

PLANNING WORKSHOP ON THE FORMULATION OF BACOR CITY LOCAL NUTRITION ACTION PLAN FOR 2026-2028



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAVITE JOINS THE NATIONAL FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer, took part in the “Huling Parangal sa Watawat ng Pilipinas: Flag Disposal Ceremony” held on May 30, 2025, at Heritage Park, Imus City, Cavite. Leading the ceremonial tribute was Scout Ambassador Mr. David Licauco, joined by representatives from the Department of Education, Local Government Unit of Imus City, and Scout Council Leaders whose presence signified a collective commitment to honor our national symbols with reverence and pride. This solemn and dignified ceremony paid tribute to worn and tattered Philippine flags, in accordance with Republic Act No. 8491 (The Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines), which mandates the proper and respectful disposal of unserviceable flags. (News and photo from official FB page of Cavite Tourism)



The Government of Bacoor, under Mayor Strike B. Revilla, and the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) Office, led by Ms. Lilian Ugalde, held a planning workshop to develop a comprehensive Local Nutrition Action Plan (LNAP) for 2026-2028. City employees participated in the workshop, focusing on the proposal, programs, projects, and activities necessary to achieve the plan's goals. The workshop centered on developing SMART objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each priority problem, establishing baselines, and setting targets for 2026, 2027, and 2028. Discussions also encompassed strategies for youth employment programs and employment facilitation activities, along with other relevant matters impacting the overall well-being of the community. The LNAP aims to significantly improve the nutritional status of Bacoor City residents over the next three years. (City Government of Bacoor)

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO SA CARMONA CITY

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Lungsod ng Imus, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Carmona City Component Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person dakong alas-7:25 ng gabi ngayong Hunyo 4, 2025, sa Barangay Milagrosa, Carmona City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JACK E ANGOG, Acting Chief of Police ng Carmona CCPS, ang suspek na si alias Satur, at residente ng Barangay Milagrosa, Carmona City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng mga operatiba ng Carmona CCPS na gamit ang dalawang Alternative Recording Devices (ARDs), na nagresulta sa matagumpay na pag-aresto sa nasabing akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Frustrated Murder sa ilalim ng Criminal Case No. CRM-2025-224, na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 109, Carmona City, Cavite, noong Mayo 19, 2025, na may inirekomendang

piyansa na Php200,000.00. Naipabatid sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa isang wika at paraang malinaw niyang nauunawaan.

Sa ngayon, ang akusado ay nasa custody ng Carmona CCPS habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang legal na proseso. Ang Warrant of Arrest ay isusumite pabalik sa korte ng pinanggalingan. Pinuri ni PLTCOL JACK E ANGOG ang mabilis at maayos na operasyon ng kanyang mga tauhan, “Ito ay patunay ng walang humpay na dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa pagganap ng tungkulin para sa kapayapaan at kaayusan ng ating lungsod.”

Samantala, ayon kay PCOL DWIGHT E ALEGRE, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang ating hanay ay patuloy sa masigasig na pagtugis sa mga pinaghanap ng batas. Ang tagumpay na ito ay bunga ng koordinasyon at suporta ng komunidad para sa isang ligtas na Cavite.”

REGIONAL LEVEL MOSTWANTED PERSON, ARESTADO SA ANTIPOLLO CITY

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Lungsod ng Imus, Cavite — Isang Most Wanted Person na kabilang sa Regional Level List (MC) ang matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng General Trias Component City Police Station dakong alas-2:15 ng hapon ngayong araw, Hunyo 4, 2025, sa Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JAYMAR B MARBELLA, Chief of Police ng General Trias CCPS, ang suspek na si alyas Renato, at residente ng Barangay San Jose, Antipolo City.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng General Trias CCPS gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa matagumpay

na pag-aresto sa suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Rape (RPC Art. 266-A) (2 counts) na inilabas noong Hulyo 30, 2021 ng Presiding Judge ng Family Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 5, Trece Martires City, Cavite. Walang piyansa ang inirekomenda sa mga nasabing kaso.

Naipabatid sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa paraang malinaw at nauunawaan niya.

Sa ngayon, ang akusado ay pansamantalang nakakulong sa custodial facility ng General Trias CCPS na matatagpuan sa Barangay Bagumbayan, General Trias City, Cavite, habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang legal na proseso.

Pinuri ni PLTCOL JAYMAR

DALAWANG LALAKI, ARESTADO SA DASMARIÑAS CITY DAHIL SA PAGNANAKAW SA ISANG MALL

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Lungsod ng Imus, Cavite — Dalawang lalaki ang naaresto matapos maaktuhang nagnanakaw ng produkto mula sa Unitop Mall na matatagpuan sa Barangay Paliparan 1, Dasmariñas City, Cavite dakong alas-8:00 ng gabi noong Hunyo 4, 2025.

Ang mga suspek ay kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, ACOP ng Dasmariñas CCPS, na sina alyas Mark na residente ng Barangay 163, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City, at isang alyas Elmo na residente ng Barangay Unang Sigaw, Quezon City.

Batay sa paunang imbestigasyon, pumasok ang mga suspek sa loob ng mall at nagkunwaring mga mamimili. Nang palabas na sila ng gusali, napansin ng gwardya ng mall na may bitbit na paper bag ang mga suspek. Nang inspeksyunin ito, natuklasan sa loob ang isang kahon ng Wiremax

(size 8.0 mm, 100 meters ang haba) na may halagang Php 5,945.00. Nang hingan ng resibo, nagbigay ang isa sa mga suspek ng resibong hindi tumutugma sa nasabing produkto. Dahil dito, inaresto ng guwardiya ang dalawang suspek at kinumpiska ang nasabing kahon bilang ebidensya.

Matapos ang pagkakaaresto, humingi ng tulong ang nakaarestong guwardya sa mga tauhan ng Cavite Mobile Patrol Unit (MPU) na nagsasagawa ng police visibility operation sa labas ng mall sa mga oras na iyon. Agad rumesponde ang Cavite MPU personnel at dinala ang mga suspek sa Dasmariñas Component City Police Station para sa kaukulang imbestigasyon.

Naipabatid sa mga suspek ang kanilang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanilang naiintindihan.

Sa kasalukuyan, sila ay pansamantalang nakakulong sa custodial facility ng nasabing istasyon habang isinasagawa ang paghahain ng kaso para sa paglabag sa krimeng Theft sa Office of the City Prosecutor ng Dasmariñas City para sa isasagawang inquest proceedings.

Sa isang pahayag, sinabi ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, ACOP ng Dasmariñas CCPS, na ang mabilis na koordinasyon ng security guard at ng Cavite MPU ay nagbunga ng agarang pagkakaaresto sa mga suspek. Patunay umano ito na epektibo ang isinasagawang police visibility operations sa mga mataong lugar gaya ng mga mall.

