



SALT OF THE EARTH. A salt farmer in Malolos, Bulacan—no doubt a hardworking father too, as the world celebrates Father's Day today—trudges with baskets of the product he will bring to the nearest market on Saturday. **Lino Santos**

Cebu virus cases spike further

Over 3,300 cases in Cebu City; IATF to place Talisay under GCQ

NEW COVID-19 cases in Cebu City, reverted to enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) by President Rodrigo Duterte, continue to spike — even beating the number of positive cases in Metro Manila, the government's chief implementer against the coronavirus pandemic said Saturday.

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., also the presidential peace adviser, expressed the alarm of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) over the situation in Cebu in a virtual press conference.

The Department of Health (DOH) COVID-19 tracker revealed Saturday there were now 3,317 confirmed cases in Cebu City as of June 19.

Other data from the department as of June 18 showed that Cebu City had the most number of coronavirus cases with 3,216, followed by Quezon City (2,800), Manila (1,776), Makati City (814) and Caloocan City (802).

Cebu City also recorded the most number of new coronavirus cases in the past 14 days with 855, followed by Cebu province (253), Manila (222), Quezon City (215), and Caloocan City (96).

A police officer also died Friday due to

complications from COVID-19, the Cebu City Police Office reported, as 25 policemen battled the disease in the city as of Saturday.

The officer was a police executive master sergeant in CCPO's investigation unit, and his death brought to seven the policemen from around the country who have succumbed to the disease.

They are among the total 456 officers who have contracted the disease, most of whom are frontliners, said Philippine National Police spokesperson Police Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac. Of this number, 276 have recovered.

Galvez said the IATF will continue to assess the COVID-19 situation in Cebu, National Capital Region (NCR), Calabarzon, Central Luzon, and Eastern Visayas.

In a related development in Cebu, the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF) has approved the recommendation

of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia to place Talisay City in the province under general community quarantine (GCQ), according to a report on Dobl B sa News TV on Saturday which was heard in Cebu.

Talisay City Mayor Gerald Anthony Gullas Jr. thanked Garcia for her help.

"I've read in my newsfeed that Talisay has been downgraded back to GCQ. I thank Gov Gwen for all her help. But remember nothing is final up until the IATF resolution is signed and given to the city. Up until then we remain in a MECQ. I'm hoping by Monday we can start," he said in a Facebook post.

On Saturday, Gullas said the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) would still be in effect on Sunday until he would receive a copy of the RIATF resolution.

Other data from the DOH showed a third of COVID-19 cases in Cebu City reported in the last two weeks came from just 10 barangays.

The table shared by the DOH with media showed that 59 cases were recorded from June 5 to 18 in Lahug, 42 cases in Pardo, another 42 in Sambag II, 39 in Labangon, 31 in Bulacao and 30 in Basak San Nicolas.

The DOH also logged 29 cases each in Sambag I and Tinago, and 28 cases each in Carreta and Inawayan.

Critical cases

Since the start of June, Region 7 has been logging almost 100 to more than 200 cases daily, sometimes surpassing the new cases in the NCR, dubbed the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the Philippines.

According to Galvez, there was also a growing number of admission of those patients with critical COVID-19 cases in various hospitals in Cebu, more deaths are being recorded and private hospitals are nearly full.

He said the task force deployed a surveillance team from the Department of Health main office to closely monitor the situation in Cebu City.

"The DOH Region VII already added personnel, which include nursing staff for primary hospitals in Cebu," he said.

Aside from additional staff, around 20 sets of high-flow nasal cannula non-invasive ventilators, 42,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) and, 16,000 face masks were sent to various hospitals in Cebu City. **Willie Casas, Jimbo Gulle and PNA**

COVID-19 PH AT A GLANCE
 (AS OF 4 PM JUNE 20)

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 29,400 TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES | 943 NEW |
| 1,150 DEATHS | 20 NEW |
| 7,650 RECOVERIES | 272 NEW |

'NEW, DANGEROUS COVID-19 PHASE'

The World Health Organization warned Friday of a "new and dangerous phase" of the coronavirus pandemic, with Brazil registering more than one million cases.



WORLD / A3

'WFH' EXPOSES BIZ TO PHISHING TRIES

The work-from-home trend may have helped contain the spread of coronavirus among employees, but also exposed corporate networks to menacing phishing attacks.



BUSINESS / A4

TYPES OF 'PEOPLE FOOD' FOR CATS

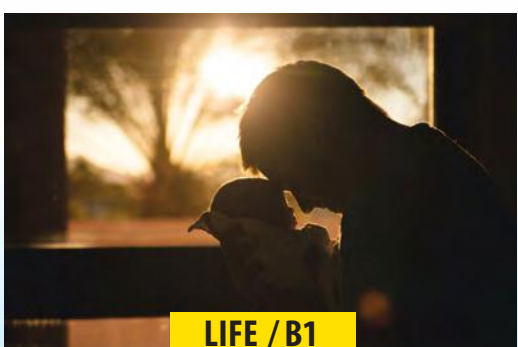
Dry and canned cat food are designed for the health and digestive needs of cats, but food for humans can be added to their diet to make their meals more exciting.



PETS / B4

WHAT MY FATHER TAUGHT ME

Each father has a unique way to show his love to his children. Some instill discipline, others tell it through corny one-liners, and many impart wisdom.



LIFE / B1

CATHAY LAND BACKS 'BALIK PROBINSYA'

Cathay Land recently threw its weight behind the "Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa" campaign of President Rodrigo Duterte, says its president Jeffrey Ng.



HOME/DESIGN / B2

JOSEPH MARCO ON VIU'S 'THE BRIDGE'

Star Magic talent Joseph Marco lauds his experience shooting for the second season of "The Bridge," produced by Viu and in association with HBO Asia Originals.



ENTERTAINMENT / B3

STORIES ON PAGE 2

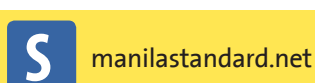
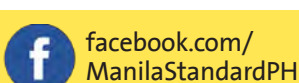
PH VIRUS CASES ALMOST AT 30K

22K 'DUPLICATE' SAP RECIPIENTS

'ARISE' BILL KEY TO PH GROWTH

800 STRANDED FERRIED HOME

KENG FILES 2ND CASE VS RESSA



Missed your copy of Manila Standard? Call or text our Circulation Hotline at 0917-8848655 or email: circulation@manilastandard.net

GRASSROOTS TESTING.

Health personnel conduct mass testing at the barangay level in Cebu City amid the rise of cases in at least four urban poor communities in the Queen City, which is now the city with the most number of coronavirus cases in the country.
Cebu City PIO



Critical care rate at 35%; cases near 30k

By Willie Casas, Vito Barcelo and Maricel V. Cruz

AS THE number of coronavirus cases in the country crept toward 30,000 on Saturday, officials said the Philippine health care system's current critical care utilization rate (CCUR) is "not yet fully exhausted."

That means the system still has enough capacity to care for those in need of critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health (DOH) said Saturday.

"Our analysis shows we're just using 35 percent of our CCUR, so we can say we have a lot in reserve," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a television interview.

However, Vergeire said the 35% CCUR is for the whole country and that rates vary in every region.

The DOH reported a total of 943 cases yesterday—578 fresh cases and 365 late cases, with fresh cases based on the daily accomplishment reports submitted by only 49 out of 59 current operational labs.

It also reported 20 deaths, but 15 of

them occurred from June 5 to 16. The DOH explained two duplicates were also removed from total case count, "which may be subject to change as these numbers undergo constant cleaning and validation."

DOH likewise announces 272 recoveries, bringing the total number of recovered patients to 7,650.

The CCUR indicated the capacity of the health system's critical resources like ICUs (intensive care units) at mechanical ventilators, Vergeire said.

CCUR is an important indicator in determining whether quarantine restrictions can be eased, since it provides data on the capacity of the country's hospitals and other health facilities to take care of the critically ill during the crisis, she added.

Case doubling time has also slowed down to 6.9 days, from two to three days since the government imposed strict lockdown measures in March.

The mortality doubling time has also slowed to nine days, Vergeire said.

Meanwhile, back-riding on motorcycles will soon be allowed upon approval of requirements set by a technical working group and issuance of guidelines by the National Task Force (NTF) for COVID-19, Malacanang said Saturday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said motorcycle back riding will be allowed in "principle" after the NTF released the guidelines to ensure the proper enforcement of safety protocols for back-riding.

IN BRIEF

Keng files 2nd cyber libel case vs. Ressa

BUSINESSMAN Wilfredo Keng has filed a second complaint against Rappler founder Maria Ressa at the Makati City Prosecutor's Office in February this year, the news website she founded revealed.

