

HONG KONG NEWS

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Stiffer penalties eyed vs agencies



PUNISH THEM. LegCo member Fernando Cheung said he will propose stiffer penalties for abusive employment agencies after a study showed that Filipino domestic workers are still often charged fees that are more than 25 times the legal limit in Hong Kong. (Philip C. Tubeza)

By Philip C. Tubeza

A Hong Kong lawmaker wants to increase the penalties for abusive employment agencies after a study showed that Filipino

domestic workers were still being charged fees that are more than 25 times the legal limit.

Legislative Council (LegCo) member Fernando Cheung said he will take up the

issue at the LegCo so that it could increase the penalties for erring employment agencies.

“I will bring this up in the Legislative Council. I would look into ways to in-

crease penalties in the law for employment agencies violating the law,” Cheung said during the presentation of the study

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The Supreme Court allows the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.



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Multinational companies in Hong Kong pledge to support the “ethical hiring” of foreign domestic workers.



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Actress Sunshine Cruz has a new boyfriend after parting ways with Cesar Montano.

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SC allows Marcos burial in Libingan

By Maia Lopez

THE Supreme Court, voting 9-5 with one abstention, has allowed the burial of the remains of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, junking seven petitions seeking to stop it.

The High Court dismissed the consolidated petitions seeking to stop the decision of President Rodrigo Duterte to allow the burial of the late dictator 27 years after his death.

SC spokesman Theodore Te said the High Court found no grave abuse of discretion on the part of Duterte in granting the plea of the Marcos family.

"At bar, President Duterte acted within the bounds of law and jurisprudence. Notwithstanding the call of human rights advocates, the Court must uphold what is legal and just – and that is not to deny Marcos his rightful place at the LNMB," read the decision penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

The tribunal lifted the status quo ante order it earlier issued stopping Duterte from ordering the burial.



Marcos

The magistrates who concurred with Peralta's ruling are Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco, Teresita Leonardo-Castro, Arturo Brion, Lucas Bersamin, Mariano del Castillo, Jose Perez, Jose Mendoza and Estela Perlas-Bernabe.

Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno, along with Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, Francis Jardeleza and Alfredo Benjamin Caguiao dissented, while Associate Justice Bienvenido Reyes recused from the case.

Former Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the ruling was an answered prayer for

his family.

"As a son, it is something that I have been praying for for many, many years," the younger Marcos said, adding that the decision of the High Court will "heal" the country.

Malacañang, for its part, told critics of the burial to "move forward" as it welcomed the decision.

"We acknowledge the decision of the Supreme Court to have the remains of former President Ferdinand Marcos buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani as it is the final arbiter of all legal questions," presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella said.

"We hope the matter will finally be laid to rest, and that the nation find the wherewithal to move forward and to continue forging a nation that is peaceable, just and fair to all," he added.

In denying the consolidated petition, the SC pointed out that Duterte is not bound by the 1992 Agreement entered into between former President Fidel Ramos and the Marcos family to have the remains interred in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

The SC said that as incumbent Presi-

dent, Duterte has the right "to amend, revoke, or rescind political agreements entered into by his predecessor" and to come up with policies which he thinks will be effective in fulfilling his mandate.

"The majority found that the allotment of a cemetery plot at the LNMB for former President Marcos as a former President and Commander-in-Chief, a legislator, a Secretary of National Defense, a military personnel, a veteran, and a Medal of Valor awardee, whether recognizing his contributions or simply his status as such, satisfies the public use requirement," Te said.

"We agree with the proposition that Marcos should be viewed and judged in his totality as a person. While he was not all good, he was not pure evil either. Certainly, just a human who erred like us," the Court added.

Marcos ruled the Philippines for two decades until 1986, when millions of people took to the streets in a People Power revolution that forced him and his family into US exile where he died in Hawaii in 1989.

Anti-corruption watchdog Transparency

International in 2004 named Marcos the second most corrupt leader of all time.

Petitioners plan to challenge the Supreme Court ruling, which did not say that it is immediately executory.

"This is enraging and saddening that the people are on the losing side because it seems history lost its meaning. It's like history was changed today," said petitioner Neri Colmenares.

"So how can the Supreme Court vindicate a person that they have declared in many decisions as a dictator and as a human rights violator and as a plunderer?" added the former Bayan Muna representative.

Albay 1st District Rep. Edcel Lagman, another petitioner, said he was "puzzled to no end" why the High Court would allow the burial at the LNMB of Marcos, whom he described as "a judicially and historically confirmed despot, plunderer and transgressor of human rights."

"A high sense of patriotism and the common standards of reason and logic bar the interment of Marcos in the Cemetery of Heroes," Lagman said.

Rape victim to testify

A former domestic helper has committed to return to Hong Kong to testify in the rape case against her employer.

Philippine Consulate General officials confirmed that the victim, who has gone home to the Philippines, has been constantly communicating with them and assured them that she would give evidence in court. The Court of First Instance will hear the case in May 2017.

"We are communicating with her thru WhatsApp, and she said she will be coming back here," a PCG official said.

The employer allegedly raped the Filipina in

his home in Tuen Mun in September 2015. The employer's wife and child were said to be out of the house when the incident took place.

Upon the wife's return, the domestic worker told her about the rape. The wife then reported the incident to the police. The wife had reportedly left her husband since then. It was the Filipina's first employment contract in Hong Kong. She has a daughter in the Philippines.

The Filipina took refuge at a shelter and the PCG found her another employer, but she resigned from her job and decided to go home in September.

Cheryl M. Arcibal

Donald Trump is new US president

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

REPUBLICAN candidate and businessman Donald Trump is poised to become the 45th president of the United States.

Various media outfits on November 8 called the 2016 polls for Trump, a shocking upset that roiled financial markets across the globe. Analysts were predicting that the effect of Trump's win could be worse than Britain voting to leave the European Union in June as they remained uncertain how Trump would manage the world's largest economy.

Trump, who had made demeaning remarks about women, ethnic minorities, and immigrants, was projected to win 278 out of 538 electors. Democrat Party's bet Hillary Clinton was projected to get 218. The oath-taking is in January.

Trump's projected win was a shocking upset among pollsters, who had been consistent in saying weeks and days before the polls that Clinton had a clear edge to the White House.

Reports from CNN and NBC said Clinton had called Trump to concede.

"Now it's time for America to bind the wounds of division...I say it is time for us to come together as one united people. I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be president for all Americans, and this so important for me," Trump said in his victory party on election night in New York City.

"For those who have chosen not to support me...I'm reaching out to you for your guidance and your help so that we can work together to unify our great country," he added.



Trump

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Woman charged

A Chinese woman was charged in court for common assault for allegedly hurting a Filipina in a lift in Repulse Bay in April.

Zhang Qi Ng on November 3 pleaded not guilty at the Eastern Magistracy to one count of common assault.

Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-Shing scheduled Zhang's two-day trial on January 16-17, 2017 in Court 3.

The prosecution alleged that Zhang had figured in an incident with a Filipina named Gina Alipio in a lift in Repulse Bay on April 18, 2016.

The prosecutor also said they will be presenting three witnesses, including the Filipina. The defense, meanwhile, will have two witnesses.

The trial will be in English and a Tagalog interpreter will be arranged to assist Alipio when she gives her evidence in court.

Under Hong Kong laws, any person who is convicted of common assault shall be "guilty of an offence triable either summarily or upon indictment, and shall be liable to imprisonment for one year."

Cheryl M. Arcibal

Worker who stole \$37K avoids prison

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A former restaurant employee was given another chance after a judge agreed to have him serve community service instead of sending him to jail despite stealing thousands.

Judge Jason Wan Siu-ming of the Eastern Magistracy on November 2 agreed with a report recommending community service to Jessie Domingo, who pleaded guilty to a charge of theft for taking \$31,700 from Libertine Restaurant in

Central.

Before agreeing to sentence Domingo to 120 hours of community service, the magistrate required the defendant to compensate the restaurant of the amount that he took from his former employer.

Domingo then proceeded to make the compensation thru the court's account of office and then came back to Court no. 7.

The duty lawyer told the court that the defendant was grateful for the recommendation.

In mitigation, the duty lawyer also pre-

sented a death certificate of Domingo's father who died of cardiac arrest in 2014. Owing to his father's sickness, the defendant had incurred debts.

"The defendant pleaded guilty to one count of theft and it was a serious offense because it involved breach of trust of his employer. On the other hand, the defend-

ant had clear record.

"I gathered from the defense that the defendant is still heavily indebted and that he has [carried] very heavy family burden. He had gainful employment for years and now he has a stable job again," said Judge Wan.

He added that a community service

order was "most suitable" for the defendant's case, noting that Domingo had expressed remorse and recompensed his former employer.

Domingo was ordered to serve 120 hours of unpaid community service and to serve it eight hours a week. Domingo was also put under probation for 12 months.



Eastern Magistracy

Sofa gets Pinoy in trouble

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A FILIPINO was charged in court over a sofa that he threw away on a street in North Point.

Mario Baltazar appeared before Deputy Magistrate Winston Leung Wing-chung on November 1 at the Eastern Magistracy and said he was pleading not guilty to the charge of "unlawfully depositing waste".

However, Baltazar, a permanent resident here in Hong Kong, told the court that he did not have a legal representation because the Duty Lawyer Service refused to represent him.

He added that he still wanted to have a lawyer to defend him in court.

"You should have done that long time before [today]," said Judge Leung.

Baltazar said he had no time because he was working 12 hours every night at the airport. He also said he wanted to get a private lawyer but he did not because he could not afford to do so.

Baltazar added that he had approached the Hong Kong Bar Association and he was told that they would need 28 days to

study his case. The defendant, accompanied by a female companion, appeared in court wearing white long-sleeved shirt and black trousers.

Judge Leung then directed Baltazar to proceed to Court 1 for the fixing of his trial date.

"I must remind you that you are on bail for \$1,000 and you are late today. If you are late next time, your bail will be forfeited and you will be remanded in jail custody. The Court means business, if the hearing is 9:30, you should be here by 9:30," Judge Leung told the defendant, who arrived in court around 9:50 a.m.

"I understand," Baltazar said through an interpreter.