Samantala, ayon kay PCOL DWIGHT E ALEGRE, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, ang aktibong partisipasyon ng mga kasangga sa seguridad ng mga establisimento at ng kapulisan ay mahalaga upang mapanatili ang kaayusan sa lalawigan. Pinuri rin niya ang mabilis na aksyon ng Dasmariñas CCPS at ng Cavite MPU sa pagpapatupad ng batas.

PRO 4A NAKIISA SA SIMULTANEOUS NATIONWIDE LAB VIRUS PROGRAM AND MEDICAL MISSION

Camp BGen Vicente P Lim — Matagumpay na idinaos ang Nationwide LAB Virus Program and Medical Mission na may temang “Serving Those Who Serve: Kalusugan para sa Kapulisan ng CALABARZON” sa Regional Headquarters ng PRO CALABARZON sa Camp BGen Vicente P. Lim, Calamba City.

Layunin ng aktibidad na ito na tutukan ang mga pangangailangang medikal at mapabuti ang kabuuang kapakanan ng mga kapulisan sa rehiyon. Iba’t ibang serbisyong medikal ang ibinigay nang libre, kabilang ang general medical check-up, blood testing, pagbabakuna, dental at optical services, pati na rin ang nutrition at mental health counseling.

Ang mga serbisyong ito ay naisakatuparan sa tulong ng mga personnel mula sa Regional Medical and Dental Unit 4A, mga medical volunteers mula sa iba’t ibang ahensya, at mga partner mula sa mga pribadong institusyon. Ang programa ay matagumpay na n a i s a k a t u p a r a n katuwang ang PNP OLC Foundation Inc.

Isa rin sa mga tampok ng programa ang lecture para sa mga kababaihan hinggil sa breast cancer awareness at tamang pangangalaga sa kalusugan ng kababaihan.

Kabuuang 80 personnel ng PRO CALABARZON ang lumahok sa nasabing aktibidad, kabilang na ang 15 critically ill personnel na pinagkalooban ng financial assistance na nagkakahalaga ng Php 30,000.00 mula sa PNP OLC FI at grocery package mula kay

PBGen Paul Kenneth T Lucas, Regional Director PRO 4A at Mrs Mary June Lucas, Regional Adviser PRO 4A OLC FI.

Naging mahalagang bahagi ng programa ang pagbibigay mensahe ng mga panauhing pandangal na sina:

- Mrs. Mary Rose P. Marbil, Outgoing National Adviser ng PNP OLC Foundation Inc.,

- PGEN Rommel Francisco D. Marbil (Ret.), dating Chief ng PNP, at

- PGEN Nicolas D. Torre III, kasalukuyang Chief ng PNP.

Ang matagumpay na aktibidad ay isinakatuparan sa pangunguna ni Mrs. Mary Rose P. Marbil, National Adviser, PNP OLC FI at maybahay ng dating Chief PNP, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na adbokasiya ng pagkalinga sa mga lingkod-bayan, lalo na sa hanay ng kapulisan.

Taos pusong nagpasalamat ang Regional Director ng PRO 4A na si PBGen Paul Kenneth T Lucas sa PNP OLC FI at sa mga personnel na nagtulong tulong upang maisakatuparan ang makabuluhanang aktibidad na isinagawa ng sabayan sa buong Pilipinas. “Lubos ang aking pasasalamat sa ating mga katuwang mula sa PNP OLC Foundation Inc. sa kanilang inisyatibo na mapabuti ang kalusugan ng ating mga kapulisan. Ang ganitong uri ng serbisyo ay mahalaga upang matiyak na ang ating mga kapulisan ay nasa mabuting kalusugan at handang harapin ang mga hamon ng kanilang tungkulin.” ani RD Lucas(**RPIO4A**)

NEXT GEN FARMERS TAKE ON YOUNG FARMERS CHALLENGE

Young Filipinos are still drawn to agriculture and farming as shown in a government initiative that inspires the youth to create innovative agribusiness ventures.

The youth in Calabarzon region, for example, have redefined what a farmer means by becoming agents of change in agriculture through sustainable livelihood innovations.

Through the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Young Farmers Challenge (YFC) Program Start-Up, the youth aged 18-30 are encouraged to turn their agri-fishery and agribusiness ideas into sustainable businesses.

Banahaw Creations

Queen Anne Xyza Salayo, a graduating student from the Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, is a promising startup agripreneur and a YFC program awardee.

Her business, Banahaw Creations, was born out of a thesis requirement and turned into a food innovation.

"Leftover rice has a stigma; others think it's no longer good and often throw it away, so I thought about how to utilize it and stop it from becoming food waste," Salayo said.

Inspired by a cultural practice in her hometown of Lucban, Quezon, "namamahaw," or eating leftover rice as an afternoon snack, she developed a sustainable product to help prevent rice waste.

"I thought of making a meal solution out of leftover rice, and that is pang sapaw sa bahaw, or a rice seasoning paste. There's no MSG, no preservatives added, and it's gluten-free. It's very safe, even for children. It's a ready-to-eat paste, you just need to mix it with leftover or cooked rice."

She added that this is her way of advocating for and honoring the hard work of Filipino farmers. According to Salayo, her Filipino-inspired rice seasoning is the first recorded model of

its kind in the country.

She received awards and grants worth ₱80,000 at the provincial level and ₱150,000 at the regional level, and is now preparing for the national competition.

"I will use the grants I received to scale up my business. I have high hopes of entering mainstream markets like groceries."

Hiyas Urban Mushroom: Journey to Sustainability

Another trailblazer in agribusiness is the Hiyas Urban Mushroom enterprise by Jeck D. Iyas and Ma. Regina S. Patungan. Without any background in business or farming, they took the YFC as a leap of faith and pushed through with determination.

"Actually, we didn't have any background in business; our courses weren't related to it. I'm a maritime engineer, while she's a research writer in an overseas company," Iyas shared.

Driven by determination, they resigned from their jobs to focus on agribusiness and invested time and effort in the YFC program, attending DA-led capacity development workshops on financial and digital marketing, business planning, and food processing. Step by step, they learned and improved their business skills.

"One of our main challenges is market mismatch. It means that sometimes we have a harvest of mushrooms but no buyers, or we have buyers but no product."

By applying what they learned through YFC, they developed solutions to this challenge.

"We started producing by-products like mushroom crackers and bottled products: vegan bagoong, atsara, mushroom burgers and shanghai, polvoron, and pastry cookies."

Their continued efforts paid off when they won the regional upscale component of the 2024 YFC program, receiving a ₱300,000 grant.

"We plan to use it for expanding our automated

PDEA TO ADOPT HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO ANTI-DRUG DRIVE

CALAMBA CITY

(PIA) —The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) will prioritize education and rehabilitation as part of its human rights-based approach to addressing the illegal drug menace in the region.

PDEA Calabarzon Regional Director Jacquelyn de Guzman affirmed their unrelenting commitment to ensure that offenders will be held accountable under the law and that victims receive appropriate rehabilitation support.

"President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has made it clear that he wants a human rights-based approach on addressing

grow house, creating more efficient fruiting bags, and improving our fresh oyster mushroom production. We also want to upscale our production capacity."