The revelation came just days after Ressa's conviction for cyber libel at the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The court on Monday sentenced Ressa and co-accused Reynaldo Santos, Jr. to jail time ranging from 6 months and 1 day to 6 years and damages totalling P400,000.

The new complaint, also for cyber libel, was due to Ressa's Feb. 15, 2019 tweet, which posted screenshots of a 2002 article in another newspaper linking the property developer to the murder of a former councilor.

PH among 10 most dangerous work sites

THE Philippines is among top 10 dangerous place for workers in 2020 based on the 2020 Global Rights Index issued by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) said Saturday.

Other countries in the top 10 are Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

"The ALU-TUCP are fully in accord with the findings of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and stand by their listing of the Philippines as one of the top 10 most dangerous countries in the world for workers," the country's biggest labor group said in a statement.

"We see the handwriting clearly on the wall: workers rights and workers are and will be victims in the current political environment," the labor group's spokesman Alan Tanjusz said. **Vito Barcelo**

Brgy. chairman shot, killed in Caloocan

A BARANGAY chairman in Caloocan City died on Saturday after he was shot by unidentified armed men, Caloocan City Mayor Oca Malapitan said.

In a Facebook post, Malapitan identified the fatality as Gally Dilao, chairman of Barangay 151.

Citing a police report, Malapitan said Dilao was on his way home and was walking on Progreso Street around 12 a.m. when he was shot by men wearing black face masks who were onboard three motorcycles.

Malapitan said Dilao was close to him even during his term as a congressman. He has ordered the Caloocan Police headed by Police Colonel Dario Menor to investigate the incident and identify the suspects. **Jun David**

'ARISE bill key to future PH growth'

A STUDY prepared by a House of Representatives think tank said House Bill 6815 or the Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy of the Philippines (ARISE Philippines) was the key to the country's economic recovery and future growth.

The economy went on a tail spin following the lockdown imposed to control the spread of Coronavirus Disease 19.

The study was prepared by the House Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD), the congressional think tank for policy and institutional reforms.

The proposed P1.3-trillion fund provided by the ARISE Philippines bill to spur the country's economy amid the expected economic contraction in 2020 has caused worries that the national budget deficit would outpace the median in the region, hurting the credit rating status and long-term economic growth prospects of the country.

However, the Department of Finance and other agencies involved in the economy said the government could afford not more than P300 billion for the projects meant to jump start the economy.

The CPBRD study titled "Notes on Supplemental Budget", the projected fiscal balances of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-states would be negative in 2020.

It cited that Indonesia was expected to post a fiscal balance of -6.3 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP); Malaysia, -4.7 percent; Singapore, -15.4 percent; Thailand, -5.5 percent; and Vietnam, -6.4 percent.

Fiscal balance

In comparison, the Philippine fiscal balance in 2020 is expected to be a mere -5.3 percent of its GDP. This translates to a budget deficit of 5.3 percent.

The CPBRD report further noted there was no country simultaneously combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recession that would not incur a higher budget deficit.

"Deficit spending could be considered sustainable if it does not result in persistently increasing and high debt-to-gross domestic produce ratio."

Maricel V. Cruz

DSWD: 22k 'duplicate' SAP beneficiaries

By Maricel V. Cruz

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development has intensified its validation efforts after it found 22,000 "duplicate beneficiaries" on the list of recipients of the government's Social Amelioration Program or SAP.

This coincided with what Speaker Alan Cayetano said as the House of Representatives would find ways to a better, smoother system of distributing financial aid under the government's SAP.

Cayetano said the ongoing congressional inquiry into the distribution by the Department of Social Welfare and

Development and other agencies of P100 billion in SAP aid last month was expected to come up with a better policy to effect such.

DSWD Undersecretary Rene Paje told the Laging Handa public briefing the Department had informed the local government units (LGUs) for action on whether to take back or record the names of the duplicate beneficiaries.

The House committee on good government and public accountability chaired by Bulacan Rep. Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado and the committee on public accounts led by Rep. Mike Defensor of Anakalusugan will conduct the in-

quiry starting on Monday.

"This is not to point fingers, but to find a better way of delivering the social amelioration and other benefits to our people," Cayetano said.

"People are tired of hearing statements like 'The national ID should have been fully implemented for faster aid distribution,' or 'The SAC (social amelioration card) forms should have been distributed house-to-house,'" he said.

Cayetano said the House would ask DSWD officials on "what their plans are, if, God forbids, a lockdown is imposed again, if they can distribute aid efficiently."



VIRTUAL CEREMONY. President Rodrigo Duterte talks on the phone with outgoing Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Philippines Jaideep Mazumdar, who made his farewell call on Saturday. Later, the President welcomed Ambassador-designate of the State of Palestine to the Philippines Saleh Asad Saleh Fhied Mohammad, who presents his credentials during a virtual ceremony at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang (inset). **Presidential Photo**

Over 800 stranded in Manila go home via bus, train

MORE than 800 locally stranded individuals or LSIs have gone home or on their way to their respective provinces under the government's Hatid Probinsya Program as of weekend, with another batch of 150 scheduled on June 25, officials said.

Some 115 LSIs underwent rapid testing for COVID-19 before they boarded a Philippine National Railways train before dawn Saturday – but it was not

clear what provinces they were headed to, except that the coaches would be passing by the provinces of Batangas, Quezon, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Albay and Sorsogon.

A report on Dobo B sa News TV, aired and heard nationwide, said all the LSIs underwent rapid testing for COVID-19 before they boarded the train at around 3 a.m. Only those who tested negative and were issued a medical

clearance by the Bureau of Quarantine were allowed to board.

There would be three drop-off points for those who boarded the train: two in Camarines Sur and one in Ligao, Albay.

At the same time, more than 700 LSIs in Metro Manila were also assisted by the Office of the Vice President, in cooperation with local government units, in going back to their home provinces. **With PNA**

Scandal-hit Wirecard CEO Braun resigns

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, Germany —The founder and chief executive of scandal-hit Wirecard resigned on Friday after the German payments provider was hit with fresh fraud allegations that have left it struggling for survival.

Markus Braun “resigned today with immediate effect”, the firm said in a statement, adding that the decision was made “in mutual consent with the supervisory board”.

The 51-year-old Austrian will be replaced on an interim basis by US manager James Freis.

The bombshell comes a day after auditors from Ernst & Young said 1.9 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) were missing from Wirecard’s accounts, intensifying a months-long crisis in the company.

The news prompted investors to abandon the once popular fintech company in droves, sending Wirecard’s share price into a tailspin.

The stock, which had plunged more than 60 percent in Frankfurt on Thursday, lost another 35.3 percent Friday to close at 25.82 euros.

It marks a stunning fall from grace for the Bavarian start-up, set up in 1999 and once seen as a darling of the fintech scene thanks to the global increase in electronic payments.

The firm entered Germany’s prestigious DAX 30 index with great fanfare in 2018 after nudging out traditional lender Commerzbank.

But since then Wirecard has been dogged by a series of articles in the Financial Times alleging accounting irregularities in its Asian operations.

The company’s four board members—including Braun—have been under investigation since early June by Munich prosecutors for “market manipulation”, and Wirecard’s headquarters were searched as part of the probe.

The scandal deepened on Thursday when the firm was forced to delay the publication of its 2019 results for a fourth time.

Instead, Wirecard said in a statement that auditors Ernst & Young had identified “spurious balance confirmations” relating to “cash balances on trust accounts.” **AFP**

Pompeo hits China hard in Europe gab

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday warned Europeans they would abandon their values by embracing China, in a scathing denunciation of Beijing just two days after talks on trans-Pacific tensions.

In his first remarks since his closed-door talks with a senior Chinese official in Hawaii, Pompeo indicated that his views have not softened as he denounced Beijing as a “rogue actor” bent on global domination.

There is “no way to straddle these alternatives without abandoning who we are. Democracies dependent on authoritarians are not worthy of the name,” Pompeo told a forum in Denmark by videoconference.

He said he similarly had a “very frank” message over his six hours of talks Wednesday with senior Chinese official Yang Jiechi.

Pompeo said he told Yang the United States was closely watching China’s actions—including its recent deadly border clash with US friend India.

“America is engaging in a response to Chinese Communist Party aggression in a way that America has not done for the past 20 years,” Pompeo told the Copenhagen Democracy Summit, referring to President Donald Trump’s administration.

Pompeo renewed calls on Europeans to shun Chinese telecom giant Huawei, which he called the arm of the communist “surveillance state,” and said Beijing was “flagrantly attacking sovereignty” through its port investments in Greece and Spain. **AFP**

WHAT A VIEW.

