

HONG KONG NEWS

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FDHs await wage hike decision

The Philippine Consulate General intends to inform the HK government of its plan to ban window-cleaning for FDHs.



Social Welfare Attaché Elizabeth Lim Dy helps an FDH save her marriage with her jealous husband in the Philippines.



Popular showbiz couple Drew Arellano and Iya Villania are celebrating after the birth of their baby, Antonio Primo, on August 30.



Foreign domestic workers marched on September 4 in Central to ask for a \$5,000 minimum wage, a food allowance of \$1,600, a safe working environment, and regulated working hours. Migrant groups expect the decision on the proposed wage hike to come out before the month ends.

By Philip C. Tubeza

MIGRANT groups expect the Hong Kong government to come out with its decision on the proposed wage increase for foreign

domestic workers before the month ends, a migrant leader said.

Dolores Balladares, chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-Migrante-HK), said Labour Department officials implied in their last meeting that the decision could come out at the end of the month.

“We expect it at the end of September. So, malapit na,” Balladares said in an interview.

“Hindi nila sinabi exactly kung kailan pero nabanggit nila na the same practice of

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Labatt pursues window-cleaning ban

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE Philippine Consulate General will inform the Hong Kong government later this month of its plan to stop processing contracts of Filipino domestic workers if they are required to clean windows of high-rise buildings.

Labor Attaché Jalilo dela Torre said Consul General Bernardita Catalla wants to implement the new policy as soon as possible.

“Ang position ni ConGen, iimplement na. Sa (Setyembre) 27, may TWG (technical working group) meeting (with HK government officials) so sasabihin namin para malaman din ng HK government ang aming move,” Dela Torre said in an interview.

“Sa TWG, number one agenda yan,” he added.

Catalla said that, once the Department of Labor and Employment in Manila approves the ban, it would be implemented.

“We are here to protect Filipinos and



Dela Torre

it’s been proven that cleaning windows endangers the lives of Filipinos. We just have to inform the Hong Kong government about it,” Catalla said.

Dela Torre said he plans to stop verifying FDH contracts unless they have a categorical “exception” stating that the worker would not be cleaning windows from the outside.

added.

Dela Torre earlier sent a memo to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III to ask for his permission to implement the new policy.

“I’ve suggested to the Secretary—nag-memo ako—na hindi na namin iverify ang contracts pag walang exception to the cleaning duties,” he said.

“Ino-oppose ng mga agencies yan. So, I’ve asked the Secretary for clearance na hindi na namin iverify kung walang exception,” he said.

“We will see kung anong (reply). Kung papayag sila, ita-take effect na namin yan,” he added.

Dela Torre said he sent the memo to Bello after domestic worker Rinalyn Dulluog fell to her death on August 9 while cleaning the windows of her employer’s flat on the 49th floor of their building in Tsuen Kwan O.

The police are still investigating Dulluog’s death but the consulate does not want another incident of an FDH falling from a high-rise building because she had

to clean the windows.

Dela Torre said the “exception” on cleaning windows could be specified under the heading of “Others” in the list of domestic duties for FDHs in their standard employment contract.

“Dun kasi sa contract, meron dun ‘Others.’ Puwede mag-agree yung employer at worker kung ano pa ang duties at kung ano ang hindi dapat. So, baka yun ang opening na gagawin namin,” he said.

Dela Torre said he also met with the different associations of employment agencies here in Hong Kong to consult them on the matter but they suggested that FDHs get training on occupational safety.

“I met the associations at ang suggestions nila is yung training on occupational safety o orientation on occupational safety pero I have grave doubts about the effectiveness of that,” he said.

“Parang it raises expectations pa nga na it’s alright to clean outside the windows as long as you’re trained. Hindi ako pabor dun,” he added.

CSC exam review eyed

By Philip C. Tubeza

LABOR Attaché Jalilo dela Torre plans to hold free review classes to prepare Filipino domestic workers who want to take the civil service exams on November 27.

Dela Torre said the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) could organize reviews for two Sundays prior the exam to prepare the examinees.

“We’ll try to organize two Sundays para sa review at kukuha tayo ng mga volunteers sa community,” Dela Torre said in an interview.

“Madali lang naman kasi yung exam na yan. Three hours lang yata yan. Hindi masyadong intensive ang review... may logic, English, Math,” he added.

Dela Torre said Civil Service Commission (CSC) confirmed that the pen and paper civil service eligibility exam for OFWs in Hong Kong will be held on No-

vember 27.

He said the online registration link will be published later. The registration period is from Oct. 31 to Nov. 11.

He also said the examination fee is US\$44. POLO volunteers will go around Hong Kong to get the signatures of those who want to take the exams.

“This is the first time that the CSC is going to hold it outside the Philippines,” Dela Torre said.

Meanwhile, a total of 695 Filipino domestic workers are taking the Professional Regulation Commission’s (PRC) Licensure Exam for Teachers on September 25.

Dela Torre said five of these examinees asked the PRC if they could take the exam in the Philippines since they have already gone home.

“May five requests ng transfer kasi umuwi o magbabakasyon at may isang tinerminate,” he said.

Judge requires presence of Emry’s owner

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A Small Claims Tribunal judge required the presence of Ester Ylagan, the owner of the shuttered Emry’s Employment Agency, in two cases being tried in her court.

“It is in the best interest of the defendant if she appears here in court if these cases were only based on a misunderstanding [as she claims]. She has many cases here.

“She has enough time to come back to Hong Kong from the Philippines,” Adjudicator Jacqueline Lee told Ylagan’s representative in a hearing on September 9.

The judge also said the defendant would not be allowed to have a representative in the next hearing.

Adjudicator Lee also told the two claimants, Caridao Godin, and Mary Dumangeng, that it would be better if they amend their complaint and instead put “Ester Ylagan trading as Mike’s Secretarial Services Agency”.

“Ask for help from the Consulate or check records [thru] the Business Registration Search. There should be no problem because the defendant admitted that she is the sole owner of the [employment agency],” the judge said.

Adjudicator Lee set the next hearing of the two cases on September 14.

Meanwhile, Assistance to Nationals officer Lorna Mojica of the Philippine Consulate General told Hong Kong News that they continued to receive complaints against Emry’s.

“There are at least 250 complaints we

received so far,” she said.

Complainants said they paid at least \$10,000 each so their papers to work in the UK or Canada could be processed.

Emry’s is said to be the biggest provider of Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong.

The owner of Emry’s had insisted to POLO officials that she did not intend to dupe the jobseekers and promised that she would refund the applicants.

She also complained about the POLO decision to stop the processing contracts submitted by Emry’s saying that this was done “without due process”.

The Hong Kong Police have yet to wrap up its probe on the criminal complaints against Ylagan, and Emry’s.

Emry’s office in World Wide House has been closed since June.

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Macau OFWS to meet Bello

OVERSEAS Filipino workers from Macau also want to meet Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III when he visits Hong Kong later this month, a migrant leader said.

Dolores Balladares, chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong (UNIFIL-Migrante-HK) said Bello’s office had confirmed that the labor chief would be in Hong Kong from September 24-25.

He will meet members of the Filipino community at the University of Hong Kong on September 25.

“Gusto rin ng mga OFW sa Macau na makausap siya tungkol sa kanilang labor concerns. Gusto nilang hilingin na magbukas ang consulate duon kapag Sunday,” Balladares said.

The community meeting with Bello will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Theater 2 of the Meng Wah Complex of the University of Hong Kong.

The meeting was coorganized by the university’s Centre for Criminology and Department of Sociology.

Philip C. Tubeza



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FDH finds way to keep family intact

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

HERE'S one feel-good story.

A 45-year-old Filipino domestic worker whose marriage was on the brink of collapse found a way to reconcile with her husband and keep her family intact.

Chie said she had sought the help of Social Welfare Attache Elizabeth Lim Dy after her husband kept her children from communicating with her for more than four months. It was the second time that her children were kept from her after she and her husband had an argument.

"Sabi ko sa kaibigan ko kagabi, huwag siyang susuko, kasi kapag pinagharap kayo, hindi naman kayo paghihiwalayin agad hanggang sa mapag-isipan ninyo iyan," Chie said in an interview on August 28 at the Philippine Consulate General.

"Ako, ayoko na talaga at halos ayaw ko nang umuwi pero masaya na kami. Ngayon ko nae-enjoy ang buhay ko."

Chie met her husband when they were working as caregivers in Israel in 1991, and after getting married, they had their first child in 1999. In 2003, she, her husband and their son went home to the Philippines following an escalation of conflict in the Middle East during the US-Iraq war.

When they were starting out, Chie said her husband had always been jealous, and he would lash out at her. She endured it because she did not want a broken family.

"Dahil seloso nga siya kahit doon sa Israel at dahil ayoko nga ng broken family na maranasan ng anak ko tiis, tiis hanggang sa bumalik kami ng Pilipinas at ganun pa din sakal na sakal ako," Chie said.

In the Philippines, she said she gave birth to their youngest child - a daughter. They then purchased a house in Bulacan.

In 2009, her husband failed to pass an employment test for Dubai, so she applied for a domestic helper job in Hong Kong.

"Noong nakarating din naman ako dito sa Hong Kong, sakit-ulo din kasi naglalasing siya at ipasok o hindi niya ang mga anak ko sa school eh nasa private school ang mga anak ko.

"Iyong mga bata, hindi niya hinahatid kapag nalalasaing siya so iyong mga bata laging may summer class, eh mahal ang summer class," Chie said.

Inquiring from her children's teachers thru online chatting, she learned that her children was scared of telling her about their father's drinking habits.

Then sometime in the first half last year, her husband asked her for money because he was sick. She refused to give him money as she was paying for their kids' tuition.

Her husband then demanded the title of their house, but she also refused. Owing to this, her husband cut off their internet subscription in Bulacan, preventing Chie from communicating with her children.

She said it was the second time that her husband kept her children from her. The first time was about three years ago when she did not take her annual leave and instead opted to remain in Hong Kong.

"Hindi lang ilang beses nilayo ang mga bata sa akin, ilang beses niyang ginamit ang mga bata. Kapag nagkakaproblema kami hindi niya talaga pinapakita ang bata. Iyong unang beses, talagang nababaliw ako tapos inulit na naman niya.

"Hanggang sa naisip ko na lang na bakit tuwing nag-aaway kami ganun ang ginagawa niya kaya naisip kong lumapit kay Ms. Dy bandang May," Chie said.