Patungan added that they are required to submit a semestral report with itemized expenses and receipts for the disbursement of the grant. Through their success, they now advocate for agribusiness in their local government unit in Montalban, Rizal, where they conduct seminars on mushroom production and inspire the youth by showing there is a future in agriculture.

"We are very thankful that the government has this kind of program. It didn't stop with the grant, it includes training and knowledge sharing. The DA is really a big help to us youth," Patungan said.

Salayo, Iyas, and Patungan are living proof that young people can be champions in agriculture. Their stories show that youth can lead in nation-building, environmental sustainability, and food sufficiency. (KA/PIA 4A) **BY KRISTIANNE ANDRADE**

the anti-illegal drug campaign and to give chances to those who want to change. For those who want help, we are ready to extend our services."

De Guzman stated that their approach remains inclusive, involving the education sector to help protect children from becoming victims in drug-related incidents.

"We continue to coordinate with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, and several senior high facilities in the region because a lot of those minors [involved] are senior high students. Some of them are adults, and we want interventions early on."

Based on its report to the Calabarzon Regional Inter Agency Coordinating Group (RICG) authorities rescued around 21 minors between January to May 2025, ranging in age between 14 to 17 years old.

PDEA reported that these children were involved either as drug pushers, users, or as employees in drug dens.

"Of course, we want everything to be human rights-based, but we want to be unrelenting in our campaign to ensure that the long arm of the law reaches the offenders."

Meanwhile, the Police Regional Office Calabarzon reported the arrest of 3,754 individuals during anti-illegal drug operations. Additionally, around 823 drug-related cases have been filed in local courts, with 571 still undergoing trial. (PB-PIA4A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

EDITORIAL

Link expressway na ginagawa, dahilan nga ba ng pagbaha?

Higit sa isang daang pamilyang apektado sa Parañaque ang lumikas dahil sa pagbaha at ang itinuturong dahilan ng mga ito ay ang kasalukuyang ginagawang CAVITEX-C5 Link Expressway.

Maraming maaaring maging dahilan ng matinding pagbaha sa Pilipinas. Kaya naman hindi pwedeng isa lang ang pwedeng maiturong dahilan nito. Isa sa mga problemang nagiging dulot ng pagbaha ay ang baradong mga kanal at kakulangan ng mga punong sisipsip ng tubig ulan, ilan ito sa mga problemang mahirap solusyunan kung ang mga mamamayan ay hindi aaksyon dito.

Hindi lamang ang ginagawang link expressway ang maaaring sisihin sa pagbahang ito. Upang maiwasan ang paglikas dahil sa pagbaha, maaaring linisin ang mga kanal o anumang kalat na maaaring maging dahilan ng pagbaha. Maaari ring magtanim ng mga puno at iwasan ang pagpuputol kung hindi nararapat. Sa ganitong paraan, maiibsan at mabibigyang solusyon ang kaakibat na problema ng matinding pag-ulan.

CAVITE
GAZETTE
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Ang CAVITE GAZETTE PUBLISHING ay inilalathala tuwing araw Martes na may tanggapan sa 217 Ligas 1, Bacoar, Cavite.

Contact #: 09954361217

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PAUNAWA: Ang dyaryong ito ay natanggap ng kontribusyon na balita, artikulo sariling pananaw o opinyon ng mga kolumnista ang nilalaman ng kanilang mga artikulo ay wala pong kinalaman at pananagutan dito ang pamunuan ng publishing

ADVERTISING RATES
COMMERCIAL - - - - P200/COL.CM
LEGAL NOTICES - - - P160/COL.CM

DPWH BEGINS FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR 25 PRIORITY BRIDGE PROJECTS

MANILA— The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will commence this week the feasibility study for the construction and/or replacement of 25 priority bridges in 11 regions, with a total estimated combined length of 18.78 km. of bridge and approach roads.

In a statement Thursday, DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan said the consulting services, set to officially begin on Saturday, would cover the feasibility study for the Urgent Bridges Construction Project for Rural Development (UBCPRD) Phase II.

He said the feasibility study would be funded through an Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan, with a contract valued at PHP694.44 million.

According to DPWH Senior Undersecretary Emil Sadain, the UBCPRD Phase II aims to enhance inter-regional connectivity and promote inclusive economic growth across the Philippines.

"By expanding bridge infrastructure with 10 in Luzon, six in Visayas, and nine in Mindanao, the project is expected to enhance transport efficiency, strengthen disaster resilience, and boost local economies, especially in remote and underserved areas," said Sadain, who is in charge of Official Development Assistance-funded infrastructure flagship projects under the Build Better More program of the Marcos administration.

"It also directly aligns with President Marcos' national priorities of balanced regional development and modern infrastructure connectivity."

A formal kick-off meeting among the parties involved was held on Tuesday, marking the start of the consulting services, following the approval of the contract agreement on May 9 and the issuance of the notice to proceed on May 20, which was accepted by the consultant on May 28.

Aside from the DPWH and the ADB, also present during the meeting were representatives of the consulting consortium composed of SMEC International Pty Ltd. in a joint venture with Oriental Consultants Global Co. Ltd., COWI A/S, SMEC Philippines, Inc., and associated with Pacific Rim Innovation and Management Exponents, Inc.

The consulting consortium will carry out the feasibility study in 24 months, which will be the basis for the detailed design and construction phases of the project.

The priority bridges include the conventional pre-stressed concrete girder (PSCG) bridges Bacarra Bridge in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte; Quirino Bridge in Bantay, Ilocos Sur; Kalabaza-Villa Fugu Bridge and Lalog Bridge in Isabela; Alag Malaki Bridge in Baco, Oriental Mindoro; Malitubog Bridge in Alamada, Cotabato; Simuay Bridge in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao; and the Talacogon Steel Bridge in Agusan del Sur. The iconic cable-stayed bridge category are the Buntun and Enrile bridges in Cagayan; New Mancatan Bridge along the Angeles-Porac-Floridablanca-Dinalupihan Road in Central Luzon; Daram-Talalora Bridge on Daram Island, Samar; and Wawa Bridge in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.

Also included are arch bridges – the Amnay Bridge in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro; Araneta Bridge in Bago City, Negros Occidental; Biliran Bridge and Baliacao Bridge in Eastern Visayas; Layog Bridge in Mahaplag, Leyte; Calbiga Bridge in Samar; and Tamontaka Bridge in Cotabato City.

The lone iconic extradosed cable-stayed bridge is the proposed Manguisoc Bridge in Mercedes, Camarines Norte, while the iconic steel truss bridge is the new Butuan Bridge in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

PHLPOST RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS IN HONOR OF POPE FRANCIS

MANILA – The Philippine Postal Corp. (PHLPost) released on Thursday a special commemorative stamp honoring the late Pope Francis to celebrate his legacy of faith, compassion, and service to humanity.

In a news release, PHLPost Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Luis Carlos said the initiative is the corporation's "humble way of honoring a global religious figure who has touched countless lives, including millions of Filipinos."