Passengers sit in a ferris wheel as a rainbow appears during sunset after a rain shower in Hong Kong on June 16. **AFP**



WHO warns of virus danger; Brazil cases hit one million

RIO DE JANEIRO —The World Health Organization warned Friday of a “new and dangerous phase” of the coronavirus pandemic, as infections continued to surge in the Americas, with Brazil registering more than one million cases.

Colombia and Mexico also passed bleak milestones, as their death tolls topped 2,000 and 20,000, respectively, showing how the virus continues ravaging the Americas and parts of Asia even as Europe starts to ease out of lockdown.

The measures imposed to halt the spread of the disease have caused crippling economic damage, but the WHO warned against giving in to isolation fatigue.

“The world is in a new and dangerous

phase. Many people are understandably fed up with being at home... but the virus is still spreading fast,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

The virus has now killed more than 458,000 people and infected 8.6 million worldwide.

A vaccine remains months off at best despite several trials, and scientists are still making daily discoveries about the virus, its symptoms and the extent to which it may have spread before being

identified.

Brazil, which has the second-highest number of infections and deaths after the United States, reported a one-day record of nearly 55,000 new infections, becoming the second country to pass one million cases.

The health ministry said the jump was caused by “instability” in its reporting system, which delayed previous days’ figures for some states.

Brazil’s death toll now stands at nearly 49,000, and has risen by more than 1,000 each of the past four days—though its curve finally appears to be starting to flatten.

Authorities in Mexico City meanwhile pushed back a planned reopening of the economy from next week to the following, saying the rate of infection was still too high. **AFP**

‘Hurt, angry’ India warns China over border clashes

NEW DELHI—India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday that his country was “hurt and angry” after a border clash with China that left 20 troops dead, and warned that the army has been given free reign to respond to any new violence.

India and China have blamed each other for the high altitude clash on their contested Himalaya frontier on Monday which also left Chinese casualties after brutal fights with nail studded batons, rocks and rods covered in barbed wire.

Modi called a rare meeting with opposition party leaders to discuss the simmering crisis hours after China released 10 Indian troops, including two majors, it

had seized in the battle in the Galwan valley of Ladakh region.

Amid mounting calls for a boycott of Chinese products and highly-charged public funerals for the dead soldiers, Modi said “the entire country is hurt and angry at the steps taken by China”.

The prime minister denied that any Chinese forces were “inside our territory” and insisted that “upholding sovereignty is foremost” for his Hindu nationalist government.

“The armed forces have been given a free hand to take all necessary steps,” Modi said.

India and China have rushed reinforce-

ments to the border since the most serious incident between the world’s two most populous countries in more than four decades. The neighbours fought a full-scale border war in 1962 and have not agreed a frontier since.

Amid international concern over the clash, top US officials including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have sided with India in accusing China of escalating tensions.

The release of the 10 soldiers late Thursday, confirmed by Indian security officials, followed several rounds of talks between top military officers and the foreign ministers on both sides. **AFP**

INDIAN TEST.

A health official collects a swab sample from a man to test for the COVID-19 coronavirus at a temporary testing center at a hotel after authorities eased restrictions imposed as a preventive measure against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, in New Delhi on June 17. India’s official coronavirus death toll leapt by more than 2,000 on June 17 as the hard-hit country struggles to contain a ballooning health crisis that has overwhelmed hospitals. **AFP**



Confederate general’s statue toppled in US

WASHINGTON—Protesters in Washington toppled a statue of a Confederate general late Friday, after nationwide rallies to demand racial justice on a day heavy with symbolism—the Juneteenth holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

Demonstrations were held in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington against a backdrop of weeks of protests fueled by the deaths of African Americans at the hands of police.

In a stark illustration of the tensions roiling the nation, President Donald Trump issued a solemn White House statement commemorating Juneteenth, while also threatening protesters on Twitter ahead of his controversial rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Saturday.

Juneteenth marks the day -- June 19, 1865 -- when a Union general arrived in Galveston, Texas and informed slaves that they were free -- two months after the Civil War had ended and two-and-a-half years after president Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

The date is generally celebrated with prayer services and family gatherings, but comes this year amid a national soul-searching over America’s legacy of racial injustice.

The United States has been gripped by daily “Black Lives Matter” protests since the May 25 death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man killed by a white police officer in Minnesota.

Late on Friday a statue of Confederate general Albert Pike was torn down by demonstrators in the capital and set on fire, in an act labeled a “disgrace” by Trump.

“The D.C. police are not doing their job as they watch a statue be ripped down & burn. These people should be immediately arrested,” Trump tweeted. **AFP**

Rare ‘ring of fire’ solar eclipse to dim Africa, Asia

PARIS—Skywatchers along a narrow band from west Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, India and southern China will witness on Sunday the most dramatic “ring of fire” solar eclipse to shadow the Earth in years.

Annular eclipses occur when the Moon—passing between Earth and the Sun—is not quite close enough to our planet to completely obscure sunlight, leaving a thin ring of the solar disc visible.

They occur every year or two, and can only be seen from a narrow pathway across the planet.

Remarkably, the eclipse on Sunday arrives on the northern hemisphere’s longest day of the year—the summer solstice—when Earth’s north pole is tilted most directly towards the Sun.

The “ring of fire” will first be seen in northeastern Republic of Congo at 5:56 local time (04:56 GMT) just a few minutes after sunrise.

This is the point of maximum duration, with the blackout lasting 1 minute and 22 seconds.

Arcing eastward across Asia and Africa, it will reach “maximum eclipse”—with a perfect solar halo around the Moon—over Uttarakhand, India near the Sino-Indian border at 12:10 local time (6:40 GMT). **AFP**

China charges Canadians with spying, Ottawa, Trudeau ‘disappointed’

OTTAWA—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday he is “disappointed” that China has formally charged two Canadians with spying, more than 18 months after their arrest amid a row between Beijing and Ottawa.

Former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor were detained in December 2018, nine days after Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada on a US warrant, in what was seen as tit-for-tat re-

taliation.

“We’re of course disappointed with the decision taken by the Chinese in the case of the two Michaels,” Trudeau said, renewing calls for their release.

His deputy, Chrystia Freeland, said she was “heartbroken and really angry” and called on China to restore consular access for the pair.

Canada’s former ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques, urged Ottawa to take a more aggressive stance.

“We need a strong reaction from the

federal government, not just soft diplomatic talk anymore,” he told public broadcaster CBC.

The Supreme People’s Procuratorate said earlier it has begun the prosecution of Kovrig and Spavor, suspected of “foreign espionage” and “providing state secrets.”

The move follows a key ruling allowing Meng to be extradited to the US, which wants to try her on fraud charges related to the Chinese telecom giant’s alleged violations of US sanc-

tions against Iran.

Relations between Canada and China have hit rock bottom over the arrests. Beijing has blocked billions of dollars’ worth of Canadian agricultural exports.

Trudeau said Chinese authorities have “directly linked” the case “to the judicial proceedings against Miss Meng.”

He called this “extremely disappointing because, for us, there obviously are no links, except in politics.” **AFP**

'Work-from-home' exposes firms to phishing attacks

THE “work-from-home” trend may have helped contain the spread of coronavirus among employees, but this has exposed corporate networks to menacing phishing attacks and other cybersecurity threats, according to a Filipino information technology executive.

Louie Castaneda, country manager of Fortinet Philippines, says he has observed an increase in cybersecurity threats during the enhanced community quarantine period which forced most companies to allow their employees to work from home.

He says these threats include phishing or fraudulent attempts to steal personal data, malware, ransomware and denial of service. They are directed at compromised personal computers or laptops used by employees at home without the security solutions provided by companies.

“These attacks actually rose during the Covid-19 pandemic, and they were committed by bad actors who are out to take advantage of the situation when people are most vulnerable. They are looking for information, especially those related to Covid-19. That is why the Department of Health needed to come out with its own announcement that you go to this specific website only for information related to Covid 19, otherwise you might end up in a phishing site,” Castaneda says in a video briefing.

Castaneda says such threats increased amid the big shift to work-from-home arrangements. “A lot of the companies were not prepared for this work-from-home. When pandemic came, majority of their employees needed to work from home. Most of the companies were not prepared for that shift,” he says.

“More than half of their people are working from home. That means they have to secure the personal laptops they are using or the company-issued laptops while they are connecting to or accessing corporate resources,” he says.

“In the office, computers are secured when employees are working inside the network infrastructure. But when employees went out, the question is how to connect a lot of these people from their respective homes to the office.

That’s where the security issue arose. They have to fight for speed and they have to make sure these people are able to connect. Security might have been forgotten,” says Castaneda.