Following her husband's action, Chie said she also stopped remitting money to



Dy meets with Chie again at the Philippine Consulate General

him. But after four months of refusing to remit any money to her husband, she relented and started sending money again. Chie thought her husband would subscribe to internet services again, but he did not.

During these months, she said she would ask her mother to visit her husband and children in Bulacan. Her daughter would also reload prepaid phone credits so they could talk online or over the phone. Their conversations, however, would always be short because her daughter was scared her father would catch her talking to Chie.

"Sabi ng nanay ko, mukha namang ok ang asawa ko. Pero hindi pa rin pinapakita ng asawa ko ang mga anak ko kaya nakikibalita ako sa mga kapitbahay namin.

"Naisip ko kasi noon na bakit ako magpapadala ng pera kung hindi naman niya pinapakita ang mga bata, iipunin ko na lang. Nagpapadala ako sa mga kapitbahay namin kahit konting pera para sa pang-lunch nila," she said.

Chie also then started submitting her re-

quirements to the Department of Social Welfare and Development so she could name her mother, who lives in Caloocan, as the caretaker of her children while she was working in Hong Kong. Between May and December 2015, the DSWD prepared documents to help Chie. She also took advantage of the free legal consultation held by members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines at the PCG.

One of the IBP members advised her against giving her husband the title of their house and instead told her to pay her husband's share of the property and make him leave their conjugal home.

In 2015, she decided to spend Christmas home. Armed with documents from the DSWD, she was determined to finally leave her husband.

"Sabi ko sa anak ko, kapag hindi ko kayo nakita sa airport sa araw ng pagdating ko sa December 13, hindi ninyo magugustuhan ang gagawin ko. Noong araw na iyon, wala sila sa airport. Umuulan noon, pero

nalaman ko iniuwi niya ang mga anak ko sa Pampanga," she said. Chie stayed at her mother's house in Caloocan.

In the next two days, she went to Bulacan to try to take her kids from her husband. On the third day, her husband and her kids returned to Bulacan, and backed up by two vans of police officers from the Women's Desk of the Philippine National Police, and barangay officials, they were taken to the DSWD office for a conference. At the DSWD office, the officer asked Chie and her husband what they wanted.

Chie said she wanted to leave her husband but would continue remitting money. Her husband replied that he would not oppose whatever she wanted. The children said they wanted to keep their family intact if there was still a way to do so.

The DSWD officer then told Chie's husband that it was wrong to cut the internet connection because the couple was fighting. Chie was told that she should have continued sending money because her husband could not provide for all the needs of their family. The social welfare officer told Chie and her husband that should they decide to separate, their communication with each other should remain.

"Umiiyak siya, nakita ko. Sabi niya sa akin 'walang dalang damit ang mga bata, at hindi pa kumakain'. Sabi ko 'papakainin ko na lang. Sumama ka na sa amin para mag-usap tayo'," Chie said.

She started processing the paper for the legal separation of their properties, but she received a phone call from her husband who asked her to meet him.

"Nagkita kami, ang sabi niya sa akin 'meron ka na ba talagang iba?' Sabi ko 'wala. Gusto ko lang mawala ka sa buhay ko para magkaroon ako ng peace of mind'," Chie said. "Bigyan mo pa ako ng chance," Chie's husband said.

When she told her children that she would tour them and her mother to Hong Kong, the children said they also wanted their father to join the trip.

"Naiintidihan ko naman, kaya para maging masaya sila, sabi ko na isasama natin ang papa ninyo," she said.

Two days before her return to Hong Kong, Chie's husband once more asked her for another chance.

"Iyon naman ang sinabi ng women's desk na bigyan mo pa ako ng chance at kapag talagang hindi ko magampanan [sige maghiwalay na tayo]," Chie quoted her husband as saying.

After coming back to Hong Kong, Chie said her husband had communicated with her daily. The internet subscription in their home in Bulacan was also restored.

In April, she took her husband, children and her mother to Hong Kong. They stayed in her employer's home in Pok Fu Lam.

"Sabi ng amo ko, 'happy family pala kayo, Chie'," she said.

Upon her family's return to the Philippines, Chie bought a tricycle so her husband could earn money. Her son, who stopped schooling, sought part-time work in Manila and also went back to school.

"Nakita ko iyong mga pagbabago sa asawa at mga anak ko. Kaya nga sabi ko 'Lord, sana, tuloy-tuloy na ito'," she added.

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Veteran Pinoy pickpocket gets 4 years

By Philip C. Tubeza

A District Court judge sentenced a 62-year-old Filipino grandfather to a total of four years in prison after he was caught pick-pocketing in Hong Kong for the ninth time.

District Court Judge David John Dufton on September 7 convicted farmer Rodolfo D. Amigo after the Filipino pleaded guilty to attempted theft and breach of deportation order.

Amigo was "banned for life" from Hong Kong after he was deported in 1986 but he was able to slip back into the territory 12 times using other names and passports.

"No one-third (discount)? Four years? No one-third?" a bewildered Amigo said after hearing his total prison sentence of four years.

Judge Dufton explained that he had already been given a one-third discount for his guilty plea and that his sentence of two years and eight months for breach of deportation order was already on the "lighter side."

Another defendant who breached his



District Court

deportation order five times was imprisoned for three and a half years. Another defendant who broke it for the 7th time got four years.

Amigo, who was in breach of his deportation order for the 12th time, was sentenced to only two years and eight months.

"If you decide to break into Hong Kong again, you'll get a much higher prison term I imagine," Judge Dufton said.

The Filipino arrived in Hong Kong on May 28 as a tourist and had a Cebu Pacific ticket for a return flight on June 1.

But on May 30, two policemen noticed him acting suspiciously outside a bakeshop in Terminal 1 of the Hong Kong International Airport.

Amigo went inside the bakeshop and, using his coat as a cover, he opened the rucksack of an American businessman.

The businessman, who was waiting for his flight for Malaysia, had left his rucksack and suitcase on one of the bakeshop's tables.

Amigo took out the businessman's passport holder from the rucksack and left the bakeshop. Outside, he opened the passport holder and saw that it only contained the businessman's passport and boarding pass.

After this discovery, he went back inside the bakeshop and left the American's passport holder on top of a food tray. The police officers, who had been observing the Filipino, arrested him.

After a fingerprint check, it was discovered that Amigo had been banned from Hong Kong since September 16, 1986.

However, he was still caught 11 more times (not counting the latest incident) inside Hong Kong. He also had eight theft convictions, all related to pick-pocketing.

Amigo's other aliases were Ronald L. Reyes, Ronald Lopez Reyes, Mario S. Puno, Mendoza S. Romulo, Ricky S. Amigo, Alvin S. Layo, Sosa Mark Razon, Natividad Arnaldo, Rodolfo Valencia Villota,

Isidoro Nido Malabanan, Renato Belano Pitong, Aldo Balingit Dela Cruz, Ferdinand Valencia Villota, Villota Rodolfa Valencia, Villota Rodolfo, Natividad Arnaldo, Romulo S. Mendoza, Rickys Amigo, and Malaban Isidro Nido.

Amigo's lawyer said the defendant, who has six children, was remorseful about what happened and that he came back to Hong Kong only because his daughter died after she fell ill.

The lawyer said Amigo had to take care of five grandchildren children that his daughter left behind.

The lawyer said Amigo earned \$2,500 a month from his farm but he had to mortgage it to pay for his daughter's medical bills. He then lost his farm when he could no longer pay the loan.

"There was no other way for him to raise money...He is very remorseful and promises not to come back to Hong Kong. He apologizes for the wrong done to the victim," the lawyer said.

With Amigo in prison, his five grandchildren are now under the care of their grandmother, the lawyer added.

2 pickpockets almost get away with \$100K in TST

By Philip C. Tubeza

THEY almost got away with \$100,000.

A District Court judge convicted two Filipino tourists who were caught pick-pocketing \$100,000 from a bus commuter in Tsim Sha Tsui (TST).

District Court Judge Yiu on September 13 sentenced Wilson F. Lacharon, a tricycle driver, and Joseph Erwin T. Dacidilla, a carpenter, to prison after they were caught at a bus stop on Gillies Avenue South.

"Theft is a serious offense, particularly pick-pocketing. The defendants acted in concert. The facts are serious," Judge Yiu said.

He sentenced Lacharon to 18 months in jail while Dacidilla was ordered jailed for 28 months because he was also charged with breach of deportation order and making a false representation to an immigration officer.

It turned out that Dacidilla was deported from Hong Kong only last year and was banned from coming back after he was jailed for theft.

Judge Yiu said the latest incident happened at around 4:30 p.m. on May 11 after the victim, a certain Mr. Yu, withdrew \$100,000 from a bank in Hung Hom, and put the money in an envelope.

He boarded a bus going to TST. Inside the bus, Lacharon stood on the victim's

left and Dacidilla on his right.

When they got to the bus stop at Gillies Avenue South, the victim noticed Lacharon tapping his left leg.

He then heard someone tell the bus driver "not to drive away" while Lacharon got off the bus.

The victim then noticed that the envelope containing his money was no longer in his pocket, while outside, policemen collared Lacharon.

It turned out that the police officers had already noticed that the two defendants were acting suspiciously and so the lawmen followed the bus.

But when they searched Lacharon, he did not have the missing envelope with

him.

The victim then saw Dacidilla drop something near the bottom of the stairs of the double-decker bus. It was the missing envelope with the cash.

The defendants' lawyer asked the court for leniency, saying that the two were remorseful about what happened and that they will not do it again.

He said Lacharon, 42, had two children back in the Philippines and earned only P4,500 a month from his job as a tricycle driver.

On the other hand, Dacidilla, 44, earned P6,500 a month from his carpentry work but had to take care of his family of eight, including his parents.

Drug courier is Venezuelan

By Cheryl Arcibal and Bing Jabadan

THE drug courier arrested at the Hong Kong international airport with \$3.9 million worth of cocaine on Sunday evening was a woman from Venezuela and not a Filipina, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) officials said this morning (September 8).

DFA spokesperson Charles Jose said the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong had confirmed that the female suspect was not a Filipino citizen.

"Our consulate in HK was able to verify with HK authorities that the accused is not a Filipino," Jose said.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin, head of the consulate's Assistance to Nationals Section, said they were able to confirm that the suspect, identified as a certain Ibarra Colmenares, was a Venezuelan. She passed by Manila in transit to Hong Kong.