The stamp is presented in a se-tenant format that consists of a connected pair, each bearing a unique design.

The format symbolizes the dual aspects of Pope Francis' mission and influence across both religious and global humanitarian efforts.

One aspect shows the Pope's spiritual humility, while the other reflects his strong advocacy for peace, social justice, and environmental stewardship, according to PHLPost.

A total of 20,000 copies of the commemorative stamp have been printed for this release. They are complemented with 1,000 pieces of the Official First-

Day Cover that includes the newly issued stamps and a cancellation postmark holding the official release date.

PHLPost previously issued several stamps in honor of Pope Francis, including a commemorative stamp during his visit to the Philippines in 2015.

The stamp showed the Pope's memorable and emotional stop in Tacloban City, where he expressed solidarity with Typhoon Yolanda survivors.

In 2014, PHLPost also released a stamp marking the first anniversary of Pope Francis' papacy.

Pope Francis was elected in 2013 and served as the 266th leader of the Roman Catholic Church and head of state of the Vatican City until his death on April 21, 2025.

His papacy was marked by humility, social justice, and global outreach.

PHLPost officials emphasized that the release aligns with their goal of using philately as a tool for education, heritage preservation, and cultural expression.

Limited copies of the commemorative stamps and First-Day Covers are now available for purchase at the Manila Central Post Office. **(PNA) BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

DND HAILS MUSLIM MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR VALUABLE ROLE IN PH SECURITY

MANILA – Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. recognized the valuable role of Filipino Muslim military personnel in preserving national security, in observance of Eid'l Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) on Friday.

"I also wish to recognize the invaluable contributions of our Muslim personnel in the DND and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Your commitment to our sovereignty, peace, and security is an inspiration to all," Teodoro said in a statement.

He said the occasion reminds of the enduring values of faith, sacrifice, and service to others.

"It calls us to reflect, give generously, and strengthen our ties with family and community," he added.

He also expressed hope that the observance brings all Filipino Muslim families peace, joy and countless blessings.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. also extended his warmest greetings to Filipino Muslims for the occasion.

"This significant 'Feast of Sacrifice' holds profound meaning, reminding us of the values of faith, obedience, and selfless

devotion. As you gather with your families and communities to commemorate this sacred event, know that the AFP is one with you in spirit, celebrating the peace and joy that this occasion brings," he added.

Brawner said that Eid al-Adha also serves as a powerful reminder of the shared aspirations for unity and service.

"It renews our collective commitment to uphold the principles that bind us as Filipinos, regardless of our beliefs," he stressed.

The AFP chief also hopes that the celebration brings spiritual renewal, strengthens the bonds of kinship, and inspires greater cooperation among all Filipinos in pursuit of lasting peace and national development.

Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., meanwhile, said Eid'l Adha embodies the importance of faith and obedience.

"On this sacred day, we commemorate the Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering obedience and faith, as he willingly followed Allah's command even if it meant sacrificing his own son – a reminder to all Muslims to keep the faith in the midst of challenges," he added.

Galvez also said the observance highlights the importance of making sacrifices to achieve a higher purpose.

Although Filipinos are composed of different faiths, the OPAPRU chief said, "We are all bound by the principles of selflessness, compassion and empathy."

"May the great Prophet serve as an example not only to the members of the Muslim faith but to all Filipinos that we must not be afraid to go beyond our comfort zones, reach out, and help those who are most in need," Galvez said. **(PNA) BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

AFP HOLDS PATROL OPS, COMMUNICATION CHECK IN KOTA ISLAND

MANILA – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on Friday conducted a routine patrol and communication check on Kota Island, a Philippine-held feature in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

This is part of its ongoing maritime patrol operations in the Kalayaan

Island Group (KIG) to ensure security, assert sovereignty, and boost troop morale in the WPS, the military said in a news release.

The operation in Kota island was conducted by personnel aboard the Navy offshore patrol vessel, BRP Andres Bonifacio (PS-17), the AFP said.

This feature has strategic and symbolic significance in the WPS.

"The patrol included a communication and coordination check with stationed personnel—an essential measure to ensure operational

readiness and boost morale, especially amid challenging weather conditions. The vessel also passed by Patag Island, continuing its mission to monitor and secure other Philippine-held features in the area," the AFP added. This operation underscores the AFP's commitment to regularly maintain presence and coordination across remote Philippine outposts, which is also in line with national defense and maritime domain awareness objectives.

(PNA) BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO

Rounding out the list are the iconic arch truss bridges Quezon Bridge in Dipolog City; Disakan Bridge 2 in Sindangan; and Ingini Bridge in Manukan, all in Zamboanga del Norte. **(PNA) BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

JAPAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES MILITARY ACCESS PACT WITH PH

MANILA — Japan's Diet on Friday approved a significant defense agreement permitting Japanese forces' deployment to the Philippines for joint military exercises with Filipino troops.

"We welcome today's approval of the Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) between the Philippines and Japan by the House of Councillors, which completes the approval process in the Japanese Diet," Philippine Ambassador to Japan Mylene Garcia-Albano said in a statement.

The RAA facilitates greater military cooperation between the two nations by streamlining procedures for the deployment of forces in each other's territories for joint training and disaster response operations.

The agreement is key to growing the countries' strategic partnership amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region.

It was signed in Tokyo in 2023 after negotiations on shared security interests, freedom of navigation, and

humanitarian cooperation. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ratified the agreement on Nov. 5, 2024, and was approved by the Philippine Senate on Dec. 16.

Both countries' concerns about increasing maritime assertiveness in the South China Sea and the broader strategic competition in the region are underscored in the agreement.

"The RAA is a testament to the trust and enduring friendship between the Philippines and Japan. It will enhance our ability to work closely together in promoting a rules-based order governed by international law," Garcia-Albano said.

"We thank the Government and people of Japan for their steadfast support and continued collaboration. We look forward to the full implementation of this agreement and to building an even more resilient and forward-looking partnership in the years ahead," she added. (PNA)

BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR

SPD DEMONSTRATES 3-MINUTE RESPONSE IN KIDNAP RESCUE OPS

MANILA — The Southern Police District (SPD) demonstrated its three-minute response capability as police officers in Makati City rescued a Vietnamese woman and arrested three Chinese suspects in a coordinated operation early Friday.

In a report, the SPD said the Makati City Police Station carried out the rescue operation in Barangay San Lorenzo, with support from the Station Intelligence Section, District Mobile Force Battalion (DMFB), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), and Tactical Motorcycle Riding Unit (TMRU).

The three suspects were identified by their aliases Lei, 32; Xing, 33; and Zhou, 38.

Recovered from the suspects were a 9mm Taurus pistol with suppressor, magazine with five rounds; a .22 Jennings pistol with suppressor, magazine with five rounds; six sachets of suspected

shabu; one large sachet of suspected shabu weighing around 20 grams; a small bottle of suspected liquid ecstasy; a pair of handcuffs; boodle money; a Hyundai Starex van; six car keys; two mobile phones; and various drug paraphernalia.

