our society without complaint. Gratitude alone is not enough; our social workers need fair wages and legal protection,” Cayton said over the weekend.The proposed law also seeks to provide social workers with hazard pay equivalent to at least 20 percent of their monthly basic salary. Job Order and Contract of Service workers would also be covered.The bill proposes P500,000 in financial assistance for the families of social workers who die in the line of duty, and P250,000 for those who suffer permanent disabilities.It would also recognize social workers as persons in authority, imposing heavier penalties on individuals who assault or harass them while performing their duties.

- ‘PH to continue trade with China’ (2026-11-08 16:10)

SHANGHAI — The Philippines will continue to engage with China in trade, tourism and people to people exchanges despite their maritime disputes, Ambassador Jaime FlorCruz said Sunday, noting that the two countries’ maritime issues are not the “sum total” of their relations.Speaking to The Manila Times at the sidelines of the 9th China International Import Expo (CIIE) held at the National Convention and Exhibition Center, FlorCruz said that Manila will continue to engage with Beijing amid their differences. “We differ when we have to, but we engage, we cooperate while we can, and trade and investment, commercial relations are exactly the kind of relations that we need to keep pushing,” he said. “Our maritime issues are not the sum total of our relations, so that means we have to keep on pushing on other fields of our relations,” he added.The Philippines launched on Friday its largest pavilion in the CIIE, comprising over 30 export companies showcasing the country’s food exports, such as coconut products, bananas, durian, and other products.FlorCruz said that trade and investment, alongside tourism and people to people exchanges, are an “important component” of its relations to China. “What we want [is that] the Chinese to succeed in the Philippines in breaking

into our market and bringing the best of their products and services. We want them to show that good Philippine-China relations is beneficial to our people, to our markets," FlorCruz said.Meanwhile, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) welcomed the joint statement of 20 business, labor, industry and civil society organizations supporting diplomacy and dialogue between the Philippines and China.In a statement Saturday evening, the DFA said it "is grateful for the appreciation of these sectors regarding the challenges of diplomatic work." The DFA said "candor, composure, principled conduct, sound judgment, and measured engagement are vital in the conduct of foreign relations, even as we firmly assert and uphold the Philippines' rights and entitlements." The groups earlier commended DFA Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro for her recent "constructive engagement" with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and her call for sustained dialogue and cooperation between the Philippines and China.Lazaro on Tuesday received a telephone call from Wang during which they discussed the state of bilateral ties between Manila and Beijing. "We recognize the DFA's pragmatic and statesmanlike approach in protecting the country's national interests, particularly its economic development, trade and exports, tourism, overseas Filipino workers, and other vital bilateral agreements with China, the Philippines' largest trading partner," the groups said. "Amid global uncertainty and intensifying economic competition, our Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) neighbors are deepening their trade, investment, technology, infrastructure, and tourism partnerships with China," they said.The groups said the Philippines "must likewise pursue mutually beneficial economic opportunities through constructive engagement, while firmly upholding its sovereignty and national interests." In a separate interview with The Manila Times, China Global Television Network digital anchor Shen Shiwei stressed the importance of CIIE for markets such as the Philippines. He said that Philippine companies must remain competitive amid tight competition from Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Shen said that maritime dispute between Manila and Beijing should not affect negatively on trade relations.

- Pangilinan pushes reforms in judiciary (2026-11-08 16:06)

SEN. Francis Pangilinan called for increased judiciary funding, faster court proceedings, stronger prosecution of corruption cases, and tougher measures against judicial corruption as part of a four-point reform agenda following the Philippines' 97th-place ranking in the 2026 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index.Pangilinan said the country's ranking highlights the need for "massive, painstaking, and consistent reform" to address persistent problems in law enforcement and the administration of justice, which directly affect the daily lives and livelihoods of ordinary Filipinos. "We need reform that ordinary Filipinos experience, not the impunity we see in the enforcement of laws and the disposition of cases — from traffic to online scams to corruption," Pangilinan said in a statement. "To improve the Philippine justice system is to improve Filipino lives and livelihoods," he added.The senator said an effective justice system is essential to protecting citizens' rights, holding offenders accountable, resolving disputes fairly, and creating an environment where businesses and communities can thrive.He cited the WJP's key rule-of-law indicators, which include accountable government, freedom from corruption, transparency, protection of fundamental rights, public safety, fair

enforcement of laws, and effective civil and criminal justice systems.Pangilinan said that addressing these challenges requires leadership from government, with the business sector, academe, civil society, and basic sectors working together to pursue long-term institutional reforms.The senator called for adequate and sustained funding for the judiciary, emphasizing that its budget must translate into measurable improvements in the delivery of justice.He proposed setting clear and measurable targets for the next three years to shorten case resolution times, reduce workloads in congested courts, establish and operationalize additional courts where necessary, and bring judicial vacancies down from approximately 20 percent to single digits.Pangilinan said reducing court congestion would require more than appointing additional judges. The effort must also include adequate court personnel, legal aid services, digital systems, and fully functioning courthouses.Also, Pangilinan called for stronger investigations, more capable prosecution, and timely trials to improve conviction rates, particularly in corruption cases. “Justice means holding the guilty accountable while protecting the innocent. Improve conviction rates, especially of corruption cases, through stronger investigations, capable prosecution, and timely trials. Justice means due process is followed, not sacrificed,” he said.Pangilinan also called for the convening of the Judiciary Executive Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council to coordinate sustained funding commitments and institutional reforms while safeguarding judicial independence.

- Marcos’ foreign policy should be followed - DFA (2026-11-08 16:05)

ALL government officials are expected to follow the foreign policy directions of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Sunday. “Under the Constitution, the President is the chief architect of Philippine foreign policy,” the DFA said in a statement. “Individual officials, agencies or sectors do not independently determine the direction of our international relations,” it added.The DFA issued the statement amid the opposing views of some government officials on how the administration should handle maritime disputes with China. “In high-stakes diplomacy, a disciplined and coherent national voice remains essential to advancing our national interests,” the Foreign Affairs department said. “Public statements that undermine the government’s diplomatic approach do more than complicate the work of our diplomats,” it stressed.Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and Philippine Coast Guard Rear Admiral Jay Tarriela in recent weeks had a word war with Chinese Embassy officials over the maritime issues between Manila and Beijing.The DFA reaffirmed its official account of the telephone call by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro on November 3.The “exchange formed part of a deliberate effort on both sides to maintain stable and predictable bilateral relations, manage differences responsibly, and secure a conducive regional environment — before, during and beyond the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Conference) Summits,” it said. “While the national security establishment and the uniformed services provide indispensable operational assessments and document developments on the ground, civilian authority directs the country’s international relations. Professional advice belongs in appropriate internal channels,” the DFA said. “It is therefore regrettable that recent public

commentary made by certain government officials have incorrectly merged three distinct elements: documentary evidence, public rhetoric and official diplomatic messaging.”
“Whatever personal convictions public officials may hold, their public platforms carry institutional responsibilities. They may not pursue preferred approaches toward China, or any other international partner, without regard for the consequences on the government’s overall policy,” it said. “They risk eroding the country’s credibility in international affairs and project an image of internal division that external parties can exploit. Such actions can ultimately weaken the Philippines’ negotiating position,” it added.The Philippines’ efforts to document and publicize incidents in the West Philippine Sea have established facts, countered disinformation and built international awareness, the agency said. “Yet transparency cannot substitute for statecraft. Releasing footage or shaping an online narrative does not, by itself, act as a physical deterrent at sea or a legal strategy,” the DFA said. “Government statecraft requires clear distinctions among these instruments. Transparency is a tool, not a strategy in itself.”

- Bill protecting workers from layoffs filed (2026-11-08 16:04)

SEN. Erwin Tulfo has filed a measure seeking to protect Filipino workers from losing their jobs due to the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation.Senate Bill 2563 seeks to introduce new provisions in the Labor Code of the Philippines governing employee termination resulting from the installation or implementation of AI technologies. “As companies adopt AI, employees whose jobs become redundant risk losing not only their employment but also their means of supporting their families,” said Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development. “Technological progress is inevitable, but Filipino workers should not be left behind or made to bear its costs alone,” he added.Tulfo’s bill aims to add a new article into the Labor Code of the Philippines which specifies conditions on the termination of an employee due to installation or implementation of AI technologies.Among the conditions that must be met are the bona fide introduction or implementation of AI technologies or systems; good faith on the part of the employer in adopting such technologies; a valid and justifiable purpose, such as reducing costs, improving operational efficiency, or achieving other legitimate economic objectives; the absence of any reasonable alternative to implementing AI other than the consequent termination of affected employees; and the application of fair and reasonable criteria in determining which employees will be terminated.The measure likewise provides a safeguard for those who will be justifiably terminated by entitling them to a separation pay equivalent to at least two months pay or to at least two months pay for every year of service, whichever is higher.Should there be intended termination, the Senate Bill mandates the employers to notify the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at least six months in advance. “There must be a proactive effort to keep workers away from termination just because AI comes in. We are not only talking about careers here, we are concerned with livelihood and lives of the employees’ families,” Tulfo said.

- Police to boost presence in former conflict areas (2026-11-08 16:02)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to intensify conflict-prevention measures in vulnerable localities after renewed efforts to support government peace mechanisms and reconciliation programs.PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. emphasized the importance of sustaining the government's peace process gains as the police strengthened its coordination with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Opapru). "Peace must be protected and sustained, not simply declared. Our strengthened coordination with OPAPRU allows us to address security concerns early, prevent isolated incidents from escalating, and ensure that the gains of the peace process translate into lasting safety for our communities," Nartatez said in a statement on Sunday.The PNP's renewed push for community-level security measures followed a meeting with Opapru officials led by Deputy Presidential Adviser Jonathan Ferdinand Miano last Nov. 5.The PNP's role in the peace process includes maintaining public order, monitoring security developments, and protecting residents in areas where peace agreements are being implemented. Its coordination with Opapru is intended to complement these responsibilities and ensure that local police units remain engaged in preventing conflict.During the courtesy visit, both sides discussed the PNP's accomplishments and ways to strengthen its support for government peace and reconciliation initiatives.Key concerns included monitoring hostilities involving Peace-Inclined Armed Groups. The discussions also covered implementing existing peace agreements and the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group, which coordinates security-related concerns that could affect the peace process.Another priority was the surrender and proper accounting of firearms under existing peace mechanisms. Documentation and monitoring of these weapons are important in preventing their unauthorized use and reducing the risk of renewed violence.Nartatez directed concerned police commanders to strengthen police visibility and patrol operations in former conflict areas, particularly in communities vulnerable to renewed armed hostilities.He also called for closer coordination with local government units, community leaders, and other stakeholders to improve early warning and conflict prevention mechanisms. "Our communities can count on the PNP to remain present, vigilant, and responsive. We will strengthen police visibility, intensify coordination with local leaders, and act promptly on threats to ensure that no community is left vulnerable to violence," he said.

- PH can learn from Sweden's low smoking rate – expert (2026-11-08 16:01)

SWEDEN's achievement of having one of the world's lowest smoking rates offers lessons for Filipino policymakers seeking to reduce the health risks associated with traditional cigarettes, a tobacco harm reduction expert said.Dr. Lorenzo Mata, president of Quit for Good and an occupational health physician and tobacco harm reduction advocate with more than 40 years of medical experience, shared his insights at the 2nd National Summit on Nicotine and Harm Reduction, held under the theme "Choice, Evidence, and Access." Mata said that about 5.4 percent of Swedes aged 16 to 84 reported smoking daily in 2024, one of the lowest rates worldwide.He attributed this partly to the widespread use of snus, a smokeless tobacco product used daily by 22 percent of men and 10 percent of women in the same age group.The expert said the figures challenge policymakers to move beyond arguments framed around "safe

versus unsafe” and consider how strong tobacco control measures can coexist with the availability of non-combustible nicotine products. “The Philippines is not Sweden,” Mata said, pointing to differences in culture, smoking prevalence, the healthcare system and the regulatory environment.He said the key lesson is the willingness to use the best available evidence to determine how to reduce harm for the greatest number of people.This includes preventing tobacco use initiation, protecting young people, helping smokers quit, reducing exposure to combustion, ensuring product quality, providing consumers with accurate information and measuring public health outcomes, he said.The World Health Organization maintains that tobacco use remains a major global public health threat and advocates comprehensive tobacco control measures, including taxation, smoke-free policies, advertising restrictions, health warnings and access to cessation services.In the Philippines, Republic Act 11900, or the Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products Regulation Act, establishes a regulatory framework for vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products, including their manufacture, sale, distribution and use. The law includes provisions intended to regulate the industry and protect minors.Mumbai-based cardiologist Dr. Rohan Sequeira warned that annual tobacco-related deaths are projected to exceed 10 million by 2030 if governments fail to act. “That means we are adding two million people every year who are going to die because of harm reduction not being implemented by regional and national governments,” he said.Sequeira described cigarettes as the most dangerous form of nicotine delivery.Mata, meanwhile, said adult smokers need access to credible alternatives if they cannot or are unwilling to quit immediately.He said these alternatives should be scientifically evaluated and realistically accessible. “Harm reduction cannot mean ignoring young people, unrestricted promotion, poor quality products, or unsupported health claims,” he said.Professor Eric Castillo of CAPS and Partners Inc. said about 90 countries allow and regulate the sale of alternative nicotine products, including e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products and Swedish snus.He said the Philippines, through Republic Act 11900, has adopted a harm reduction framework in law, while the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Canada have also pursued public health approaches that encourage smokers to switch to alternatives.Anton Israel of the Nicotine Consumers Union of the Philippines said smoking rates have declined in Sweden, Britain, New Zealand and Japan alongside the availability of alternatives to conventional cigarettes. “All we ask is this: that policy be based on evidence and on the level of risk. The choice belongs to the Filipino consumer. Our duty is to make sure it is not lost, that they keep their access, their choice and their hope,” Israel said.Mata also addressed common misconceptions about nicotine and alternative products.He acknowledged that nicotine is addictive and biologically active but emphasized the distinction between nicotine dependence and the toxic effects of cigarette smoke, which contains thousands of chemicals, including numerous carcinogens.Mata also rejected the notion that all nicotine products carry the same level of risk, citing differences in their composition, delivery methods and exposure to toxic substances. “Harm reduction does not mean zero risk. It means reducing risk compared with a more harmful behavior,” he said.