In Court 1, Baltazar asked Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To Ho-shing to give him six weeks to confer with a lawyer.

Judge To then set Baltazar's case for mention on December 7 to ascertain whether he had engaged a lawyer to represent him. The Filipino's one-day trial, meanwhile, was scheduled on December 28 at Court 6.



Sofa

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Emry's owner seeks transfer of cases

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

ESTER Ylagan, the owner of the shuttered Emry's Employment Agency, asked a Small Claims Tribunal judge to transfer her cases to the District Court.

However, Principal Adjudicator Anthony Chow Siu-wo said that before deciding about Ylagan's plea, she would have to submit a letter from solicitors confirming that she had engaged their services.

Judge Chow said that unlike in the Small Claims Tribunal, parties in the District Court are represented by lawyers.

"There are close to 200 cases against the defendant, and the claims amount to anywhere between \$5,000 and \$20,000, and the majority of the claim is \$10,000 so the total claims would be something like \$2 million.

"If the defendant was asking for the transfer of the case because she wanted legal representation, then that is a legitimate

reason," said Judge Chow in a hearing on November 3.

As in the previous hearings at the Small Claims Tribunal against Ylagan, she was only represented by a "friend" and a "staff member" of Mike's Secretarial Services.

However, when Judge Chow asked the representative if she was authorized to settle with the claimants or if she knew of bank records of the defendant, the representative said she was not.

She told Judge Chow that Ylagan was in the Philippines because she had an eye operation there and some "psychiatric treatment".

Judge Chow said that if Ylagan was able to engage the services of a lawyer, she should also submit a letter from a firm of solicitors confirming that they would be representing her.

Ylagan was also directed to submit all her reasons for wanting to transfer the hearing of the cases to the District Court



District Court

in a letter to the court.

Judge Chow said Ylagan should submit all these documents to the court on December 8, 2016.

Meanwhile, the court also allowed claimants to be represented by Edwina

Antonio of the non-government organization Mission for Migrant Workers Ltd.

Judge Chow said that since the MF-MW's purpose is to protect the interests of the migrant workers, he would allow it to represent the claimants.

He added that it would also be better for the claimants to be represented in court as they might have work and unable to attend all the hearing dates of the case.

Among the 45 cases that were consolidated, only two claimants chose not to be represented by Antonio. Judge Chow set the hearing of the cases to February 2, 2017.

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

Ylagan had insisted to officials of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office that she did not intend to dupe the jobseekers and promised that she would refund them.

She also complained about the decision of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office to stop the processing of contracts submitted by Emry's saying that this was done "without due process".

Emry's office in World Wide House in Central has been shuttered since June.

Charity banquet raises \$14.7M for ultrapoor in PH

IT was an evening of hope and an evening of generosity on October 24, when 700 people trooped to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center for International Care Ministries (ICM) 12th annual banquet.

Its theme "Hope Shines Through" was manifested in the presence of Analyn, one of the participants of ICM's Transform Program in General Santos where Analyn went through 16 weeks of training in values, health and livelihood.

Through the program, Analyn was able start a small food business that helped raised the income of her family. Thirteen-year-old Felix, who is enrolled to ICM's Medical Case Program because of his club foot, shared how he dreams of running in a race. Just the week before, Felix underwent surgery at Hong Kong's Matilda International Hospital, who are



KT Kuok, Daphne Kuok, Jane Arnett, Donna Sun, and Hong Kong Director of Audit David Sun attend the banquet. (Frederick Suarez)

partnering with ICM to provide surgeries to 18 patients from the Philippines.

The ICM Children's Choir composed of children from families participating in ICM programs shared how their perspectives of and options in life have widened.

As more stories and data were shared

of ICM's work in the Philippines, the generosity of the attending audience raised HK\$14.7 million (P85 million) during a moment of giving call, table sales and a silent auction to fund ICM's program in the Philippines.

This amount represents 19 percent

of ICM's annual budget in reaching ultrapoor communities in the Visayas and Mindanao.

One hundred twenty-three hands were raised when 2010 US National champion auctioneer Kristine Fladeboe Duinck, a member of ICM's US Board of Advisers, asked for donations. Donations of up to US\$500,000 raised during the moment of giving will be matched by US foundation "Find us Faithful".

This amount will host 296 Transform programs in impoverished communities, where the average income is P23 per person per day.

The silent auction featured works from 47 Filipino artists and Manila galleries Galerie Joaquin and Galerie Francesca. Some of the artists who came to Hong Kong for the event went beyond giving by serving as volunteers.

Fresh drug raps for Pinay

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

A fresh drugs case was filed against a Filipino woman who had been ordered arrested by a judge after failing to appear in the original two drugs cases against her.

This time, 33-year-old Gladys de Vera was in the dock when she appeared before Acting Principal Magistrate Joseph To H-shing.

De Vera was charged with trafficking in dangerous drugs after she was caught on November 2, 2016 in a room in Wan Chai with three plastic bags containing illegal substances.

It was found that the first plastic bag contained 500 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, the second bag, .5 grams of cannabis, and the third, two grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride.

No plea was taken. The fresh case was scheduled for mention again on December 15. De Vera did not seek bail.

Meanwhile, the two previous cases against De Vera were scheduled to be tried on November 29 in Court 3.

Deputy Magistrate Jacky Ip Kai-leung on October 24 ordered De Vera's arrest after she failed to appear for hearing following two previous deferrals of trial for possession of dangerous drugs.

De Vera's duty lawyer told Judge To that she failed to turn up in court on October 24 because she had too much to drink on the evening of October 23. The defendant's \$3,000-bail was forfeited.

De Vera's original cases alleged that on March 25, 2016, she was caught with two plastic bags containing methamphetamine hydrochloride in Wan Chai.

She pleaded not guilty to the two previous charges.

The prosecution said they will be presenting six witnesses in court and 55-minute video recording interview of the defendant with the police.

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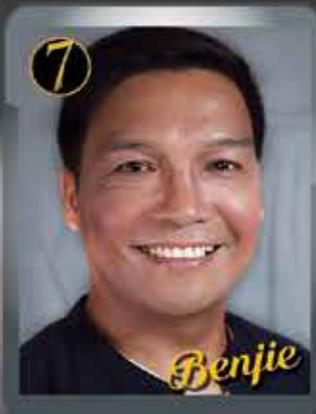
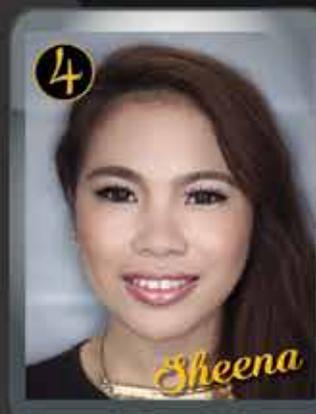


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Big firms pledge 'fair hiring' of FDWs

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

SEVEN multinational and local companies in Hong Kong made a pledge on November 4 to support their employees in hiring domestic workers fairly.

Barclays, Harvey Nash, Hasbro, KPMG, Macquarie Group, Shangri-La and Thomson Reuters were the inaugural signatories of the "Fair Hiring Pledge" of the Fair Employment Foundation, the charity arm of Fair Employment Agency. FEF's "mission is to develop and build market solutions to improve the system of recruitment and hiring for migrant workers in the city."

"Instead of just making people aware of the problem, companies who sign the fair hiring pledge are committed to supporting conscious and ethical hiring practices of migrant domestic workers.

"Pledging companies enable their employees to be part of the solution through hosting information session and training workshops provided by Fair Employment Foundation. It allows employees to learn more on the concept of fair hiring, contract obligations and professionalizing employer-worker relationship," the FEF



Fair Hiring Pledge signatories

said in a statement.

Asked if the signatories found running into hurdles about the implementation of the pledge, Antony Davies, Chief Executive of Barclays Bank's Hong Kong branch, said signing the pledge was the first step.

"This is the first step. We start by making people aware. The first goal is to raise awareness," Davies said.

Scott Stiles, Fair Employment Agency and FEF general manager, said they would be seeking more companies to make the pledge to promote the fair hiring of domestic workers in Hong Kong.

The Fair Hiring Pledge is "an agreement between companies and the public stating that management expects their employees to hire domestic workers fairly." The FEF will provide training on how to hire and manage, so that both sides are better off.

Over 340,000 migrant domestic workers, largely from the Philippines and Indonesia, work in Hong Kong.

A recent research report finds that exploitation and rights violations occur during all phases of their migration. It also found that an average domestic worker will borrow four months' salary to pay for their recruitment.

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Pinay acquitted in 'odd jobs' case

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

SHE was refused bail, imprisoned for nine days, and while in jail, her mother died, and in the end a judge found her not guilty of the breach of condition stay filed against her.

Sha Tin Magistrate Colin Wong Sze-cheung on November 8 acquitted 30-year-old Raquel Manacop of breach of condition of stay after she was allegedly caught by a labor inspector of doing "odd jobs" at her employer's food shop in Mirador Mansion in Tsim Sha Tsui.

The prosecution alleged that on August 10, 2016, Manacop sold two Indian food snacks to a labor inspector, re-heated them, accepted payment for them and gave him change.

The defense, meanwhile, said Manacop was in the shop because she had to pick up some stuff and bring them home. She was waiting at the shop while her employer went to the toilet.

Manacop testified that she was forced

to sell the snacks to the labor inspector, who was in plainclothes and doing an undercover work, because he told her that he wanted to buy them then.

In his ruling, Judge Wong cited four reasons why he found the defendant not guilty of the offense: she was not standing or sitting behind the food counter; she did not stand up or say anything to the labor inspector when he entered the shop; did not use the cash register and took her own money from her sling bag to give the labor inspector the change; and that her employer returned to the shop shortly after the police came to arrest Manacop.

"The prosecution relied on the defendant knowing the price of the snacks, but there was a price tag on the food counter, and selling snacks is not a complicated procedure and that the defendant could have picked up the procedure during her visits to the shop," he said.

He added that the transaction between the labor inspector and the defendant

took place in five minutes and may not have been enough to deduce that Manacop violated the condition of her stay.

The magistrate, however, only allowed the defendant to seek \$540 as costs from the prosecution for the duty lawyer service fees she had to pay.