Background checks revealed that Lei is a repeat offender with prior records involving kidnapping, illegal detention, illegal possession of firearms, and carjacking, which showed his involvement in organized crime networks. The operation stemmed from the report received by the Makati CPS Investigation and Detective Management Section regarding a 33-year-old Vietnamese national who was being held captive by the suspects who demanded a ransom of 500 million Vietnamese dong (around PHP1 million) from her husband, who is currently based abroad.

The suspects threatened to mutilate the victim if the ransom was not paid.

The victim's husband relayed the threat to a friend in the Philippines, who quickly reported it to the local police. Makati operatives coordinated with SPD units to plan the operation.

Initial investigation revealed that on June 2, the suspects lured the victim to meet them in Makati City.

When the victim arrived at a friend's condominium in Bel-Air, she was forcibly taken by the suspects to another condominium in Barangay San Lorenzo, where they raped her.

The following day, the suspects transported her to Tagaytay, where she was again raped, drugged, and filmed by additional perpetrators before being brought back to Makati for the extortion attempt.

SWEDEN APPOINTS NEW NON-RESIDENT DEFENSE ATTACHÉ TO PH

MANILA — Defense cooperation between Sweden and the Philippines has taken a significant step forward with the recent appointment of new defense attachés by both countries, reflecting growing bilateral engagement amid shifting security dynamics in the Indo-Pacific region.

In a news release on Friday, Sweden said it has named Lt. Col. Anders Nikanorsson as its new non-resident defense attaché to the Philippines. Based in Bangkok, Nikanorsson will serve as a strategic liaison to help strengthen Sweden's defense diplomacy in the region.

"I am deeply honored and genuinely excited to take on this assignment," he said.

"The Philippines holds a pivotal position in the Indo-Pacific, both geographically and strategically. As a maritime nation committed to international law and regional stability, it is a natural partner for Sweden

During the operation, a Filipino woman who turned out to be a companion of one of the suspects attempted to mislead the responding team.

However, during questioning, she confirmed the presence of another woman inside the unit.

As the police prepared to enter, they heard the suspects cocking a firearm inside, prompting them to call for immediate reinforcement.

The suspects are currently detained at the Makati City Police Station Custodial Facility and would face charges for illegal drug possession, kidnapping, ransom, rape, illegal possession of firearms, and human trafficking.

(PNA) **BY CHRISTOPHER LLOYD CALIWAN**

in promoting a rules-based global order and enhancing security cooperation."

Earlier, the Philippines assigned a non-resident defense attaché to Stockholm, signaling mutual commitment to expanding defense dialogue and cooperation. Ambassador of Sweden to the Philippines Anna Ferry said Nikanorsson's extensive experience as a senior defense officer significantly strengthens Sweden's capacity to engage on critical security and defense issues.

"His presence ensures a direct and informed dialogue with our counterparts in the Philippines --an important and valued partner," she added.

Sweden is intensifying its strategic presence in the Indo-Pacific, in line with its broader defense posture outlined in the Defense Resolution 2025–2030.

At the 2025 International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on May 31, Swedish Defense Minister Pål Jonson met bilaterally with Philippine Secretary of National Defense Gilberto Teodoro Jr. to reaffirm mutual commitments to international law and regional security.

Jonson also held discussions with multiple regional counterparts, reiterating Sweden's commitment to collaborative defense dialogue.

With growing defense interoperability and diplomatic engagement, Sweden and the Philippines are poised to become strategic partners in advancing a shared vision for peace, security, and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. (PNA)

BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR

3M FOOD PACKS PREPOSITIONED NATIONWIDE AS RAINY SEASON STARTS – DSWD

MANILA — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has prepositioned three million boxes of family food packs (FFPs) in 938 warehouses across the country as it braces for incoming storms with the onset of the rainy season.

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said this is in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to ensure the well-being of Filipinos living in regions prone to storms and flooding.

"Utos ng Pangulo na siguraduhin ang kaligtasan at kapanatagan ng mga Pilipinong madalas maapektuhan ng mga bagyo at iba pang kalamidad. Ipinapatupad ng DSWD ang Buong Bansa Handa (BBH) kaya may three million tayong

stockpile ng FFPs para sa mabilis at episyenteng disaster response operations (The President ordered us to ensure the safety and peace of mind of Filipinos frequently affected by storms and other calamities. The DSWD is implementing the BBH that is why we have three million FFPs stockpiled for prompt and efficient disaster response operations," Gatchalian said in a statement on Friday.

The agency's BBH program is a whole-of-nation and whole-of-government approach that synergizes government and private sector resources, enabling the government to respond more swiftly and comprehensively to natural calamities while safeguarding the well-

being the affected families and individuals.

Gatchalian's statement comes as the low-pressure area (LPA) spotted east of Eastern Visayas is expected to enhance the southwest monsoon or "habagat" and bring rains over most parts of the country.

While there is a slim chance for it to develop into a tropical cyclone, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration warned that moderate to heavy rains brought by the "habagat" and the trough of the LPA could result in floods or landslides in Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Zamboanga Peninsula, BARMM, Soccsksargen and the Visayas. (PNA)

TASK FORCE CHECKS COMPLIANCE WITH SALT IODIZATION LAW p.6

BAUAN, Batangas (PIA) — The Regional Bantay Asin Task Force (RBATF) in Calabarzon has intensified its enforcement and information campaign to boost public nutrition and combat iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), strengthening on-site monitoring of salt production facilities in Batangas.

The monitoring activity, led by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) IV-A and the Batangas Provincial Health Office (PHO), aimed to verify whether the salt being produced and distributed in the region meets the required iodine content as mandated by Republic Act 8172, or the "ASIN Law."

Kyla Guardia, NNC IV-A's project development officer, said iodine is a crucial micronutrient that plays a vital role in brain development, especially in children and pregnant women.

"Lack of iodine in the diet can lead to goiter, learning disabilities, and other long-term health issues. Our site visits to salt production facilities help ensure that the salt produced meets the 30–70 parts per million requirement mandated by the ASIN Law," she explained.

During the site visits to Salinas Foods Inc. and Artemis Salt Corporation in Bauan, Batangas, the task force collected salt samples from various stages of production and assessed the iodization process used by the facilities through the WYD iodine checker.

Equipment, storage conditions, and the mixing of iodine compounds were also closely inspected to ensure compliance with Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) standards.

Batangas Provincial Nutrition Officer Grace Mauhat said the initiative is also part of their continued commitment to public health and nutrition, emphasizing that by ensuring compliance with iodization standards, salt producers are helping protect future generations from preventable health conditions.

NNC data shows that the Median Urinary Iodine Concentration (UIC) for children aged 6–12 years in the Calabarzon Region is 174 µg/L, which indicates adequate iodine nutrition based on the World Health Organization's standard of 100–199 µg/L.

Plant operators expressed support for the government's efforts, noting improvements in both product quality and compliance with broader regulations.