- ‘Cempaka’ intensifies into typhoon (2026-11-08 11:22)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka has intensified into a typhoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Sunday.It said that as of 2 p.m. Sunday, November 8, 2026, “Cempaka” intensified into a typhoon and was still outside the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).The typhoon's center was about 1,600 kilometers east of extreme northern Luzon. It was moving west-northwest at 20 kilometers per hour (km/h), with maximum sustained winds of 120 km/h near the center and gusts up to 150 km/h.Pagasa said the typhoon will enter PAR Monday morning and will be called "Samuel."Weather specialist Grace Castañeda-Carpio said that the typhoon will exit PAR between Monday and Tuesday.Castañeda-Carpio said that light to moderate rains were possible in Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, as well as several parts of the Cordillera Administrative Region and other parts of Cagayan Valley due to the northeast monsoon or amihan.The easterlies could bring scattered rains in Quezon and Bicol on Monday, she said.The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, will be cloudy.Castañeda-Carpio said the chance of scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and the Davao Region is high.

- Tropical storm could enter PAR tonight or early Monday — Pagasa (2026-11-08 07:02)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Cempaka could enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) tonight or early Monday morning, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.Weather Specialist Obet Badrina said once inside PAR, the storm will be called "Samuel.""It will not directly affect our country, especially because it will just skirt the northeastern boundary of the PAR," Badrina said in Filipino and English.The storm will not make landfall.The northeast monsoon or amihan continues to affect the Philippines, particularly the north and central parts of Luzon, he said.The easterlies "will bring cloudy skies, particularly to a large part of Visayas" and to the eastern part of Mindanao, he said.

- Hontiveros wants cooling places, free water for public during super El Niño (2026-11-08 06:55)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Risa Hontiveros called on government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to strengthen measures to protect Filipinos from extreme heat, water shortages and threats to public health amid a strengthening El Niño.In an interview with DZBB radio on Sunday, Hontiveros said her proposal for LGUs to establish public cooling spaces and provide free drinking water in crowded areas was part of preparations for the expected effects of Super El Niño.She said that public cooling spaces could include shopping malls where people could seek temporary relief from extreme heat without being required to buy anything. “Public cooling places, for example, could be malls, but people should not be obligated to buy anything,” she said.She also called for free drinking water stations in crowded areas, particularly transport terminals, noting that access to water could sometimes mean the difference between life and death.As vice chairman of the Senate budget panel handling the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Hontiveros said she was pushing for additional funding for

programs addressing water conservation, environmental protection and livelihood development.She said the government must identify, develop, protect and rationalize the use of available water sources.She also underscored the need for closer coordination between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture, particularly in ensuring adequate water supplies for agricultural irrigation. “We have to make sure that our farmers really have a source of water,” she said.

• Bill protecting Filipino workers from AI-driven layoffs filed in Senate (2026-11-08 04:42)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Erwin Tulfo has filed a measure seeking to protect Filipino workers from losing their jobs due to the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation.Senate Bill 2563 seeks to introduce new provisions in the Labor Code of the Philippines governing employee termination resulting from the installation or implementation of AI technologies. “As companies adopt AI, employees whose jobs become redundant risk losing not only their employment but also their means of supporting their families,” said Tulfo, chairman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development. “Technological progress is inevitable, but Filipino workers should not be left behind or made to bear its costs alone,” he added. Tulfo’s bill aims to add a new article into the Labor Code of the Philippines which specifies conditions on the termination of an employee due to installation or implementation of AI technologies. Among the conditions that must be met are the bona fide introduction or implementation of AI technologies or systems; good faith on the part of the employer in adopting such technologies; a valid and justifiable purpose, such as reducing costs, improving operational efficiency, or achieving other legitimate economic objectives; the absence of any reasonable alternative to implementing AI other than the consequent termination of affected employees; and the application of fair and reasonable criteria in determining which employees will be terminated.The measure likewise provides a safeguard for those who will be justifiably terminated by entitling them to a separation pay equivalent to at least two months pay or to at least two months pay for every year of service, whichever is higher. Should there be intended termination, the Senate Bill mandates the employers to notify the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at least six months in advance. “There must be a proactive effort to keep workers away from termination just because AI comes in. We are not only talking about careers here, we are concerned with livelihood and lives of the employees’ families,” Tulfo said.

• Lacson: Senate to expand budget transparency push with bicam transcripts, livestreaming (2026-11-08 03:57)

MANILA, Philippines — To expand its budget transparency efforts this year, the Senate will push not only for continuous livestreaming of bicameral conference committee proceedings on the proposed 2027 national budget but also for transcripts of the discussions, Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson said Sunday.Lacson said the transcripts would help lawmakers and the public identify who initiated amendments to the budget bill, and track who pushed for realignments of its items."In the bicam, the minutes of the proceedings should be recorded through a transcript. The budget bill is the only measure whose bicameral proceedings do not have a transcript, so

we cannot trace who made what amendment. Now there should be a transcript because for the longest time, it had none," Lacson said in an interview on DZMM radio."There should be a transcript containing the minutes so it will be clear who initiated amendments and who pushed for realignments," he added.Lacson said the Senate also plans to build on the transparency measures for the budget measure, aside from those it implemented in last year's proceedings for the 2026 budget.These included identifying senators who proposed amendments to the budget bill, and posting the proceedings on the Senate's website for the public to see.For this year's budget deliberations, Lacson said the Senate plans to invite budget advocacy groups like the People's Budget Coalition to the bicameral proceedings to better ensure transparency.

- Parts of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite to have water interruptions this week (2026-11-08 03:16)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Rizal, and Cavite will have water interruptions this week because of maintenance works, Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. said on Sunday.Manila Water said that in Quezon City, some parts of Brgy. Bagumbuhay will have no water on November 10-11 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of interconnection works at Aurora Blvd. cor. Anonas.In Rizal, some sections of Brgy. San Juan in Cainta will have water interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of the replacement of a line meter along Don Celso Tuazon cor. Ortigas Ave. Ext.Some parts of Brgy. San Juan in Cainta and some portions of Brgy. Sta. Ana and Brgy. San Juan in Taytay will have service interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the insertion of a valve in a water system along Eastbank Floodway.Some sections of Brgy. San Vicente and Sto. Nino in Angono, Rizal will have water service interruptions on November 11-12 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of step testing activities at E. Rodriguez cor. M.L. Quezon Ave. to detect possible leaks.Meanwhile, Maynilad said some parts of Brgy. 176 will have no water on November 9-13 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to leak localization activities at Old Zabarte Road, Dutong Street and at Gen. Luis cor. Torres.Some portions of Brgy. 120 in Caloocan City will have water service interruptions on November 9-10 between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of pipe realignment works at Rizal Avenue near 2nd Street.Some sections of Brgy. 170 in Caloocan and some portions of Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon and Brgy. San Agustin in Quezon City will have water interruptions on November 10-11 between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. due to leak localization work.Some areas in Bagbag, San Bartolome, Sauyo and Talipapa in Quezon City will have service interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. due to leak localization work.Some places in Brgy. Manuyo Dos, Las Piñas City; some locations in the villages of La Huerta, Moonwalk, San Dionisio, San Isidro and Sto. Niño in Parañaque City; and some sections of Brgy. 199 and Brgy. 200 in Pasay City will have no water on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 10 p.m. due to the realignment of a steel pipe.Several places in the villages of Almanza Uno, Pilar, Talon Uno, Talon Dos and Talon Singko in Las Piñas City will have service interruptions on November 12 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of maintenance works at the Poblacion water treatment plant.In Muntinlupa City, some areas in the villages of Alabang, Bayanan, Poblacion, Putatan and Tunasan will have no water on November 12

between 12:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. because of maintenance works at the Poblacion water treatment plant.Some locations in the villages of BF Homes, Marcelo Green, San Antonio and San Isidro in Parañaque City will have water interruptions on November 12 between 8 a.m. and 11 p.m. due to maintenance works at the Poblacion water treatment plant.In Manila City, some sections in the villages of 51, 246, 348, 504, 512, 514, 586 to 625 and 587-A will have service interruptions on November 10-11 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to network maintenance activities at Road 2 cor. V. Mapa.Various places in the villages of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42 43, 45 to 112, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122 123, 147 to 176, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 221 to 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275 276, 281 to 316, 324, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334 335, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348 349, 353 to 382, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 500, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654 655, 657, 658 and 666 in Manila will have no water on November 12-13 between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. because of leak localization activities.In Cavite, various areas in the villages of Alapan I-C, Anabu I-A, Anabu I-B, Anabu I-C, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II- B, Anabu II-C, Anabu II-D, Anabu II-E, Bayan Luma I, Bayan Luma II, Bayan Luma III, Bayan Luma IV, Bayan Luma V, Bayan Luma VI, Bayan Luma VII, Bayan Luma VIII, Bayan Luma IX, Bukandala III, Bukandala IV, Bukandala V, Carsadang Bago I, Carsadang Bago II, Malagasang 1-A, Malagasang I-B, Malagasang I-C, Malagasang I-D, Malagasang I-E, Malagasang I-F, Malagasang I-G, Medicion I-B, Poblacion III-B, Poblacion IV-B, Poblacion IV-D, and Tanzang Luma VI in Imus City will have water service interruptions everyday on November 9-15 between 5 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. because of the network and facility limitations of the Patindig Araw pumping station.Several places in the villages of Anabu I-B, Anabu I-D, Anabu I-E, Anabu I-F, Anabu II-A, Anabu II-B, Anabu II-C and Anabu II-D will have water service interruptions on November 9-14 between 6 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. daily due to facility maintenance works at Anabu Modular Treatment Plant.Some sections in the villages of Pasong Buaya I and Pasong Buaya II in Imus City and various locations in the villages of Molino I, Molino II, Molino III, Molino IV, Molino VI, Molino VII, Queens Row Central, Queens Row East, Queens Row West and San Nicolas III in Bacoor City will have no water on November 12 between 12:01 a.m. and 4 a.m. because of maintenance work.

- Pangilinan pushes court reforms, anti-corruption drive (2026-11-08 01:49)

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Francis Pangilinan called for increased judiciary funding, faster court proceedings, stronger prosecution of corruption cases, and tougher measures against judicial corruption as part of a four-point reform agenda following the Philippines' 97th-place ranking in the 2026 World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index.Pangilinan said the country's ranking highlights the need for “massive, painstaking, and consistent reform” to address persistent problems in law enforcement and the administration of justice, which directly affect the daily lives and livelihoods of ordinary Filipinos. “We need reform that ordinary Filipinos experience, not the impunity we see in the enforcement of laws and the disposition of cases—from traffic to online scams to corruption,” Pangilinan said in a statement. “To improve the Philippine justice system is to improve Filipino lives and livelihoods," he added.The

senator said an effective justice system is essential to protecting citizens' rights, holding offenders accountable, resolving disputes fairly, and creating an environment where businesses and communities can thrive.He cited the WJP's key rule-of-law indicators, which include accountable government, freedom from corruption, transparency, protection of fundamental rights, public safety, fair enforcement of laws, and effective civil and criminal justice systems.Pangilinan said that addressing these challenges requires leadership from government, with the business sector, academe, civil society, and basic sectors working together to pursue long-term institutional reforms.The senator called for adequate and sustained funding for the judiciary, emphasizing that its budget must translate into measurable improvements in the delivery of justice.He proposed setting clear and measurable targets for the next three years to shorten case resolution times, reduce workloads in congested courts, establish and operationalize additional courts where necessary, and bring judicial vacancies down from approximately 20 percent to single digits.Pangilinan said reducing court congestion would require more than appointing additional judges. The effort must also include adequate court personnel, legal aid services, digital systems, and fully functioning courthouses.Also, Pangilinan called for stronger investigations, more capable prosecution, and timely trials to improve conviction rates, particularly in corruption cases. “Justice means holding the guilty accountable while protecting the innocent. Improve conviction rates, especially of corruption cases, through stronger investigations, capable prosecution, and timely trials. Justice means due process is followed, not sacrificed," he said.Pangilinan also called for the convening of the Judiciary Executive Legislative Advisory and Consultative Council to coordinate sustained funding commitments and institutional reforms while safeguarding judicial independence.