The 30-year-old woman was arrested upon her arrival at the Hong Kong International Airport after customs officers found 3.33 kilograms of suspected high grade cocaine inside her check-in baggage.

The suspected drug mule, who claimed to be a hairstylist, was slapped with one count of trafficking in a dangerous drug. The drugs were hidden in 37 packs of hair care products.

Under Hong Kong's Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence with maximum penalty of life imprisonment and \$5-million fine.

The police in Manila are still investigating how a Filipino was able to fly to Hong Kong on July 30 with 720 grams of cocaine.

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Agency convicted of overcharging Pinay

By Cheryl Arcibal

HER trip to Hong Kong paid off.

A judge in Tsuen Wan convicted an employment agency of overcharging after a Filipino domestic worker flew in all the way from Manila to testify against it.

Special Magistrate Lau Suk-han found Jen's Employment Agency Limited guilty of two counts of receiving payment other than the prescribed commission after domestic worker R.P. Manuel testified on August 22.

The judge fined the agency a total of \$24,000 and ordered it to pay \$5,589 to Manuel, who is now back in the Philippines.

"The agency will have to pay the fine in 30 days. They can still process employment papers, but if they commit another offense, the fine will be higher," the prosecutor told Hong Kong News after the verdict was handed down on September 1.

The prosecutor also said that this was the employment agency's first conviction.

Manuel testified on August 22 that Jen's made her pay \$12,000 (P72,000) to get a job in Hong Kong.

"I was terminated in March and a new domestic worker from the same agency immediately replaced me. So, my elder sister said I had to testify to put a stop to this," Manuel said.

Hong Kong labor rules allow agencies to collect fees only up to 10 percent of the worker's first monthly wage. The current minimum wage for foreign domestic helpers is \$4,210.

But according to Manuel, she paid \$12,000 (P72,000) to Jen's Employment Agency Limited for processing her employment papers.

She also paid a "referral fee" of P10,000 to a certain Rihanna/Jennifer, who supposedly referred Filipinas to the agency.

The Labour Department shouldered all the expenses of her trip so that Manuel could testify against Jen's in court.

The POLO earlier said that Jen's was not accredited by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and, therefore, was not authorized to recruit Filipino domestic workers.

In her testimony, Manuel said that she met in mid-2015 a certain Jennifer Cheung in the Philippines, who told her she had to pay \$12,000 to get a job in Hong Kong.

"Ang pagkakasabi, pag na-employ ako, magbabayad ako ng \$12,000 para sa pag-process ng mga papel ko para makapunta sa Hong Kong para magtrabaho," Manuel said.

"Babayaran iyon sa loob ng apat na buwan, o \$3,000 sa tuwing matatanggap ko ang sweldo kop o," she added.



Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Court

Manuel said Rihanna/Jennifer told her that Cheung was the owner of Jen's.

Manuel arrived in Hong Kong in August 2015 and started working for Amy Tong at the Bellagio in Sham Tseng.

The Filipina said Jen's kept her passport and contract to make sure that she paid the entire \$12,000. On October 11, 2015, Manuel went to the office of Jen's in Nan Fung Centre, Castle Peak Road, in Tsuen Wan to make her first payment. She saw Rihanna/Jennifer there.

"Nilapitan niya ako at sinabing pwedeng siya na ang magbayad dahil mahaba ang pila noon," Manuel said.

She said she gave Rihanna/Jennifer the

first installment of \$3,000 and the P10,000 "referral fee." She said Rihanna/Jennifer later went to her employer's flat to give her the receipt for the \$3,000.

However, the receipt showed that it was issued by Sliver Brighter, a lending company.

Manuel said she returned to the office of Jen's three more times---on November 1, November 22, and January 3, 2016---to pay the remaining installments until she paid the entire \$12,000.

She was also issued receipts but they all bore the name of Sliver Brighter Limited. Manuel said she did not ask why the receipts bore the name of Sliver Brighter

because she thought she was paying Jen's. "I did not question it because this was the receipt that they gave me," Manuel said.

In his cross-examination of the witness, the employment agency's lawyer presented a document showing that Manuel had borrowed \$12,000 from Sliver Brighter.

It was dated August 24, 2015---a day before Manuel started working for Tong---and bore the Filipina's signature.

Manuel said she could not remember if she signed the document but she insisted that she never took out a loan with Sliver Brighter.

It was in February 2015 that the POLO forwarded to the Labour Department the formal complaints of four domestic workers against Jen's Employment Agency for collecting illegal placement fees.

Then acting POLO chief Ma. Nena German said the agency was also accused of keeping a domestic worker's passport and employment contract until she paid a \$4,300 processing fee.

She said the cases were serious because Jen's was not accredited with the POLO. It processed the workers' applications through two other agencies.

German said the POLO had suspended the two other employment agencies involved---Genuiscom International Limited and Topman Asia Limited.

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Convicted Pinay appeals to High Court

By Philip C. Tubeza

INSISTING that her employer mopped her face, a Filipino domestic helper asked the High Court to overturn her conviction for theft.

Although she is now back in the Philippines, domestic worker Nora L.A., through her lawyer Philip Ross, asked Deputy High Court Judge Johnny Chan on September 2 to overturn her conviction for stealing \$500 from her employer.

The Filipina was convicted in February for stealing from her employers in Aberdeen on October 14 last year. Nora claimed she was framed up so that they would not pay her one-month salary in lieu of notice after she was terminated.

Ross told the High Court that the magistrate who convicted Nora erred in his verdict, particularly in saying that Nora did not report to the police that her employer mopped her face.

"That's wrong. She did report it after she was arrested at the Aberdeen police

station. She did report it," Ross said.

Eastern Magistrate Jason Wan had cited her supposed failure to report the incident as one of his bases for doubting Nora's credibility.

"The basis for (the magistrate's finding that Nora) was not telling the truth was faulty," Ross said.

The lawyer also said that there were "lurking doubts" about the case that needed reconsideration.

"The evidence was not properly assessed," Ross said.

He noted that, hours before Nora's employers confronted her about the missing \$500 on October 15, she had gone to a remittance company to send money to her family back in the Philippines.

If she had stolen the \$500, why keep it instead of remitting it back to the Philippines? Ross asked.

He noted that the \$500 was found "folded into a small square" in an old wallet of Nora's that was kept in her room.

"It's not logical. If she had taken it, she



Nora claimed her employer mopped her face

should have spent it or remitted it. She had the opportunity to dispose of it but she never did. An ordinary domestic helper is in need of money," Ross said.

He also noted that the old wallet was kept in an "unlocked drawer" and that there was no other money in the old wallet except for the \$500.

"If you steal money, you mix it with your own. If you look at the wallet, you can't miss (the \$500)," he said.

Ross also questioned the magistrate's finding that Nora's employer could not have framed her up because her female employer was pregnant and was going to give birth soon.

"At that time, they desperately needed the defendant. Why take the trouble to frame her up and terminate her contract and then look for a new domestic helper when they do not know if he or she (the new domestic worker) is of any good?" Judge Wan had said in his verdict.

However, Ross said that the employers' court testimony showed that they had every reason to get rid of her "at all cost."

He noted that they told the magistrate that Nora had committed "so many mistakes, was unclean, wasted food, had allowed a stranger to get into their home, and had given their phone number to a loan company."

Ross said that, with the couple expecting a baby, they could have wanted the domestic worker out of their house because of these numerous complaints.

He added that the couple might not have wanted to pay Nora's one month notice because they did not want to "throw good money after bad" or spend more money on something they considered a problem.

Eastern Courts Magistrate Jason Wan on February 25 found Nora guilty of one charge of theft.

"(Her employers) did not frame up the defendant. They were reliable witnesses and their evidence was clear, unshaken under thorough cross examination," Judge Wan said.

The magistrate sentenced Nora to three weeks in jail but suspended it for 12 months.

Judge Wan said that Nora's employers "desperately needed" her at the time of the incident because her female employer was pregnant.

Nora's male employer said he earned \$100,000 a month from his real estate agency and that they were able to get a new foreign domestic helper only in January.

Judge Wan also noted that the police officer who investigated the case was also "unshaken" under cross examination.

"The officer had no reason to fabricate a case against the defendant... The only logical conclusion is that the defendant is not telling the truth," Judge Wan said.

The magistrate said that being convicted in a breach of trust case required immediate imprisonment.

But since the amount involved was "relatively small" and Nora might not be able to work again in Hong Kong, Judge Wan said imposed a suspended sentence.

The 44-year-old domestic worker is married and has two daughters, aged 9 and 11 years old, back in the Philippines.

Ross earlier told the court that it would have been "easy" for her employers to put the "missing" \$500 bill in Nora's old wallet since her room had no lock.

He added that Nora had made mistakes and was a "worthy candidate" for contract termination, but her employers did not want to give her one-month salary in lieu of notice.

"They were overly suspicious of her... [Nora] had worked as domestic helper in Taiwan, and the United Arab Emirates and she had no accusation like this before. Why would she risk her unblemished record for \$500?" he said.

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FDHs...

From page 1

conducting consultations bago maglabas ng desisyon will be the same this year," she added.

In the last three years, the Hong Kong government announced every September 30 its decision on wage increases for FDHs.

The government announced a \$90 wage hike in 2013, \$100 in 2014, and another \$100 last year.

This time around, migrant groups are asking for a \$790 wage increase from the current minimum allowable wage of \$4,210 to a flat \$5,000. They are also asking for a food allowance of \$1,600 for FDHs.

The workers held a protest march on September 4 and called for better safety regulations at work, particularly a ban on cleaning windows from the outside of high-rise buildings, and regulated working hours.

The march, led by the Asian Migrants Coordinating Body, included groups like the UNIFIL, Association of Sri Lankans in Hong Kong, Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Hong Kong, Far-East Overseas Nepalese Association - Hong Kong, Filipino Migrant Workers' Union, Friends of Thai - Hong Kong, and the Indonesian Migrants Muslim Alliance.

Members of the Indonesian Migrant Workers' Union, League of Indonesian



FDHs are also asking for regulated working hours.

Migrant Workers, Overseas Nepali Workers' Union, Thai Regional Alliance, and United Indonesians Against Overcharging also joined the march.

Balladares said Labour officials were noncommittal about the wage hike during the consultation meeting with FDHs on August 15.