"Apart from ensuring proper iodization, we also make sure our operations follow environmental and labor standards. We aim to provide not just safe and nutritious salt, but also a safe working environment for our employees and sustainable practices that protect our community," said Susan Lee, Marketing and Sales Manager of Artemis Salt Corporation.

The inspection also served as an opportunity to engage salt producers in discussions on improving practices, upgrading equipment, and sustaining quality control systems.

The RBATF emphasized that beyond enforcement, education and collaboration with local stakeholders are key to achieving the goals of the ASIN Law. (CCM, PIA4A)
BY CECILE MALOLES

DOH TELLS PUBLIC: SEE A DOCTOR UPON EXPERIENCING MPOX SYMPTOMS

CEBU CITY, Cebu (PIA) — The Department of Health Central Visayas Center for Health Development (DOH-CVCHD) is urging individuals to seek medical attention in their respective rural health centers if they experience the symptoms of monkeypox virus (mpox).

DOH Central Visayas regional director Joshua G. Brillantes emphasized that the skin rashes symptomatic of mpox are not just ordinary spots or itches but clustered blisters.

"Kung naay symptoms especially kadtong skin rashes, mga ingon ana, dili kadtong labhag-labhag lang kung dili mura'g kanang botoy-botoy, gatapok-tapok dapat moadto na sa rural health centers para ma-test," Brillantes said at the sidelines of the Cebu City Interagency Task Force on Mpox meeting.

(If there are symptoms, especially skin rashes, those that don't just look like ordinary spots but rather like clustered blisters, then you should go to the rural health centers to get tested.)

Mpox symptoms include skin rashes accompanied by fever, intense headache, swelling of the lymph nodes, back pain, muscle aches, and lack of energy. While the disease can be transmitted via skin-to-skin, Brillantes warned the public to avoid close contact with those manifesting Mpox symptoms.

"Atoang i-avoid especially ang skin to skin or close contact labi na 'tong naay mga symptoms na sa ilang panit nga makita," Brillantes said.

(We should avoid skin-to-skin or close contact, especially with those who already show visible symptoms on their skin.) He also reminded the public to constantly wash their hands to avoid being infected.

Recorded cases

Between March and April 2025, Brillantes said there are 3 confirmed mpox cases, who are now

already recovering.

Individuals who are suspected of mpox will undergo isolation for at least 21 days or until the resolution of all symptoms. "Kung tan-awon nimo, for 21 days nga atong kuan (isolation) nga maka-recover sila, recovered na, safe na sila," Brillantes said.

(Within 21 days of advised isolation, they can recover, they are already recovered, they are already safe.)

In May 2025, there were 5 suspected cases in Cebu City, who are currently under home quarantine.

Brillantes said that since 2024 up to present, Central Visayas have recorded around 60 mpox cases.

Brillantes said the cases have a common history of having multiple sexual partners.

Although the virus is not a sexually transmitted infection, he reminded the public to be careful of their sexual partners.

"Dili man gyud siya ingon sexual gyud, ang among na-observe diri sa Central Visayas is naay history of multiple sexual partners," Brillantes said.

(It's not really only sexually transmitted, but what we've observed here in Central Visayas is that there is a history of multiple sexual partners.)

During the inter-agency meeting in Cebu City, Brillantes shared that the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMC) and the Cebu City Medical Center have prepared a total of 20 isolation rooms for mpox cases.

Incumbent Cebu City Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia signed an executive order on June 2 forming an inter-agency task force against mpox.

The task force will handle and monitor mpox cases in the city, prepare an emergency plan, submit daily reports, evaluate areas with observed cases of the virus, collaborate with national government agencies, and submit council ordinances regarding the infection.

Meanwhile, the provincial

DA HONORS OUTSTANDING FARMERS IN CORDILLERA

BAGUIO CITY(PIA) — The Department of Agriculture (DA) recognized groups and individual farmers who have shown dedication in uplifting the agricultural industry in Cordillera region. Agriculture Undersecretary Roger Navarro with DA Regional Executive Director Jennilyn Dawayan and other key officials led the awarding of plaques of recognition and tokens to the regional Gawad Saka awardees during the culmination of the Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month celebration at the Rose Garden in Baguio City on May 29, 2025.

Leading the awardees are Rey Duldulao as Outstanding Animal Raiser Adopting Integrated Farming System, Sunshine Genevive Molintas as Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer for Plantation Crops, Dome Garden, Best Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Garden-Microgarden Category, and the Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council-Benguet as Outstanding PAFC. These are national finalists to the 50th Gawad Saka awards.

The individual awardees are Farah Mae Pantoloc as Outstanding Young Farmer, Romeo Kimbungan as Outstanding Agricultural Entrepreneur, Fidelia Dominguez-Alipio recognized as Outstanding Corn Farmer, and Domingo Bernardo Bakilan as Outstanding Agricultural Extension Manager.

government of Bohol also created a task force to formulate, implement, and establish control and response mechanisms to minimize the spread of the mpox infection.

There are currently no local mpox cases reported in Bohol as of this writing. The task forces in Cebu City and Bohol province will also lead the campaign in combatting disinformation and misinformation on mpox to prevent panic among the public. (JJT/PIA7) **BY JOSITTE ANN TISTA**

For the group achievers, awardees are the Vitagreen Rural Improvement Club – Outstanding Rural improvement Club, Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council of Itogon – Outstanding Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Council, Fit and Fab Farm (Lucnab, Baguio-Best Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Garden-Macrogarden Category, and Atok GAP Practitioners Association (Atok, Benguet) – Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer-Cluster Category.

Gawad Saka is an annual awarding and recognition of outstanding individuals and organizations with exemplary performances and outstanding contributions in the advancement and promotion of the country's agricultural sector.

Navarro expressed gratitude to the awardees and all the farmers who are continuously supporting the agricultural sector.

"Nagpapasalamat tayo sa ating mga awardees, 'yung mga farmers natin, 'yung mga magsasaka natin na walang kupas na nagsasaka pa rin, lahat ng supporter ng agrikultura," he said.

Navarro also acknowledged those who are consistently providing assistance to the farmers, boosting the agriculture sector.

"Sa ating mga partners, ating mga local government units, sa mga ahensiya ng gobyerno, maraming salamat sa inyo, sa pagtulong at patuloy na suporta sa pagkilala na ang ating agrikultura ay mahalaga para sa bansa," Navarro said.

Other activities conducted to honor the invaluable contribution of farmers and fisherfolk in the region's development include Agri-serbisyo Fair and Technology Showcase, information caravan, raffle draws, radio listenership/effectiveness survey, "pinaka" contest and poster-making contest. (JDP/CVBT-PIA CAR with DA CAR) **BY CLINTEAST VAN TOTANES**

BSP: CONSUMERS EXPECT IMPROVED ECONOMIC PROSPECT IN NEXT 12 MONTHS

MANILA — Consumers expect economic prospects to improve in the next 12 months, a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) survey released late Thursday showed.

Results of the first quarter 2025 Consumer Expectations Survey (CES) showed that while consumer sentiment was more pessimistic in the first quarter of the year, sentiment remains optimistic in the next 12 months.