- Some areas in Metro Manila, 3 provinces to have power interruptions due to maintenance works (2026-11-08 01:21)

MANILA, Philippines — Some areas in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal will have power interruptions this week due to maintenance works, Meralco said on Sunday.In Muntinlupa City, some places in Ayala Alabang Village, Brgy. Ayala Alabang will have no electricity on November 10 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of line reconductoring work along Taysan St., Gamao St. and Batangas North St.Some parts of Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City will have power interruptions on November 11-12 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. because of line reconductoring work along Republic Ave.In Pasig City, some areas in the villages of San Antonio and Ugong, and some portions of SM Megamall Building D and Mega Tower in Brgy. Wack-Wack Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City will have power service interruptions on November 11-12 between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the installation and replacement of electricity facilities and line reconductoring works along Garden Way St., Saint Francis St. and Lourdes Drive in Brgy. Wack-Wack Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.Some locations in the villages of San Antonio and Ugong will have no power on November 12-13 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the installation and replacement of facilities and line reconductoring work along San Miguel Ave. and Julia Vargas Ave. in Ortigas Commercial Center.In Cavite province, several locations in the villages of Balsahan-Bisita, Binakayan–Kanluran, Congbalay–Legaspi, Gahak, Marulas, Pulvorista,

and Tramo–Bantayan in Kawit, Cavite will have no electricity on November 13 between 12:01 a.m. and 2 a.m. because of line reconstruction works in the Meralco-Island Cove substation.In Laguna, the whole of K & D Mold-Tech Corp., Samsung Electro-Mechanics Philippines Corp. and Starworld Corp. in Calamba Premier Industrial Park, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City will have power interruptions on November 11 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. because of the reconstruction of electricity facilities in Calamba Premier Industrial Park.Several locations in the villages of Banlic and San Isidro in Cabuyao City will have power service interruptions on November 13-14 between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. due to the reconstruction of electricity facilities along Manila South Road in Brgy. Banlic.Some portions of Brgy. Cupang in Antipolo City, Rizal will have no electricity on November 10-11 between 11:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. because of line reconductoring works along Zone 8 in Purok 5, Brgy. Cupang.Some sections of Brgy. San Jose, in Rodriguez, Rizal will have no power on November 15 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. because of line reconductoring work and reconstruction of electricity facilities along Payatas Road in Brgy. San Jose.

- BI supports Dizon's push for wider e-gate access (2026-11-07 18:12)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Immigration (BI) has expressed support on Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Vince Dizon’s proposal to expand the use of electronic immigration gates (e-Gates) to all arriving and departing passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).The move was consistent with its own push to broaden automated passenger processing at the country's international gateways, BI Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said on Saturday.Viado said the initiative forms part of the bureau’s efforts to reduce queues, speed up passenger processing, strengthen border security, and advance its mandate to combat human trafficking and other cross-border crimes.“It also aligns with the bureau's modernization agenda and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to digitalize government services, streamline transactions, and improve public service delivery,” the BI chief said.Under the system, passengers who clear automated screening may proceed through the e-Gates without undergoing routine face-to-face immigration interviews. Those flagged by the system or requiring further assessment, however, will remain subject to examination by immigration officers, BI said."Technology should allow us to process legitimate travelers faster while enabling our officers to focus on passengers who require closer scrutiny,” the top BI official said.“Wider e-Gate access must go hand in hand with reliable biometric verification and effective security checks. Our objective is not only to reduce queues but also to make immigration screening faster, smarter, and more secure," he stressed.As part of its modernization program, Viado said the BI was also expanding and upgrading e-Gates at international airports outside Metro Manila to improve passenger processing and strengthen border security.The first phase, covering key provincial gateways including Clark, Cebu, and Davao, has been completed, he said.The procurement includes an Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS), specialized software that enhances biometric identification and verification capabilities to detect multiple-nationality passport holders and other frauds.Its integration into the e-Gates will provide an additional layer of border security by helping immigration authorities identify individuals who may pose immigration or security risks while

facilitating faster clearance for legitimate travelers, according to the immigration bureau.The second phase is currently undergoing procurement and will cover the further expansion of e-Gates to other international ports in the provinces, said Viado as he added that the agency would livestream the bidding process for this phase.

• Recto pushes full readiness for ASEAN Leaders' Summit (2026-11-07 17:47)

MANILA, Philippines — Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said the government is ensuring that all systems are in place for the upcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Leaders' Summit scheduled on November 15 to 17.As chair of the ASEAN National Organizing Council (NOC), Recto inspected the ongoing preparations for the summit on Saturday by ensuring that directives of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. are carried out prior to the chief executive's inspection.Recto likewise urged the organizing committee to maintain that same dedication for the nearly 100 meetings left under the Philippines' chairmanship.

• Both sides gear up for trial resumption (2026-11-07 16:20)

THE defense and prosecution teams traded barbs over the weekend as both sides prepared for the resumption of Vice President Sara Duterte's impeachment trial, which will mark its 40th day on Monday.The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday accused the House prosecution panel of peddling "half-truths and malicious speculation" in its efforts to build an impeachment case against her.In a statement, Duterte spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. accused prosecutors of disregarding due process and fairness, claiming they were trying to sway public opinion through press briefings and interviews. "We apparently live in two worlds. One where due process and fairness still reign — where an accused is not condemned before she is heard, and where allegations must be proven with clear and convincing evidence presented in court," Panelo said.He took aim at lead private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan and her colleagues, accusing them of relying on "asinine sound bites" to persuade the public. "The prosecution had its chance. It failed. On Monday, the vice president begins her defense," Panelo said.House prosecution panel member Rep. Terry Ridon, however, challenged the camp's assertion, questioning why the defense planned to present more than 20 witnesses if prosecutors had supposedly failed to prove their case. "Denial is the first stage of accepting defeat. If the prosecution truly failed, why does the defense need to stack more than 20 witnesses next week to stage its defense?" Ridon told The Manila Times. "If we failed, the defense should have outright moved for a decision solely on the basis of the prosecution's supposed evidence," he added, describing Panelo's statement as "a bit deluded."Duterte's defense is scheduled to begin presenting its evidence before the Senate Impeachment Court on Monday, Nov. 9.Witnesses, not weaknesses, Ridon said House prosecutors will challenge the relevance of Vice President Duterte's defense witnesses, particularly those who may be unable to address the allegations of unexplained wealth. "We need witnesses, not weaknesses, from those the defense will present in the coming days," Ridon said at the Saturday News Forum in Quezon City ahead of the impeachment trial's resumption on Monday, Nov. 9.The defense has listed 24 prospective witnesses, including bank

officials, corporate representatives and local government personnel.Ridon questioned whether they could address the prosecution's financial evidence point by point, particularly the alleged P800 million in unexplained wealth. "I don't know if he knows anything about the P800 million," he said of Quezon City Prosecutor Vimar Barcellano, whose inclusion in the list he questioned.House prosecution legal spokesman and private prosecutor Benjamin Tolosa Jr. also questioned the purpose of some witnesses, saying the defense had not explained what they would testify about.Tolosa said he expected the Davao City treasurer to explain payments or compensation Duterte may have received from the local government during her vice presidency.Ridon questioned the need for bank officials to testify, arguing that their appearance would not change the balances reflected in official records. "What matters is — whether the person summoned is a bank manager, branch manager, bank official or bank lawyer — the contents of the bank account do not change," he said.Tolosa said prosecutors were willing to stipulate on undisputed matters to avoid delays, particularly if bank representatives were called only to identify letters allegedly sent by Duterte or her husband, lawyer Manases Carpio. "We don't see any need to belabor the point. We can just stipulate on those matters to speed things up," he said.Ridon said prosecutors would give the defense sufficient latitude but would object to irrelevant testimony and cross-examine its witnesses. "If the defense is good at objecting to the prosecution's direct testimony, the prosecution will also be good at objecting when it is the defense's turn to present evidence," he said.

- Asean Summit not venue for Pax Silica pact (2026-11-07 16:19)

US Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton clarified on Saturday the agreement on Pax Silica, a US-led diplomatic and industrial initiative to secure semiconductor supply chains and advance ethical AI infrastructure among allied nations, will not be signed during the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit in Manila.The statement comes after it was confirmed that US President Donald Trump will attend the summit scheduled for Nov. 15 to 17.In a statement, Lipton said that the signing of the draft framework of the US-led initiative will be made in full consultation with the Philippine government at the appropriate time. "No such announcement on the Pax Silica Economic Security Zone was ever planned," said Lipton. "As stated previously and as part of this process, we expect rigorous discussions on impacts to all stakeholders," he added.The US envoy said they are looking forward to working with the Philippines for the initiative, which he claims is set to "secure supply chains and attract quality investment in support of economic growth and jobs at home for the Filipino people."Pax Silica is a proposed 4,000-acre semiconductor and artificial intelligence (AI) hub set to be built in New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac.The government said the proposed project will generate jobs; however, critics argued that the initiative may displace the Aeta community, as the land where the hub is set to rise is within the group's ancestral domains. "I cannot see how such a development will endanger local livelihood. I'm not sure I understand the question simply because this is quite big; this is projected to create tens of thousands of jobs," said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. previously during a press briefing.Malacañang said it is only awaiting the US' response, after the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) — which

oversees the project locally — said they already submitted the proposal to Marcos. “The BCDA has met with the Office of the President — through the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) — regarding a memorandum submitted jointly with the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry). Guidance has been provided for the BCDA to follow during the negotiations and the finalization of the framework arrangement with the US counterpart,” said Palace Press Officer Claire Castro in Filipino during a press briefing on Nov. 4, quoting the BCDA.Responding to criticisms of possible displacement, Castro said the government will ensure that if displacements occur, they will provide assistance. “Of course, financial assistance will certainly be provided should anyone actually end up being displaced,” said Castro.The Palace press officer also clarified that out of the massive land area — spanning over 6,000 hectares of land — only a designated “buildable zone” of roughly 3,000-plus hectares constitutes the actual construction area. “If they (locals) are located within the buildable zone, they will not be left to fend for themselves or lose their place to live,” Castro assured the locals.Preparations in full swingExecutive Secretary Ralph Recto said the government is ensuring that all systems are in place for the ongoing preparations for the upcoming Asean Leaders’ Summit on Nov. 15 to 17.As chair of the Asean National Organizing Council (NOC), Recto inspected the preparations for the summit by ensuring that directives of President Marcos are carried out before the chief executive’s inspection at the newly refurbished Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.With only nine days left before the big event, the country is expected to welcome more than 20 leaders, including US President Donald Trump. “With 20 heads of state in attendance, this is a meeting with a million moving parts, from convoys to conferences, from agenda to attractions to be visited, and from security to seat plans, so failure on our part is not an option,” Recto said previously on a social media post.He added that with a long checklist of things that need to be accomplished, the government has ticked most of them, which includes the heightened security protocols within the vicinity of the venue.Previously, the government had directed the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to ensure that security measures are in place.Recto urged the organizing committee to maintain that same dedication for the remaining meetings left under the Philippines’ chairmanship. “One measure of the success of our Asean hosting is the benefit it brings to our people,” Recto said in Filipino.

- TMT’s business reporter Arceo wins 2 EJAP awards (2026-11-07 16:18)

THE Manila Times business reporter Niña Myka Arceo won two awards on Friday at the 35th Economic Journalists’ Association of the Philippines (EJAP)-Ayala Business Journalism Awards at Fairmont Makati.Arceo won Banking Reporter of the Year and Macroeconomy Reporter of the Year during the awards night.In a Facebook post late on Friday, Arceo thanked the Times’ editors and executives, as well as the country’s economists for their support. “To all the economists, analysts and sources who have generously shared their time, knowledge and insights with me, thank you for helping me understand the stories behind the numbers and make sense of an ever-changing economy,” she wrote.The event was also graced by Ayala Corp. Chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, who delivered a keynote speech.Having started

with The Manila Times since 2023, Arceo covers the Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Economy, Planning and Development, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

• Meghan Markle dad busted for child abuse sex photos (2026-11-07 16:18)

MIAMI — Thomas Markle, the estranged father of Prince Harry's wife, Meghan Markle, was arrested in Florida on Friday (Saturday in Manila) over alleged possession of images of child sexual abuse, officials said.Markle, 82, is charged with one count of "possession of child pornography" and is to make an initial court appearance in Tampa on Friday, US Attorney Bill Essayli said in a statement."Mr. Markle is accused of possessing child sexual abuse material, including photographs depicting himself with minor girls," Essayli said. "These allegations are extremely serious, and we will prosecute Mr. Markle to the fullest extent of federal law."Markle was taken into custody by FBI agents early Friday at the retirement home where he lives in Lakeland, Florida.The Justice Department said Markle allegedly "kept child sexual abuse material (CSAM), including sexually explicit photographs of himself with prepubescent girls, in two Los Angeles-area storage units he rented for nearly two decades." "Inside the units, agents seized approximately 78 items, including slides, film negatives, and books that contained suspected CSAM," it said.Markle could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted of possession of child sex abuse material.Pictures of child sex abuse have also allegedly been found at Markle's former home in the Philippines and at a storage unit he rented in Mexico.The British tabloid The Sun reported last month that Markle's son, Thomas Markle Jr., had discovered the child sex abuse images while going through boxes found in his father's former home in the Philippines.Markle had been living in Cebu in the Philippines until reportedly returning to the United States earlier this year.Meghan Markle said last month that she was "deeply distressed" by accusations that her father possessed images of child sexual abuse.She said she had blocked contact between him and her children over previous "troubling and disturbing" allegations.Harry, the second son of King Charles III and estranged brother of heir to the throne Prince William, married Meghan, an American former actress, at Windsor Castle in May 2018.The couple left Britain and quit royal duties in 2020 but made an unexpected return with their two children to live in the United Kingdom in August.