"Unang bungad pa lang nila, sinabi kaagad na hindi maganda ang ekonomiya ngayon. Parang binibigyan tayo ng pangitain. I-coconsult din daw nila ang mga employers," Balladares said.

"Pero hindi rason yung 'economy of Hong Kong is not doing well' para hindi tayo mabigyan ng increase," she said.

"Noong maganda ba ang economy ng Hong Kong, nabigyan ba tayo ng mataas na increase? Hindi rin naman nakinabang ang mga foreign domestic workers tulad natin. So, madaling i-rebut yung argument

na yan," she added.

She said they also asked the Labour officials for the formula they use in determining the wage increase but were told that they had none.

Balladares said her group conducted a study which showed that foreign domestic workers should get \$5,334.91 to meet their basic needs while living in Hong Kong.

"However, we are asking for \$5,000 a month because the wage of local workers/employers has not significantly increased in the past years," Balladares said.

"Siyempre, unlike before na yung mga rich lang ang may kasambahay, ngayon marami na ring mga employer na hindi mayaman, she added.

Balladares said the study considered the rising cost of living in Hong Kong, the working hours of domestic workers, and the need for a "living wage."

10 NAIA passengers caught with bullets but no arrests

By Bing Jabadan

THE "no arrest" policy of passengers caught with bullets is being implemented at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Chief Supt. Mao Aplasca, Philippine National Police - Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG) said that, since July 30, they have intercepted 10 passengers for having bullets with them but no one was arrested or prevented from boarding his flight.

He said eight of the 10 passengers were members of the PNP or the Armed Forces of the Philippines who were caught with bullets in their luggage.

Aplasca said they are implementing the order of President Duterte to allow the passengers caught with bullets to board their flights.

"The 'laglag-bala' modus operandi is a thing of the past and we assure the public that they no longer have to worry that they will miss their flight or get arrested for possession of ammunition," Aplasca said.

He said the public need not worry anymore about getting arrested, detained or charged in court if ever ammunition is found in their baggage.

Passengers caught with bullets will undergo immediate profiling and, if it is established that they are not connected to

any terrorist / criminal group or have no criminal intention, they will be immediately released and allowed to board their flight.

Aplasca said that PNP-ASG is capable to determine if a passenger was a member of a terrorist organization or criminal syndicate through profiling or background investigation.

He also assured the traveling public of their safety, adding that they will be allowed to travel provided that no firearm is confiscated together with any ammunition found in their luggage.

Aplasca said that the different security agencies involved in securing NAIA will conduct regular security planning session to ensure a more "harmonious" security program at the airport.

The "tanim-bala" scheme was exposed last year after American Lane Michael White, the son of a missionary, was arrested and jailed for six days after he refused to shell out P30,000 in exchange for the dismissal of the possession of ammunition charges against him.

Domestic worker Gloria Ortinez was also detained and charged after a bullet was supposedly found in her bag. The cases against White, Ortinez and other victims were eventually dismissed by the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

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Oh boy, it's Hanoi!

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

"DON'T worry, they know how to avoid you."

This was the assurance made to us by our tour guide as we navigate by foot the busy, chaotic streets of Hanoi, Vietnam amid what seemed like millions of motorbikes. And much like its narrow streets full of swerving motorbikes, Hanoi will hit your senses all at once.

Arriving on a balmy Saturday afternoon, a day after Vietnam celebrated its Independence Day on September 2, the Hanoineses were still on a holiday mode. Traffic was moderate and many locals were out either dining, or shopping.

Our first stop was the Ba Dinh Square and in its center was the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, where the embalmed body of Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh was preserved. The body lies in a glass case with dim lights.

The building was inspired by Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow. And that's one thing about Hanoi: it is proud of all its heritages and influences.

Ba Dinh Square was also home to the Presidential Palace, built in 1902.

The Parliament House, which was in-



Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi

augurated in late 2014, was also on Ba Dinh Square. A short walk or turn from the Square, and you would find yourself in the tree-lined avenues where most foreign embassies were.

Hanoi, like most cities of developing economies, is full of life. One thing that

stood out though is that its proud, defiant display of Chinese, French, Soviet and local influences.

In the Old French Quarters, you would find the narrow streets and narrow buildings and structures. Vietnam, was of course, one of France's colonies in Indo-

china.

Along the roads, and you see various Taoist temples - one of the major contributions of China. Vietnam was once part of the Chinese empire, but an independent Vietnamese state was formed after a victory over the Chinese in the battle of Bac

Dang River.

Vietnamese dynasties then successively ruled the state until the French colonized the Indochina Peninsula.

But perhaps, the most significant part of Vietnamese history was the Vietnam War (1954-1975). It was a proxy war between then two superpowers - the US, which supported the South Vietnamese Army; and the Soviet Union, which supported the North Vietnamese army.

The North, eventually subdued the South, resulting in the reunification of Vietnam and the spread of communism in neighboring Cambodia, and Laos.

But if these history details bore you, then Hanoi still has more to offer you.

With cheap prices and famous cuisine, foodies would be delighted in Hanoi.

Walk down the streets and you would see stalls of the famous Vietnamese noodles pho, and people on the sidewalk happily slurping its hearty soup. Other must try dishes were the fresh and fried spring rolls. It is said that during the days of royalties in Vietnam, only the aristocrats got to eat the spring rolls, hence its importance in Vietnamese cuisine.

One trademark of Vietnamese food is the freshness of its ingredients and this



Mga Katungkulan ng mga Dayuhang Kasambahay



Umiwas sa labis na pangungutang. Huwag bayaran ang iyong ahensiya sa pamamagitan ng pag-utang sa kahit na anong kumpanya na nagpapautang kahit na hilingin ito ng ahensiya.

Gawin lamang ang mga pambahay na tungkulin para sa pamamahay ng amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata. Huwag manilbihan para sa ibang tao bukod sa iyong amo.



Umiwas sa "job-hopping". Kadalasan hindi pinapayagan ang pagpalit ng amo habang wasto pa ang iyong kasalukuyang kontrata maliban sa pambihirang pangyayari. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung aabusuhin ang pagputol sa kontrata nang wala sa panahon.



Mayroon kang libreng tutuluyan sa pamamahay ng iyong amo sa tirahan na nakasaad sa kontrata, at ditto ka lang puwedeng tumira. Maaring hindi na payagan ang iyong pag-apply ng visa sa hinaharap kung titira ka sa labas kahit na pinayagan o binayaran ito ng iyong amo.



Huwag tumanggap ng illegal na trabaho o pansamantalang trabaho kahit na pinayagan o pinakiusapan ka ng iyong amo o ahensiya na gawin iyon.

Maari kang isakdal at paalisin sa Hong Kong kapag napatunayan kang lumabag sa kundisyon ng pananatili.





A Taoist temple

was evident in the way they cooked their fish, and other meats, as well as the abundance of vegetables in the food that they serve.

During weekends, Hanoi streets get their buzz from the night market and bars and restaurants filled with tourists and locals alike.

In the night market, one would find a wide variety of knick knacks, customized gift items and lots of street food. The best thing about them? They were sold cheap and one could still haggle for a cheaper bargain.

If you still have time in Hanoi, then a trip to the spa and the water Puppet Show

should not be missed.

The Water Puppet Show is where you appreciate the uniqueness and the likeness of the Vietnamese culture from the cultures of its colonizers and its neighboring countries.

When walking around Hanoi, though, one must always be mindful of the motorbikes and their riders that seemed to ignore most traffic rules. But the Hanoinese more than make up for it by greeting each tourist with their sweet smile, gentle demeanor and their generosity of "Xin Chao (hello)". And don't worry, those motorbikes and their riders indeed know how to avoid you anyway!



A street performance at the night market



St. Joseph's Cathedral



Streetfood at the night market



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10 PRC ships in Scarborough

By Maia Lopez

THE Department of National Defense has raised the alarm on at least 10 Chinese vessels that have been deployed at Scarborough Shoal and are likely to be used for illegal reclamation activities.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the ships pose a "worrisome" threat to the country's territorial integrity.

He said an aerial survey showed there were four Chinese Coast Guard vessels, four barges and two ships.

"It is very worrisome. Scarborough Shoal is ours. If they created an island out of it, we cannot claim it anymore. Should they start to reclaim and they create structures within it, it would harm the country's security as it is only 39 miles away from Masinloc (Zambales). Our EEZ is 200 miles, but the shoal is located 320 kms away from Luzon, it's really more than half," he said.

"We suspect that they're testing the ground if their technology is okay to do reclamation underwater," he added.

After seeing the surveillance photos, President Rodrigo Duterte has tasked the Department of Foreign Affairs to summon Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, which earlier struck down China's nine-dash-line claim, specifically ruled against



One of the Chinese ships

the construction of man-made islands within the disputed waters, which cause environmental destruction to surrounding waters and marine life.

Duterte said the country can only take so much of China's continued refusal to accept the arbitration ruling favoring the Philippine position.

"We can only take so much. We cannot take a slap every day," the President said.

"There will be a time that I have to make a stand. I also have to be clear to China that their claim in disputed waters is not acceptable," the President added.

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, however, clarified that there had been no change to the situation around the contested Scarborough Shoal.

"I can tell you that there has not been any change to the Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) situation. China has also not taken new actions," Hua said.

Digong highlights Moro deaths in ASEAN

By Maia Lopez

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte made a fiery address during the recently concluded ASEAN-East Asia Summit where he scored the United States for the thousands of Moros killed in Mindanao during the American occupation in the 1900s.

Duterte presented photos of slain Moros in front of his ASEAN colleagues and other foreign leaders such as United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and United States President Barack Obama, who raised the issue of human rights in the forum.

One of the delegates described the atmosphere in the room as "quiet and shocked" as Duterte veered off his prepared speech.

"I did it because I wanted them to stop pressuring us," said Duterte, who has embarked on a bloody anti-drug war since he assumed office.

"I told them, since human rights was mentioned, I produced a few pages pictures in the Pacification campaign by the Americans at the turn of the century. Of the 600,000 Muslims, 6,000 were murdered. They were just buried in a common pit," he said in a speech a day after the ASEAN-EAS meeting.

"This is human rights. What do you intend to do? Do not tell me this is water under the bridge. Human rights violation either committed by Moses or Abraham is still a violation of human rights. When



Duterte at the ASEAN-East Asia Summit

was this philosophy about human dignity in the world evolved? Now? Or during this time?" Duterte recalled telling the leaders.