The duty lawyer told the court that Manacop's friend had to shell out \$20,000 as she was represented by a private lawyer to appeal her bail application to the High Court.

Manacop stayed in prison for nine days (from August 10-19) until her bail was granted. It was also learned that the Filipino's mother died on August 13 while she was in jail. Her father, meanwhile, was also suffering from an illness.

Judge Wong rejected the defense's application, saying the receipts presented by the defendant did not name her as payee, but another entity.

He said there was also no evidence that the defendant paid the amount to the entity named in the receipts.

LPU inducts new officers

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

LOVE, Peace, Unity held an induction ceremony for its new set of officers on November 6 at the cafe Bar in Pier 7 in Central.

Vice Consul Alex Vallespin led the group's 14 officers and two advisers in

their oath-taking ceremony.

He also urged the group's members to be prudent in handling their incomes and stay away from spurious investment schemes such as Emgoldex.

Art Buban, LPU president, said he hopes the group will continue to unite and be a vessel in helping distressed Filipinos in Hong Kong.



New LPU officers



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Illegal fee collection hit

By Peter Castillo

THE illegal collection continues.

Although employment agencies in the Philippines are prohibited from collecting fees, many Filipino domestic workers going to Hong Kong still pay up to more than P52,000 just to work here.

The study, dubbed Between a Rock and a Hard Place, showed that 84 percent of the Filipino domestic workers who were interviewed paid an average of P52,644, said Shiella Estrada, chair of the Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers in Hong Kong (PLU).

“Our research clearly demonstrates that significant numbers of agencies are systematically charging Filipino migrant workers fees well in excess of the legal maximum,” Estrada said.

The study further showed that Philippine agencies frequently force experienced domestic workers to undergo unnecessary training in order to increase their profits.

“Many migrant domestic workers have little choice but to pay these exorbitant fees and are heavily indebted, making it difficult to leave exploitative and abusive employers,” a PLU statement said.

It said employment agencies in Hong

Kong collected from the FDHs interviewed an average of \$11,321 in fees or “the equivalent of more than 25 times the legal limit.”

Hong Kong laws allow agencies here to charge FDHs only 10 percent of their first month salary or only HK\$431.

“The charging of illegal fees by Hong Kong agencies leaves Filipino migrant domestic workers with huge debts. This in turn makes it even more difficult for them to challenge exploitative practices that they frequently experience,” said Phobuk Gasing, chair of the Hong Kong Federation of Asian Domestic Workers Union (FADWU).

“Although our research focused on Filipino domestic workers, other nationals experience similar, even worse, treatment,” Gasing added.

PLU said the Philippine and Hong Kong government failed to prosecute agencies



PLU members punch a picture representing illegal fees

that collect illegal fees.

“Between 2014 and 2015, Hong Kong’s Labor Department only secured 10 convictions for overcharging. Agencies convicted of overcharging or unlicensed operation were fined HK\$1,500 to HK\$45,000,” the group said.

“It is not surprising then that a significant number of Hong Kong agencies are blatantly charging illegal fees with little fear of reprisal,” it added.

The group said it was not uncommon

for employment agencies in Hong Kong to send Filipino domestic workers to Macau to wait for their new work visa and then ask for a fee.

“These agencies exploit this situation by charging, once again, illegal agency fees,” the group said.

It added that its members went to 10 employment agencies across Hong Kong and discovered that some agency staff “openly state fees above the legal maximum” to migrant workers.

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From page 1

on October 30 in Mong Kok.

The study, dubbed Between a Rock and a Hard Place, showed that 84 percent of the Filipino domestic workers who were interviewed paid an average of P52,644 to find work in HK.

The study, conducted by the Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers in Hong Kong (PLU), also showed that Philippine agencies frequently force experienced domestic workers to undergo unnecessary training in order to increase their profits.

“One way to crack or break that rock is to urge government to exercise its authority and charge them,” Cheung said.

“Until we are able to make Hong Kong people care that, if we continue to exploit migrant workers, the ones who will suffer will be the Hong Kong people, then we (won’t) be able to crack this very hard nut,” he added.

Cheung said he himself has a foreign

domestic worker who takes care of his disabled daughter.

“I have a disabled daughter. I owe much to my foreign domestic workers,” he said.

Cheung noted that a lot of elderly and disabled Hong Kong people depend on foreign domestic workers.

“Without you guys, we will have to pay 10 times—ten times more—to care for the elderly. The government is getting away with this important responsibility by having you guys provide the necessary care to us,” he said.

Cheung said there should be a concerted effort to make locals be more concerned about the fate of foreign domestic workers.

“I think part of the problem comes from the lack of concern. Migrant workers are discriminated against. Hong Kong people don’t really treat migrant workers equally. That is obvious,” he said.

“Without the public concern, even after such horrific case like Erwiana, it is very difficult to change the situation. Without

the public concern and without sufficient pressure on the government, we will continue to see this problem persist,” he said.

Cheung noted that cases of FDHs exploited by employment agencies are reported by English-language media in Hong Kong but there is “almost none” in the Chinese media.

“Every single time, when the issue is raised, we see a lot of coverage in the English media (but) almost none in the Chinese media. If there is some, it disappears rapidly,” Cheung said.

“And there is always a very strong opposition voice saying, ‘Migrant workers are the ones exploiting Hong Kong people because we are poor employers. We have to stand a lot of terrible habits, practices, and pay a lot of lump sum.’ It is very unfortunate,” Cheung said.

“Employment agencies are blatantly breaking the law continuously without fear as if it is permitted. It is so widespread that I think it is an exemption if migrant worker is not overcharged,” he added.

‘The agency said I owed them \$5,840’

By Peter Castillo

SEVERAL Filipino domestic workers who participated in the research study conducted by the Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers in Hong Kong shared their experiences about abusive employment agencies.

“I paid my recruitment agency in the Philippines P65,000. They never told me that I had to pay more fees in Hong Kong. After I arrived in Hong Kong, the placement agency said that I owed them \$5,840,” said Ruth, a 29-year-old worker from the northern Luzon province of Apayao.

“This amount was deducted from my salary for the first two months, which meant that I was left with only \$1,000,” she said.

Trina, 34 and from Isabela, said her agency told her that she had to pay \$13,650 and so she had to take out a loan.

“My normal salary was \$3,920 but for the first six months I had a salary deduction of \$2,275, which meant I was left with \$1,645,” Trina said.

“My agency took me to a finance company so that I could take out a ‘loan’ for \$13,650. The finance company took my passport as collateral. It wasn’t returned to me until I paid them in full,” she added.

Delia, a 39-year-old FDH from Oriental Mindoro, said she was sent to Macau for one month and told to pay \$9,000 as agency fee.

“I paid them \$2,000 from my savings before leaving Hong Kong and \$7,000

after I started my new job through salary deductions,” she said.

“When I returned to Hong Kong, the agency took my passport and told me that they would return it to me only after I had fully paid the agency fee,” she added.

Aris, 39 and from Nueva Vizcaya, said that, as soon as she arrived in Hong Kong and applied for her HKID, her agency took her to a finance company and made her sign a loan application.

“Then over a four-month period, I had to make cash payments totaling \$8,800 to the finance company via a 7-Eleven store,” she said.

Aris also said that her agency coerced her to sign a document saying that she “had paid only 10 percent of her first month’s salary.”

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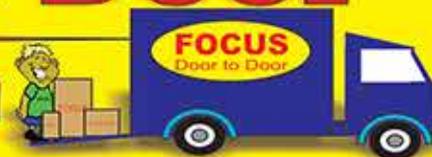
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Kyoto in the Fall

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT caught my eye while our taxi was barreling down the freeway from Osaka.

The mountain range in the distance looked like it was ablaze. I squinted and took in the view. The foliage had begun changing to the colors of Fall: from yellow to red to a tinge of deep orange.

“Wala nito sa Pilipinas (We don’t have this in the Philippines),” I told myself as I tried to get a photo with my phone camera from our moving vehicle.

The long line of mountains was giving

me a colorful preview of my destination: Kyoto.

Besides spring with its cherry blossoms, autumn is another popular time to visit Kyoto, which served as Japan’s ancient capital for a thousand years.

Dotted with historic palaces, temples, and storied districts, Kyoto and its environs come alive with the spectacular colors of autumn starting in October until early December.

My Filipino friends in Japan say that if there’s only one place you can visit in that country, choose Kyoto.

I got lucky to be invited to an International Labor Organization (ILO) conference in the city and so I got to see this former seat of shoguns (military dictators) and the emperors of ancient Japan.

Take the plunge

Topping the list of the sites we visited (of course, after attending the talks at the conference) for me was Kiyomizu-dera, a stunning Buddhist temple and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The street leading to the temple is lined with shops selling traditional Japanese wares that should not be missed.

Kiyomizu-dera (Pure Water Temple) was founded on the site of a waterfall in the city’s Higashiyama district in the year 780. The temple, one of the most celebrated in Japan, is made of wood and was constructed without the use of nails.

Kiyomizu-dera is best known for the wooden verandah that juts out of its main hall. The verandah, supported by 139 fifty-foot wooden pillars, provides stunning views of the temple’s surroundings.

I lingered there for several minutes to take some pictures, including that of a young girl looking at *ema*, or small wooden plaques on which believers write their prayers and wishes. The *ema* are left at temples, where spirits or gods can receive them.

But the best vantage point for me was when I walked a little further down the track from the main hall until I reached a point across the verandah. When I looked back, it looked like the main hall was floating on a sea of red.



The Silver Pavillion



At the entrance to Kiyomizu-dera

It is said that the Japanese have a popular expression--“To jump off the stage at Kiyomizu”---that is equivalent to “taking the plunge” in English.

People used to jump off the verandah in earlier times, believing that, if one were to survive the 13m fall, one’s wish would be granted.

Not wanting to take the jump, which is now prohibited, I continued my walk down to the base of the temple, where other tourists were lining up.

There at the base stood the remnant of the old waterfall whose waters are now divided into three streams. Using cups, visitors can drink the water from each of the streams, believed to give long life, success in one’s studies, and a lucky love life.

A visitor can scoop water from one or two of the streams but not three because that is thought to be a sign of avarice.