• Bayo Manila Inc. adheres to circular fashion practices with 'Journey to Zero' approach (2026-11-07 16:17)

IN EVERY garment it creates, Bayo Manila Inc. stays equally mindful of its responsibility to the environment and the communities it serves.With more than 30 years in operations, Bayo Manila Inc. has pursued important facets of its circularity efforts: material repurposing, livelihood development, community support and meaningful partnerships.As a way of giving back, Weave for Peace, Bayo Manila Foundation's program, empowers communities to stay resilient through craftsmanship and learning opportunities.Under this program, 18 women from families of military personnel were given the opportunity to receive training in handloom weaving and basic sewing at the Harvest Creative Hub in Cagayan de Oro (CDO). The training session

equipped participants with practical weaving and sewing skills by repurposing used military uniforms into new textile materials.The next step focuses on turning their newly acquired skills into practice, opening up livelihood opportunities and helping these women earn from their craft.In support of the program's further development, the Harvest Creative Hub at Camp Evangelista in CDO has been upgraded to a Creative Circular Hub.The Weave for Peace program continues to grow not just by the number of participant-beneficiaries but also in its network of partners and circular hubs.In conjunction with AFP Officers' Ladies Club Inc., a new Harvest Circular Hub also opened at the Bahayani Child Development Center in Camp Aguinaldo. More than a space for learning, the hub offers families of AFP personnel an opportunity to explore the value of textile reuse and develop new skills that they can eventually capitalize on.AFP Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr. and spouse Melody have provided support to the program through the donation of retired military uniforms and garment-making equipment.As part of its learning campaign, Bayo has also joined hands with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to become the agency's industry partner. Backed by its expertise in product development, Bayo will impart technical know-how and practical skills in making, repairing, reusing and transforming materials to support participants' future employment and entrepreneurial pursuits.Bayo advances its advocacy for sustainable textiles with the continuous exploration of new possibilities and partnerships.Bayo, alongside the Austrian Embassy Manila, recently facilitated a visit to Vienna with representatives from the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI) and Tesda. The visit explored avenues for knowledge and expertise exchange between Austria and the Philippines, specifically in textile research, design education and skills development on material recovery, waste reduction and livelihood generation.The diplomatic cultural partnership aims to further expand the reach of Bayo's Interwoven program, which seeks to bridge local weaving communities, farmers and consumers while preserving cultural heritage and integrating zero-waste in its operations.Bayo will also help connect research and learning into practical industry applications and community initiatives through its work with Harvest communities.Meanwhile, Harvest Creative Community Hub conducted a training session on Puni, a traditional craft that involves folding and weaving leaves, in partnership with Punique.The session welcomed 12 participants who learned Puni weaving and explored its potential use in contemporary product development.Still in line with its advocacy of livelihood creation and community skills development, Bayo Group supports such initiatives by helping participants turn their creations into marketable products and introduce their work to brands and retail markets.Moreover, Bayo continues to bring circular design into the spotlight through its participation in trade shows and fairs, where it promotes textiles and products crafted locally by Harvest communities.At HKTDC Fashion InStyle, Harvest by Bayo featured how TexRev initiative with DOST-PTRI turns textile scraps and manufacturing waste into sustainable, high-quality yarns and fabrics.Meanwhile, at MaArte Karnabal 2026, Bayo's slow fashion brand, Bayo Atelier, presented ready-to-wear pieces made from handwoven textiles by Harvest communities through Products of Peace, under the Weave for Peace program.All aforementioned efforts are all aligned with the brand's primary goal of minimizing its carbon footprint through the Journey to Zero approach.Homegrown brand Bayo Manila Inc. believes

that the future of fashion is circular. From turning discarded materials into repurposed fabric for quality wearable clothing, all these initiatives add up to the company's investment to a more sustainable future.Bayo is one of the 15 organizations vying for the Sustainability Champions Awards 2026, to be bestowed by The Manila Times. The sustainability champion will be awarded on Nov. 20. at the Marco Polo Hotel.

- National plan for climate loss, damage in the works (2026-11-07 16:16)

THE Climate Change Commission (CCC), along with the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Philippines, outlined a national plan for climate-related loss and damage.The plan aims to build a framework for long-term action for communities vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said as the Philippines takes on the role of host of the Board of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), the country is strengthening its efforts to ensure concrete actions are in place that can help communities handle increasing climate impacts. "Recognizing these growing challenges, the Philippines is developing a national Climate-related Loss and Damage Framework and Strategy that will guide how government, development partners, and other stakeholders work together to support communities affected by climate impacts," Cuna said.The strategy seeks to strengthen coordination, improve access to financing, enhance knowledge and data systems, and ensure that assistance reaches disaster-stricken areas.The environment chief also said the impact of climate change can hamper years of development. "Where climate impacts exceed the limits of adaptation, they can erase years of development gains, deepen poverty and inequality, and cause non-economic losses, from cultural heritage and ecosystems to community ties, that are difficult to measure and impossible to fully recover," he said.UNDP Philippines is applying its global experience to help the country integrate loss and damage into national planning, finance systems and climate data.To lead this effort, the country launched the Development Partners Coordination Group on Climate-related Loss and Damage (L&D-DPCG).This new platform aligns international technical and financial support with national priorities, reduces duplication, and mobilizes resources for vulnerable communities.Co-chaired by the DENR, CCC, and UNDP Philippines, the group aims to reduce fragmentation, identify gaps, and mobilize resources for vulnerable communities. "Loss and damage is already a development reality for the Philippines. How the country addresses it will determine whether hard-won gains in poverty reduction and resilience can be protected, and engaging now places the Philippines in a position to shape global responses and access emerging finance," said UNDP Resident Representative in the Philippines Christophe Bahuet. "As lead of the development partners, a role entrusted by the government, UNDP will help bring partners together behind this agenda and help turn it into concrete support for the communities most affected," he added.Meanwhile, CCC Assistant Secretary Rommel Cuenca emphasized the need to collectively address the issue by ensuring international support is aligned with local needs.To move from discussion to action, government agencies and international partners agreed to establish two main workstreams. Thematic workstreams, led by the International Organization for Migration, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the

UNDP, will tackle specific climate damage issues, while systems workstreams, led by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme, will focus on strengthening local capacity and institutions.They will work with local government agencies to drive policies, funding and local solutions to boost the nation's climate response.

- DepEd to hire more school security guards (2026-11-07 16:15)

THE Department of Education (DepEd) is set to hire additional school security guards using P500 million included in the General Appropriations Bill, Education Secretary Sonny Angara said Saturday.Angara said the department will prioritize schools with higher risk profiles, particularly large schools in urban areas."An additional P500 million was added to the General Appropriations Bill for hiring security guards. That is the latest financial development," Angara said in an ambush interview on Friday.He said school safety drills are ongoing nationwide and are being repeated in schools.He said feedback from schools has been good, adding that schools were now more comfortable conducting the drills and would no longer be at a loss if incidents occurred.Class suspensions Angara also said schools can appeal to their local government units (LGUs) under a newly signed executive order concerning class suspensions.He said the order allows schools to initiate or resume classes when they determine that their areas are not affected by a weather disturbance.Under the previous executive order, schools were required to follow an LGU's suspension declaration.He said schools can now inform their LGUs after verifying that their areas are safe and request to resume classes.Angara referred to the arrangement as "granular resumption."Angara said efforts to address nihilistic violent extremism (NVE) should not be limited to schools.He called on barangay (villages), families and religious communities to work together in addressing the issue."It is not just the schools, because they are really poisoning the minds of our young people. I hope this will not involve schools alone. The entire barangay, all families and parishioners should come together to fight this," Angara said.He also said addressing the issue requires interventions beyond education, including social welfare and health services.Angara's remarks came as he attended the forum titled "Addressing School-Based Violence: A Forum on Preventing Nihilistic Violent Extremism," held at the University of Asia and the Pacific in Pasig City on Nov. 6.

- ICC faces test on balancing evidence, Duterte’s right to challenge testimony (2026-11-07 16:14)

THE International Criminal Court (ICC) faces a legal battle ahead of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s trial over how to balance the prosecution’s need to present evidence efficiently with the right of the accused to challenge testimony.At issue is whether prosecutors can rely on previously recorded witness statements without requiring the witnesses to appear in court and face questioning by Duterte’s defense team.Duterte’s lead defense counsel, British King’s Counsel Peter Haynes, has opposed the prosecution’s attempt to introduce recorded statements from two witnesses, arguing that their allegations must be subjected to cross-examination.In an Oct. 26 filing before ICC Trial Chamber III, Haynes asked the judges to

require witnesses identified as P-1393 and P-1416 to testify orally or, alternatively, be made available for questioning.The defense argued that their accounts concern disputed allegations central to the prosecution's case and that admitting the recordings without further examination would prevent it from adequately testing the witnesses' credibility, personal knowledge and the reliability of their statements.The prosecution, meanwhile, has sought to use the recorded testimonies, arguing that they are relevant, reliable and corroborate other evidence it intends to present during the trial.Lawyers representing victims supported the prosecution's application, maintaining that the requirements for admitting the statements under Rule 68 of the ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence have been met.Rule 68 allows the court, under specified circumstances, to admit previously recorded testimony in place of live testimony. Its use remains subject to safeguards intended to protect the rights of the accused and ensure the fairness of proceedings.One of the disputed witnesses, P-1393, reportedly gave an account of a killing in Bulacan involving alleged payments to police officers and supposed quotas for carrying out killings.Haynes questioned the reliability of the testimony, pointing out that the witness did not personally witness the killing or the events leading to it but relied on information allegedly obtained from neighbors who were unwilling to testify.The defense also cited inconsistencies in the witness' account, arguing that questioning in court was necessary to establish the basis of the allegations. Franco Jose BaroñaThe other witness, P-1416, provided an account concerning a specific incident covered by the charges against Duterte. The defense questioned discrepancies between the witness' account and that of another witness concerning the same incident.Haynes said these matters should be examined through cross-examination rather than resolved solely on the basis of recorded statements.The defense did not oppose the prosecution's request to admit the recorded testimony of a third witness, P-1370.The evidentiary dispute has taken on added significance following a separate Nov. 5 application by Acting Prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang seeking the admission of preserved statements from P-0002, an alleged former member of the Davao Death Squad (DDS) and former Davao City police officer who is no longer available to testify.Prosecutors asked the chamber to admit 45 transcribed statements and 61 supporting materials from P-0002, including affidavits, handwritten notes, photographs, police service records and organizational charts of the alleged death squad.They said the materials could help establish the origins, structure and operations of the alleged DDS, as well as Duterte's individual criminal responsibility and intent.The statements also concern an alleged 2013 incident in San Rafael, Davao City, in which prosecutors claim Duterte instructed police officers to kill three suspected drug pushers.P-0002 was interviewed by prosecutors from May 10 to 16, 2022, in a procedure authorized by the court. A lawyer appointed to protect the interests of any future accused was present during the interview, along with the witness' own counsel.Prosecutors said they were informed in June 2024 that the witness was no longer available.The prosecution has asked the chamber to admit the materials under Article 69(4) of the Rome Statute, which provides for the assessment of evidence based on its probative value and any potential prejudice to a fair trial.The P-0002 application presents another question for the judges: whether statements preserved through an earlier judicially authorized procedure can be admitted despite the witness' subsequent unavailability, and whether the safeguards provided during the interview

sufficiently protect the defense’ s rights.The chamber has yet to rule on the competing evidentiary applications.Duterte’ s trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30.

• Groups urge stronger economic ties with China (2026-11-07 16:13)

TWENTY business, labor, industry and civil society organizations have urged the Philippines to pursue stronger economic engagement with China, warning that the country could miss out on trade and investment opportunities as other Southeast Asian nations deepen their partnerships with Beijing.In a joint statement issued over the weekend, the groups backed the Department of Foreign Affairs’ (DFA) push for sustained dialogue and cooperation with China, saying constructive engagement was important to protecting Philippine economic interests while upholding the country’ s sovereignty.The organizations commended Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro for her recent engagement with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and her call for continued dialogue between Manila and Beijing.They described the DFA’ s approach as pragmatic and statesmanlike, particularly in protecting the country’ s interests in economic development, trade, exports, tourism and the welfare of overseas Filipino workers.China is the Philippines’ largest trading partner, making bilateral economic relations important to the country’ s growth, the signatories said. “Amid global uncertainty and intensifying economic competition, our Asean neighbors are deepening their trade, investment, technology, infrastructure and tourism partnerships with China,” they said. “The Philippines must likewise pursue mutually beneficial economic opportunities through constructive engagement, while firmly upholding its sovereignty and national interests,” they added.The groups said they supported the DFA’ s pursuit of principled diplomacy and sustained dialogue rather than confrontation, arguing that a balanced and constructive relationship with Beijing was essential to Philippine economic security, national interests and sustainable development.The statement comes as the Philippines continues to face tensions with China over competing territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.Among the signatories were the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Free Workers, Federation of Philippine Industries, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation and Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines.Other signatories included the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization, Philippine Retailers Association, Philippine Franchise Association, Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines, Women’ s Business Council Philippines and OFW Foundation.The Asian Association of Academic Administrators and Educators, GS1 Philippines, Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association, Philippine Association of Legitimate Service Contractors, Philippine Association of Salt Industry Networks and Philippine Young Entrepreneurs Association also signed the statement.