The President said he was waiting for Obama to respond but the latter kept mum.

"They were all quiet. I was ready to engage them. I was waiting for Obama to respond. If they commit the atrocities, these are not violations? And yet they accuse us of violating human rights," Duterte added.

While Obama did not respond to the issue raised by Duterte, he nonetheless cautioned the Philippine leader to conduct his crime war "the right way."

"We want to partner with the Philippines on the particular issue of narco-traffickers, which is a serious problem in the Philippines. It's a serious problem in the United States and around the world. On that narrow issue, we do want to make sure that the partnership we have is consistent with

international norms and rule of law," Obama said.

"It is important from our perspective to make sure that we do it the right way, because the consequences of when you do it the wrong way is innocent people get hurt and you have a whole bunch of unintended consequences that don't solve the problem," he added.

Duterte and Obama were scheduled to have a bilateral meeting at the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, but the latter cancelled it after learning that he was called by Duterte a "son of whore."

Duterte made the colorful remark when he was asked how he would respond if world leaders like Obama question his human rights record.

Duterte eventually expressed regret for his remarks, and said the slur was not directed at Obama.

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House approves P2K SSS pension hike

By Maia Lopez

THE House committee on government enterprises and privatization has passed a consolidated measure granting a P2,000 pension hike for pensioners of the Social Security System.

The panel passed the revived measure which was earlier vetoed by former president Benigno Aquino III.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Carlos Zarate, one of the principal authors of the measure, said he is hopeful the Senate would be able to give the same level of enthusiasm in ensuring the pension hike gets passed into law this time. The approved measure was a consolidated

version of 15 bills filed at the House of Representatives in the 17th Congress.

"We hope the Senate version would also be expedited so President Rodrigo Duterte can sign this long awaited measure before the year ends," Zarate said.

"The country's senior citizens have long been waiting for their pension to increase and if not for the unwarranted veto of former President Aquino they could have already been enjoying higher pensions now," Zarate added.

Aquino vetoed the approved bill granting the pension hike for fear that this would cause the state pension fund to go bankrupt.

The measure would have increased the

monthly pension to P3,200 from P1,200 for pensioners with 10 credited years of service and to P4,000 from P2,400 for those with 20 years.

Zarate, for his part, downplayed the "doomsday scenario" painted by the past administration.

"That is not true because our laws provide that the Congress can allocate subsidy to the SSS in the event that it runs out of funds. Besides, the government has been subsidizing big corporations, so why not subsidize our SSS pensioners for a change?" Zarate said.

"No matter what happens, the government will be there for the SSS," he added.

State of national emergency declared

At least 14 civilians were killed and about 70 others were injured as a cellphone-detonated improvised bomb made of two mortars went off in a night market in Davao City, prompting President Rodrigo Duterte to place the entire country under a state of national emergency.

Duterte signed Proclamation No. 55 which cited lawless violence in Mindanao as reason for the state of national emergency.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea said the indefinite state of national emergency is not tantamount to Martial Law.

He said the proclamation, which states that

there shall be no suspension of the writ of habeas corpus even as it backs warrantless arrests and searches, does not need Congressional approval.

"All these lawless violence must be quelled," Medialdea said.

Days after the blast, one of the local government officials in Duterte's matrix of drug lords and protectors was brought to the Department of Justice for inquest after he was arrested on drug and gun charges and suspicion of involvement in the bombing.

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre II con-

firmed that Talitay, Maguindanao Vice Mayor Abdulwahab Sabal, his wife Mohanna, his bodyguard Nasser Maulana and driver Norodin Abas faced inquest proceedings shortly after they were arrested in Awang Airport in Maguindanao.

Aguirre said they were also being investigated for possible involvement in the night market blast in Davao City after the Philippine National Police said drug lords may have financed the bombing.

PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa said a group linked to the Islamic State terrorist network was behind the blas

Maia Lopez

Yasay insists Veloso not in death row

By Maia Lopez

THE Indonesian government has taken off convicted Filipino drug mule Mary Jane Veloso from its execution schedule indefinitely, Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. said.

"This is not an urgent issue now," Yasay said in an interview in Jakarta after President Rodrigo Duterte met with Indonesian President Joko Widodo.



Veloso

"Let's finish the process. Her scheduled execution has been deferred because she would be testifying

Yasay said the Philippine government will seek clemency for Veloso once it has been established that she was only a victim of a drug trafficking syndicate.

in the deposition case against her illegal recruiter. After prosecuting the illegal recruiter who are the main principals here and if it turns out in the trial in the Philippines that Mary Jane is a victim then at the point we can ask for clemency soon," he added.

Duterte, for his part, declined to give

details of his conversation with Widodo. "Not for public consumption," Duterte said. "I said that we will continue to respect each other's judicial processes. The rule of law is what matters, as it gives order to the community."

The execution of Veloso, a 31-year-old single mother who is on death row for

drug trafficking, was put on hold last year after the Indonesian government granted the Philippines' request to have her testify in the case against her alleged recruiters.

The Indonesian government has agreed to help the Philippines in prosecuting the people allegedly responsible for trafficking Veloso to Yogyakarta.

Senate to probe raped OFW's death in KSA

By Maia Lopez

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel III is seeking a Senate investigation on the death of rape victim Irma Avila Edloy, an overseas Filipino worker in Saudi Arabia.

Edloy died after reportedly suffering a stroke when her employer visited her at the King Salman Hospital on August 18. She was earlier rushed to the hospital after she was allegedly raped by her employer.

Medical records showed multiple lacerations in her private parts and bruises on her face and body, which were believed to have been caused by sexual abuse.

"Edloy's death must not simply add to the statistics of OFWs whose lives were lost at the hands of abusive employers," Pimentel said.

"It is arguably a necessary requisite to provide 'full protection to labor, local and overseas,' especially for female OFWs,"

he added.

Meanwhile, an OFW based in Dubai has died after allegedly undergoing a breast enlargement procedure via injection from an unlicensed doctor.

The OFW, who hailed from Mexico, Pampanga, worked as a beautician in Dubai.

Authorities are currently attempting to track down the suspect, who is also a Filipino national.

The Philippine consulate in Dubai has already issued a reminder to the Filipino community, warning them against illegal medical services.

"The Philippine Consulate General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates reminds all Filipinos not to transact with persons who are unlicensed to provide medical services especially cosmetic procedures which may result in injury, disability or death," the advisory read.

Pinoys visiting Singapore warned against Zika virus

By Maia Lopez

THE Philippine Embassy in Singapore has urged Filipinos there to take all precautionary measures after the country posted a total of 329 cases of locally-transmitted Zika virus infection.

In its advisory, the embassy said Filipino nationals in Singapore should take the following steps in order to minimize the risk of being infected with the virus:

- Those living in the affected areas, especially pregnant women, should monitor their health and seek medical attention if they are unwell, especially with symptoms of fever and rash; and

- Sexual partners of pregnant women should practice safe sex or consider abstinence throughout the women's pregnancy.

Zika, which is carried by mosquitoes, causes only mild symptoms for most people, such as fever and a rash, and has been detected in 58 countries, particularly Brazil.

In pregnant women, however, it can cause microcephaly, a deformation in which babies are born with abnormally small brains and heads.

In the Philippines, the sixth case of Zika infection was recorded this month after a Filipino woman from Iloilo has been found positive for the mosquito-borne virus.

Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Ubial has also appealed to Filipinos to refrain from traveling to Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Thailand, where many people have been infected by the Zika virus.

The Philippine embassy in Singapore, Ubial said, has not reported any Filipino infected with the virus.

"There are no reports of infected Filipinos from other countries either," she said.

She noted that eradicating mosquitoes and destroying their breeding habitats remain the best defense against Zika virus.



Mosquitos carry the virus

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Lakbay Dangal Trail walk, isinagawa sa Buwan ng Wika

By Victoria Reyes Munar

BILANG pakikiisa sa pagdiriwang ng Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa, ang Lakbay Dangal, isang kilalang historico-cultural organization sa HK, ay nagsagawa ng isang oras na paglalakbay noong Agosto 28 sa mga lugar na may kaugnayan sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas.

Kabilang dito ang mga lugar sa Central na may kaugnayan sa ating pambansang bayani na si Dr. Jose Rizal. Bagamat ginanap ito sa napakaagang oras, may dala-wang history lovers na sina Leony Montecillos at Eva Mapa ang nagsakripisyon gumising ng mas maaga sa kanilang nakasanayan sa kagustuhang matuto pa tungkol sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas at Hong Kong.

“Ang naranasan kong trail with Lakbay Dangal ay something to be treasured. Sa



LakBay Dangal members

tagal ko dito, amazed ako sa mga narinig kong history insights hindi lamang tungkol sa Pilipinas kundi pati na rin ang mga napaka-informative na kwento tungkol sa Statue Square, LegCo, HongKong Bank atbp.” sabi ni Leony.

Dagdag pa niya na sana’y mas marami pang mahikayat na sumali. Nangako

siyang i-promote ito sa kanyang mga kaibigan sa HK at maging sa mga turistang galing sa Pilipinas. “Nag-enjoy ako, natuto at nakapag-ehersisyo pa dahil sa paglalakad, salamat sa inyong mga Lakbay Dangal Ladies”, sabi ni Eva Mapa.

Ang nasabing walk ay isinagawa ng mga opisyal ng nasabing organisasyon na

sina Maritess Mapa, Vicky Munar, at Cecil Eduarte. Kasama din ang kanilang “No. 1 supporter” na si Ching Baltazar, ang presidente ng Balikatan sa Kaunlaran (BSK) na di nagsasawang sumama palagi at matuto pa mula sa sharing ng grupo.

Ang nasabing trail walk ay pagpapatuloy sa layunin ng grupo na imulat ang mga Pilipino sa kasaysayan ng makabuluhang ugnayan ng Hong Kong at Pilipinas, makapag-sanay ng mga historico-cultural guides tulad ng ginagampanan ng mga opisyal, at magkaroon ng “sense” ng ating dangal sa pamamagitan ng proyektong walk for dignity habang bumabaybay sa bakas ng ating pambansang bayani.

Sa mga nais na sumali at maging bahagi ng makasaysayang “walk for dignity”, makipag-ugnayan lamang sa 94167012/96066810 para sa isang makabuluhang panandaliang paglalakbay.