“Some of these workers have to use their personal laptops and sometimes the laptops of their children or the ones they use for school. A lot of times, these laptops were used to view films or videos that were directly streaming from the internet. In a way, these laptops were compromised. If you are connecting these laptops to corporate resources, you are exposing your corporate resources to viruses or malwares,” he says.

Castaneda says this might have exposed several companies to cybersecurity threats, with some of them repeatedly reminding their clients against fraudulent e-mails from hackers. “I would say quite a few had experienced that,” he says.

The most common targets of these threats are banks and other financial services, telecom companies, retail companies, hospitals, manufacturing firms, other enterprises and government agencies.

Castaneda says cybersecurity threats could cost valuable amount. He says a benchmark research conducted by Ponemon Institute concluded that the global six-year average cost of a data breach amounts to \$3.78 million. The financial consequences of a data breach can vary based on several factors, including root causes, network size, and the type of data held by an organization.

A 2018 Frost & Sullivan study commissioned by Microsoft estimates that cybersecurity incidents can hit \$1.745 trillion in Asia-Pacific, representing more than 7 percent of the region’s total gross domestic product of \$24.3 trillion.

Castaneda, who has headed various technology companies before joining Fortinet in 2018, says, “everyone is exposed to cybersecurity threats because there are people who are looking at this as a lucrative business”.

“For example, the most expensive information outside finance is medical information. If they get to hack a hospital and get information of patients, they can actually sell those information to those who are interested to malign or extort money from the victims,” he says.

Castaneda says to avoid becoming a victim of such threats, employees need to practice basic cyber hygiene like protecting and changing passwords regularly, running the updates on applications and programs, spotting social engineering and avoiding online transactions using public Wi-Fi.

“You have to train your people how to spot social engineering, specifically phishing. They appeal to your emotion by encouraging you to click it or opening an attachment,” he says. “If you go to malls, it is okay to just surf the web. But if you are going to do online transactions using public Wi-Fi, you are exposed.”

Castaneda says Fortinet, the largest cybersecurity company in the world in terms of market capitalization and security appliance shipments, has a large range of security solutions from the cloud to the endpoint. “In terms of market coverage, I think we are one of the few that could actually say we have the solutions for different markets. We are one of the top enterprise security solutions providers. We are also big in the mid and commercial market space. One of our biggest areas is the small and medium business space,” he says.

Castaneda says to help remote workers, Fortinet’s teleworker solutions are specifically geared towards the work-from-home scheme. These include virtual private network, multi-factor authentication, end-point security, data loss prevention and device management.

“Companies need to have device management control solutions, so they can keep track of these devices being used to connect to enterprise solutions,” he says.

He says the Fortinet Security Fabric platform provides an integration and automation across an organization’s security infrastructure. Fortinet also uses artificial intelligence to proactively respond to any threat, he says.

“Because some of the threats out there are using very complex algorithm to evade traditional security solutions like firewall, majority of our solutions have also incorporated AI because you should be able to adapt to the changing threats in the market. That’s why in any threat out there, we can create solutions in a matter of minutes,” he says.

Castaneda says Fortinet continues to look at the Philippines as a growth area. The country has a \$72-million cybersecurity market, which is relatively smaller than other Southeast Asian markets, he says.

“The Philippines is one of the fastest growing markets in terms of adoption of cybersecurity solutions. In the region, our cybersecurity market is still not as big as the other Southeast Asian countries but there is a big shift in the adoption of security solutions among companies. They also see the need to adopt solutions other than firewall. Now, they realize it is becoming more complex, and they have to secure all different areas of the business,” he says. **Roderick T. dela Cruz**

Fortinet Philippines country manager Louie Castaneda



OYO commits to PH expansion despite the pandemic

OYO Hotels & Homes sees Southeast Asia as a strategic growth market and aims to strengthen its footprint in the region with a diverse portfolio of products that provide a great technology-driven hospitality experience through quality affordable accommodations for travelers and tourists.

“In Southeast Asia, we have grown from being a predominantly single country operation to launching multiple geographies,” said Mandar Vaidya, CEO of Japan, Southeast Asia and Middle East at OYO. “COVID-19 has delayed some of our plans, but we expect EBITDA to improve post the lockdown as is the case in Malaysia, the most mature of all the markets in SEA.”

Despite tourism and hospitality being some of the hardest hit industries during the pandemic, OYO remains optimistic about its stability as a company given the relatively good performance of its properties.

“Government-imposed travel restrictions and isolation protocols across the region have resulted in significant drops in demand at properties with an uncertain duration,” said Vaidya. “Based on the available industry data, OYO properties in SEA have fared better than the market in these troubled times, with OYO revenue per available room dropping by 5 percent vs 20 percent for the industry in February over January.”

The same data reveals that while industry occupancy in the Philippines dropped as low as 20 percent in May, OYO was able to maintain the occupancy rate of 40 percent. The company owes this to robust demand generation programs through their online and offline platforms, as well as through strategic partnerships.

At the height of the lockdown, OYO teamed up with the Office of the Vice President, government agencies and medical societies to help provide shelter homes for medical and essential workers.

OYO properties became the preferred choice for the Overseas Workers Welfare Association (OWWA) and the Department of Tourism for repatriated OFWs and seafarers. Since the beginning of the lockdown,

OYO has serviced over 5,000 OFWs and 2,000 frontliners.

With lockdown restrictions lifted and new guidelines rolled out to jumpstart local tourism, OYO has made several steps ahead to prepare its properties and its partners to reopen to the general public.

“We are learning from trends in countries like Vietnam and Malaysia that are slowly coming back post lockdowns. In fact, in both countries, while our available capacity has almost doubled from April, our RevPAR is 25 percent higher as well in May. Learning from our experiences in these countries, we’ve observed that travel destinations near larger cities show very high occupancies during weekends, and customers prefer long stays, especially with offline partners,” said Ankit Gupta, country head of OYO in the Philippines.

“The most important trend we see is how customers are very keen to understand safety and sanitization protocols,” he said.

Responding to new consumer demands post-pandemic, OYO Hotels & Homes has rolled out its Sanitized Stays program in the Philippines. Properties that have been certified to have gone through the stringent program will bear the “Sanitized Stay” logo to signal to consumers that the property has passed OYO’s rigorous health check.

“In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hospitality industry is facing a new normal in the way we operate. As a brand committed to offering safe accommodation options, OYO is proactively leading the change in housekeeping and cleanliness protocols within the hospitality industry, across all OYO properties. In this industry, maintaining the trust and confidence of guests is key and this is reflected in the guest-first approach OYO is taking through our new protocols, in order to provide reassurance and peace of mind to guests,” said Gupta.

Under the initiative, OYO will implement comprehensive hygiene protocols and step up vigilance measures pre and post-check-in and throughout its customer journey, to curb any potential spread of COVID-19.

Enderun alumna at the helm of Ducasse Restaurant in Macau

SAFA Nessmarie Rodas, an Enderun Colleges alumna, was named as the head chef of Voyages by Alain Ducasse—a recipient of the prominent Michelin Plate award for restaurants located at Morpheus Hotel in Macau’s City of Dreams.

A successful Filipina chef who hails from Maasin City, Southern Leyte, Safa enjoyed most of her time in the kitchen doing practical learning.

When she was in school, training was rigorous and challenging but she explains that the moments where she and her classmates were put to test was a significant factor that pushed them to reach their full potential.

“I also greatly appreciated the time I spent learning from our chef mentors in school, their way of teaching and imparting knowledge is very effective. We got to learn things the hard way, and I wouldn’t have it other than that,” she says.

The opportunities for Safa have been rolling continuously. After she graduated, she took her internship at Benoit New York which is a contemporary French bistro by Alain Ducasse. Eventually, she received an offer from the company where she started her professional culinary journey.

Safa worked her way through the ranks. She started as a line cook, then later on as junior sous chef and finished her career in Benoit New York as an executive sous chef. She spent almost six years in the bustling city which successfully helped her earn the head chef title today.

Surprisingly, the culinary adventure of Safa is not something like a decision she has to make. According to her, “[It’s] more like a path paved for me since I started my culinary journey. I never stopped learning or had a long break since I finished college, basically, I stayed in the kitchen for the past seven years. Things just happened to take its course really fast. I am where I am right now because I’ve put on a lot of hard work and listened to the guidance of my chefs.”

Safa acknowledges her alma mater, Enderun Colleges, which helped her nurture the values of strength and resilience especially that she’s presently working in the international scene.