Survey results showed that the overall confidence index (CI) was at -13 percent from -11.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2024.

The BSP said the pessimism among consumers in the first quarter of 2025 was primarily due to their concerns over the faster increase in the prices of goods and services, lower household income, and fewer available job opportunities.

However, consumer sentiment for the next 12 months remained optimistic, based on an unchanged CI from the fourth quarter of the 2024 survey round at 12.4 percent.

"The consumers' sustained optimism for the next 12 months was attributed to their expectations of additional and higher income, more available jobs, salary increases, and stable prices of goods and services," the BSP said. The CES is a quarterly survey of a random sample of about 5,000 households in the Philippines.

It covers three component indices of the consumer outlook such as overall economic condition, family financial situation, and family income.

Results of the CES are among the factors the BSP monitors for the conduct of monetary policy.

In response to the survey results, the BSP reiterated its commitment to its mandates, among which is helping keep inflation manageable.

Based on its latest estimates, inflation or the increase in prices of goods and services is expected to remain manageable and within the target range of 2 to 4 percent for this year up to 2027.

The BSP said within-target inflation supports investments and job creation. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

JAPAN CREDIT RATING AGENCY AFFIRMS PH'S A- CREDIT RATING

MANILA — The Japan Credit Rating Agency Ltd. (JCR) on Thursday affirmed the Philippines' investment-grade credit rating of "A-" with a "stable" outlook, citing the country's sustained economic growth.

"The ratings mainly reflect Philippines' high and sustained economic growth supported by solid domestic demand, low-level external debt, and resilience to external shocks supported by accumulated foreign exchange reserves," the JCR said in a report.

An investment-grade rating signals low credit risk and favorable financing terms for critical public services and infrastructure. For this year, the agency projects Philippine economic growth to remain in the upper 5 percent range, supported by robust domestic demand despite uncertainties in the external environment.

The JCR cited several reforms that the government implemented to help boost growth.

These include the Marcos administration's "Build Better More" program, which aims to ramp up infrastructure spending, enhancing the country's infrastructure competitiveness by leveraging private-sector investments through public-private partnerships (PPP), and the passage of the CREATE MORE Act to enhance ease of doing business, clarify the scope of value-added tax (VAT), rationalize the VAT and excise tax refund system,

Wednesday's 55.77 finish.

It opened at 55.64 and traded between 55.56 and 55.7, with the day's average settling at 55.61. Trade volume rose to USD1.77 billion from USD1.36 billion the previous day. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

and clarify income tax benefits.

"These measures have strengthened tax incentives and improved investment environment," it said.

The JCR said the country's poverty rate is also declining at a faster-than-expected pace due to increased average hourly wages.

The credit rating agency also cited the country's strong external position and ample foreign exchange reserves, as well as government efforts towards fiscal consolidation under the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework.

The JCR said despite increased uncertainty due to changes in US tariff policies, the Philippines' foreign exchange liquidity position remains solid, and the JCR expects the economy to retain high resilience to external shocks going forward.

"The Marcos Jr. administration, which took office in June 2022, is implementing various policies aimed at achieving fiscal consolidation, infrastructure development, and poverty alleviation, and has been making steady progress to date," it said.

"JCR expects that economic growth and fiscal improvement through government's efforts will enhance the country's creditworthiness. It will continue to monitor developments closely."

In a separate statement, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona Jr. welcomed JCR's credit rating affirmation.

"JCR's affirmation will support and strengthen investment from Japan, one of the Philippines' most important partners. The BSP will continue to safeguard price and financial stability to boost the country's resilience amid global headwinds," Remolona said. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PH ASSUMES CO-CHAIRSHIP OF OECD SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAMME

MANILA — The Philippine government has assumed the role of co-chair of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Southeast Asia Regional Programme, reaffirming its strong commitment to advancing the program's goals.

In a statement on Thursday, DEPDDev said the handover ceremony took place on June 3 during the OECD 2025 Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) held at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France.

The Philippines now shares leadership of the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme with Canada.

In his opening remarks, DEPDDev Secretary Arsenio Balisacan underscored the importance of the Philippines' partnership with Canada, reflecting a shared vision for sustainable and inclusive development in the region. "Through this co-chairship, we welcome the opportunity to exchange experiences with regional partners and collaborate on shared priorities —particularly in areas such as private sector engagement, digital economy advancement, and innovation promotion," Balisacan said.

Balisacan said the Philippines and Canada

will collaborate to enhance engagement between Southeast Asian nations and the OECD, focusing on key global challenges such as sustainable infrastructure, corporate social responsibility, and inclusive economic development.

"We thank the OECD, the outgoing co-chairs —Australia and Vietnam— and all member countries and regional partners for entrusting us with this critical responsibility. We also express our enthusiasm for working closely with our Programme counterparts, whose expertise and commitment to international cooperation are well recognized," he said.

During the event's breakout sessions, Balisacan discussed the Philippine government's comprehensive strategy for enhancing economic resilience amid a fragmented global trade environment.

He also emphasized key priorities, including strategic trade diversification and upgrading, harnessing digital transformation for inclusive growth, and adopting pragmatic approaches to artificial intelligence governance and international collaboration. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

SHARES SLIP, PESO MOVES SIDWAYS

MANILA — The local stock market closed almost flat on Thursday while the peso strengthened.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) finished 0.03 percent lower to close at 6,376.79.

All Shares, however, went up by 0.28 percent to 3,779.22.

Except for Financials, which fell by 1.12 percent, all Sectors recorded gains led by Property, which rose 1.11 percent.

"Philippine and US equities delivered a mixed performance on, weighed down by the weakest private sector hiring in

two years, tepid payroll gains, and a slipping dollar, all fueling investor caution," Regina Capital Development Corp. head of sales Luis Limlingan said.

"Meanwhile, price action was fairly muted given the CPI (consumer price index) came in within many analysts' expectations. The May CPI print came at 1.3 percent, which was a slight improvement from the 1.4 percent in April," he added.

Losers and gainers were almost equal at 101 to 100. The peso meanwhile closed stronger against the dollar at 55.62 from

said.

Holding Firms and Services closed in the green while Financials, Industrial, Mining and Oil, and Property closed in the red.

Advancers led decliners at 115 to 78.

Meanwhile, the peso closed at 55.77 to a dollar from its 55.72 finish the previous trading day. It opened at 55.8 and traded between 55.74 and 55.90, bringing the day's average to 55.79.

Volume of trade however declined to USD1.36 billion from USD1.64 billion. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



PH LIFTERS SUCCESS IN PERU GOOD INDICATION HEADING TO LA28

MANILA – Samahang Weightlifting ng Pilipinas president Monico Puentevella said Tuesday that the success in the recent International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Youth and Junior World Championships is a good indication heading to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The Philippines and powerhouse China won five gold medals each in the tournament held in Lima, Peru last week.