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DWEP starts 2nd term with worthy topics, Kuya Boy

By V.R. Munar and E.A. Almacin

WITH the vision of continuously empowering domestic workers with a positive state of body and mind, the Domestic Workers Empowerment Project (DWEP) on September 4 marked its second term at Hong Kong University (HKU) with a whole day seminar.

Doctor Miguel Manio, the group's founder, led the morning session with a talk on Dining Etiquette or Table Manners.

Participants learned about pre-dining etiquette, getting started, getting seated as well as post-dining gestures that should be observed in different cultural settings. The session included video presentations and an actual demonstration by students from the DWEP artist group.

"This topic is really necessary, especially for us OFWs who are always exposed to fine dining experience as our job entails," said DWEP member Elvira Laguit.

"I was amazed by the things I observed at the table. I was able to reflect on the mistakes that I committed in the past regarding dining etiquette. I will apply everything when the circumstance arises," said Gegerma Montero.

In the afternoon, Manio and Brenda Rodriguez Alegre, a registered psychologist, psychometrician, and licensed Hong Kong University teacher, discussed the



Abunda at DWEP

topic of "Genetics of Gender Identity."

Alegre, the lead coordinator for the English speaking members of TGR- Transgender Resource Center in Hong Kong, said homosexuality could be traced to gender expressions, biological sex, and the DNA's chemical modification.

DWEP students Gina Marie Flores, Damasina Ramirez, Derder Delia and Barry Dolosa, child of Aisha A. Manahan, shared their experiences, giving further insights on the topic and helped foster love and respect to one another.

"We should accept the LGBT community for they are also humans. That is what I remember clearly in the afternoon session," Elpie Abel said.

On the other hand, Tessie Manalo said: "I have learned that accepting LGBT is associated with positive mental and physical health.

Karanasang di malilimutan, Hijos di San Pablo, kami ay napabilang

ni Donna Rita Escartin
Igaras, Iloilo City
CARD OFW Hong Kong Graduate

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As We See it



Duterte's dilemma

Was it a case of lost in translation?

This was the question that came to our mind when we first read the news about President Duterte's statement to Indonesian President Jokowi Widodo to go ahead with the execution of Mary Jane Veloso.

Widodo himself said Duterte gave him the go-signal. Palace officials, meanwhile, denied that Duterte ever made the statement during his working visit to Jakarta.

And finally, Duterte himself cleared up the confusion, saying he did not bring up the fate of Veloso, who was convicted of bringing in drugs to Indonesia, and that he said the Philippines would respect the decision of Indonesian courts on the case.

"It would have been a bad taste in the mouth to be talking about - having a strong posture against drugs, and here you

are begging for something," he said in his address before members of the 250th Philippine Airlift Wing at the Villamor Air Base.

So there, straight from the horse's mouth, folks!

To recall, Veloso was saved from execution by death squad in 2015 after Manila then requested a stay of her execution so she could testify against her alleged recruiter who lured her into bringing heroin to Yogyakarta in April 2010. Veloso is a mother of two.

But we understand the President's predicament of course. However, we think there would have been a better way of addressing the issue had his administration been more circumspect in its drug war in the Philippines.

Health Alert

Survey results on mental health

THE findings of the Mental Health and Well-being Survey of the Joyful@HK Campaign of the Department of Health (DH) showed that 5.5 per cent of the respondents experienced severe psychological distress.

The DH commissioned the Department of Psychiatry of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to conduct the survey from November to December 2015 and help examine the mental health status of the public. Telephone interviews with a total of 2,015 respondents were conducted successfully.

The Assistant Director of Health (Health Promotion), Dr Anne Fung, and the Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry of the CUHK, Professor Linda Lam Chiu-wa, released the key findings of the survey on September 13.

"About 40 per cent of the respondents rated their mental health status as fair (36.2 per cent) or very poor/poor (4.6 per cent) in the past six months, and 5.5 per cent of the respondents experienced

severe psychological distress in the past month," said Lam.

The survey reveals that respondents who have lower educational attainment, have never married, have lower monthly household income, or have very poor or poor self-rated mental and physical health status, are more likely to have severe psychological distress.

"Over 70 per cent of the respondents are able to recognise major and clear symptoms of common mental health problems; while only 38 to 58 per cent of the respondents can identify subtle symptoms," Lam said.

"About 90 per cent of the respondents agree that pro-mental well-being lifestyle activities can enhance mental well-being. However, over 15 per cent did not take part in any pro-mental well-being lifestyle activities in the past six months. About 20 per cent of them never conducted aerobic exercises while about 16 per cent never shared their feelings nor participated in group activities," she added.



Currents

Norman Uy Carnay

Kinakabahan ang Amerika

SA totoo lang, kinakabahan ngayon ang makapangyarihang imperyo ng Amerika hindi dahil sa magaspang na pananalita ni Pangulong Duterte kundi dahil sa matapang niyang pananalita para sa pagiging "independyente" ng Pilipinas at ang pagtuligsa niya sa mga tinaguriang "lapdogs of the US" o sa simpeng Tagalog ay mga "tuta ng Kano" sa ating bayan.

Si Pangulong Duterte ang bukod-tanging presidente ng Pilipinas na nangahas na sabihing tapos na sa pagiging isang kolonya ng Amerika ang ating bansa. Hindi kailanman daw luluhod ang Republika sa sinumang tao o pinuno. Kung luluhod man daw siya, doon sa harap ng mga Pilipinong mahihirap na naglalakad sa Quiapo. Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay may presidente ng Republika ng Pilipinas na hindi umastang tuta ng mga Amerikano o nanikluhod sa interes ng kanyang matagal nang "kaibigan".

Umalis siya papunta sa Laos na nag-

bitaw ng maaanghang na salita at naging kontrobersyal muli ang kanyang banta ng "pagmumura" sakaling matuloy ang planong buksan ni US president Obama ang usapin ng human rights sa Pilipinas. Binalaan niya si Obama na huwag mangahas na buksan ang paksa na iyon, na maging magalang at mapagtimpi at kung hindi ay makakatikim siya ng mura mula sa kanya. Aniyay walang karapatan ang Estados Unidos na manermon tungkol sa human rights samantalang ito mismo ay kilalang lumalabag din dito.

Totoo namang kontrobersyal nga sa ngayon ang usapin ng extra-judicial killings sa war on drugs ng Pangulo. Marami nang mga human rights groups ang nagsasabing hindi ito ang tamang paraan ng pagsugpo sa krimen at sindikato ng droga. Dapat ngang magpatuloy ang taumbayan sa pagtuligsa sa problema ng kawalan ng due process sa usaping ito.

Pero tama si Duterte sa kanyang pag-

sasabi na walang karapatan ang presidente ng US na manita kaugnay ng human rights violations samantalang hindi man lang ito humingi ng patawad sa pagpatay sa mahigit 600,000 Moro nang lusubin nito ang Mindanao. O ang pagpaslang sa mahigit 1.4 milyong Pilipino noong Digmaang Pilipino-Amerikano.

Nang siya ay bumalik mula sa pulong ng ASEAN sa Laos, sinabi niyang ang pinakamahalagang binitawan niyang salita sa ibang mga pinuno roon ay ang pangako na tatahak sa landas ng independyenteng patakaran panlabas ang ating bansa.

Itong kinakabahan ng imperyong Amerika at ang mga "tuta" nito - ang maging independent at hindi manikluhod sa interes ng Amerika; ang itaguyod muna ang interes ng Pilipinas bago ang sinumang bansa. Mapait sa kanila ang mga pahayag na ito. Matamis naman sa pandinig ng mga Pilipinong tunay na makabayang.

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Nakakabahala ang nabasa ko ukol sa kababayan nating namatay dahil sa naglinis ng bintana.

Para sa isang domestic helper na katulad ko na kasama talaga sa mga gawain ang paglilinis ng bahay, nakakatakot ang balitang iyan.

Nasa ika-12 palapag ang bahay namin dito sa Chai Wan at dahil inuutos ng amo ko, wala akong magawa kundi sundin ito.

Mahirap naman kasing suwayin ang ipina-

guutos ng amo ko, lalo na at limang buwan pa lang ako sa kanila.

Pero sana nga magawan ng paraan na ipagbawal na ang paglilinis ng bintana.

Delikado naman talaga kasi, ngunit napipilitan lang kamíng gawin ito dahil wala naman kamíng choice.

Nawa magkaroon ng aksyon an gating konsulado, POLO, at ang pamahalaan ng Hong Kong upang mapangalagaan an gamíng kapakanan dito sa Hong Kong.

Ang hanap lang naman namin ay hanap-buhay, pero baka hanap-patay ang makita namin.

Malaki din ang pakinabang ng Hong Kong at ng mga local dito sa amin.

Kung wala kamíng mga FDH, sino ang mag-aalaga sa mga anak, magulang at mga alagang hayop nila?

Kaya dapat lamang na intindihin din nila ang kaligtasan namin.

Umaasa,
Elsa T.

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Di makahirit si Heart

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

IMBIYERNA si Heart sa kaibigan niya na kung umasta ay akala mo kung si-nong magaling. Minsan ay nagpaturo ito kay Heart na gumawa ng invitation letter para sa magiging panauhing pandangal sa gagawing pagdiriwang ng kanilang asosasyon.

Habang nagty-type sa computer ang kaibigan niya, nagkaroon ng red line ang isang salita na ang pahiwatig ay mali. Ang sabi ni Heart, "Paghiwalayin mo kasi dalawang salita iyan at malaking titik ang umpisa ng bawat salita."

Sabi naman ng kaibigan, na may galit ang tono, na hayaan na lang kasi talagang ganyan kapag hindi kilala ng computer ang salita.

Nang tumalikod ang kaibigan, pinaghiwalay ni Heart ang salita at nawala nga ang guhit na pula.

Sabi ni Heart sa kaibigan: nagpapaturo



Utang na loob sa kababayan

ka sa akin, gawin mo ang itinuturo ko sayo.

Nasabi ni Heart sa sarili na ang hirap talaga kapag may utang na loob ka, kahit nasasaktan ka na sa ginagawa sa iyo ay hindi ka makalaban; kahit alam mong mali siya ay hindi mo makontra o hindi ka

maka-pangatuwiran.

Ang laki kasi ng utang na loob ni Heart sa kaibigan kasi lagi siyang nakakahiram ng pera sa tuwing nagigipit. Kaya kahit minsan napahiya si Heart sa ugali ng kaibigan tuwing magkasama sila, hindi na lang siya umiimik.