Safa Nessmarie Rodas

“Chef See Cheong Yan would never sugar-coat anything, especially when talking about the reality of the world beyond the classroom. Our eyes were always opened to the fact that it is going to be difficult and only the brave ones will make it. I am a young Filipina woman, leading a very dynamic and intercultural kitchen team in Macau—already a challenge in itself—but as long as I believe in what I can do, and look back to all the lessons I learned, I know I will get through anything,” she says.

Being a successful career woman she is today, Safa takes her inspiration from her mentors who have always been there to guide her and push her to become better each day.

She has seen them work hard and dedicate themselves to the craft, thus, she is inspired to do the same. Also, Safa gets strength from her family members who have been supportive of her since the beginning of her journey.

Interestingly, Safa encourages the students of today to trust in one’s self and never have self-doubt in order to reach their full potential.

“It is going to be hard out there, but never lose sight of your goal especially when the going gets tough. You must also learn to choose who you surround yourself with. Be with people who push you to become better, who inspire and influence you to aim higher,” she says.

What my father taught me

By Angelica Villanueva

EACH father has a unique way to show his love to his children. Some instill discipline, others tell it through corny one-liners, and many impart wisdom.

Our dads are a rich source of valuable lessons that can help us navigate through life—if we only listen and look past their imperfections. These children did, and now they share what they learned from their fathers.



“He taught me how to live independently. Whenever I do something, he lets me do all the work. He taught me how to become responsible in everything. He guides and helps me solve every life problem that I encounter. He taught me how to become a man.” — **Jose Gabriel Latorosa, student, 20**



“How to be independent and how to value myself are the greatest life lessons my dad taught me. He taught me how to stand up, how to speak up for the things I believe in, how to stand up for others, and how to face my fears, because he will not always be there to pick me up when I fall, or comfort me when I cry, or be there to scare away nightmares. Papa has always been a great provider and a very supportive father, and I will be forever grateful to my dad for being constantly present in every milestone in my life that it filled the gap of not being with him every day. Happy Father’s Day, Papa! I hope we could make more memories together soon. We love you!” — **Alexandria Denise San Juan, writer, 23**



“I have learned from my dad that success isn’t met without hard work. If you put hard work in all the things that you do, a lot of great opportunities will follow that will lead to your success.” — **Allison Legaspi, student, 19**

“My father taught me to serve others with compassion. He taught us to give without expecting anything in return, because we believe that when we serve others, we are also serving God.” — **Graciela Ramirez, nursing student, 20**



“My dad is known as ‘a man of few words.’ He doesn’t talk that much around other people. But in spite of that, I’ve seen how he was able to influence and make a positive impact on the people around him through his selfless service. Indeed, the best way to teach your children a lesson is to set a good example for them. And one great way to express your love to others is by giving some of your precious time and energy to serve them. All thanks to Papa for teaching us these important lessons, they have been our guide ever since. Happy Father’s Day, Papa Ermo! Thank you for everything. And know that I love you!” — **Sarah Jean Baladad, accountant, 28**



“My dad taught me to always work hard. [That] you must always give your 100 percent whenever you are given a task. My role model are my parents and I am nothing without them. My dad respects my mom, and my mom does the same thing. They are always there for each other. My dad shows me that family is important. I love you Dad, Happy Father’s Day! I am grateful that you are part of my life. Thank you so much for everything you have done for the family.” — **Scottlee San Diego, student, 20**



“I have been blessed with almost 22 years with my dad, and throughout those years, he has taught me to be patient. He taught me how to be patient in long queues, patient in letting others finish what they’re saying before I speak up, patient in trials and challenges, and most importantly, patient with myself.” — **June Dominic Solidarios, BPO, 21**

*Words have been edited for length and/or clarity

Restless and concerned:

Young entrepreneur raises P1.7m for daily wage workers

AMONG the silver linings in today’s crisis is the rise of genuinely concerned Filipinos who, in their own ways, big or small, have managed to lend a hand to those drowning in the situation.

The implementation of enhanced community quarantine has left many daily wage earners and informal workers unemployed, some reduced to begging in the streets because, sadly, they had no other choice.

With the knowledge that cards are stacked against many, Joey Gamos, founder and owner of the brand Tara Baraha!, wanted badly to help.

Tara Baraha! is a small local business selling playing cards that showcase the beauty of the Philippines. The deck comes with 52 info cards that take players on a visual journey around the Philippines, and three joker cards that serve as bucket lists to top destinations around the country.

Gamos mobilized her network and made use of her business’ Facebook and Instagram pages to start a donation drive, “Tara Tulong Tayo!” for daily wage earners and their families.

“It started as a personal concern about our daily wage worker *kababayans* and their families,” begins Gamos.

“In the news that preceded the start of ECQ, I saw the struggle of so many of our workers who had to endure so much just to get to their place of work as public transportation was put to a halt—a foreshadowing of the hardships that they will go through for the rest of the quarantine period. They expressed their worries and concerns on how they’ll be able to feed their families,” she shares.

Restless and concerned, Gamos spoke to a couple of friends about her worries and her desire to do something to help from home. She started by creating a compelling poster through online design platform Canva for the visual materials of her initiative.

She then launched the fundraising drive on March 16, first day of the ECQ, which aimed to give P1,000 cash assistance to affected daily wage workers.

Gamos’ friends and family eventually joined in, helping with the day-to-day operations. For the past three months, the whole Tara Tulong Tayo! initiative has become a collective effort by generous individuals, small local businesses, and communities as some even mounted their own donation drives/online sales and chose Tara Tulong Tayo as their beneficiary.

As of June 14, and day 89 of the initiative, Gamos and her team have been able to raise P1,741,353 and have sent out cash assistance to 1,741 daily wage workers. The initiative’s beneficiaries include workers whose livelihoods have been af-



Tara Baraha! founder Joey Gamos used her network to raise funds for daily wage workers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

ected by the COVID-19 pandemic: food establishment crew, PUV drivers, maintenance personnel, vendors, construction workers, and salon staff, among others.

“Through the generosity of so many kind souls, we have been able to send help to those who need it the most, especially in these tough times. It was great to have been able to create a platform that enabled many of us to be able to help from home. May the kindest and best in us emerge as we continue to fight this global pandemic,” enthuses Gamos.

SOMETHING FOR DAD

Choconut Banana Cake

A five-inch, decadent chocolate fudge cake filled and frosted with creamy peanut butter icing and chocolate buttercream, and with real banana pieces inside. Available at Max’s Corner Bakery for P399 (take-out) or P439 (delivery).



Supercharged Dad gift set

The set includes high-protein bars from Universal Nutrition and PureFit Nutrition Bars, Bob’s Red Mill Honey Oat Granola 12oz, Popcorners Sea Salt 1oz, Nature’s Plus SPIRUTEIN Shake energy meal packet, St. Amour Protein Cookies, Healthy Options Hi Potency B-Stress, All Good Sport Sun Lotion SPF30 3oz, and Giovanni Shave Cream 7oz. Available at Healthy Options for P2,495.

Boodle Black Box

A do-it-yourself boodle kit complete with crispy *pata*, tuna tail barbecue, chicken *inasal*, *pinaputok na tilapia*, salted egg with green mango salad, *aligue* rice, coco macaroons, and banana leaf which the family can enjoy at home. Available at Eastwood Richmond Hotel for P1,650 nett (2-3 persons) and P2,850 nett (4-5 persons); call (02) 8570-7777 to order.



Barcraft Cut Glass Decanter Set

A stunning five-piece set that consists of a 900ml glass decanter and four 200ml Old Fashioned glasses. Available at Rustan’s.

Alcoholic French Macarons

Delightful dessert laced with liqueur and available in Kahlua Chocolate, Grand Marnier Orange, Amaretto Almond, Baileys Ube, and Chambord Raspberry flavors. Available at Sheraton Manila Bay for P400 (box); call (02) 5318-0788 to order.





Cathay Land backs 'Balik Probinsya'

CATHAY Land recently threw its weight behind the “Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa” (“Back to the Province, New Hope”) of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Cathay Land President Jeffrey Ng (Shown in photo) told the Manila Standard that his company backs Executive Order 114’s initiative to spread national growth to the provinces near Metro Manila, and eventually, across the entire countryside.

“As an economist and President of the University of the Philippines School of Economics Alumni Association (UPSEAA), I strongly believe that this initiative will hopefully make growth between Metro Manila and the provinces more equitable,” said Ng. “But more importantly, this has the potential to boost family incomes across the country and improve our fellow Filipinos’ quality of life.”

Cathay Land’s two ongoing township projects located immediately south of Metro Manila, in Cavite, will be positioned to attract even more industrial, commercial and residential locators to aid such growth, he averred.