From wood to gold

After Kiyomizu-dera, the next historic eye candy that impressed me was Kinkaku-ji, a Zen temple in northern Kyoto which is covered by gold leaf. It is considered to be Kyoto’s most iconic site.

Kinkaku-ji (The Golden Pavilion) was

first built in the 1390s but a mentally disturbed student burned it down in 1950. The story is told in Yukio Mishima’s novel, *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*. It was rebuilt afterwards.

While one cannot enter the temple and examine it up close, it’s still a sight to behold, especially when taken with its golden reflection on the pond in front of the building.

We also took a side trip to Ginkaku-ji (the Silver Pavilion) in eastern Kyoto.

No, it’s not covered in silver but this Zen temple is said to have gotten its name because the moon light reflected on its dark exterior gave it a silvery appearance at night. It was built originally as a shogun’s retirement villa in 1482.

Vermillion

After this string of Buddhist temples, we decided to take a peek at a shrine dedicated to Shinto, Japan’s native religion.

Located in the Sakyo-ku Ward of the city, the Heian Shrine is considered “young”---only around 120 years old---when compared to the other shrines and palaces of Kyoto. It was built in 1895.

The shrine is dedicated to the first and



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The Golden Pavillion



Children in traditional attire

in ancient times in the city. We also passed by a stream that still had ducks swimming on its clean and clear waters.

You know you're nearing the temple when you encounter its massive Torii Gate, which mark the boundary "between the sacred and the profane." Reaching the shrine itself, one is impressed by its spacious grounds.

What got my attention were the vermilion-colored buildings of the temple complex. There were also white *omikuji*, or the fortune-telling paper strips.

Believers leave behind their *omikuji* in the temple grounds if does not predict a favorable fortune. They were tied in branches so that the "bad luck" would "stick with the tree instead of the person."

Nightingale floors

Our last stop was Ninomaru Palace in Nijo Castle, the home of the Tokugawa shoguns when Kyoto was still the capital.

This castle has life-size figures wearing traditional Japanese garb to show how the shogun and his retinue lived.

The palace is famous for its *uguisubari* (or nightingale floors) that make chirping sounds when someone walks on them. This was to ensure no one (like a ninja) could sneak around the palace undetected.

These places are but a few of the many sites to see in Kyoto. There is still the Gion district (famous for its geishas), the bamboo grove in Arashiyama, and the thousands of vermilion toriis at the Fushimi Inari shrine.

I think I wrote down in an *ema* my wish that someday I could return.



Kiyomizu-dera's veranda or stage

last emperors who resided in the Kyoto before the imperial capital was moved to Tokyo in 1869.

Walking to the temple, we passed by a neighborhood of *machiya*, or the traditional wooden townhouses famous in the city. We get a sense of how ordinary folks lived



A girl reads wishes written on ema



Kiyomizu-dera's wooden pillars

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Alleged narco-politician killed

By Maia Lopez

ALBUERA Mayor Rolando Espinosa, who was tagged as a narco-politician by President Rodrigo Duterte, was shot dead inside a sub-provincial jail in Baybay City, Leyte.

Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Region 8 reportedly tried to serve a warrant for Espinosa for illegal possession of firearms inside his cell at 4 a.m. on a Saturday – a departure from the regular working hours on regular working days when subpoenas are supposed to be served.

Espinosa allegedly resisted the arrest and was shot dead during the operation. Another detainee, Raul Yap, was also killed. The policemen claimed that Espinosa and Yap shot it out with them, prompting the lawmen to kill the two.

During a raid in August, police recovered around P88 million worth of shabu and 13 high-powered firearms and some



Espinosa

low firearms ammunition and explosives at Espinosa's residence in Sitio Tinago, Barangay Binulho in Albuera town.

Also in August, Espinosa's lawyer Rogelio Bato Jr. was shot dead near a mall in Tacloban City.

Espinosa surrendered to Philippine National Police Director-General Ronald dela Rosa in October, hours after Duterte gave the mayor an ultimatum that he will

be shot on sight if he does not turn himself in.

Espinosa's son Kerwin, whom the mayor admitted to be a drug pusher, had gone into hiding but was later on arrested in Abu Dhabi last month.

The Supreme Court said it will investigate the circumstances surrounding the serving of the warrant that resulted in the killing of Espinosa.

Prior to his death, Espinosa executed an affidavit naming the government officials who allegedly protected and benefitted from Kerwin's drug operations.

For his part, Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno said the 19 policemen who were involved in the serving of the warrant that led to the killing of Espinosa will be investigated by the Philippine National Police-Internal Affairs Service.

"We want to get to the bottom of this incident so we can carry out the necessary actions," Sueno said.

At the House of Representatives, two opposition lawmakers sought a congressional probe into what they described as "mysterious circumstances" surrounding Espinosa's killing.

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat and Magdalo party-list Rep. Gary Alejano cited possible irregularities and serious questions that need to be addressed by the PNP, including why a warrant was served at four in the morning.

Yolanda remembered

THE Catholic Church through its social action arm, the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA)/Caritas Philippines, recognized the heroism of super typhoon Yolanda survivors from the nine worst-hit provinces during the third Yolanda commemoration activities held on November 8 in Leyte.

At least 27 'Yolanda' survivors from the Yolanda-hit provinces of Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar, Cebu, Palawan, Antique, Iloilo, Capiz, and Aklan were recognized for their heroism and contributions to the community, which they displayed during the height of storm and during the course of the relief and rehabilitation program being implemented by the Catholic Church.

"Yolanda taught us so many lessons about faith, hope and charity. There are still many untold stories of heroism and resiliency of Yolanda survivors. And these people from different far-flung communities devastated by Yolanda are the unsung heroes, who helped the community to recover and build back better," NASSA/Caritas Philippines Executive Secretary Fr. Edwin Gariguez.

To date, the overall Caritas response in the country contributed more than P4.6 billion and served over 1.8 million people. These interventions cover the relief up to the recovery phase.

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De Lima files writ of habeas data

By Maia Lopez

SENATOR Leila de Lima has filed a petition for writ of habeas data before the Supreme Court seeking to stop President Rodrigo Duterte from securing private details on her personal life and using them to "degrade her dignity as a human being, a woman and a senator."

"This is a good fight. I have the right to fight it so I am invoking my legal right to do so – even if I have to step into untested waters to do it," De Lima said, referring to Duterte's immunity from suit as a sitting President.

"His lofty position should not be used to perpetuate his personal evil designs against one woman. My decision to seek help from the Supreme Court is my way to stop this devil who keeps on trying to make my life a nightmare," she added.

In her petition, De Lima cited several occasions when the President repeatedly subjected her to crude personal verbal attacks which involved detailing in public her alleged love affairs.

"These verbal attacks and threats leve-



De Lima

led against me are not covered by presidential immunity from suit because they are not the official acts of a President. They constitute unlawful, unofficial conduct that have nothing to do with his duties," she said.

Duterte had previously accused De Lima of having a relationship with her driver, Ronnie Dayan, whom the President also linked to the proliferation of illegal drugs inside the New Bilibid Prisons.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella, for his part, scored de Lima for playing the "gender card" against Duterte.

"Senator Leila de Lima is apparent-

ly playing the gender card as a shield against mounting evidence of her ties with high-profile drug lords and the proliferation of the drug trade in the New Bilibid Prison," Abella said.

"By portraying herself as a victim, she seeks to distance herself from the intimate relationships which were also intertwined with drug trafficking while she was Justice secretary," the Palace official added.

The Supreme Court said it will first resolve the prejudicial question on whether Duterte is immune from the habeas data suit before taking action on De Lima's petition.

The High Court directed her and the Office of the Solicitor General to submit their respective memoranda expounding their arguments on the immunity issue.

Earlier, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption filed criminal and disbarment cases against De Lima for her alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade inside the NBP. VACC founding chairman Dante Jimenez also urged De Lima to quit.

US cancels arms sale to PH

WASHINGTON has cancelled the sale of 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippine National Police amid increasing concerns about human rights violations in the country.

US Senator Ben Cardin, the top Democrat in the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, reportedly opposed the sale because of reports of rampant extrajudicial killings in the Philippines in connection with the bloody narco-war of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Neither the Department of Foreign Affairs Department nor the US Embassy in Manila could confirm the report, but Duterte eventually issued a statement ordering the cancellation of the arms deal.

"I would like to announce that the 26,000 M-16 that were ordered or were ordered already, and that I am ordering its cancellation," the Pres-

ident said.

He said the country could turn to other sources to supply the guns that would be used to fight terrorism.

"We will just have to look for another source that is cheaper and may be as durable and as good as those made from the place we're ordering them," Duterte said.

"We will not insist on buying expensive arms. We can always get them somewhere else," he added.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the country can turn to Russia to source the guns.

PNP chief Ronald dela Rosa, for his part, said the aborted purchase of the assault rifles from the United States would deal a blow to the country's anti-terrorism drive.

Relations between the Philippines and the US

have turned sour since Duterte began denouncing the Americans for criticizing the high death toll in his drug war.

In August, Duterte called US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg a "homosexual son of a whore," and accused the outgoing envoy of meddling in the elections.

Meanwhile, a meeting between senior security officials from the Philippines and the United States this month will determine the fate of joint military exercises between the two countries, after Duterte said he wanted US troops out of the Philippines in two years.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperson said the Mutual Defense Board, which includes the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff and the commander of the Pacific Area Command of the US forces, will convene. **ML**



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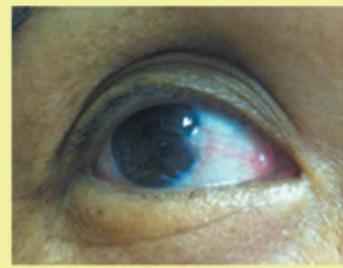
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New PH Navy frigate leaves California

By Maia Lopez

THE Philippine Navy's latest frigate, the Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas (BRP) Andres Bonifacio, has left California.

The ship left the US Coast Guard Base in Alameda, California and embarked on its voyage to the Philippines on November 1 with Captain Brendo J. Casaclang in command.

Philippine Consul General to San Francisco Henry S. Bensurto, Jr. led the send-off party which included Consulate officials, military attaché B/Gen Eric Calip and members of the Filipino-American community.