• PNP warns of fake Nartatez Facebook account (2026-11-07 16:10)

THE Philippine National Police (PNP) has issued a warning against a bogus Facebook account using a photo of PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr.The PNP said the account bearing the

name “Jose Melencio Corpus” and using the picture of Nartatez was neither an official PNP account nor affiliated with the Office of the Chief PNP.It added that any messages, instructions, requests or transactions made through the account should not be considered official police communications.The PNP urged the public not to engage with the account, accept its friend requests, respond to its messages, or comply with any requests made through it.Those who have received messages from the account were advised to take screenshots and submit them with a report to Facebook and the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group.The PNP said it would pursue legal action against those behind the bogus account.It said the public should only rely on the PNP’s verified social media accounts and official communication channels for information and announcements.

- Marcos leads Likhang Filipino Theater opening (2026-11-07 16:08)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and first lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led the inauguration of the Likhang Filipino Theater in Pasay City on Friday.The construction of the 279-seat theater was done under the Likhang Filipino (Filipino-made) initiative that aims to showcase local craftsmanship, design and innovation to domestic and global markets.” With the opening of the Likhang Filipino Theater, we now have another home for our artists and performers, where they can bring our stories to life and inspire a new generation of Filipino talent,” Marcos said in a social media post on Saturday.Also present during the opening rites were former first lady Imelda Marcos, National Artist for Dance Alice Reyes, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano and Education Secretary Sonny Angara.In his first State of the Nation Address, Marcos stressed the need to institutionalize the creative industry and advance the interests of its stakeholders.Marcos reaffirmed his belief in Filipino talents as the country hosts the Asean Summit this year.Established in January, one of the features of Likhang Filipino is the Creative Lab, a shared space for creative endeavors.Managed by the Department of Trade and Industry-Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, Likhang Filipino serves as a year-round showroom, marketplace and growth hub for products of Filipino creativity.

- CFO expands support in Czech Republic (2026-11-07 16:07)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and the Embassy of the Czech Republic have forged a partnership to elevate support, engagement and welfare frameworks for nonresident Filipinos in the European country.CFO Secretary Dante Ang II met with Czech Ambassador Karel Hejč and Deputy Head of Mission Eva Tenzin to map out collaborative avenues on bilateral diaspora engagement, critical migration data exchanges and cross-border delivery of government services.This comes as the Filipino diaspora in the Czech Republic displays rapid growth. As of mid-2024, an estimated 8,783 Filipinos reside in the country, driving key sectors such as manufacturing, information technology, health and automotive industries.Bilateral ties between Manila and Prague have experienced a strong upswing following high-profile state visits and agreements designed to boost mutual economic and labor cooperation.During the meeting, Ang detailed the CFO’s flagship institutional mechanisms designed to safeguard and connect overseas Filipinos.These include the Linkapil sa Pag-unlad ng Pilipinas program, which

facilitates diaspora-driven donations to local development projects; and BaLinkBayan, a digital portal integrating e-government services and business opportunities for overseas Filipinos.Ang also cited Youth Leaders in Diaspora, the 1343 Actionline against human trafficking, the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, and the agency's mandatory comprehensive predeparture programs.He noted that the agency has ramped up its research on Filipinos transitioning abroad through employment, education, family reunification, or marriage.Hejč, on the other hand, outlined the Czech Republic's local support frameworks, including digital emergency registration systems for foreign nationals and civic services available to Filipinos planning to relocate to the European nation.

- MMDA celebrates 51st anniversary (2026-11-07 16:06)

THE Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) celebrated its 51st anniversary on Saturday with the theme "51 Years in Motion." In a statement, the agency said it was committed to remaining as a "pillar of order, cleanliness and safety in Metro Manila" after more than five decades of service.Chairman Don Artes recognized the service and dedication of thousands of MMDA employees, describing them as the faces of discipline, cleanliness and order in the National Capital Region.The MMDA thanked the public for its support.The agency's mandate includes traffic management, street cleaning and disaster response.

- FUGITIVE ARRESTED SLEEPING AT NAIA (2026-11-07 16:05)

A FUGITIVE with an outstanding warrant of arrest for theft was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 on Friday.The 25-year-old man reportedly became hostile when authorities confronted him for sleeping in the hallway beside an airline ticketing office on the third-level departure area.The incident prompted the Aviation Security Group to seek assistance from NAIA Police Station 3.Upon verification, the police discovered that the man had an outstanding warrant of arrest for theft issued on Oct. 19 by the Municipal Trial Court in Lipa City, Batangas, with bail set at P10,000.The suspect is now in the custody of the Manila Police District.

- NAIA security cameras now under NNIC control (2026-11-07 16:04)

THE Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) on Friday turned over the operational control of more than 2,100 closed-circuit television cameras at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) to the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC).In a statement on Saturday, the MIAA's Media Affairs Division said that the move was in accordance with the provisions of the NAIA Public-Private Partnership concession agreement.The turnover was witnessed by Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, MIAA Senior Assistant General Manager Ma. Lourdes Reyes, and NNIC Executive Assistant to the President and CEO Cesar Chiong.The transfer of operational control forms part of the transition of NAIA's operations and maintenance responsibilities to NNIC as the private concessionaire, pursuant to the concession agreement.The MIAA will continue to perform its regulatory and oversight duties.

- UHC integration sites reach 114 nationwide (2026-11-07 16:03)

THE number of provinces and cities participating in the government's Universal Health Care (UHC) integration program has increased to 114 in 2026 from 58 in 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) said.The DOH said that the figure represents 95 percent of the country's provinces, highly urbanized cities and independent component cities.UHC integration sites are areas working to establish province-wide or city-wide health systems to coordinate health care services across facilities, from health centers to hospitals.Health Secretary Edwin Mercado said the success of the program should be measured by how effectively resources are used to provide accessible, affordable and quality health services. "The success of Universal Health Care is not measured solely by the number of integration sites or the amount of funds pooled in the SHF, but by how effectively these resources are transformed into accessible, equitable and quality health services for every Filipino," Mercado said.He also emphasized the need to strengthen primary health care, establish functional referral networks and improve health facility management.The DOH, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) and local government leaders gathered for the 2026 UHC Summit and Strategic Health Partners Dialogue on Nov. 5 and 6 to discuss challenges in local health systems.Discussions covered primary health care, health financing, health care provider networks and the implementation of the Special Health Fund (SHF), which pools resources from national and local government allocations to fund priority health programs and support essential health services.Ahead of the summit, health profiles for the country's 82 provinces were developed to help identify local health concerns, gaps and priorities.World Health Organization Representative to the Philippines Dr. Eunyoung Ko said the provincial profiles would help local governments identify investment gaps and determine priorities for improving health services.The Health Department said the meetings also highlighted the need for stronger coordination among national agencies, local governments and health partners to improve health care delivery.

- DFA warns of communication curbs in India (2026-11-07 16:02)

THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) warned Filipinos visiting or transiting through India that carrying unauthorized satellite phones and satellite-enabled navigation equipment could result in heavy fines and potential prison time.It said that under Indian maritime and telecommunications regulations, the possession and use of satellite phones — including popular networks such as Thuraya and Iridium — as well as specialized GPS devices without prior permission from Indian authorities are strictly forbidden.The DFA said that travelers carrying satellite communication gear must declare the devices immediately upon arrival at Indian ports of entry.Customs authorities will only release satellite devices if the owner presents a valid license issued by India's Department of Telecommunications. Without proper authorization, importation or transit of these electronics is illegal.India maintains strict security controls over satellite equipment to prevent unauthorized radio transmissions within its national borders and territorial waters, a policy enforced rigorously across international airports and maritime ports.The DFA said violators could face imprisonment of up to three years and fines up to 20 million Indian rupees (approximately P13.35 million).The DFA said Filipinos who need assistance in India should communicate through the following hotlines and

email addresses: New Delhi (Calls/WhatsApp/Viber) +91 9910797014Email: newdelhipe.atn@dfa.gov.ph Mumbai +91 33228 08846Email: mumbai.pc.ah@dfa.gov.ph Kolkata +91 33228 08846Email: kolkata.pc.ah@dfa.gov.ph Chennai +91 44223 54063Email: chennai.pc.ah@dfa.gov.ph

- Go pushes sports to combat obesity (2026-11-07 16:01)

SEN. Bong Go urged the country's youth to pivot toward sports and physical fitness to fight heart disease and obesity. “Get into sports, stay away from drugs to keep us healthy and fit,” Go said.This comes after the publication of a World Health Organization study in The Lancet Global Health on Nov. 4, showing that four in 10 Filipino adolescents lack sufficient physical activity.The study found that 40.3 percent of Filipinos aged 11 to 17 failed to achieve even 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity on any day of the previous week.This figure tracks significantly higher than the global average of 25 percent, placing the Philippines among the most sedentary countries for teens. “If we want to keep our youth away from violence, vices and bad influences, let’s bring them closer to sports. Instead of being hooked on social media, choose sports instead,” Go said.The WHO study highlighted a gender gap, showing Filipino girls are less active than boys, with 42.7 percent reporting zero active days compared to 38 percent of boys.Health experts warn that these behaviors mirror a burgeoning local health crisis.According to the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute’s 2025 Updating Survey, the combined prevalence of overweight and obesity among adolescents aged 10 to 19 surged from 12.5 percent in 2023 to 15.6 percent in 2025 — meaning one in six teens is now affected.As vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Go warned that sedentary routines leave youth vulnerable to preventable conditions like Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular illnesses.Adult populations are seeing similar spikes, with obesity tracking up from 39.8 percent to 44.5 percent over the same two-year period.Go urged collaborative action among schools, local government units, and families to address the issue, emphasizing the necessity of public parks, playgrounds and walking spaces, particularly in low-income communities.

- Pope Leo XIV accepts resignation of Bangued bishop (2026-11-07 12:53)

MANILA, Philippines — Pope Leo XIV has accepted the resignation of Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian as head of the Diocese of Bangued.The Holy See announced the decision on Saturday, Nov. 7, citing Paragraph 2 of Canon 401 of the Code of Canon Law, which covers bishops unable to fulfill their duties because of ill health or other grave reason.In a Facebook post, CBCP News said that Jaucian, 66, was appointed bishop of Bangued on Jan. 5, 2007, received episcopal ordination on March 26 of that year and was installed on March 31.He led the diocese for nearly 19 years.

- Guam delegate-elect praises Filipinos (2026-11-07 11:05)

GUAM — Guam delegate-elect Alicia Garrido Limtiaco clarified that she is CHamoru and not Filipino, but stressed that Filipinos hold a special place in her heart and in Guam, where

generations of Filipino families helped shape the island's history, economy, and culture.She said she intends to strengthen Guam's relationship with the Philippines.Her clarification came after several social media posts suggested that she was of Filipino heritage.The former Guam attorney general said she takes pride in her Indigenous heritage while recognizing the contributions of the Filipino community to the US territory."I would like to respectfully clarify that I am CHamoru, an Indigenous daughter of Guam," Limtiaco said. "My heritage is rooted in the Mariana Islands, and I am proud of the history, culture, language, and traditions of our CHamoru people.""While I am not Filipina, I have tremendous respect and appreciation for the Filipino community," she added.Limtiaco, a Democrat, defeated incumbent Republican delegate James Moylan in Guam's Nov. 3 general election. She received 15,645 votes against Moylan's 14,983, putting her on track to become the first CHamoru woman elected to represent Guam in the US Congress.Despite their different ethnic backgrounds, Limtiaco said CHamorus and Filipinos share many of the same values, including respect for elders, strong family ties, education, faith, hard work, and community responsibility.She said Filipino contributions extend to nearly every sector of Guam's economy, particularly healthcare, education, construction, business, hospitality, and public service."The Filipino community is part of Guam’s family, and its voices deserve to be heard in the decisions that shape our island’s future," she said.Limtiaco also acknowledged the support her campaign received from residents of different backgrounds, saying her responsibility as Guam's next delegate would be to represent everyone regardless of ancestry, nationality, or political affiliation.Limtiaco said she intends to strengthen Guam's relationship with the Philippines, particularly in tourism, trade, labor, and cultural exchanges.One of her priorities is to seek a federal review of whether eligible Philippine visitors could be included in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, which could make travel to the two US territories easier for Filipino tourists."On tourism, I would fight for a federal review of whether eligible Philippine visitors could be included in the Guam–CNMI Visa Waiver Program, with appropriate screening and safeguards," she said.She also intends to work with tourism officials, airlines, and businesses to identify ways to improve travel and commercial ties between Guam and the Philippines.On labor issues, Limtiaco acknowledged the challenges confronting foreign workers, including recruitment practices, workplace safety, and reporting mistreatment.She said she would work with federal agencies, employers, and worker representatives to address these concerns while helping Guam businesses meet legitimate staffing needs.Housing affordability, healthcare, and job stability are also among her priorities, particularly for families struggling with high living costs and limited medical services.Limtiaco said she would seek fairer Medicaid funding, federal housing policies that reflect Guam's construction costs, and employment training opportunities for island residents.Other priorities include compensation under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, extending Supplemental Security Income benefits to Guam, and securing federal investments in water, power, and road infrastructure.She thanked Filipinos for their contributions and pledged to ensure their concerns are heard in Washington."To Guam’s Filipino community, thank you for all the ways you serve our island and for taking the time to tell me what matters to you and your families," she said.