SOUTH FORBES GOLF CITY
Ng was referring to the 250-hectare South Forbes golf city in the Metro Sta. Rosa-Silang-Tagaytay City growth area. This township currently has seven themed residential subdivisions, a commercial center called Westborough Town Centre, and the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club.

Once operational, SFCP will



eventually create thousands of jobs in support of the BP2 program.

MALLORCA CITY

Cathay Land’s other township project, Mallorca city, hosts Cavite Light Industrial Park (CLIP) and Mallorca Villas for the residential component.

CLIP recently launched Phase 2 Tranche 4, with 15 industrial lots on offer for light industry operations. The

park currently hosts vehicle assembly, logistics, glass, laboratory and similar operations.

BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

“Since both South Forbes golf city and Mallorca city are township projects, aspiring entrepreneurs can invest in either project and experience a better quality of life, especially if they choose to reside in their chosen city,” Ng pointed out.

COVID SUPPORT FOR PASIG CITY. Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) recently turned over medical supplies to Pasig City through its “Bayanihan Musikahan” for COVID relief aid. Over 1,000 reusable personal protective equipment (PPE) sets and more than 27,000 pieces of nitrile gloves were given out for the city’s frontline health workers at the Pasig City General Hospital, Rizal Medical Center, Tricity Medical Center and Pasig City Health Department for the city’s quarantine facilities. The sets include washable coveralls, foot covers and face shields to help protect their medical staff from risk of COVID infection. The Bank’s relief efforts include distribution of food packs to 10,000 households in NCR and Region IV-A and more than 11,000 PPE kits to hospitals and treatment centres in Luzon and Cebu City. At the turnover event were Mayor Vico Sotto (center), SCB head of corporate affairs, Mai Sangalang (2nd from left), PBSP program officer Mareon Villegas, and bank officers Jazmine Garcia and Rainier Cruz.



HOLCIM ROLLS OUT DIGITAL INNOVATIONS FOR CUSTOMERS. Holcim Philippines is effectively using digital tools to engage customers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The company’s online portal Easybuild allows Holcim to safely transact with business partners while travel and interactions are limited by quarantine protocols. Available as a mobile app, Easybuild provides partners a 24-hour connection with Holcim and solutions for a hassle-free experience in placing orders, checking delivery status and reviewing account history and credit standing, among others. Holcim Philippines also launched E-KONEKTA to provide updates on the company’s directions, share knowledge and best practices on health and safety, and to bond with business partners while quarantines are in place. Finally, Excellent Squad is a cluster engagement using Facebook, to create groups or communities where online contests, trivia, throwback photos, inspirational videos, and industry updates are shared.



Metro Pacific hospitals explore telemedicine, remote patient care

METRO Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. (MPHHI) is stepping up its efforts to find a “new normal” solution that will serve as a common platform for its member hospitals to resume full services to their patients, while keeping hospital foot traffic to a safe minimum. The group is introducing virtual consultation as well as other services such as e-pharmacy, mobile laboratories, remote patient monitoring and continuity of care beyond the hospital room.

Previously considered as a means to provide health care for the needy in remote and therefore underserved areas, telemedicine is now viewed as a way to cope amidst an overwhelmed health system dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

BORNE OUT OF CHALLENGES FROM COVID-19

“The country’s health care system faces unprecedented challenges because of the ongoing pandemic, caused by a virus that is unfamiliar, and seems easily transmitted,” warned Metro Pacific Investment Corporation (MPIC) chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan when he designated MPHHI-operated Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (OLLH) as the group’s main COVID referral facility in March.

Three months into the COVID-19 pandemic, MPHHI is now seriously looking at tapping modern information and communication technologies to virtually connect medical professionals with patients in lieu of actual physical meet-ups in hospitals or clinics.

“MPHHI believes that using telemedicine and remote patient monitoring for management of

chronic diseases can minimize, though not totally prevent, physical visits of patients to healthcare facilities,” said Eriene C. Lao, Chief Information Officer of MPHHI.

Lao revealed that some hospitals in the group have already deployed telemedicine solutions for virtual consultation, but noted that these solutions were mainly developed in-house.

As a group initiative, she said MPHHI, is in the process of selecting the most feasible solution that will serve as a common p“Healing at a distance”

“Telemedicine may be our new normal,” said Lao. “It augments the delivery of primary health care most especially in our country, where the doctor to patient ratio is a challenge.”

She acknowledged that telemedicine, literally meaning “healing at a distance”, could hold the promise of delivering patient-centered care in a post-pandemic era, with its advantages.

Lao explained that telemedicine, and remote patient monitoring, could allow for better management of chronic diseases earlier, and minimize patients from leaving home, if not critically necessary.

“We feel there are business and operational opportunities here,” she said. “Hospitals can optimize the utilization of their bed capacity, improve the efficiency of the healthcare workers, allow collaboration of medical teams from across different hospitals, and give remote hospitals access to more experienced medical practitioners in the big hospitals.”



DMCI Homes offers healthy condo designs

LONG before a “new normal” lifestyle came about because of the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), health experts around the world had advocated for a change in living conditions to reduce the risk of contracting diseases.

The World Health Organization (WHO) underscores the importance of natural ventilation in living spaces to reduce lung-related illnesses by up to 20%.

For DMCI Homes’ unit owners, half the work has already been done with their condo units that are designed to maximize the benefits of natural air and sunlight.

DMCI’s design innovation called Lumivent® Design Technology - from the words “lumen” meaning light and “ventus” meaning wind - takes advantage of natural light and air by having three-story high openings, dubbed as sky patios, as entry points to make this possible.

With this design technology, natural light and air enters the sides of the building and through landscaped atriums which are built in every five floors of the building.

How 'The Bridge' project landed on Joseph Marco's lap

By Nickie Wang

STAR Magic talent **Joseph Marco** lauds his experience shooting for the second season of *The Bridge*, produced by Viu and in association with HBO Asia Originals. The series premiered on June 15 on Viu, HBO GO and HBO across Asia.

The award-winning series returns with Singapore's **Rebecca Lim** and Malaysia's **Bront Palarae** reprising their lead roles. In season two, the cast has been expanded to include talent from Indonesia (**Ario Bayu**) and the Philippines. **TJ Lee** and **Jason Chong** return to direct, alongside **Zahir Omar**.

In the 10-part series, Marco portrays Filipino-Singaporean **Christian Salvador**, head of an environmental non-profit organization that gets drawn to **Serena Teo**, the lead character played by **Lim**.

"It's an incredible experience, all the challenges I encountered just to be in Malaysia in time for my first shoot was all worth it, very worth it," the 31-year-old actor told *Manila Standard* during an online presser.

In December, Marco had to fly straight from Japan, where he was shooting a Regal Films project, to Malaysia, with less than a day to spare to get in-character as **Christian Salvador**. In January, he had to be in Malaysia again, this time on New Year's Day.

"It was crazy, I was celebrating New Year's Eve then I had to be at the airport by 5:00 a.m. I didn't get to sleep at all. I just took advantage of the time sleeping on the plane and in the van on my way to the hotel. Good thing the scene that I was doing was an apartment scene so I was able to rest in between takes," he carried on.

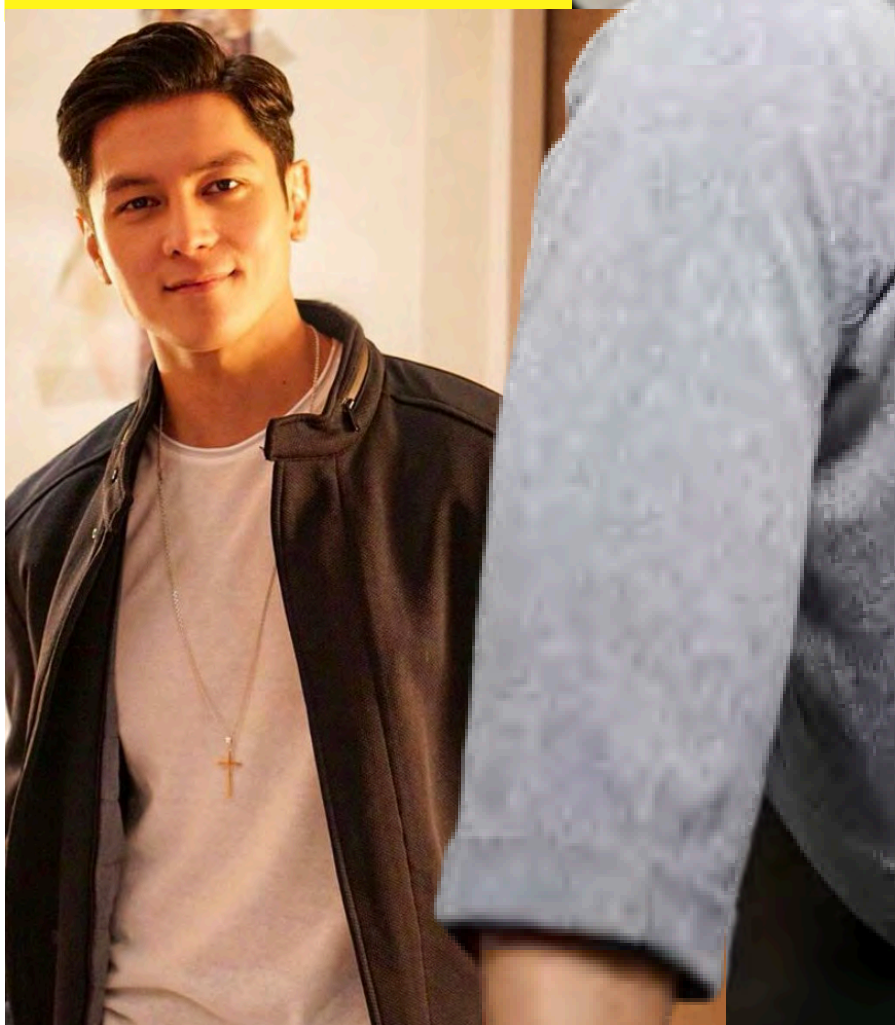
According to ABS-CBN's **Ruel Bayani**, he was having a discussion with Malaysia's **Double Vision's Min Lim** when the prospect of casting a Filipino actor in *The Bridge* came up.