In his speech, Bensurto congratulated the crew for completing their training, and for preparing the BRP Andres Bonifacio to take on its new mission of protecting the Philippines.

"Traditional and non-traditional security concerns continue to confront our country, and the BRP Andres Bonifacio and its



The send-off

crew would indeed be a welcome asset of the Philippine Navy and the Armed Force of the Philippines in addressing these concerns," he said.

Bensurto also thanked the US Coast Guard personnel who, on top of their regular duties, provided support and assistance in training the crew of the Andres Bonifacio.

He personally thanked the crew for their "selfless service and sacrifice to defend and protect our beloved country."

Following tradition, he wished the

crew a safe journey across the Pacific Ocean and "fair winds, clear skies and following seas."

At the end of the Ceremony, the crew immediately boarded the ship and prepared to depart the US Coast Guard base for their next port of call in San Diego, California.

The BRP Andres Bonifacio is the third high-endurance US Coast Guard cutter that was transferred to the Philippines last July, as part of the Excess Defense Articles Program.

'Creating OFW bank may violate law'

By Maia Lopez

THE government plan to buy a bank using Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) funds may violate the law, an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) advocacy group said.

John Monterona, convenor of the United Overseas Filipinos Worldwide (U-OFW), said the plan might violate R.A. 10801 or the OWWA Law.

"The idea is good. But there may be legal prohibitions in using the OWWA fund, which is a trust fund, if use to buy a bank. It may violate the OWWA law or Republic Act No. 10801," Monterona said.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III earlier announced in Hong Kong the plan of the government to establish an OFW Bank through the OWWA.

During the inauguration of an OFW one-stop shop service center at the Baguio Convention Center, Bello reconfirmed the plan to buy the Philippine Postal Bank.

"We need at least P3 billion to buy the Philippine Postal Bank and convert it from a thrift bank to a commercial bank that will be solely owned by the OFWs so that they will be able to operate the largest commercial bank in the country," Bello was quoted as saying.

Bello said that the initial amount of P3-B will come from the OFWs trust fund held in trust to OWWA.

Monterona cited three reasons why the use of OWWA fund could violate the OWWA law.

He pointed out that the OWWA Fund can only be used for "the purposes for which it was created, that is, to serve

the welfare of member-OFWs and their families which shall include the financing of core programs and services of the OWWA."

Monterona said the OWWA law also declared that OWWA was a chartered institution.

"We are not sure if it is vested with a corporate power to run and administer a bank, which the OWWA law does not specifically mentioned," Monterona said.

He also noted that Section 22 of the OWWA law does not specifically give power or authority to the OWWA Board of Trustees (OWWA-BOT), the agency's policy-making body, to use the OWWA fund to buy and run a bank for OFWs.

"The OWWA-BOT should find remedies into these legal prohibitions," Monterona said.

Bello: Nearly 900 distressed OFWs in Kuwait get government assistance

By Maia Lopez

THE government will extend all necessary assistance, including repatriation, to 847 more distressed overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Kuwait, Labor Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III said on November 8.

Those in Kuwait are in addition to the more than 10,200 OFWs already provided with assistance from Riyadh, Al Khobar, and Jeddah, all still reeling from the effects of the slump in oil prices in the Middle East early this year.

Bello said the 847 OFWs are not being paid their salaries by their employer, the

Kharafi National KSC, for the past two to four months.

Of that number, 773 are laborers and 74 are in supervisory, engineering, and administrative positions.

Bello, citing a report from Labor Attache Angelita Narvaes of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuwait, said that representatives from the POLO and Kharafi National KSC met last month to discuss the recurring problem of delayed payment of salaries.

During the meeting, Kharafi management agreed to settle their obligation to the affected OFWs by the end of last month.

Narvaes reported that the Kuwaiti company also allowed the workers to resign and return to the country.

The workers who asked to be transferred to other Kuwaiti company will be allowed provided they were employed by Kharafi for more than three years.

Last August, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) ordered the disqualification of Kharafi National KSC from the country's overseas employment program. This after POLO-Kuwait requested the POEA to stop new deployment of OFWs for Kharafi because of recurring problems of unpaid salaries to its workers.

Filipino workers in South Korea welcome wage hike

By Maia Lopez

SOUTH Korea's Ministry of Employment and Labor has increased the minimum wage to KRW 6,470 (P268.73) per hour for 2017 that would benefit overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in that country, a labor official said.

Welfare Officer Manuela Peña, Officer In-Charge of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Korea, said the new minimum wage rate for 2017, represents an increase of 7.3 percent over the current minimum wage rate of KRW 6,030, or P250.46 per hour."

Peña also said that more than 24,000 OFWs in both small and medium manufacturing industries employed under the Employment Permit System (EPS) shall be covered by the new base rate next year.

The minimum wage, as defined in Korea's Labor Standards Act, covers all em-

ployees, regardless of their employment status, whether temporary, daily or part-time employees; or nationality, including foreign workers.

The new minimum wage translates to KRW 51,760 (P2,149.87) per day on an 8-hour working day; or KRW 258,800 (P10,749.34) on five working days. This is equivalent to KRW 1,352,230 (P56,165.28) per month.

The South Korean government, through its Labor Standards Policy Department, shall closely monitor the employment conditions, support employment, and supervise the worksites to ensure that the new minimum wage is enforced.

Last year, around 5,000 Filipinos were allowed to work in South Korea's manufacturing sector under the EPS.

This brought the total number of OFWs working there thru the EPS to 23,948.



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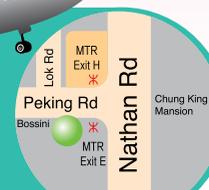
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Romcoms featured in filmfest

By Peter Castillo

FILIPINO romantic comedy and drama films were the centerpiece of this year's 7th Philippine Film Festival in Hong Kong.

Organized by the Philippine Consulate General, in cooperation with the Film Development Council of the Philippines, the two-week festival, which ran from October 14 to 30, featured a collection of six romantic comedies and dramas which topped the Philippine movie charts in the last two years.

The featured films were as follows: "Everything About Her," starring Vilma Santos, Angel Locsin and Xian Lim; "Every Day I Love You," featuring Liza Soberano and Enrique Gil; "Bride for Rent" with Kim Chiu and Xian Lim;



The filmfest

"That Thing Called Tadhana," an indie film whose lead characters were portrayed by Angelica Panganiban and JM De Guzman; "Crazy Beautiful You," top-billed by Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla; and Piolo Pascual and Toni Gonzaga's "Starting Over Again."

These films were screened at various locations on different show dates at the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, the Domestic Worker's Empowerment Program at the University of Hong Kong, Delia Memorial School, and at the Philippine Consulate General.

The Opening Gala on October 14 was held at the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre with a screening of "Everything About Her". Invited guests were members of the Consular Corps, local media, project partners, notable Hong Kong residents and other members of the Filipino Community in Hong Kong.

In her address, Consul General Bernardita Catalla said that the featured films for this year, while they seem to take a comedic approach to life, "reflect the resilience, self-sacrificing attitude and loving values of the Filipinos."

The Film Festival was first conducted in 2009 and has been an annual project of the Consulate to promote the Filipino Film industry and to provide opportunities for Filipinos in Hong Kong as well as locals to enjoy Filipino artistry in film.

Three steps to financial freedom

By Cheryl M. Arcibal

THOSE seeking financial freedom need to do three things to achieve their goal: save; invest, and re-invest.

Financial literacy coaches emphasized this during a free seminar "Peraparaan Lang Yan" held on October 29 at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office.

JP Adena, one of the speakers, shared to some 20 attendees about his journey from a gambler to investor.

He said that as young as 19-years-old and a college student, he became addicted to gambling and had racked up some P45,000 in debts.

When his aunt, who was sending him to school, found out about his debts, she told him to work so he could pay off what he owed. It took him three years to pay off his debts.

Adena then came to Hong Kong to work as a performer at Disneyland, but still found himself in debt. After getting married and having a child, Adena said he found the "big emotional why" to have the discipline to save money.

He added that to build one's savings, the person must have a pattern. Adena said he followed the 80-20 principle or spending 80 percent of his income, and setting aside 10 percent for savings, and

another 10 percent for emergency funds.

Floi Wycoco, CEO and founder of The Global Filipino Investors, said Filipinos should be wise in choosing their investment vehicles.

It was estimated, he said, that various investment scams in the Philippines, excluding recent ones, had duped Filipinos into parting with their hard-earned money worth P80 billion.

"Walang savings ang mga Pilipino, pero mayroong pang-scam," he said.

Wycoco cited mutual funds, stocks investing, and insurance from reputable brokers or companies as among safe investment options.

Announcements

THE Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong, in cooperation with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Central Luzon Chapter presents "Idulog Mo Kay Atorni - 4"

IBP lawyers will be providing free legal consultations on November 12 (10:00am to 4:00pm) and November 13 (9:00am to 3:00pm). On November 13, a legal forum will be held. For registration and appointment, please call 2823-8537 (Cholo) or 2823-8511 (Charlene); or email at cru.pcgkh@gmail.com.

The CARD MRI OFW Foundation Hong Kong will conduct a free financial literacy seminar at the Bayanihan Centre from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on November 20. Bayanihan Centre is at 55 Victoria Road, Kennedy town.

For inquiries, please call 5423-8196 or leave a message on our Facebook Page: CARD OFW HONGKONG.

LD conducts tour

By Vicks Reyes Munar

THE Lakbay Dangal (LD) group recently toured students from the Baptist University of the places in Central where national hero Jose Rizal once stayed.

Lakbay Dangal officers Maritess Mapa, Cecil Eduarte and Vicky Munar conducted the tour for foreign exchange students from Baptist University on November 6.

As part of their journalism class requirements, Rico Dwi Nugratama and Yesan Zhu aka Ritu, from Indonesia and China, chose LD trail to be their featured subject.

The tour was highly recommended by Baptist University Professor Dean C.K. Cox who once joined the tour. Rico and Yesan expressed their appreciation.

"We learned a lot from the short tour, historical facts shared by the Lakbay Dangal Ladies were so informative especially trivia of various spots where we walked as we head on to the place where their national hero once lived in Rednaxela Terrace. We will surely recommend this to our fellow students and friends from Indonesia and China," Rico said.