• SC sets formula for child support, puts value on caregiving (2026-11-07 10:14)

MANILA, Philippines — The Supreme Court has come out with new guidelines establishing a uniform formula for determining child support, including assigning monetary value to the time parents devote to caring for and supervising their children.Approved by the high court’s en banc on Nov. 4, the guidelines sought to address inconsistencies in how courts compute child support by providing judges with a uniform, objective and evidence-based approach.Under the new rules, the amount of child support will be determined not only by considering the financial capacity of the parent or other person obliged to provide support and the child's basic needs, but also the time devoted to the child's care and supervision.The time spent on caregiving will be assigned a quantified value to help ensure that financial responsibilities are distributed proportionately to the level of care provided by each party.The guidelines were intended to complement the Family Code and existing Court rules governing actions for support and the recognition and enforcement of foreign decisions or judgments on support.They will apply when there is no written and valid agreement on child support, or when changes in the circumstances of the parties or the child warrant an adjustment in the amount being provided.The high tribunal stressed that the guidelines also identify persons legally obliged to provide support apart from the child's parents, in accordance with the Family Code.They likewise recognize that several individuals may be entitled to receive support on behalf of a child, including situations in which multiple recipients are involved.The guidelines were proposed by the high court’s Committee on Family Courts and Juvenile Concerns led by its co-chairmen - Associate Justices Amy Lazaro-Javier and Jhosep Lopez.The measure seeks to preserve judges' discretion in determining the appropriate amount of support while promoting the best interests of the child, the high tribunal said.It also forms part of its Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022-2027, which seeks to improve judicial efficiency, innovation and access to justice.

• American wanted for 7 VAWC counts arrested in Cebu (2026-11-07 09:57)

MANILA, Philippines — A 39-year-old American facing seven counts of alleged violations of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act was arrested by police in Argao, Cebu, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said.The suspect was arrested on November 5 in Barangay Poblacion after personnel of the Argao Municipal Police Station, under the Cebu Police Provincial Office, served a warrant issued by the court.He faces seven counts under Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, with bail recommended at P366,000.PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said police are obligated to enforce court-issued arrest warrants regardless of the nationality of the person being sought. “When the courts issue a warrant, we have the responsibility to implement it, whether the person involved is a Filipino or a foreign national. At the same time, we make sure that the rights of the accused are respected throughout the process,” Nartatez said.

• LRT-1 offers free rides during Asean Summit (2026-11-07 09:33)

MANILA, Philippines — The management of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) announced on Saturday that it would offer free rides on three separate days in connection with the holding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean Summit.It said that the free rides will be on Nov. 9, Monday; Nov. 11, Wednesday; and Nov. 13, Friday. It will be available during two rush-hour time slots from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.The initiative comes in the wake of road closures in affected areas for the 49th Asean Summit.The Department of Tourism said that free jeepney rides will also be available until Nov. 14 with routes from SM Fairview in Novaliches, Quezon City to Buendia, Makati City and from Sucat to Baclaran, both in Parañaque City.

- SSS releases P63.74B in death benefits (2026-11-07 07:37)

MANILA, Philippines — The Social Security System (SSS) has released P63.74 billion in death benefits in the first three quarters of 2026, a 10.4 percent increase from P57.74 billion in the same period last year, its top official said.The state pension fund paid an average of P7.08 billion in death benefits each month from January to September, providing timely support to families who lost loved ones, SSS president and CEO Victor Alfonso Limlingan said. “The rise in death benefit disbursements shows that SSS is delivering on its mandate to protect Filipino workers and their families, especially during the most difficult moments of their lives,” Limlingan said Friday.The largest quarterly increase occurred in the third quarter of 2026, when death benefit payouts rose by nearly 5 percent from the second quarter. Growth between the first and second quarters was below 1 percent.Limlingan attributed the third-quarter acceleration to the early implementation of the second tranche of the Pension Reform Program in June 2026, which raised the monthly pension of surviving spouses or death pensioners by 5 percent.The number of death benefit beneficiaries climbed 5.7 percent to 1.4 million in the first nine months of 2026 from 1.3 million in the same period last year while surviving spouses or death pensioners accounted for about 89.8 percent of beneficiaries, the SSS chief executive reported.As of September 2026, the average monthly death pension was P4,568. The minimum monthly pension stood at P2,000 while the highest was P23,422.The death benefit is a cash benefit paid either as a monthly pension or a one-time lump sum to the beneficiaries of a deceased SSS member. A monthly pension is granted to the primary beneficiaries of a deceased member who paid at least 36 monthly contributions before the semester of death.Members with fewer than 36 contributions leave their primary beneficiaries entitled to a one-time lump sum benefit.In the absence of primary beneficiaries, secondary beneficiaries may receive the lump sum benefit. Meanwhile, Limlingan said funeral benefit disbursements also increased by 5 percent to P3.25 billion in the first nine months of 2026 from P3.09 billion in the same period of 2025, averaging P360.98 million in funeral benefits released every month.The SSS said that from January to September, the number of funeral benefit beneficiaries rose 3.5 percent to 151,844 from 146,666 in the same period last year. On average, 16,872 beneficiaries received funeral benefits each month."Funeral benefits may be smaller than other SSS benefits, but they provide meaningful and immediate assistance to families dealing with the loss of a loved one," Limlingan said.The funeral benefit is a cash grant intended to help cover funeral expenses upon

the death of an SSS member. Claimants of deceased members with 36 or more monthly contributions may receive a variable funeral benefit ranging from P20,000 to P60,000, depending on the member's number of paid contributions and average monthly salary credit.Both death and funeral benefit claims may be filed online through the member-claimant's My.SSS account. Non-member claimants may file their applications at any SSS branch office.

- Alliance Global bridges sustainability to people, planet, prosperity (2026-11-07 05:19)

In 2025, the company strengthened its sustainability efforts to meet stakeholder and business needs, as well as contributing to the long-term benefits of the society. Its framework — coined “SustainAgility” — provides the three main pillars of its programs: people, prosperity and planet.The people pillar pertains to building an inclusive, capable and well-supported workforce while creating genuine relationships and empowering each person.The company has enacted annual health, education and livelihood programs for various communities in the country. Through this, they helped more than 110,000 beneficiaries. The company has also supported 1,100 scholars annually.The planet pillar addresses not just the carbon footprint reduction but also mindful use of resources, ensuring these processes do not harm the environment.Currently, Alliance Global holds the most number of LEED-certified properties in the country, with 42 Green Building certifications. One of its pioneer initiatives is the MEGreen program. Under this program, the company aims to shift all Megaworld-owned offices and malls to 100-percent renewable energy. The company is also aiming to have its facilities in the United Kingdom, Spain and Mexico to shift to renewable energy.Sustainability, the company said, is also about transforming the hospitality experience. At the Newport World Resorts (NWR), the company is aiming to shift the entire complex to renewable energy. Currently, NWR is also recognized by the EarthCheck with a silver certification for the 4th consecutive time — a testament to the effectiveness of its environmental management programs.Aside from this, the company also initiated reforestation and biodiversity conservation programs, which resulted in 520,000 trees planted. Along the Angat-Ipo Dam Watershed, their initiative resulted in 5,000 seedlines planted, which not only preserves the biodiversity of the ecosystem but also supports the livelihoods of the people in the community.The company has also recycled 500,000 kilograms of plastic waste through cleanup drives and river rehabilitation projects, substantially reducing the nonbiodegradable waste it produces.Lastly, the prosperity pillar deals with economic growth and governance that creates a lasting impact for the business, stakeholders and the people they serve.One company showing this is Emperador Inc., which advances sustainability through innovation and stewardship. At the Invergordon Distillery in Scotland, they captured 580 tons of carbon dioxide in 2025.Alliance Global also believes in investing in infrastructure that drives change. They have invested in Whyte & Mackay’s full carbon neutrality target by 2030.Overall, Alliance Global has shown great initiatives in the year of 2025, especially in environment-inclined initiatives. Its massive scale of renewable energy shifts across its properties and facilities makes a huge difference in green power and carbon footprint reduction. What makes its sustainability initiative unique is its focus on people and the

community. Not only does its initiatives also focus on environment and innovation but it also ensures communities are cared for.Alliance Global is one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines. It was founded on Oct. 12, 1993, and began operations in 1994 as a glass container manufacturer. Currently, it holds interest across food and beverage, real estate, tourism-entertainment and gaming. Its main business include MegaWorld, Travellers International and Emperador Inc.It is one of the 15 organizations vying for the Sustainability Champions Awards 2026, to be bestowed by The Manila Times. The sustainability champion will be awarded on Nov. 20.

• Duterte camp accuses House prosecutors of peddling ‘half-truths’ (2026-11-07 04:07)

MANILA, Philippines — The camp of Vice President Sara Duterte on Saturday accused the House prosecution panel of peddling “half-truths and malicious speculation” in its efforts to build an impeachment case against her.In a statement, Duterte spokesman Salvador Paolo Panelo Jr. said prosecutors were disregarding due process and fairness by trying to sway public opinion through press briefings and interviews. “We apparently live in two worlds. One where due process and fairness still reign — where an accused is not condemned before she is heard, and where allegations must be proven with clear and convincing evidence presented in court,” Panelo said. “One world seeks the truth. The other desperately tries to persuade an increasingly skeptical public with asinine sound bites built on half-truths and malicious speculation,” he said.He claimed the prosecution had failed to prove its allegations against the Vice President, criticizing lead private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan and her colleagues for what he described as “asinine sound bites.” “The prosecution had its chance. It failed. On Monday, the Vice President begins her defense,” Panelo said.The impeachment trial will resume on Monday, Nov. 9.

• Fire-damaged Culiat Bridge II in QC reopens to buses (2026-11-07 03:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Buses can once again pass through Culiat Bridge II in Quezon City starting Saturday, Nov. 7, after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completed repairs on damage caused by a fire on July 11, 2026.Announcing the reopening to buses, DPWH Secretary Giovanni Lopez ordered the removal of the gantry that held the ‘Open to light vehicles’ signage positioned on the bridge. “Based on testing and analytical road rating, buses are now permitted to cross following the bridge's reopening to light vehicles on July 27,” Lopez said. “Trucks, however, remain prohibited while the public works department conducts further assessment to ensure the bridge's integrity can withstand their weight,” he said.For safe travel, the public was urged to follow DPWH advisories as the agency continues its evaluation of the bridge’s structure, he said. This came following the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure that major roads and bridges are sturdy and in good condition.Former DPWH secretary Vince Dizon inspected the bridge located along Congressional Avenue with Mayor Joy Belmonte after it was damaged by fire that destroyed 46 houses underneath the bridge.

• Duterte-aligned bets lead governor, mayor preferences — survey (2026-11-07 02:39)

MANILA, Philippines — Candidates aligned with the Duterte family lead Filipino adults' voting preferences for governor and mayor in the 2028 elections, although independent candidates remain competitive and are preferred in the rest of Luzon, a survey by Momentum Research showed.The October 16 to 19 National Momentum Survey found that 36 percent of respondents preferred Duterte-aligned candidates for both governor and mayor.Independent candidates ranked second, with 25 percent preferring them for governor and 28 percent for mayor, while opposition-aligned candidates received 16 percent and 14 percent, respectively.Candidates aligned with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. garnered the lowest preference among the major political groupings, at 12 percent for governor and 13 percent for mayor.The findings indicate a regional divide in political preferences, with Duterte-aligned candidates drawing particularly strong support in Mindanao, while independent candidates were preferred in the rest of Luzon.In Mindanao, 65 percent of respondents said they would vote for Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates, while 64 percent preferred Duterte-aligned mayoral candidates.The corresponding figures in Metro Manila were 37 percent for mayoral candidates, while in Visayas, 35 percent preferred Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates and 33 percent mayoral candidates.In the rest of Luzon, independent candidates led with 36 percent for governor and 41 percent for mayor.The October survey further showed that political preferences varied across generations, with Millennials recording the strongest inclination toward Duterte-aligned candidates.Half of Millennial respondents, or 50 percent, preferred Duterte-aligned gubernatorial candidates, followed by Gen Z at 33 percent and Gen X at 28 percent.For mayoral candidates, 46 percent of Millennials and 33 percent of Gen X respondents favored Duterte allies. Gen Z respondents were almost evenly divided between independent candidates (36 percent) and Duterte-aligned candidates (34.6 percent).The survey also found that only 25 percent of Baby Boomers and members of the Silent Generation preferred Marcos-aligned gubernatorial candidates. For mayoral races, support for Marcos-aligned candidates among these older respondents stood at 27 percent.

- Bicam approves expanded school feeding program (2026-11-07 02:30)

MANILA, Philippines — Millions of Filipino public school children are a step closer to receiving free daily meals after the bicameral conference committee approved the final version of the National Children’s Nutrition Program Act, also known as the Libreng Pagkain sa Paaralan bill. The consolidated measure aims to combat stunting, malnutrition, and the learning crisis by integrating a comprehensive feeding program into the basic education system. All enrolled students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 in public elementary schools will receive free, nutritious meals daily. The program extends coverage to nutritionally deficient, undernourished, or stunted students in Grades 4 through 6 based on regular health assessments. Unlike previous feeding initiatives limited to 120 days, the feeding timeline will cover all 180 to 200 school days of the academic year. Senator Bam Aquino, principal sponsor of the bill and chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, highlighted the direct link between child nutrition and classroom performance. "This is considered the most important measure we can pass regarding education. It is a major step toward addressing malnutrition and the education crisis. Our

children learn more easily when their stomachs are full and they receive proper nutrition while studying," Aquino said. Data from the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) and the National Nutrition Council reveal that nearly 1 in 3 Filipino children under five years old suffers from stunting, a condition linked directly to lower academic retention and cognitive development.Aquino said that educational reform cannot succeed without solving learning poverty at its foundational root.