Double Vision collaborated with ABS-CBN in the acclaimed drama *Kahit Isang Saglit* in 2008 starring Malaysia's **Carmen Soo** and **Jericho Rosales**.

"She told me about a Filipino character that was written in for season 2, and then as **Min** said, they were supposed to cast someone from Malaysia. I said, 'Why? Why not cast one of our actors? I can send you anyone you want,'" **Bayani**, who is ABS-CBN head of international productions and co-productions, said.



Joseph Marco with Singaporean star Rebecca Lim and Malaysian actor Bront Palarae.



In the second season of 'The Bridge,' Joseph Marco appears as the live-in boyfriend of Rebecca Lim's character.

During the online press event, Marco only had good words to say about his experience working with the cast and crew of *The Bridge* constantly repeating that they were extremely nice people and very professional.

"Who wouldn't want to be part of this award-winning crime-thriller? It's such a big thing for us actors to get

an international gig. That, in itself, I was blown away, I was so excited. I'm super thankful that I'm able to be part of this," he exclaimed.

Adapted from the original **Endemol Shine** series and injected with local flavor, the story picks up a year after season one. A yacht registered in Singapore drifts ashore in **Johor** with a deceased Indonesian family on board. Investigating the slew of serial killings that follow, the characters become mired in a web of treachery, deceit, and personal tragedy. Darker and more twisted than before, this new season plays with themes of corruption, redemption, and revenge and is set against a distinctly Asian underworld backdrop.

The Bridge was originally created and written by **Hans Rosenfeldt** as a joint production of Sweden's **Filmlance International**, part of **Endemol Shine Group**, and Denmark's **Nimbus Film**. It has aired in more than 188 territories/countries and spawned localized remakes in the U.K./France, the United States/Mexico, Germany/Austria, Russia/Estonia and Serbia/Croatia.

Pop balladeer's dream single

By Yugel Losorata

ONLINE sensation and "Tawag Ng Tanghalan" champ **Myko Mañago** takes pride in his latest digital single, "Tulad Niya," a song written by **Kiko Salazar** and recorded just before the pandemic brought a lot of challenges.

The heartbreaking ballad, which tackles the heart's difficulty dealing with moving on, is now released in digital

stores and bound to capture the sentiments of the listening public relatively still locked down in their homes.

"It's my dream to collaborate with **Sir Kiko**, my vocal teacher. When I first heard it, I felt really excited because it's from him and I am sure people can easily relate to the lyrics," expressed **Myko** who's busy doing vlogs and honing further his singing craft at home.

The three-time champion from *It's Showtime's* high-rated talent competition previously released "Stuck" and "Mahal Kita (Kahit Mahal Mo Siya)," which was released last summer after several cities and provinces in the country were placed under community quarantine.

Kiko equally felt privileged because of the opportunity to work with **Myko** who used to vocal-demo for him. He expressed, "Myko is vocally gifted... range, control, emotions and tone. We have developed an easy working language in the studio even before, so working with him is always a breeze."

With a musical vibe reminiscent of the impassioned recording gems of the '80s, "Tulad Niya" is poised to be a hit among listeners craving for new "hugot" songs in this new decade.

Myko hopes to soothe hearts with his newest offering. He sounded off his concern for people affected by the lockdown, like live band musicians who lost regular earnings. He has a long experience fronting for bar bands.

"As much as possible, hindi tayo dapat mawalan ng pag-asa kasi lilipas din ang problemang ito. You just have to surround yourself with the right people, like those expressing optimism on social media," he related.

The golden voice from **Cavite** noted he's fortunate to have the support of talent development company **RJA Productions** established by US-based Filipina **Rosabella Jao-Arribas**. Its presence gives him the much-needed morale boost to continue pursuing his passion for music.

The accomplished songwriter behind the instant classic "Akin Ka Na Lang" (sung by **Morissette Amon**) has deservedly given **Myko** his high appraisal, saying, "I knew he's more than ready to have more singles of his own. It's time for everyone to hear that beautiful voice. I was also excited to create that 80s retro vibe through his voice."



Singing sensation Myko Mañago (right) posed with award-winning songwriter Kiko Salazar who penned his latest digital release "Tulad Niya."

Thai BL superstars treat fans in biggest online meet

FILIPINO fans of the popular **Boy Love (BL)** phenomenon in Thailand can now be part of the biggest online meet and greet of BL stars worldwide.

Using the **VLive** app platform, Thai entertainment provider **GMMTV** launched its first-ever "Global Live Fan Meeting" last May 30. The online meet and greet culminated yesterday with the highly popular **BrightWin of 2gether** series.

The fan meet livestreamed on **VLive** at 2:00 p.m. yesterday and fans got to purchase tickets on the **VLive** app.

As a special treat to loyal subscribers, 100 **Globe** subscribers got the chance to meet and interact with Thai BL actors for free by recreating a photo or video of their favorite scene of **TayNew** or **BrightWin**, posting it on their **Twitter** together with the screenshot of the recreated scene.

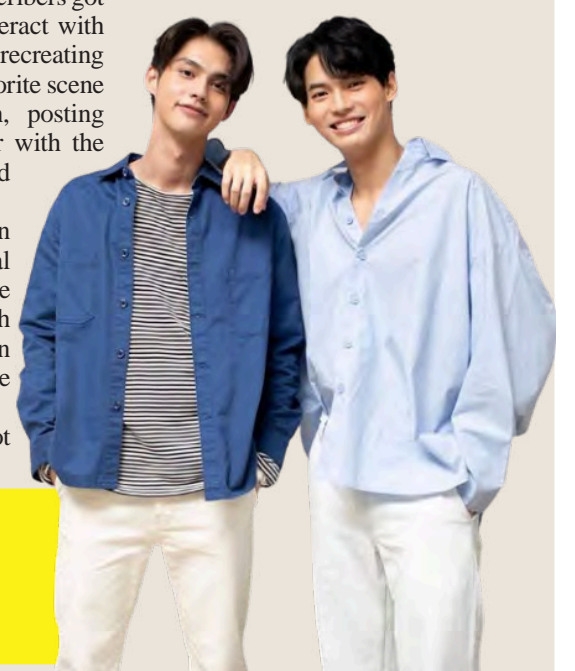
The **Global Live Fan Meeting** offered fans special performances and the rare opportunity to interact with the actors. Fans also won special prizes during the online event.

For those who were not

able to join the meet and greet, fans can still binge-watch and enjoy their favorite Korean and Thai content through affordable data packages and promos from **Globe**.

Download the **VLive App** now and register to your favorite **Globe** prepaid and postpaid video streaming offers to enjoy your favorite Korean and Thai BL content. For more information on **Globe** plans and other data packages, visit www.globe.com.ph.

For more information and updates on the **Global Live Fan Meet**, follow **Globe** on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



Thai actors and BL superstars **Bright Vachirawit** (left) and **Win Metawin** of '2gether' series fame.



'People food' for cats

Jill sleeps after eating, and she eats anything! Her fave is boiled chicken with a little mashed pumpkin. This is given to cats as a treat.