Lakbay Dangal will be happy to offer tours to those interested and also new members. For those who are interested, please call 94167012/96066810.

LD is a historico-cultural group known for conducting walking tours around Central, highlighting the alleys and spots where Rizal and other famous Filipino personalities once walked.



LD members conduct a walking tour in Central



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All set for civil service exam in HK

By Peter Castillo

ALL is set for the civil service exam for overseas Filipino workers on November 27 in Hong Kong, Labor Attaché Jalilo dela Torre said.

The online registration for the civil service exam here in Hong Kong on November 27 began today (Nov. 4) and will last until Nov. 13, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said.

Dela Torre said the exam will be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and the Delia School.

"We are now ready for the exams," he

said.

In an announcement on its website, the CSC said applicants need to fill out the Application Form for Civil Service Examination (CS Form 100), Revised September 2016, which can be obtained from the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) or downloaded from the CSC website.

They then have to register on the CSC website (www.csc.gov.ph).

"The exam is open to overseas Filipino workers currently based in Hong Kong and Macau who are at least 18 years old on the date of registration," the CSC said.

It said applicants should have four pic-

es of passport sized (4.5 cm x 3.5 cm) I.D. picture taken not more than three months ago, in white background.

"The picture should show the applicant's bare face without eyeglasses or any accessory that may cover facial features, and a hand-held written name tag legibly showing the applicant's signature over

printed full name," the CSC said.

"Applicants should then pay the registration fee of PHP1,500 via bank or remittance/payment centers," the CSC added.

It said payment should be directed to the Civil Service Commission through the following details:

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As We See it

Divisive

IT would have been better to let sleeping dogs lie.

But on November 8, the Supreme Court ruled that Ferdinand Marcos can be buried in the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The administration says Marcos should be buried as part of the country's political healing process and for Filipinos to "move on."

But instead of providing closure, this decision only opens up old wounds and will further polarize our society.

To tell martial law victims to simply "move on" is the height of injustice with the Marcoses not even admitting that they did any wrong. How do you forgive someone who has not even asked forgiveness?

Worse, the decision to bury Marcos will only shore up their campaign to rewrite history.

They will use this burial to point to future generations that the dictator was indeed a hero worthy of emulation.

We also note that the President has been pushing for the burial of Marcos after admitting that the Marcos family was one of his biggest campaign contributors.

It is sad to see that the President would rather support his rich political supporters rather than poor martial law victims, some of whom had yet to find the bodies of their loved ones.

This is not closure. It will only add to the fire.

Health Alert

Pesticides in vegetables

THE Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department announced today (November 4) that a radish sample and two Indian lettuce samples were found to have pesticide residues at levels exceeding the legal limits. The CFS is following up on the cases.

A spokesman for the CFS said, "The CFS collected the radish sample at the import level and the two Indian lettuce samples from two different retailers in Wan Chai for testing under its regular Food Surveillance Programme. The test results showed that the radish sample contained cyhalothrin at a level of 0.026 parts per million (ppm), i.e. 2.6 times the maximum residue limit (0.01 ppm). One Indian lettuce sample contained cyhalothrin at a level of 0.27 ppm, i.e. 1.35 times the maximum residue limit (0.2 ppm for leafy vegetables) while another sample was found to contain methamidophos at a level of 0.51 ppm, i.e. 10.2 times the maximum residue limit (0.05 ppm).

"Based on the levels of pesticide residues detected in the samples, adverse health effects will not be caused with usual consumption," he added.

Generally speaking, to reduce pesticide residues in vegetables, members of the pub-

lic can rinse vegetables several times under running water, then soak them in water for one hour, or blanch them in boiling water for one minute and discard the water. To further reduce the intake of pesticide residues, the outer leaves or peel of the vegetables can also be removed as appropriate.

Any person who imports, manufactures or sells any food not in compliance with the requirements of the Pesticide Residues in Food Regulation (Cap 132CM) concerning pesticide residues commits an offence and is liable to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and to imprisonment for six months upon conviction.

Since the regulation came into effect on August 1, 2014, the CFS has taken over 85 400 food samples at import, wholesale and retail levels for testing of pesticide residues, and a total of 166 vegetable and fruit samples (including the unsatisfactory samples announced today) have been detected to have excessive pesticide residues. The overall unsatisfactory rate is less than 0.2 per cent.

The CFS will follow up on the unsatisfactory results, including tracing the sources and distribution of the food in question and taking samples for testing so as to safeguard public health.



Currents

Norman Uy
Carnay

Kumilos sa International Migrants' Day

SA susunod na buwan ay gugunitain na muli ang International Migrants' Day. Tamang-tama dahil ang December 18 ay tatapat sa Linggo kaya't magiging mas makabuluhan ang paggunita dahil mabibigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga foreign domestic workers (FDWs) na makibahagi sa mga pagkilos sa araw na iyon.

Nitong nakaraang Linggo ay nagsagawa ng isang press conference ang mga lider ng Asian Migrant's Coordinating Body (AMCB) – ang nangungunang koalisyong ng mga migranteng Asyano – na laging nasa unahan ng mga laban para sa ikabubuti ng mga migrante. Ayon sa kanila, sesentruhan sa usapan ang tatlong isyu na direktang may epekto sa buhay at kabuhayan ng mga migrante ngayon.

Una na ay ang kahilingan para ipagbawal ang paglilinis ng bintana ng mga FDWs. Nabigyan na ng pansin ang napaka-delikadong gawain na ito. Bagamat

may sinasabing plano na ang HK government na babaguhin ang labor contract para maglagay ng probisyon para sa window-cleaning na limitado lang sa ground floor o di kaya ay sa may ligtas na balkonahe o hallway. Mabuti naman, kaso hindi malinaw kung maglalagay ng multa o parusa sa mga employer na pipilitin ang kanilang kasambahay na maglinis ng bintana sa matataas na flats.

Ikalawang banta sa buhay ng mga FDWs ay iyong umuutas ng dahan-dahan sa kanila – ang sobrang habang oras ng trabaho sa bahay ng mga amo. Open secret na nga na 12-16 hours ang kadalasang pagkakayod ng mga kababayan natin. Overworked talaga! At tiyak na ilalagay sa panganib ang kalusugan nila dahil marami nang siyentipikong pag-aaral ang nagsabi na ang mahabang oras ng trabaho ay nagtataas ng posibilidad para sa mga sakit tulad ng hypertension, sakit sa puso

at iba pa. Bagamat may panukala na ang HK government na magkaroon ng regulasyon sa working hours, tila excluded na naman ang ating mga FDWs.

Ang ikatlo ay umaatake naman sa kabuhayan ng mga migrante. Itong Immigration Department kasi ay nagpakawala ng alarma na marami daw FDWs ang di-umano'y nag-j-job hopping kaya ngayon ay naghihigpit sila. Marami na rin ang nag-uulat na hindi binibigyan ng working visa dahil inaakusahan ng walang due process na nag-job hopping. Kailan pa naging krimen ang mag-change employer sa ilalim ng Labor Ordinance?

Kaya't mainam na makiisa ang lahat ng mga domestic workers sa selebrasyon ng International Migrants' Day para itambol ang tatlong isyu na ito na direktang umaatake sa buhay at kabuhayan ng mga migrante sa Hong Kong. Itindig ang interes ng mga migrante sa December 18!

Dear Editor

Dear Hong Kong News,

Kulang-kulang dalawang buwan ay Pasko na naman! Halos sampung Pasko na ang nagdaan nang una akong tumuntong dito sa Hong Kong!

At kahit matagal na ako dito, tuwing sasapit ang mga ganitong panahon, hindi ko pa rin maiwasan ang mungulila sa pamilya.

Kahit na hindi magarbo ang aming pagdiriwang, iba pa rin na kasama ko ang aking pamilya at mga kaibigan sa atin.

Kaya natutuwa ako nang mabasa ko ang sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte noong nasa Japan siya na nais niyang ang mga susunod na henerasyon ng Pilipino ay sa atin na magtrabaho.

Nasasabik akong makita kung ano ang gagawin ng ating pamahalaan upang matupad ang pangakong ito ng ating Pangulo.

Isa po ako sa mga bumoto sa kanya at inaasahan ko ang pagbabago na kanyang ipinangako sa mga botante noong panahon ng kampanya.

Wala namang masama sa panginigbang-bayan upang magtrabaho, pero mas maganda ito kung ito ay option lamang at hindi iyong dahil walang ibang trabaho.

Sa darating na Pasko at Bagong Taon, ito ang dasal ng puso ko. Alam ko halos lahat ng mga kababayan natin dito sa Hong Kong ay katulad ko din ng hiling.

Umaasa,
Bernadette L.

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Nablock ng anak sa FB

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

HINILING ng nag-iisang anak na mag-swimming party bilang pagdiriwang ng ika-labinlimang kaarawan sa ina nito na si Martha, 42, hiwalay at tubong Cebu. Hindi pinagbigyan ni Martha ang anak at sinabing isang libo lang ang ibibigay

niya para ipang libre sa mga kaibigan.

Nagkaroon sila ng pagtatalo hanggang isang araw ay hindi na nakipag-usap ang anak. Hindi na rin siya makapag padala ng mensahe sa FB dahil hindi na niya mahanap ang account nito. Kaya wala na siyang nababasang balita tungkol dito.

Napagtanto ni Martha na nablocked na

pala siya ng anak sa FB. Hindi mapakali si Martha at naukento niya ito sa mga kaibigan. Pinayuhan nila si Martha na gumawa ng bagong FB account, ibahin ang pangalan, kaibiganin ang anak, pero huwag ipaalang na siya ang ina nito.

Sa ganung paraan ay malalaman niya kung ano ang kinahuhumalingan at kung

ano ang pinagagawa ng bata.

Sinunod ni Martha ang payo ng mga kaibigan at nabawasan na ang pag-aalala sa anak kasi palagi na niyang nakakausap ito ng malaya at bukas ang komunikasyon nila bilang magkaibigan. Nalalaman niya kung ano ang nangyayari at kung saan nagpupunta ang kanyang one and only.