Pikon at kapag hindi gusto ng kaibigan ang nangyayari ay sumisimangot at sa harapan ng iba pa nilang kaibigan.

At gusto ng kaibigan na siya ang nasusunod. Gusto na sanang iwasan ni Heart ang kaibigan pero hindi magawa dahil alam niya na may kailangan siya rito.

Hinihiling na lang niya sa Diyos na palawakin ang kanyang pang-unawa at paha-bain ang pasensiya.

At sana dumating ang panahon na hindi na siya magipit sa pera. Siguro naman kapag napagtapos na niya ang anak niya ay makakaluwag na rin siya. Si Heart ay 38-taong-gulang, tubong Quezon, may asawa at isang anak.

Ibinili ng pangmatanda na gatas si Maria

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

NAGDAOS na ng ika-singkuwentang kaarawan ilang buwan na ang nakalipas si Maria, may asawa at anak, at tubong Quezon.

Matagal nang naninilbihan bilang kasambahay sa kasalukuyang amo si Maria.

Kahit may edad na ay hindi mo pa aakalain sa hitsura kasi maliit lang at may korte pa rin ang kanyang pangangatawan.

Kung makipag kuwentuhan at makiha-lubilo siya sa mga kakilala ay animo nasa trenta pa lang.

Napaka aktibo rin niya sa mga okasyon na kung kumilos at magbuhat ng mga kargo ay talo pa ang mga bata-bata pa sa bilis.

Kung hindi nga masambit na may binata ng anak ay hindi mo aakalain at ang iba ay hindi pa maniwala.

Minsan si Maria pa ang nagiging pu-

lutan ng alskahan kapag nagkakasiya-han ang magkakaibigan sa pagaakalang dalaga at nasa tamang edad na raw para mag-asawa.

Kaya hindi alam ni Maria kung ano ang isasagot sa amo nang minsan ay may dala itong malaking lata ng gatas pang matanda pagdating mula sa trabaho.

Sinabihan din siya na kailangan uminom na siya lagi ng gatas para raw manatiling malakas at matibay ang tuhod. Nakakapagpatibay daw kasi ng buto ang regular na pag-inom ng gatas.

Tinanong na lang tuloy ni Maria ang amo kung iinom na rin ito kasi iniwasan sana niyang umimom ng gatas.

May nakapag kuwento kasi sa kanya na nakakadagdag pa ng dahilan ng pagkakaroon ng sakit sa suso ang gatas.

Hindi niya tuloy alam kung iinom siya o hindi dahil natatakot siya sa kanyang narinig ukol dito.

Parang dinudurog ang puso sa awa

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

HINDI maiwasang maluha ni Corazon tuwing hinahatiran niya ng pagkain sa home for the aged yung dating kasambahay na Intsik ng kasalukuyang amo.

Sobrang pagkaawa raw ang nararam-daman ni Corazon sa mahigit 60 years old na Intsik na naging kasambahay dati at nagpalaki sa kanyang mga amo.

Ang kuwento ng kasama niyang ibang lahi din ay hindi raw ibinibigay ang sahod at hindi binibigyan ng araw

ng pahinga. Hindi rin daw ito pinapalabas dahil gastos lang daw at kailangang mag-ipon.

Wala rin daw kamag-anak ang matanda kaya inilagak na lang sa bahay para sa matatanda. Wala man lang daw ibang dumadalaw sa matanda.

Ang amo mismo ni Corazon, kahit kasama niya sa sasakyan, ay hindi rin daw bumababa para tingnan kahit sandali at kumustahin ang dating kasambahay.

Halata sa matanda ang kasabikan na may dumadalaw at tanda niya ang oras

ng paghatid ni Corazon ng pagkain dahil nag-aabang ito at titig na titig sa pagbukas ng lift.

Ang ginagawa ni Corazon, nililibang niya ang matanda at nakikipagkuwentuhan muna kahit saglit.

Napapaisip tuloy si Corazon na parang pinagsilbihan lang ang mga amo ng wala siyang sahod kasi hindi man lang daw naranasan ng matanda ang mahawakan ang perang pinagpaguran at mamili ng gustong bilhin.

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Drew at Iya, may supling na

By Cristy Kasilag

MATAPOS ang halos dalawang taon mula nang sila ay magpakasal, nasilayan na ng travel host na si Drew Arellano at TV host na si Iya Villania ang una nilang anak na pinangalanan nilang si Antonio Primo.

Ipinanganak ni Iya, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Raelene Elaine Villania-Arellano, si Antonio Primo nuong ika-30 ng Agosto sa Medical City.

Pinangalanan siyang Antonio Primo hango sa pangalan ng ama ni Drew na si Antonio, na yumaog tatlong taon na ang nakakaraan.

Kaagad ipinakita sa publiko ng 36-anyos na si Drew--Andrew James Estrella Arellano sa tunay na buhay--ang litrato ng



DREW at IYA

kanyang bagong sanggol.

Ang dapat daw ay sa ika-4 pa ng Se-

tyembre nanganak si Iya pero napa-aga ito ng limang araw.

Anim na oras lamang naglabor ang 30-anyos na si Iya.

Pinaghandaan daw niya ang pagdating ng kanyang unang anak at nag-aral daw siya kung paano gamitin ang breast pump, sterilizer, at paano mag lagay ng car seat para sa mga sanggol.

Humingi din siya ng go-signal mula sa kanyang doctor kung maari pa rin niyang ipagpatuloy ang iba niyang activities tulad ng pag-sayaw at pag work out.

Mainam daw para sa mga buntis na mag exercise dahil makakatulong ito sa kalusugan ng ina at ng sanggol.

Ininapubliko nila ang pagdadalang tao ni Iya nuong Easter Sunday, ika-27 ng Marso, nang parehas silang nagpost ng litrato sa kanilang Instagram accounts.

Sa Instagram post makikita na nakatayo ang 29-anyos na si Iya samantala si Drew ay nakaluhod.

Nakataas ang itim na t-shirt ni Iya na ipinapakita ang kanyang tiyan na may drawing na isang makulay na itlog.

Kalakip nito ang mensahe mula sa 36 anyos na si Drew na, "I found an EGG... and FERTILIZED it! Hahahahaha! Wo-hooooo! Happy Easter it is!"

Ang sabi nga ni Iya sa mga unang panayam sa kanya ay hindi siya pinahirapan ng bata nung ipinagbubuntis pa niya ito dahil nakapag trabaho pa rin siya kahit papaano.

Balak din niyang bumalik kaagad sa trabaho matapos ang ilang buwan na pag-aaruga kay Baby Antonio Primo.

Anak ni Gabby kasali, sa Miss Earth

By Cristy Kasilag

SA darating na Miss Earth 2016, malamang hindi ang pambato ng bansang Pilipinas ang susuportahan ng pamilya ni Gabby Concepcion, kung di si Miss Earth-Sweden.

At maiintindihan malamang ng iba nating kababayan kung bakit kay Miss Earth-Sweden sila kakampi, dahil ang pambato ng bansang Sweden ay anak ng hanggang ngayon ay gwapong aktor na si Gabby sa model na si Jenny Syquia-Skarne.

Sa Pilipinas pa nga nagtraining ang 22-anyos na si Cloie. Ang mga nagtraining sa kanya ay ang mga taong tumulong din sa Filipina na si Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach para manalo sa Miss Universe 2015



CLOIE

nuong Disyembre.

Sinabi ni Cloie dati na ginusto niya sa Pilipinas magtraining para malapit sa kanyang napaka supportive na pamilya.

Ang pambato naman ng Pilipinas ay si Miss Puerto Princesa, Palawan Imelda Schweighart, na isang Filipino-German

model at actress.

Ang Miss Earth 2016 ay gaganapin sa ika-29 ng Oktubre sa SM Mall of Asia (MOA) Pasay City. Inaasahang 90 kandidato mula sa iba't ibang bansa na sasali sa pageant.

Itinanghal na Miss Earth-Sweden si

Cloe nuong ika-28 ng Agosto sa Caf Opera, Stockholm, Sweden.

"I'm MISS EARTH SWEDEN 2016! Thank you to those who have supported me and believed in me. I would not have been who I am today without you," ang sabi niya sa kanyang Instagram account.

Ang kanyang pagkapanalo bilang Miss Earth-Sweden ay ikinatuwa ng lubusan ng kanyang half-sister na si KC Concepcion. Sa kanyang Instagram account ay kaagad binati ni KC ang kapatid.

"You've reached another milestone, Cloe! This year has been good to you. After all the sleepless nights, uncertainty, beauty pageant lessons and yes, diet shakes, you did it! My sister is going to join Miss Earth 2016, representing Sweden," aniya.

Robin Padilla, humingi ng clemency

By Jiji Sampan

MATAPOS ang 21-taon, tuluyan na kayang malampasan ng aktor na si Robin Padilla ang kaso niyang illegal possession of firearms nuong 2005?

Ito ngayon ang inaasahan ng 46-anyos na actor, ng kanyang abogado na si Rudolf Jurado, at ng kanyang mga taga-hanga mula nang mapabalita na kasama si Robin sa listahan ng 87 inmates ng New Bilibid Prison (NBP) na isinumite sa Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP).

Maaari raw imungkahi ng BPP kay Pangulong Duterte na bigyan si Robin--Robinhood Ferdinand Carino Padilla--ng executive clemency. Noon lamang nakaraang buwan (Agosto) nang nag-apply para sa executive clemency ang abogado ni Robin. Ang BPP ay isang ahensya ng Department of Justice.

Sa nasabing listahan nang maaaring magbigyan ng executive clemency ay pang-61 ang action star. Kapag nasama si Robin sa mga bibigyan ng executive clemency, magkakaroon ulit siya ng civil rights katulad ng karapatang bumoto at karapatang tumakbo sa halalan. Dahil isang conditional pardon lamang ang ibinigay sa kanya, nahihirapan si Robin na makakuha ng passport dahil mayroon pa siyang criminal record.

Dekada 90 nang nahulihan ng mga armas si Robin, isa sa mga sikat na artista noon. Iniutos ng Angeles City Regional Trial Court na makulong siya ng 21-taon matapos mapatunayang nagkasala sa kaso ng illegal possession of firearms nuong Abril 1994.

Pero maikli lamang ang inilagi ni Robin sa National Bilibid Prison sa Muntinlupa matapos bigyan siya ng conditional pardon ni dating Pangulong Fidel V. Ramos.