DRY and canned cat food are designed for the health and digestive needs of cats. However, there are human food that can be added to their diet to make their meal time more exciting and to provide additional health benefits.

"Anyone who has a cat knows that they are clever and sneaky little creatures. They're curious animals and always interested in whatever their humans are doing — or eating," noted Ileana Paules-Bronet in "10 Healthiest 'People Foods' You Should Be Feeding Your Cat" in littlethings.com.

"Pets always seem interested in the human food their people are eating, but they don't realize that some of those foods could be bad for them," she added.

Thus, she urged owners to be careful when giving human food to cats. There are food that can make cats sick or can poison them.

These are: onions and garlic; raw eggs, raw meat and bones; chocolate and caffeinated drinks; alcohol and raw dough; and milk and dairy products due to some digestive issues that might occur.

The human food suggested here are meant to be supplements to a cat's diet. They should be introduced slowly and given in moderation, with the guidance of your veterinarian, Paules-Bronet stressed.

1. Cooked Meat

Cats, just like lions and tigers, are primarily meat eaters.

Paules-Bronet stressed cats "are designed to get their nutrition from meat, not vegetables and carbs like their human counterparts."

Protein is very important for cats to have healthy hearts and reproductive systems, and healthy eyes.

Do not add spices when cooking meat for your cats and make sure the meat is cooked.

Remove the bones. Cats can choke on the bones.

2. Oatmeal

Oatmeal is healthy for cats but do not be surprised if some cats will not eat this.

For cats who like oatmeal, this can be given to provide more fiber to a cat's diet.

3. Fish

Fish is rich in omega-3 fatty acid. This is good for the heart and your cat's eyes. But cook the fish.

Raw fish is not good for cats. Eating raw fish can lead to salmonella or E. coli poisoning in cats. Some symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy.



Angel and his favorite bowl which is always filled with food.

Do not feed your cat straight from the can of cat food (mostly fish-based) as she might cut her tongue.

4. Cooked Eggs

Eggs are a good source of protein and vitamin B. But cook the eggs before giving to your cat to prevent e. coli or salmonella poisoning. Also, please remove the shell.

Paules-Bronet said that "Dr. Elizabeth Collieran, President of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), explains to Animal Planet that some cats can actually be allergic to eggs, so make sure to give them just a tiny bit first to check for any allergic reaction."

5. Fresh Vegetables

Vegetables are healthy for cats as they contain lots of vitamins and fiber, which can aid general health and digestion.

But a lot of cats do not like vegetables. If your cat likes veggies, give him or her a little steamed or boiled asparagus or broccoli, baked carrots, pumpkin, green beans, or chopped greens. Please wash the vegetables thoroughly before serving them to your cat.

"Sometimes, cats will chew on house

plants, which can be toxic for them. If you notice them doing this, Dr. Collieran says that small portions of veggies can be a good option for your cat instead," said Paules-Bronet.

6. Cheese

Cheese and other dairy products are loaded with protein, but "a lot of cats are lactose intolerant and cannot process dairy properly," said Paules-Bronet.

"If you're not sure how your cat reacts to dairy, try giving them a tiny amount — if they have any sort of stomach upset, they may be lactose intolerant," Paules-Bronet said.

7. Fish Oil

You can enhance a cat's food with fish oil which can keep your cat's skin from getting dry and can make your cat's coat shiny and healthy.

8. Fresh fruit

Some fruits are good for cats.

"If your cats are always chewing on your house plants, though, fruit can be a great option for them," said Paules-Bronet.

"Cantaloupe is especially good for cats because it is high in antioxidants and beta-carotene, which can help keep your cat's skin and eyes healthy," Paules Bronet added.

Remove the seeds and skin of the melon before giving to your cat.

"Since cats are carnivores, their bodies can only process small amounts of fruits and veggies at a time," Paules-Bronet stressed.

9. Bread

Bread is a source of fiber and protein. But do not give white bread to cats. Whole wheat breads, or breads with whole grains in them, can be given to them.

"Again, bread should not replace your cat's regular food, but instead it should just be used as a supplemental treat once in a while," Paules-Bronet said.

10. Canned Baby Food

Meat-based baby food can be given to cats who are recovering from an illness. Cats who have been sick sometimes avoid their usual food. You can put the medicine in the baby food to ensure the cat gets the medicine on time.

Do not make baby food a regular part of your cat's diet. This should be given only when you need to give medicine to your cat.

Avoid baby food with salt in it, or onions and garlic. These are harmful to your cats.

"And as always, talk to your vet before changing your pets' diet, and always feed them safe human food in moderation," Paules-Bronet said.

For more vegetables and fruits you can give to your cat, please ask your vet. **DC**



Healthy dog food for emergencies

Krauss, rescued dog of Save Animals of Love and Light (Save ALL Inc.), loves vegetables, including pumpkin.

(Part 1 of 3)

PET TALES BY DESIREE CARLOS

THE lockdown made many owners realize pet food may not always be available or accessible. Many owners could not buy pet food online and from pet stores during the lockdown. When they were able to access pet food, the prices were marked up by 20-30 per cent, exclusive of shipping cost or delivery fee.

While many owners are now stocking up on dry and canned food for dogs and cats, it is possible that we may run out of certain brands of processed food for our pets due to some restrictions or delays in the release of imported cargo.

Here are alternative food for your pets which we usually have in our kitchen, or you can source online, or plant in your garden or in pots in your garage and terrace. A mixture of these vegetables and meat, combined with a multivitamin, can be an alternative diet for dogs during an emergency like the Metro Manila-wide lockdown.

Pumpkin or calabasa for dogs

Pumpkin is a member of the squash family.

Squash has lots of beta carotene and vitamin A.

"Squash is high in fiber, low in calories, and packed with vitamins and nutrients that are great for dog's long-term health," noted MyOllie.com.

Squash is also sweet which dogs appreciate.

Since squash is rich in potassium, it also helps maintain electrolyte balance.

Preparing pumpkin for your dog

Before you cook the pumpkin, please remove the skin and the seeds. Your dog can not digest these.

"Squash is tough and very high in fiber, raw squash may be tough on dog's stomach, causing diarrhea or vomiting. It's best to steam or light bake squash before giving it to your pup. Leave out unnecessary butter or oil and skip garlic or onions, which can be toxic for dogs," MyOllie.com said.

It is also important to make sure the pumpkin is cooked.

For constipated dogs, pureed pumpkin is a popular anecdote.

"The soluble fiber helps to get things moving without adverse effects," MyOllie said.

Pumpkin also contains carotenoids for better skin and eye health and the anti-inflammatory vitamin E, MyOllie added.

Other kinds of squash

Dogs can eat all kinds of squash.

Butternut Squash for Dogs

This squash looks like a bottle but this one is rich in potassium "which is critical when it comes to the functioning of kidneys, muscles, nerves, and enzymes," MyOllie.com said.

Zucchini for Dogs

This is easier to digest than most squashes. It is "usually well-tolerated by dogs and can be eaten raw with the seeds," MyOllie said.

This vegetable is rich in potassium, beta-carotene, and folate. Folate is important for cell health and to help maintain a quickly ticking metabolism, MyOllies aid.

Acorn Squash for Dogs

This is a small squash that looks like pumpkin.

This squash is loaded with vitamin V, folate, and vitamin B-6.

"Vitamin B-6 helps promote healthy digestion and a shiny coat," MyOllie said.

Acorn squash is also high in vitamin C "which is best enjoyed by dogs in moderation and excessive amounts can lead to calcium oxalate stones," MyOllie said.

Whenever you are introducing new food to your dog, do it slowly and in small amounts.

"Try mixing a spoonful of cooked squash into your dog's food and see how he fares. If your dog loves squash and it agrees with his digestive system, this is a great vegetable to include in his healthy diet," MyOllie said.



Adopt, don't buy love

Amber (black with white) and Amethyst are now five months old. They have been dewormed, and vaccinated twice. They are playful, loving puppies waiting for a loving furparent who will treat them as family and will keep them for life.

THERE are thousands of dogs and cats who have not been hugged or kissed. There are thousands who have been waiting to experience how it is to be loved.

Instead of buying a pup or kitten for P30,000 to even P100,000 plus, and making pet store owners rich, why not adopt a rescued pup or kitten?

Here are some of the rescued pups in the care of animal welfare group Save ALL Inc.- Save Animals of Love and Light.

They are ready for release dewormed and with at least two vaccinations.

Please contact admin Is La or Miks Lim in Facebook or message Save ALL for online screening and home visit/ personal interview.



Kiwi, around 2 years old, is spayed, dewormed and vaccinated. She is a sweet but rather shy catto. She deserves a loving home where she can roam freely and sleep indoor.