FB

Nainip, naghanap ng amo

ISANG buwan na lang ay patapos na ang ika-anim na kontrata ni Jessa, 38, dalaga at tubong Rizal pero hindi pa siya sinasabihan kung pipirmahan pa o hindi na kaya naisipan na niyang maghanap ng magiging amo para sigurado.

Hindi naman nawawalan ng mga tawag si Jessa galing sa mga gustong kumuha ng kasambahay. Kapag may pagkakataon at maluwa ang oras niya, nakikipagkita si Jessa sa humihiling na makita at makausap siya ng personal.

Minsan, nagkataon na may tumawag sa Pilipina. Lingid sa kaalaman ni Jessa, gising na pala ang mga amo niya kaya narinig ng amo ang

usapan.

Pagkatapos ng pakikipag-usap ni Jessa sa telepono, kinausap siya ng amo at tinanong kung anong ibig sabihin ng narinig niyang usapan.

Sinabi ni Jessa na nag-aalala siya kasi isang buwan na lang at tapos na ang kanyang kontrata pero wala pa ring linaw kung gusto pa rin nila siyang pirmahan.

Sinagot si Jessa ng amo na, "Of course, we still need you...silly girl". Nagpasalamat si Jessa at nagtawanan ang mag-amo.

Imelda Mae Bustinera

Nabigyan ng leksyon ang alaga ni Regina

By Imelda Mae Bustinera

NANG pauwi na galing sa paggala dahil araw niya ng pahinga, nakasabay sa bus ni Regina 40, dalaga tubong Isabela, ang kakilala niya sa kaniyang gusali.

Nabanggit nito na maingay at magulo na naman ang bahay kinabukasan dahil walang pasok ang makukulit nilang alaga.

Nagtaka si Regina kasi wala naman raw nabanggit sa kanya ang alaga o mga amo. Baka raw ang alaga lang ng kakilala dahil magkaiba ng paaralan ang mga alaga nila.

Pagdating ni Regina sa bahay ay nasa sala ang mga amo. Naghilamos lang at nagpaalam na si Regina na matutulong. Nagbakasakali siya na sabihin sa kanya na walang pasok kinabukasan pero nag good night lang ang amo.

Kinabukasan tulad ng takdang oras na

paggising ay ipinaghanda ni Regina ang alaga ng almusal at ginising na niya ito. Pero sa halip na bumangon ay umayos pa ng higa ang bata.

Tinanong siya ni Regina kung anong oras na at bakit umayos pa siya higa. Hindi raw ba siya papasok? Sumagot ang alaga na hindi raw. Iniwan na ni Regina at iniligtip uli ang babaunin sanang meryenda at ibinalik ang sapatos.

Pero pagdating ng oras na alas siyete y media ay bumangon at nagmamadaling nagbihis ng uniporme ang alaga. Ininom nito ang gatas at lumabas ng bahay para pumasok ng hindi na aghilamos at nagse-pilyo ng ngipin.

Nang mga sumunod na araw ay maaga ng gumigising ito. Nagpasalamat sa nangyari si Regina at natututo na ang alaga.

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Sunshine Cruz, may bagong BF

By Cristy Kasilag

TATLONG taon matapos magfile ng anulment sa kanyang asawang actor na si Cesar Montano, tumitibok na naman ang puso ng still sexy na si Sunshine Cruz.

Magnobyong na sila Sunshine at si Macky Mathay, ang half-brother ng actress na si Ara Mina.

Mayroong tatlong anak na babae sila Sunshine at Cesar na sina Angeline Isabelle, Samantha Angeline at si Angel Francheska.

Si Macky din ay mayroong tatlong anak sa dati niyang asawa na si Camille Farinas, anak ni Ilocos Norte Rep. Rudy Farinas.

Nung nakaraang buwan ay may kumalat



SUNSHINE

na balita na nakita daw si Sunshine at Macky na tumatawid ng kalsada sa Bon-

ifacio Global City sa Taguig City habang magka holding hands.

Kamakailan ay umamin si Macky na totoong may namumuong romantic na relasyon sa kanilang dalawa ni Sunshine.

Sinabi ni Macky na matagal na siyang may crush kay Sunshine na kaibigan naman ng kanyang kapatid na si Ara.

Nagsimulang ligawan ni Macky si Sunshine nuong buwan ng Setyembre nang nag iwan siya ng message sa Instagram account ng actress.

Binanggit din niya na sa kanilang dalawa ni Sunshine ay mas nauna siyang na hulog ang puso at tuwing lumalabas daw sila ay lubos ang kanyang kasiyahan.

At kahit sabihin o isipin ng iba na tila

mabilis nabuo ang kanilang relasyon, ang isasagot lang niya ay ganun talaga ang pangyayari dahil mahal niya si Sunshine. Kahit daw maging sila na ay pinapangako nito na araw-araw niyang liligawan ang aktres.

Dinagdag pa niya na medyo may edad na silang dalawa at madami nang pinagdaanan sa buhay. Maaring hindi na raw makahanap pa muli ng taong mamahalin kaya dapat ay hindi na nila pigilan ang kanilang nararamdaman sa isa't-isa.

Nagpasalamat naman ang 39-anyos na si Sunshine kay Macky dahil naging bahagi ito nang kanyang buhay at naging masaya siya. Pati daw ang kanyang tatlong anak ay masaya para sa kanya.

GMA 7 wins international award

ALAMAT gave the Philippines its first-ever "Best of Festival Award," which is considered as the Grand Prix of the USIFVF and is given to an outstanding entry among the Gold Camera winners. Alamat first won the Gold Camera Award in the Entertainment: Children category for its "Alamat ng Bayabas (The Legend of the Guava)" episode.

Alamat's winning episode was produced by a team led by Public Affairs Program Manager (now Asst. Vice President) Jaileen F. Jimeno. The series began airing in 2015, featuring Philippine myths and legends that mirror Filipino culture.

It also marked the first time that GMA's Post Production Team embarked on a full length animation.

Receiving a "Gold Camera" award as well is GMA News TV's Reel Time for its episode "Isang Paa sa Hukay (The Price of Gold)". I-Witness and Reporter's Notebook were both conferred the "Silver Screen" awards for the episodes "Kawayang Pangarap (Bamboo Dreams)" and "Hikbi sa Ibayong Dagat (Far From Home)", respectively.

Brigada ("Para sa Pangarap"), Front Row ("Maestra Salbabida"), and Investigative Documentaries ("Gutom") each earned a "Certificate for Creative Excellence" in the Social Issues category, while Karelasyon's "Tres Rosas" and Wagas' "Gabriela and Diego Silang Love Story" were given "Certificates for Creative Excellence" in the Docudrama category. Earning accolades as well were GMAETV programs "Pepito Manaloto" and "Idol sa Kusina", which received "Certificates for Creative Excellence" in the Cooking and Comedy categories, respectively.

Maling post ni Cynthia Patag

MASAMA ang loob ng singer na si Iwi Laurel at ang anak nitong si Nicole Laurel Asensio sa pagdawit ng singer comedienne Cynthia Patag sa kanyang post sa Facebook na nagsabi na si Noli Asensio ay naging biktima ng drug war ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

Si Noli ay dating asawa ni Iwi at ama ni Nicole.

Si Iwi ay anak ni Salvador "Doy" Laurel, na dating bise president ng bansa nuong panahon ng dating Presidente Corazon "Cory" Cojuangco-Aquino.

Ni repost ni Cynthia ang mensahe ni Lydia Paredes, na asawa ng isa sa trio member ng APO Hiking Society na si Jim Paredes.

Ayon sa post ay nagpapagaling sa drug addiction si Noli pero may kinalaman daw ang pagkamatay nito sa kampanya ni Pangulong Duterte laban sa droga.

Nakarating ito kay Iwi at kaagad nilinaw na hindi pinatay ang dati niyang asawa dahil sa droga at hindi siya biktima ng kampanya ni Duterte. Itinanggi nila Jim at Cynthia na may bahid pulitika ang kanilang post. Magkahiwalay na nagpaabot na din sila Jim at Cynthia ng kanilang sinsero na paumanhin kila Iwi at sa kanilang pamilya.

Cristy Kasilag

Paolo Ballesteros, nagka-award sa Tokyo

By Cristy Kasilag

ANG ang nanalo ng Best Actor sa 2016 Tokyo International Film Festival ay si Julia Roberts.

Ay mali, si Paolo Ballesteros pala.

Bihis babae at magandang pagka make-up transformation bilang si "Pretty Woman" actress na si Julia Roberts ang ginaya ni Paolo nang dumalo siya sa 2016 Tokyo International Film Festival.

Kasi naman, nanalo si Paolo ng Best Actor award para sa pelikulang "Die Beautiful" kung saan siya ay gumanap na transgender woman.

Sa pelikula, ginampanan ng 33-anyos na si Paolo ang role ni "Trisha," na ang hiling ay bihisan siya bilang iba't-ibang sikat na celebrity sa bawat gabi ng kanyang burol.

Nanalo rin ang pelikula ng Audience Award sa 2016 Tokyo Film Festival.

Sa kanyang acceptance speech, tila hindi maiwasan ni Paolo, isa sa mga komedyanteng mga hosts na JoWaPao (Jose, Wally, Paolo), na maglagay ng unting kakatawanan.

Halos walang bahid ng kaba ang nara-



PAOLO

mdaman ni Paolo nang umakyat siya ng entablado para tanggapin ang kanyang award habang may suot na makinang na evening gown at kulot na pulang buhok na mala Julia Roberts.

Ang biro niya ang akala niya ay ang napanalunan niya ay para sa "Best Actress".

Ang nasa isip niya ay hanggang sa red carpet event lamang ng 2016 Tokyo Film

Festival ang kanyang mapupuntahan kaya nagbihis babae siya. Sa katunayan, dun sa red carpet ay dumating siya bilang Angelina Jolie.

Inialay niya ang pagkapanalo niya sa kanyang anak na si Keira at nagpasalamat sa kanyang mga fans sa Manila at sa buong mundo.

Madami talaga ang humahanga sa

kanya dahil sa galing niya manggaya ng mukha ng mga sikat na mga tao, gamit lamang ang make up at mga wig.