- 2 Filipinos face loss of US citizenship in Trump crackdown (2026-11-07 01:13)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Two Philippine-born naturalized Americans are among 40 individuals facing possible revocation of their US citizenship as the Trump administration intensifies its crackdown on immigration fraud and other offenses allegedly concealed during the naturalization process.The US Department of Justice identified the two as Arnel Dacumos Tabafunda, 47, and Ramon Navarro, 68, both facing separate denaturalization proceedings in federal courts in California.Tabafunda faces the possible loss of his citizenship over alleged child sexual abuse offenses committed before and after his naturalization, while Navarro was accused of entering into a fraudulent marriage to obtain immigration benefits and eventually US citizenship.In a statement issued Oct. 5, the Justice Department said it filed denaturalization complaints against 40 individuals between Aug. 21 and Oct. 2, 2026, representing the largest number of such cases filed within a single period under the Trump administration.The department said the cases involved individuals accused of concealing criminal activity, misrepresenting personal information, or otherwise obtaining citizenship unlawfully.According to the Justice Department, a denaturalization complaint against Tabafunda was filed Sept. 15 in the US District Court for the Central District of California.Federal authorities said Tabafunda began sexually abusing a child younger than 13 before becoming a naturalized American citizen in September 2005.He was subsequently convicted by a jury of two counts of committing lewd or lascivious acts upon a child younger than 14 under California law and sentenced to eight years in prison.The abuse occurred between February and November 2005, during which Tabafunda occupied a position of trust with the victim, the department said.Federal prosecutors contended that Tabafunda concealed his criminal conduct during his naturalization proceedings despite being required to disclose information relevant to his eligibility for citizenship. This disqualified him from meeting the good moral character requirement for naturalization.Meanwhile, Navarro faces a separate denaturalization complaint filed Oct. 2 in the US District Court for the Eastern District of California.According to the Justice Department, Navarro allegedly entered into a fraudulent marriage to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.Federal authorities alleged that he subsequently relied on that immigration status and made false representations to immigration officials to secure US citizenship.The complaint contains four counts relating to the alleged fraudulent marriage and misrepresentations that prosecutors say rendered him ineligible for naturalization.The two Filipinos are among individuals from several countries targeted in the administration's expanded denaturalization campaign.Other cases involve allegations of espionage, immigration fraud, sexual offenses, identity deception, and concealment of criminal histories.Attorney

General Todd Blanche described the initiative as an unprecedented effort to revoke citizenship obtained through deception. “Today’s announcement marks the largest denaturalization effort in modern history,” Blanche said. “From an individual convicted of espionage to others convicted of sexual offenses against minors, these defendants concealed critical facts from the US government and represent serious criminal offenders.” Assistant Attorney General Brett A. Shumate of the department's Civil Division also defended the campaign. “Every single one of these individuals lied their way into US citizenship,” Shumate said.Under the US Immigration and Nationality Act, naturalized citizenship may be revoked if it was illegally obtained or secured through the concealment of material facts or willful misrepresentation.

- One valid ID is enough, ARTA says (2026-11-07 00:54)

MANILA, Philippines — Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Director-General Ernesto Perez said on Saturday that one valid identification card (ID), especially the national ID, is sufficient for transactions with government agencies. “If an agency still requires two valid IDs, do not hesitate to report them to ARTA so that action can be taken,” Perez said.Perez cited Section 12 of Republic Act 11055 (Philippine Identification System Act) which provides that the presentation of a PhilID or PhilSys Number (PSN) constitutes sufficient proof of identity for transactions with government agencies, subject to proper authentication. “Therefore, where the sole purpose is to establish a person's identity, a government agency should generally not require a second government-issued ID once a valid PhilID has been presented,” he said.He explained that it was also consistent with Republic Act 11032, or the Ease of Doing Business Law, which prohibits unnecessary, excessive, and redundant requirements unless specifically required by law or stated in the agency's Citizen's Charter. “Accordingly, requiring another ID solely to verify identity may be considered redundant,” the top ARTA official stressed.However, agencies may require additional documents for purposes other than identity verification, such as proof of authority or eligibility, Perez said. “In such cases, the additional requirement should be the specific document needed to establish the required information, rather than another valid ID whose purpose is likewise only to establish identity,” he pointed out.Only government agencies including local government units are covered by the policy, Perez said.

- BI deports 115 Chinese caught in anti-POGO raids (2026-11-07 00:52)

MANILA, Philippines — Immigration Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado said on Saturday that 115 Chinese who were arrested in its crackdown on illegal Philippines offshore gaming operators (POGO) in October have been deported.Viado said those expelled were caught by law enforcement agencies led by the Bureau of Immigration and National Bureau of Investigation in two major anti-illegal POGO operations in Zamboanga Sibugay and Cubao, Quezon City.The deportees were flown to China aboard a chartered China Southern Airlines flight CZ5308 following the issuance of summary deportation orders against them.Viado said the deportation underscored the bureau’s commitment in going after foreign nationals involved in illegal activities . “The agency will continue strengthening its enforcement operations and coordination with local and international law enforcement partners to combat illegal POGO

operations, online scams, and other transnational crimes," he said.

• Palace orders probe into alleged jail privileges for Romualdez (2026-11-06 19:01)

MANILA, Philippines — Malacanang on Friday raised the need for an investigation on the reported requirement of detained former House speaker Martin Romualdez to have a personal staff to attend to his needs "24/7" or round-the-clock.Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro was asked to comment on the testimony of the former Quezon City jail warden that Romualdez has an assistant at the Quezon City jail."Right now, we are not the ones who can provide a concrete answer regarding that matter, as we are not aware of the truth as to whether he indeed has a special aide," Castro said in a press briefing."Perhaps what needs to be known and disclosed is the reason why it has to be 24/7. And if this appears to be special treatment, it should not become a custom or practice that is tolerated in these kinds of conditions and situations," she said in Filipino."However, it would be better if a deeper investigation is conducted into this matter to determine why former Speaker Martin Romualdez requires a 24/7 aide," the Palace press officer added.

• GSMA pushes regional cooperation vs. cross-border online scams (2026-11-06 17:48)

MANILA, Philippines — The GSMA has urged stronger regional cooperation among telecommunications companies, technology platforms and governments to combat online scams, saying 60 to 70 percent of scams originate outside the country where victims are targeted.Jeanette Whyte, GSMA head of public policy and external affairs for Asia Pacific, said that cross-border information-sharing is necessary to identify and prevent fraudulent activities.Speaking during a media roundtable at The Westin Manila on Wednesday, Whyte said that the Philippines is the first among participating ASEAN countries to conduct a data-exchange proof of concept through Globe, allowing information to be shared with countries such as Thailand and Singapore.The GSMA's regional anti-scam task force also includes 39 companies from 17 Asia-Pacific countries, including mobile operators and digital platforms Google, Meta and TikTok.Whyte said scammers are also adapting their operations, potentially using artificial intelligence to carry out fraudulent activities without relying on large physical facilities.The GSMA cited its 2026 ASEAN Consumer Scam Report, which found that 76 percent of Filipino consumers surveyed were extremely worried about being scammed, while 62 percent avoided contact or transactions due to scam concerns.Julian Gorman, GSMA head of Asia Pacific, said efforts to combat scams remain ongoing. "We haven't won. We're not winning yet," Gorman said.

• Impeach court admits VP's financial records (2026-11-06 16:22)

THE Senate impeachment court has admitted financial, corporate, property and tax documents as well as the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth of Vice President Sara Duterte from 2007 to 2021 introduced by the prosecution team.The court also admitted records from the Anti-Money Laundering Council, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Securities and Exchange Commission, and bank records.However, it said these documents are considered only as

“starting financial baseline” and may only be used to evaluate assets existing before Duterte assumed the vice presidency.Also allowed are land titles involving properties in Davao City and the Island Garden City of Samal, and insurance and investments documents.The court, however, rejected documentary evidence relating to the withdrawn articles.The court’s spokesman, Regie Tongol, said Presiding Officer Francis Escudero issued an order to resolve the prosecution’s offer of documentary evidence. However, he said that the admission of the documents does not mean that the prosecution’s allegations are true.In evaluating the prosecution’s evidence, the court rejected the defense’s objection that subpoenaed documents constituted a “fishing expedition” by the prosecution.However, the court also blocked efforts to introduce withdrawn charges or pre-incumbency offenses. Applying the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Duterte v. House of Representatives, it ruled that an official can only be impeached for acts committed during her current term. Duterte’s term as vice president started on June 30, 2022.The court excluded all Commission on Audit disallowance records concerning the confidential funds of the Office of the Vice President and Department of Education. Because Article I was withdrawn on Oct. 13, it decreed that the records cannot be taken up under Article II.All corporate records and forensic computations involving JTC Group of Companies Philippines Inc. and Pikimong Pikimong Philippines Corp. were also denied.On Friday, private prosecutor Lorna Kapunan welcomed the impeachment court’s ruling rejecting the defense’s objections to evidence presented under Article II, saying it removed procedural obstacles ahead of the trial’s resumption. “The good thing about the order on admissibility of our evidence is that the presiding officer admitted all the prosecution’s evidence. So, those are the two orders of the presiding officer, and there should no longer be any obstacle for the defense to present its case,” Kapunan said.She said an impeachment complaint “only needs what are called ultimate facts — who, what, where, when and how. Those are the only things an impeachment complaint needs.” She cited the prosecution’s 52 boxes of evidence to illustrate why attaching every document to the complaint would be impractical.As for the subpoenas, Kapunan said compelling the production of documents is part of court proceedings and falls within the impeachment court’s authority.Kapunan agreed with the court that the documents be used only to establish a baseline for assessing Duterte’s income and net worth. “Admissibility is different from probative value. Just because the presiding officer admitted the evidence does not mean it is true. They still have to weigh its probative value. What is the weight of this evidence? Does it merit an explanation of unexplained wealth?” Kapunan said.The impeachment trial of Duterte will resume on Monday, Nov. 9.

- Prosecutors to ICC: Protect 55 witnesses vs Duterte (2026-11-06 16:21)

INTERNATIONAL Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutors cited reported security incidents involving witnesses and the continuing influence of former president Rodrigo Duterte’s allies in seeking protection for 55 witnesses who will testify during his trial.In a public redacted filing made on Nov. 5, the prosecutors told Trial Chamber III that the measures were necessary to protect witnesses whose testimony concerns alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte’s terms as

Davao City mayor and president.The prosecution said numerous witnesses had reported security incidents to its office, while some agreed to cooperate only if they remain anonymous.It argued that direct threats were not necessary to establish an objectively justifiable risk to witnesses, citing previous ICC rulings that recognized the security situation in a particular territory as a relevant consideration when assessed alongside a witness' individual circumstances.The filing identifies six categories of witnesses requiring protection: insider witnesses residing in the Philippines, witnesses from the alleged crime scenes also residing in the country, witnesses whose specific circumstances were redacted, witnesses living abroad, individuals admitted into the ICC protection program and prosecution staff members.Particularly concerning to the prosecutors are insider witnesses whose accounts relate to alleged extrajudicial killings during Duterte's mayoral and presidential terms and, in some cases, directly implicate him.Their testimony could also implicate former Philippine National Police chief and incumbent Sen. Ronald dela Rosa, whom prosecutors described as having the influence and support to evade arrest despite an ICC warrant that has been public for five months.Dela Rosa remains at largeProsecutors are seeking three categories of protective and special measures: the use of pseudonyms and face and voice distortion to conceal witness identities from the public; closed or private court sessions for sensitive portions of testimony; and psychological support for witnesses considered vulnerable.The measures are intended to safeguard witnesses' identities and well-being without compromising Duterte's right to a fair trial, they said.They maintained that the former president will have the same opportunity to question the witnesses as he would if their identities were publicly known.The defense would also remain free to conduct its own inquiries to challenge the evidence presented by the prosecution.The prosecutors said they will ask the chamber to hold closed or private sessions orally during testimony only when necessary, and would seek to keep as much testimony as possible in public session.The prosecution plans to rely on the testimony of 78 witnesses, 69 of whom are expected to testify in person or have their prior testimony introduced under Rule 68(3) of the ICC's Rules of Procedure and Evidence.The trial is scheduled to open on Nov. 30. Trial Chamber III is composed of Presiding Judge Joanna Korner, Judge Keebong Paek and Judge Nicolas Guillou.The filing also disclosed that one prosecution staff member, identified as witness P-1439, is already covered by protective measures ordered by a previous Trial Chamber under Regulation 42(2) of the Regulations of the Court.Prosecutors asked the chamber to maintain the protections, saying the circumstances that justified them had not changed.The prosecution's request to protect the witnesses was initially filed confidentially on Oct. 30. A redacted version was submitted simultaneously, while the public redacted version was released on Thursday.

- NBI files cases vs pet crematorium operators (2026-11-06 16:20)

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Friday filed multiple criminal cases before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against the operators of a pet crematorium in Bacoor, Cavite, over alleged improper and mass disposal of deceased animals.The NBI's Environmental Crime Division filed criminal complaints against Ahjay Paws Aftercare Pet Crematorium following the

discovery of dozens of decomposing dog and cat remains stuffed inside sacks and plastic bags in vacant lots and a septic tank in San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.The charges include estafa (fraud), violations of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and violations of the Consumer Act of the Philippines.Citing its investigation prior to the filing of the cases, the NBI said the establishment did not have the required equipment to perform cremations.A contracted third-party couple confessed to the agency that due to the overwhelming volume of deceased pets transferred to them through delivery apps, they dumped and buried the bodies instead of cremating them.The complaints also alleged that fake ashes were distributed to grieving pet owners.Meanwhile, more than 250 affected pet owners have come forward to file their own complaints with the police, while animal advocacy groups such as the Philippine Animal Welfare Society and the Animal Kingdom Foundation have partnered with victims to push for full legal accountability.To prevent the suspects from fleeing the country, the NBI has requested the DOJ to issue an immigration lookout bulletin order against the three primary individuals involved in the case.