Ang conditional pardon na ito ay nagtapos na nuong 2003 kaya maaari suriin muli ng BPP ang kaso niya at alamin kung pwede siyang bigyan ng executive clemency.



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Digong, ayaw kay Harvey na MissU host

By Cristy Kasilag

KULANG-KULANG na limang buwan pa bago ang Miss Universe 2016 sa Manila pero sinisimulan na ang mga preparasyon para sa malaking event ng susunod na taon.

Ngunit ngayon pa lang ay tila nagkaka-

roon na ng gusot sa pagplaplano at ito ay sa katauhan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na maring nagsabi na ayaw niya na ang Amerikanong television host na si Steve Harvey ang muling maghohost ng Miss Universe.

Kamakailan ay inamin ni Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Wanda Corazon

Tulfo-Teo na kinausap niya si Presidente Duterte tungkol sa Miss Universe 2016.

Ang 59-anyos na si Harvey raw dapat ang maghohost ulit ng Miss Universe 2016 dahil meron siyang limang-taong kontrata sa Miss Universe Organization.

Ayon kay Secretary Teo, sumagot daw ang Presidente na: "Hindi pwede. I'm go-

ing to talk to the Miss Universe na dapat hindi siya so that is my problem. I don't want him to be host of the Miss Universe."

Para kumalma ang Presidente ay sinabi na lang ni Teo na kakausapin niya ang organization kung pwede ay maging dalawa ang host at hindi lamang si Harvey. Maaring samahan si Harvey ng isang Filipina

host.

Maaari ring kausapin ni Teo si reigning Miss Universe 2015 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach kung maari niyang kausapin ang Presidente.

Ngunit naniniwala ang Tourism Secretary na magbabago rin ang opinion ng Pangulo.

Mga artista, nakiramay sa Davao

By Cristy Kasilag

BUMUHOS ang pag-alala at dasal para sa Davao mula pa nung gabi ng ika-2 ng Setyembre matapos sumabog ang isang bomba sa night market ng siyudad.

Ayon sa mga imbestigador, isang Improved Explosive Device (IED) ang sumabog sa Roxas Avenue night market na kumitil sa buhay ng hindi bababa sa 14 katao habang 64 naman ang nasaktan.

May mga taga-showbiz din na nagpahayag ng kanilang pakikidalamhati at pakikiisa sa mga Dabawenyos.

"Suddenly lost my energy as I learned about the Davao blast. God bless the Davaoenos. God bless the Philippines," sabi ni Vice Ganda, ang komedyanteng host ng tanghalian na palabas na "It's Showtime!"

Si Dawn Zulueta naman ay nagsabi na: "We are safe. Thanks to those concerned. But our thoughts are w/ our friends & family back home. Praying for peace, security. #PrayForDavao."

Si Dawn ay nanirahan na sa Davao mula nang pakasalan si Antonio Lagdameo Jr., na dating Davao del Norte second district representative. Sinuportahan nila ang kandidatura ni Duterte.

"Let us all give a moment of silence and prayer to our brothers and sisters in Davao. Let us all pray for hope, unity and peace," sabi naman ni Robin Padilla.

Samantala, si Aiza Seguerra ay nagpakita ng litrato ng dalawang naka sindi na kandila na may nakalagay na #PrayForDavaoCity.

"Such tragedy. Such heartbreak. Life is too short and the world is too beautiful to be clouded by these senseless, heinous attacks. We all have one life, one chance to live - don't spend it trying to shorten others. Stop the violence. Spread love," sabi ng rapper na si Apl.d.ap ng grupong Black Eyed Peas.



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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Maging matulongin. Pinagpapala ang mga may puso para sa ibang tao.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Huwag pag-aksayahan ng panahon ang mga taong naninira sa iyo. Ipatuloy mo lang ang pagsisikap.

Pisces February 19 to March 20
Pag-aralan ang iyong mga susunod na hakbang. Nakasalalay dito ang kahihinatnan ng iyong kinabukasan.

Aries March 21 to April 19
Pakinggan ang sinasabi ng ibang tao, ngunit matuto kang kumilatis kung alin dito ang tama sa mali.

Taurus April 20 to May 20
Bigyan ng panahon ang mga bagay na kailangang asikasuhin. Mahirap nang maghabol ka sa oras kapag deadline na.

Gemini May 21 to June 20
Tandaan na ang permanente lang sa buhay ay ang pagbabago. Kailangan mong paghandaan ito.

Cancer June 21 to July 22
Pangalagaan ang iyong kalusugan. Aanhin ang pera kung ang katawan mo naman ang mahihirapan.

Leo July 23 to August 22
Ipaubaya sa ibang tao kung ano man ang pwede nilang magawa. Hindi maaaring ikaw lang ang gagawa ng lahat ng bagay.

Virgo August 23 to September 22
Alalahanin kung ano talaga ang bagay na mahalaga. Dito ibase ang iyong mga desisyon.

Libra September 23 to October 22
Pairalin ang isip kaysa sa emosyon. Mabuti nang pinag-iisipang mabuti ang iyong mga dapat na gawin.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21
Maging mapanuri sa aksyon ng ibang tao. Hindi lahat ng kanilang sinasabi ay siyang kanilang tunay na intensyon.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21
Umasa na makakamtam mo din ang iyong inaasam. Dagdagan ang iyong sipag.

What's Cooking?

It's always a pleasure to cook something nice for loved ones and friends. For this issue, we give you a delectable and unforgettable meal that's perfect for gatherings, parties, or a simple get-together. Try our Tuna Pasta with White Sauce and start delighting everyone. Happy cooking!

Ingredients:
350 fettucine
½ cup white onions, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
425 can tuna in oil, drained
2 pcs. basil leaves
2 Tbsp. olive oil

White Sauce
¼ bar butter
1 Tbsp. flour
1 can evaporated milk
Salt & pepper to taste

Procedure:

1. Cook pasta in boiling water until al dente. Toss with half the oil
2. In a large pan, sauté onions, garlic. Add in tuna in can.
3. Meanwhile, in a saucepan, place butter, flour, and milk
4. Pour into tuna mixture until well-blended.
5. Top with basil and parmesan cheese.

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre: Our New Business Address: M/F Cockloft, Wing Tat Commercial Building, 97 Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan Hong Kong. Telephone numbers 28507714, 28507724:



By Chef Jay Dator



May tatlong lasing na sumakay ng taxi. Ini-start ng driver ang taxi pero hindi pinaandar...
Driver: Dito na po tayo
Lasing 1: Salamat!
Lasing 2: Eto bayad!
Lasing 3: Pare next time, bagalan mo naman ang takbo!

Teacher: Ano ang sagot sa bugtong na ito 'Ayan na! Ayan na! Hindi mo pa makita!'
Juan: Bulag?

Pedro: Alam mo pareng Juan, iyong pelikulang Mulan ay ang ika-apat na episode na isang franchise ng movie!
Juan: Talaga?

Pedro: Oo

Juan: Ano yung mga unang movies?
Pedro: Mulog, Midlat, at saka Mambon. May sequels pa nga daw iyon eh. Magyo, Maha at Maraw.

Binabasang maigi ni Juan ang kanilang marriage certificate na parang may gustong makita...

Misis: Honey, ano ba hinahanap mo diyan?
Juan: Eh di expiration date!

Baliw: Huwag kayong lalapit, magpapakamatay ako! Tatalon ako sa 4th floor!

Doktor: Paano, eh hanggang 2nd floor lang tayo?

Baliw: Puwes, tatalon ako sa 2nd floor ng dalawang beses!

Sa isang shopping mall

Pedro: Miss, pabali ng ballpen
Saleslady: Sorry po, sir. Wala po kaming ballpen!

Juan: Pambihira, ano ba naman kayo? Penschoppe kayo pero walang ballpen.

Sa Math class...

Teacher: Pedro, kung mayroon akong isang piraso ng karne at hinati ko ito, ilang piraso na?

Pedro: Dalawa po ma'am!
Teacher: At kung hinati ko pa pareho?

Pedro: Walong piraso po.
Teacher: Hinati ko pa.

Pedro: 16 po ma'am.
Teacher: Hinati ko pa?

Pedro: 32 piraso na po!
Teacher: Kung hinati ko ulit?

Pedro: 64 po!
Teacher: At hinati ko pa? Dalawang beses ko pang hinati? O apat na beses ko pang hinati.

Pedro: Sandali lang po ma'am. Iniisip ko pa po.

Teacher: O ano na nga ang sagot?
Pedro: Alam ko na po ang sagot!

Teacher: O ano na nga?
Pedro: Ma'am sa sobrang daming hati, giniling na baboy na po ma'am. Giniling na po ang labas nun!

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- 1 Salit
- 7 Pambukas ng kandado
- 11 Embarguhin
- 12 Gin
- 13 Umalsa
- 14 Senator Pangilinan
- 15 Kapa
- 16 Sabik: pabalbal
- 17 Animo
- 18 Industry: daglat
- 20 Tapos
- 23 Busal
- 27 Petrolyo
- 29 Marahil
- 30 Angkan
- 33 Sumambit
- 36 Kulay luksa
- 37 Lilinamnam

- 38 Nanay ni Snooky
- 39 Lakma
- 40 Bighani
- 41 Nilagyan ng tina

PABABA

- 1 Litaw
- 2 Memorya
- 3 Bunton
- 4 Tabak
- 5 Maton
- 6 Kinawawa
- 7 Manggagawa sa tubuhan
- 8 Minsan pa
- 9 Paglinang sa lupa
- 10 Inog
- 19 Nacionalista Party
- 21 Anting-anting
- 22 Susan Africa

- 24 Aanib
- 25 Bigyan ng direktiba
- 26 Lalambot
- 28 Iksamin
- 30 Singko
- 31 Kauri ng pato
- 32 Nut sa Bicol
- 34 Lisyá
- 35 Tubig mula sa ulap

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11						12				
13						147				
15						16				
17					18	19				
20			21	22		23		24	25	26
			27		28		29			
30	31	32			33	34	35			
36					37					
38					39					
40					41					

Answer to last puzzle

B	U	K	O		A	B	A	K	A	
U	T	A	H		A	R	U	G	A	
T	U	L	A		I	L	U	L	A	N
I	S	A	L	I	N		M	I	S	A
	A	P	E	L	A		T		N	
I	N		S	O	L	O	N		R	G
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