Nagpasalamat din siya sa direktor ng pelikula na si Jun Lana dahil pinagkatiwalaan siya para sa role na Trisha, sa film production team, sa kanyang pamilya, manager, mga kaibigan at dabarkads sa noontime show na "Eat Bulaga!".



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Si Jake Ejercito ang ama ng anak ni Andi

By Cristy Kasilag

MATAPOS ang limang na taon ng spekulasyon kung sino talaga ang tunay na ama ng cute na cute na si Ellie, anak ni Andi Eigenmann, inamin na ni Jake Ejercito na siya ang ama ng bata.

Para sa ilan ay isang malaking tuldok ito

sa katanungang bumabalot sa isipan kung sino ba talaga ang ama ng apat na taon na si Ellie, na ang tunay na pangalan ay Adriana Gabrielle.

Sa matagal na panahon ay kumalat ang balita na ang dating boyfriend ni Andi, ang aktor na si Albie Casino, ang ama ng bata. Nagkaroon pa ng bintangang na two-timer

si Andi dahil diumano ay pinagsabay niya sina Albie at si Jake.

Una raw naging boyfriend ni Andi si Albie, at pangalawa si Jake. Kaso nang bumalik si Jake sa London para ipagpatuloy ang kanyang pag-aaral, napabalitang nagkabalikan sina Albie at Andi.

Naging masalimuot ang mga nakaraang

taon dahil sa awayan nilang dalawa at pati nga ang kanilang mga magulang ay nadawit pa. Noong 2014, may mga nakapansin na sa Instagram account ni Jake ay madalas ang mgalitratong ni Ellie.

Ngunit ang nagbulgar na si Jake ang ama ng bata ay ang half-sister ni Andi na si Max Eigenmann.



Jake

Kylie nanalong Miss International

By Cristy Kasilag

NAKAMIT kamakailan ng Pilipinas ang ika-anim nitong Miss International beauty title matapos koronahan ang 24-anyos na si Kylie Fausto Verzosa sa Tokyo, Japan.

Sa taas na 5'9 ft., hindi lamang ang kanyang katangkaran at angking kagandahan ang nagtulak para makamit ni Kylie ang titulo bilang Miss International 2016.

Ang kanyang galing sa pagsagot sa question and answer portion ng beauty pageant ang tumatak sa mga hurado at mga manonood na siya talaga ang karapat-dapat na manalo.

Humanga ang karamihan kay Kylie nung makapasok siya sa Top 15 at nagbigay ng magandang sagot na tumagal lamang ng isang minuto.

"Three things come to mind when I think of Miss International – culture, education and international understanding. These three works together to make the brand of the Miss International beauty pageant relevant to the global community and to our time," sabi ni Kylie.

"If I become Miss International 2016, I will devote myself to cultural understanding and international understanding because I believe that it is with developing in each of us a sensitivity to other cultures that we expand our horizons, tolerate difference, and appreciate diversity," aniya.

"All these enable us to achieve international understanding. And I believe I'm prepared to take on this responsibility," dagdag pa ng beauty queen.

Si Kylie ay nagtapos ng kursong Business Management sa Ateneo de Manila University.

Malapit ang kanyang puso sa mga isyu tungkol sa mental health. Ang pananaw niya ay madami sa mga kabataan ngayon ang dumaranas ng depression at anxiety at nais niya imulat ang mga tao tungkol sa problemang ito.



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Horoscope

Capricorn December 22 to January 19
Kailangan mo lang makuha ang tamang timpla nila upang magkasundo kayo ng mga tao sa paligid mo. Konting tiyaga pa.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18
Gumawa ng hakbang kung gusto mong matupad ang mga pangarap mo. Walang mangyayari kung patuloy ka lang magmumukmok diyan.

Pisces February 19 to March 20
Bigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga tao. Mabuting binubuksan mo ang sarili mo sa iba't ibang oportunidad sa paligid mo.

Aries March 21 to April 19
Matuto ng bagong skill. Imbes na ubusin ang oras sa mga walang kuwentang bagay, maghanap ka ng isang bagay na mapag-aaralan mo at magagamit mo ito sa hinaharap.

Taurus April 20 to May 20
Maghintay lamang at lahat ng pinagsisikapan mo ay magbubunga din. Tandaan na kapag may tiyaga, may nilaga.

Gemini May 21 to June 20
Iwasan ang pagbigay ng luho sa mga kaanak. Hindi mainam na nasasanay sila sa magarbong pamumuhay lalo na at sa iyo lamang umaasa.

Cancer June 21 to July 22
Maglibang ka din kahit paminsan-minsan. Hindi tama na sa sobrang pagtitipid ay nagkukulong ka na lang sa bahay.

Leo July 23 to August 22
Sabihin ang mga katanungan sa iyong isipan. Kung hindi mo lalapitan ang taong makasasagot sa mga tanong mo, habambuhay ka na lang na magkakaroon ng agam-agam.

Virgo August 23 to September 22
Kung may inutang ka, di ba dapat lamang na may bayaran ka? Isipin ang reputasyon kung patuloy mong pagtatagan ang iyong mga obligasyon.

Libra September 23 to October 22
Humingi muna ng payo sa mga taong pinagkakatiwalaan mo bago ka sumuong sa isang sitwasyon. Makatutulong ang kanilang payo para sa mas maayos na pasya.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21
May kaguluhan man ngayon sa iyong buhay, huwag mawawalan ng pag-asa. Patuloy mong tatagan ang iyong pananampalataya upang hindi panghinaan ng loob.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21
Habaan pa ang iyong pasensya. Minsan talaga dumarating sa ating buhay ang mga tao at pangyayari na sumusubok sa atin.

What's Cooking?

Howdy kitchen maestros? Those with a sweet tooth will surely love our featured recipe for this issue—the Tripple Berry in Sour Cream Dressing! This heavenly combination of sourness and sweetness is perfect for those who want to treat their family and friends. So wait no more and whipping it up!

Ingredients:
1 cup of raspberries
1 cup of blue berries
1 cup of red berries
¼ cup of walnuts
¼ cup of apple, cut into cubes
4 oz. goat cheese
1 cup sour cream
¼ cup of plain yogurt

- White Sauce**
1. In a glass bowl, place all the berries plus the apples and walnuts.
 2. Toss with crumble goat cheese mixed with sour cream and yogurt
 3. Chill for 30 minutes before serving.
 4. Serve cold.



By Chef Jay Dator

For more recipes, enroll at Culinary Arts Centre at: M/F cockLoft, #97 Wing Tat Commercial Building, Bonham Strand East, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. For enquiries, please call 28507714 or 28507724



Pasyente: Okey ba ang services sa ospital na ito?

Doctor: Oo naman, sigurado iyan.

Pasyente: Paano kung hindi ako satisfied?

Doctor: Ibabalik namin ang sakit mo!

Sa kanto...

Juan: Pedro, sabihin mo nga diyan sa Amerikano, 'yung bag niya bukas, baka may mahulog.

Pedro: Hey yo men! Your bag is tomorrow, cow is falling!

Sa school...

Teacher: May 5 ibon, binaril ko ang isa, ilan ang natira?

Estudyante: Wala po.

Teacher: Bakit wala? Isa lang naman ang

binaril ko ah!

Estudyante: Hello ma'am. Siyempre umalis yung iba. Kapag ikaw, binaril 'yung katabi mo, hindi ka aalis? Ok lang kayo? Ako na lang kaya magturo!

Teacher: Ok Juan, ano ang tawag sa taong salita ng salita kahit wala nang gustong makinig?

Juan: (Nag-iisip)... Teacher po ma'am. Teacher!

Teacher: Pedro, your essay on "My Dog" is exactly your brother's. Did you copy this?

Pedro: No ma'am. It's the same dog!

Juan: Maria, may nakapagsabi na ba sa iyo na ang cute mo?

Maria: Wala pa.

Juan: Eh wala tayong magagawa, ganun talaga!

Girl 1: Ano ba iyang boyfriend mo? Ang pangit eh ang ganda ganda mo.

Girlfriend: Hindi mo ba napanood ang "Beauty and the Beast"? Magiging gwapo rin iyan.

(nainis ang boyfriend niya at sumagot)

Boyfriend: Hindi ka rin ba nanood ng "Shrek"? Papangit ka rin!

Anak: Ma, may puting buhok ka na pala!

Mama: Oo anak at ikaw ang may kasalanan! Sa bawat kalokohan ng anak, puputi ang bawat piraso ng buhok ng ina.

Anak: Ah! kaya pala puti na lahat ang buhok ni Lola eh!

May isang babae na may nakaipit na malunggay sa mga ngipin...

Boyfriend: Love, alam ko kung ano ang ulam ninyo kanina...

Girlfriend: Talaga? Sige nga, ano?

Boyfriend: Tingin ko malunggay!

Girlfriend: Wahhh! Mali! Kahapon pa kaya iyon!

Juan: Pare di ba mangingisda ka?

Pedro: Oo pare, bakit?

Juan: Totoo bang natutulong ang mga isda?

Pedro: Ewan ko pare. Kahit kailan hindi pa kasi ako nakakakita ng isda na nagdadala ng unan.

Crossword Puzzle

PAHALANG

- Sunod
- Matibay na punungkahoy
- Isangga
- Parte ng hita
- Tatak ng motorsiklo
- Galit na tingin
- Libangan
- Bituin
- Uri ng saging
- Ihalo sa bigas
- Kabiyak ng puso
- Sumang-ayon
- Alog
- Frog; Tagalog
- Barkis
- Itakas
- Iyo at akin
- Handa ng baril
- Nawa
- Inugali

PABABA

- Auntie; Tagalog
- Ugali
- Sarap
- Tanglaw
- Masagwa
- Kapitolyo sa Guam
- Ipupol
- Tulisang-dagat
- Ikilos
- Kalat
- Sagpangin
- Ipunit
- Puluhan ng baril
- Kibuin
- Marami
- Gipit
- Uri ng tela
- Bulong
- Handa
- Analogy; daglat

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
15							16			
					17		18			
19	20	21	22				23			
24					25					
26					27		28	29	30	31
32					33					
34					35					
36					37					

Answer to last puzzle

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



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