- Bingo, Care Bears, Pokémon cards in Toy Hall of Fame (2026-11-06 16:19)

NEW YORK — Bingo, Care Bears, the Pokémon Trading Card Game and the humble playground slide have all made it into the National Toy Hall of Fame, taking their place alongside classics like Mr. Potato Head and G.I. Joe.The winners emerged on Thursday from a field of 12 finalists that included Bop It!, mahjong, Monster High dolls, Polly Pocket, Tickle Me Elmo, Yahtzee and the board games Sorry! (Sorry, Sorry!) and Mouse Trap.Experts at The Strong National Museum of Play, home to the National Toy Hall of Fame, note that bingo, which “descends from an Italian lottery played around 1530,” is now played virtually worldwide. “While bingo is now often associated with an older audience, it has become increasingly popular with young adults. Recently, public bingo games have gone beyond fundraising and have become popular in bars and nightclubs,” curator Mirek Stolee said in a statement.The effort to get the Care Bears into the Hall was helped by earning nearly 1 million followers on social media, while Pokémon trading cards were buoyed by anime enthusiasts and manga readers.The Hall said the slide helps children develop motor skills and encourages exploration. “People of all ages remember fondly the simple, satisfying and energizing experience of racing down a slide,” said Jeremy Saucier, vice president for collections.While anyone can nominate a toy, the ones that make it into the Hall must be considered icons, have engaged multiple generations, fostered creativity, or profoundly changed play or toy design. APThe four 2026 winners will join the 90 toys already enshrined in the National Toy Hall of Fame, a list that includes Cabbage Patch Kids, Dungeons & Dragons, Hot Wheels and Frisbee.

- Lawmakers reject party-list abolition (2026-11-06 16:16)

LEADERS of the House of Representatives rejected on Friday calls to abolish the party-list system.House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms Chairman and Lanao del Sur Rep. Zia Alonto Adiong said the debate should focus on improving the system rather than scrapping it.”It is not a question of whether or not we should abolish [the party-list system]. That should

be taken out of the equation," Adiong said at a press briefing after the committee's first public consultation on House Bill (HB) 9906 in Butuan City.Under the measure, party-list organizations would be classified into three categories — advocacy, sectoral and regional — to establish a framework for determining whether they genuinely represent the constituencies they claim to serve.He said the Constitution intended the party-list system to give certain sectors a voice in the legislative process.Tingog Party-list Rep. Jude Acidre said the need for reforms became more apparent after a 2013 Supreme Court ruling broadened participation in the system, allowing more organizations to compete for seats in the House."The manner of representation [has] actually evolved. However, what we noticed is that with the evolution of the representation, our way of testing genuine representation has not matched up with that growth," Acidre said.ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio said HB 9906 would establish qualifications for individuals seeking to represent particular sectors, including their track record in advancing the interests or advocacy of those groups.Meanwhile, 4Ps Party-list Rep. JC Abalos acknowledged that the system has imperfections, saying consultations would help lawmakers identify problems and develop appropriate reforms."Everything that has been discussed with the stakeholders, their observations, including those of the media, will all be considered as the committee deliberates on this very important measure," Abalos said.The committee will hold further consultations in Iloilo City and Metro Manila to gather additional input from stakeholders in the Visayas and Luzon.Party-list reform is among the legislative priorities identified by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

- Huge oil price rollback seen (2026-11-06 16:15)

OIL companies are expected to implement a big price rollback next week, resulting from global market reaction to recent developments in the Middle East and the United States midterm elections, local oil industry sources said on Friday.Diesel prices, sources said, may drop by around P4.30 to P4.50 per liter, while gasoline prices may go down by about P12.50 to P13.50 per liter.The estimates are based on the four-day trading of Mean of Platts, Singapore, the pricing basis of refined goods in Southeast Asia."Global oil prices declined this week as diplomatic efforts to end the US-Iran conflict eased renewed escalation concerns in the Middle East, despite lingering supply disruption worries as attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and Saudi energy infrastructure continue. Furthermore, the perception of a lower chance of escalation of tensions following sweeping victories by the Democratic Party in the recent midterm elections also helped prices go down," an industry source said."Regional gasoline and diesel prices fell due to these developments, and because of expectations of higher supply availability following South Korea's easing of diesel restrictions and the additional Chinese export quota. The stronger Philippine Peso against the US dollar also pushed prices lower this week as well," the source added.This week, diesel prices went down by P1 per liter, while gasoline prices increased by P3.50 per liter.

- CFO pushes continuing care retirement initiative (2026-11-06 16:14)

THE Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) spearheaded an initiative to address the diverse needs of an aging diaspora population.CFO Chairman Dante Ang II met with Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta to discuss how to provide comprehensive housing, specialized health care and long-term financial stability for overseas Filipinos planning their return to the homeland.Acosta said Pag-IBIG Fund is ready to evaluate funding tracks for land acquisition and structural housing development, noting that the Group Land Acquisition and Development program is a viable financing mechanism for such projects.The program, she said, could leverage the CFO's partnership with the Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, a nongovernment organization championing the Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) model. Rather than functioning as traditional, isolated care facilities, CCRCs are designed as integrated ecosystems.The primary objective of the CCRC approach is to enable returning migrants to maintain productive, socially connected and secure lives during their retirement years.The CFO said the pilot phase of the CCRC initiative is slated for rollout in San Pablo City, Laguna, with long-term plans to bring it to key regions nationwide.The CFO and Pag-IBIG Fund were considering aligning the initiative with the national government's flagship Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program to optimize land use, scale up building efficiencies and streamline socialized financing options." Beyond supporting overseas Filipinos as they cross borders, the CFO recognizes the importance of ensuring a stable, secure foundation for their return or retirement," Ang said.

- Almost all coral reef ecosystems face collapse – study (2026-11-06 16:13)

THE world's coral reef ecosystems almost all face a high risk of collapse in the next 50 years, mostly due to warming oceans and heat waves, according to a global assessment released Thursday (Friday in Manila).It's the latest dose of bad news for coral reefs, which are critical sources for seafood and tourism and often serve as buffers from coastal erosion and storms. Sometimes dubbed "rainforests of the sea," they have some of the world's richest biodiversity. They support a quarter of marine species as well as coastal communities and businesses.Some 96 percent of shallow-water reef systems are already critically endangered and could disappear by 2075, the International Union for Conservation of Nature announced on the sidelines of a UN biodiversity conference in Armenia.Most of the world's famous reef systems — including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Coral Triangle in the Western Pacific Ocean and Southeast Asia, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System and the Red Sea coral reefs — are all critically endangered, the highest level of threat. "The risk of coral reef collapse is escalating, but this must be a wake-up call rather than a cause for despair," said Mishal Gudka, the scientific lead of the global IUCN Red List of Coral Reef Ecosystems assessment, the first of its kind. "Coral reefs have shown a remarkable ability to bounce back from devastating bleaching events," he said. "Pockets of surviving, resilient coral reefs can still remain in the future, so we must do everything within our reach to set them up for success." When a reef collapses, hard corals disappear and are replaced by algae, rubble and sponges. As a result, the reef no longer supports a diverse ecosystem that can include everything from tiny invertebrates to reef fish like grouper. "Coral reefs are one of the clearest vital signs of the ocean's

health," Grethel Aguilar, the IUCN director general, said in a statement.The assessment, spanning 127 tropical and subtropical ecoregions, and encompassing 72,726 square miles (188,362 square kilometers) of coral reefs globally, called climate change the "single most consistent threat driving coral reef decline worldwide."A week ago, another study in the journal Nature by the IUCN found that nearly 44 percent of reef-building coral species face an elevated risk of extinction due to climate change. A year ago, a survey found that harmful bleaching of the world's coral has grown to include 84 percent of the ocean's reefs — the most intense of its kind in recorded history.The year 2024 was Earth's hottest on record, and much of that is going into oceans. The average annual sea surface temperature of oceans away from the poles was a record 69.57 degrees Fahrenheit (20.87 degrees Celsius).Beyond combating rising global emissions, experts said efforts to reduce pollution, overfishing and coastal development can help reefs survive. "We know what is needed: ambitious emissions reductions, stronger protection and restoration efforts, and sustained investment in resilient coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them," Aguilar said.Andrew Baker, director of the Coral Reef Futures Lab at the University of Miami, sought to inject some hope after reviewing the assessment. He said stopping global warming and pollution isn't the only way to save corals. "It means finding new ways to restore corals using emerging technology and innovative approaches," he said, "that can throw a lifeline to struggling reefs and buy us critically needed time to make these transitions."

- Marcos to Cabinet: Keep prices affordable (2026-11-06 16:12)

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday directed the Cabinet to keep prices of basic goods affordable, ensure safe and convenient travel, and protect workers' rights and benefits.The president issued the directive to 10 ad interim officials who took their oath Friday, Presidential Communications Office Secretary Lino Cayetano said.They are Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, Justice Secretary Fredderick Vida, Public Works Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino, Health Secretary Edwin Mercado, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna, Tourism Secretary Maria Bernardita Mathay, Transportation Secretary Vivencio Dizon, Budget Secretary Kim Robert de Leon, and Philippine Space Agency Director Gay Jane Perez.Marcos urged the officials to prioritize programs that reflect the administration's commitment to making Christmas more affordable, convenient and meaningful for every Filipino.Recto said the president is focused on helping Filipino families celebrate Christmas with less worry over rising prices and the cost of daily necessities.Recto said the administration will sustain efforts to keep essential goods, particularly food and other basic household needs, affordable and within reach of ordinary Filipinos.Dizon and Lopez pledged to strengthen coordination to ease traffic congestion and improve public transportation, particularly during the holiday rush.Dizon said the president wants commuters to spend less time on the road and save on transportation costs. He said the Department of Transportation will deploy additional buses, trains, and other public transport services to provide commuters with more convenient and accessible travel options.Lopez said the Department of Public Works and Highways will prioritize road repairs and the completion of ongoing projects to reduce traffic delays.The two officials said their

agencies will closely coordinate to ensure smoother travel for Filipinos returning to their provinces for Christmas.The administration will also ensure that employers comply with labor laws, including the immediate release of their employees' holiday wages and other mandatory benefits, the Palace said.These measures aim to protect workers, ease household expenses and allow more Filipino families to enjoy the holiday season, Malacañang said.

- 'Food security spending tilted toward agriculture' (2026-11-06 16:11)

THE government's growing investments in food security remain heavily concentrated in agricultural development, while fragmented programs and weak coordination among agencies make it difficult to determine whether public spending is translating into better access to affordable and nutritious food, a study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) found.The study, titled "Food Security Sectoral Analysis: Strengthening Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for Every Filipino," examined government spending trends from 2015 to 2025 and analyzed the 2026 national budget alongside selected food security indicators.PIDS Senior Research Fellow Roehlano Briones and Supervising Research Specialist Agnes Kristine Quilinguing said agricultural development appropriations increased from P89 billion in 2015 to P278 billion in 2026, representing an average annual increase of about 11 percent.Agricultural interventions accounted for roughly 3.4 percent of the national budget, or P231.5 billion, in 2026. Meanwhile, social protection programs related to food security received P68.9 billion, equivalent to 1.01 percent of the national budget.These programs cover agricultural development initiatives, supplementary feeding, school-based feeding, nutrition supplementation and other anti-hunger interventions.The findings point to the need for a broader approach to food security that goes beyond increasing agricultural production to address food affordability, nutrition and the effective delivery of social protection programs.The school-based feeding program was among the fastest-growing allocations, more than doubling in 2026 to P25.7 billion and accounting for more than half of the allocations for social protection programs.Briones said increased government spending must be accompanied by policies that improve agricultural productivity, support farmers' incomes and keep food affordable.He called for the right incentives for the private sector, farmers and government agencies under a coherent policy and programming framework.He also stressed the need to balance domestic production with imports when necessary, while supporting agricultural commodities in which Filipino farmers can compete.The study identified fragmented responsibilities and uneven budget execution as major obstacles to assessing the effectiveness of government food security interventions.In 2024, the Department of Social Welfare and Development disbursed 88.1 percent of the appropriations covered by the study, while the Department of Education disbursed 86.2 percent.The corresponding disbursement rates were considerably lower for the Department of Agriculture at 62.5 percent, the Department of Agrarian Reform at 64.1 percent and the National Nutrition Council at 61 percent.Quilinguing said improving access to nutritious food was not solely the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, noting that several national government agencies and local government units were involved in implementing agricultural and social protection programs.She recommended

mapping 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 wanted person, ranked ninth on the list, during a manhunt operation at around 9 p.m. at the corner of Commandante Garcia and Park Avenue streets in Barangay 88, Pasay City.The arrested individual was identified as alias "Burnok," 33, Filipino, single, unemployed and a resident of Barangay 88, Pasay City.The arrest was carried out by Pasay City Police Station personnel led by PSMS 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 Oplan Galugad by virtue of a warrant of arrest for violation of Section 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, 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 Vertido Duque, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 119, Pasay City. Bail was set at P200,000.The arrested individual was informed of the reason for his arrest and apprised of his constitutional rights in a language he understood. He, however, opted to remain silent.The accused is currently detained at the Pasay City Police Station's custodial facility, while the warrant 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.