"In the World Youth last month, China won five gold medals and the Philippines won five golds also. That's why in the Los Angeles Olympics, it will be a fight between China and the Philippines," Puentevella said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the conference hall of the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"The Philippines has a small budget compared to China but we also won five golds. Before, we are

far from China. It's like a dream. The difference was 20 kilos," added the former representative and mayor of Bacolod City in Negros Occidental.

Puentevella personally witnessed Hidilyn Diaz deliver the country's first gold medal at the 2020+1 Tokyo Olympics after a silver performance in Rio in 2016.

"I want to see another gold medal in the Olympics. We have young and talented athletes who have the potential, they just need more international exposures," Puentevella, who conceptualized the Batang Pinoy when he served as commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission, said.

National coach Patrick Cielo Lee also attended the forum presented by San Miguel Corporation, PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee, MILO, Smart/PLDT, and the country's 24/7 app ArenaPlus.

The other medalists in

Peru were Alexandra Ann Diaz of Zamboanga City, who won golds in women's 45kg snatch and total and the bronze in the clean and jerk; Althea Bacaro of Cebu (one gold in the women's 40kg) in the Youth category, and Angeline Colonia of Zamboanga City (one silver (snatch) and one bronze (total) in women's 45kg) in the Junior category.

"People abroad are also talking about them. They say we will win gold in Los Angeles," Puentevella, who thanked Education Secretary Sonny Angara for helping open the door for weightlifting's entry into the Palarong Pambansa as a demonstration sport, said.

"When you beat China, you will surely qualify for the Olympics," said Puentevella, who also announced the National Open is scheduled from June 7 to 13 in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

PH'S SUAREZ GETS ANOTHER SHOT AT TITLE AS NAVARRETE WIN OVERTURNED

MANILA – Charly Suarez will get a shot at redemption as the World Boxing Organization (WBO) ordered an immediate rematch of his title fight against junior lightweight titleholder Emanuel Navarrete following the California State Athletic Commission's (CSAC) decision to overturn the Mexican champion's controversial win.

Navarrete won via eighth-round technical unanimous decision against Suarez last May 10 after the

ringside physician declared him unable to continue the fight due to a cut above his left eye.

The referee had ruled that the cut was caused by an accidental headbutt.

Replays, however, showed that the cut that halted the fight was caused by a clean punch from the Filipino.

The CSAC unanimously voted to overturn Navarrete's victory to a no contest following a review of the bout.

The WBO subsequently announced it is ordering

an immediate rematch for Navarrete's junior lightweight belt.

"The California State Athletic Commission (CSAC) has officially ruled the bout between Emanuel Navarrete and Charly Suarez as a 'No Contest.'

In light of the foregoing, the World Boxing Organization (WBO) is hereby ordering an immediate rematch," the WBO said. **(PNA) BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRA**

PVL SAYS ROBINS-HARDY MUST FOLLOW DRAFT RULES

MANILA – Incoming rookie Alohi Robins-Hardy must follow the rules.

The 29-year-old Fil-Am setter from Hawaii made an official statement Monday, saying she will only play for Farm Fresh.

"We will not allow that. She cannot choose the team she wants to play for. She has to go through the draft," said Premier Volleyball League (PVL) president Ricky Palou, who was with control committee chairman Sherwin Malonzo during the Philippine Sportswriting Association (PSA) forum at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex Tuesday.

Palou said Robin-Hardy would certainly be penalized by the PVL if she refuses to play for the team which earned her playing rights.

"There will be sanctions. We still haven't discussed yet the sanctions we'll impose on players who violate this rule. Once you go to the draft and a team drafts you, you have to play for that team or you won't play at all," the former player from Ateneo and San Miguel added.

A total of 60 players are taking part in the draft at the Novotel Hotel in Araneta Center.

Malonzo said 25 of the rookie prospects came from the UAAP, 15 from the NCAA, seven foreign-based players, and the rest coming from all over the country such as Tarlac and Baguio.

"The players are bigger and stronger so the teams

have a lot to choose from now. I think, especially the top four picks, they'll be able to beef up their lineups with these new, really good players," Malonzo said.

Farm Fresh is No. 3 overall in the first round behind Capital 1 Solar and Galleries Tower, while at No. 4 is Nxled. All four teams went through the lottery to determine their respective order of picks. Zus Coffee is at No. 5 followed by Signal, Choco Mucho, Cherry Tiggo, PLDT, Akari, Petro Gazz, and Creamline.

Last week, the PVL conducted the required two-day Draft Combine at the Paco Arena for teams to have a glimpse of the rookie players who will be available for the draft.

"This draft will be really interesting since it will improve the skill levels and competitiveness of all the teams. I'm sure the lower-ranking teams in the past will now be able to beef up their lineup with these new players, and they'll be able to compete well against the other top teams," Palou said.

After the draft, the league will hold the PVL On Tour outside Manila, and then take a break by September to give way for the country's hosting and participation at the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship.

After the men's world event, the PVL will resume with the Reinforced Conference. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

IBF CHAMP TADURAN HONORED IN SENATE AFTER SUCCESSFUL TITLE DEFENSE

MANILA – International Boxing Federation (IBF) world minimumweight champion Pedro Taduran received a warm reception at the Senate of the Philippines, which honored him following his successful title defense last month.

Taduran, known as "Kid Heneral", retained his IBF belt after besting rival Ginjiro Shigeoka in their grueling rematch on May 24 in the challenger's home turf in Osaka, Japan. The Senate on Wednesday adopted a resolution, citing the 27-year-old for his

outstanding performance and resilience in the ring.

"Taduran's victory has demonstrated his ability to compete at the highest level, further establishing himself as a force to be reckoned with in the boxing ring. His win did not only showcase his skill and talent, but also highlighted his potential to become a formidable force in the sport of boxing for many years to come," the resolution stated.

Taduran was joined at the Senate by his manager Cucuy Elorde, son of

AFTER PACQUIAO, NONITO DONAIRE STAGES OWN COMEBACK IN ARGENTINA

MANILA – Another legendary Filipino fighter is set to return to the ring after Manny Pacquiao officially stepped out of retirement. Four-division world champion Nonito Donaire will fight for the interim World Boxing Association (WBA) bantamweight title on June 14 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The 42-year-old will face a much younger opponent in Andres Campos of Chile. "The Filipino Flash is back," the WBA announced in a social media post.

Donaire, 42-8 (28 KOs), will return to the ring following a near two-year absence.

He last fought in July 2023 when he dropped a decision loss against Alexandro Santiago in their World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title fight.

The WBA ordered the Donaire-Campos fight for the interim title after Japanese Seiya Tsutsumi was classified as "champion in recess."

Campos, 28, is parading a 17-2-1 record with six knockouts.

Pacquiao, 46, is set to challenge World Boxing Council welterweight champion Mario Barrios in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA on July 19.

In his last bout, Pacquiao (62-8-2, 39 KOs) lost on points against Cuban Yordenis Ugas in August 2021.

The 30-year-old Barrios from Texas holds a 29-2 with 18 KOs record. **(PNA) BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRA**