

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS



PHOTOGENIC A colorful kite flutters over Marlboro Hill in this breathtaking land and sea scape in Batanes province, a favorite destination of photographers and nature lovers. According to American photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams: You don't make a photograph with just a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.

14 party-lists win seats

Kin of slain fisherman unaware of PH apology

By Nancy C. Carvajal

PINGTUNG, Taiwan—The captain of a Taiwanese fishing boat whose father was shot and killed by the Philippine Coast Guard in disputed waters claimed yesterday he and his men were fired upon without provocation, and his family accused the Filipinos of murder.

Denying that his boat had encroached on Philippine waters, Hung Yue-chien, 39, insisted at a press conference here that the May 9 incident occurred in a "public fishing area."

In Manila, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents assigned to go to Taiwan to help in the investigation said the group was ready to "leave anytime" as soon as arrange-

OFW, mutineers' groups are House first-timers

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CONTROVERSIAL group representing overseas Filipino workers (OFW) and another formed by former military mutineers yesterday made it to the first batch of winners of the party-list election.

In a two-page resolution, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) proclaimed OFW Family Club Inc. (OFW), whose first nominee is former Ambassador Roy V. Señeres, and the Magdalo Para sa Pilipino (Magdalo), headed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, winners of the May 13 party-list election along with 12 other groups.

The Comelec said the 14 groups were guaranteed one seat each in the House of Representatives, as each of them garnered at least 2 percent of all the votes cast in the party-list election.

Besides OFW and Magdalo,

the other groups winners proclaimed were Buhay Hayaang Yumabong (Buhay), Advocacy for Teacher Empowerment Through Action Cooperation and Harmony Toward Educational Reforms (A-Teacher), Bayan Muna, 1st Consumers Alliance for Rural Energy (1-Care), Akbayan Citizens' Action Party (Akbayan), Ako Bicol Political Party (AKB), Abono Party-List (Abono), Gabriela, Cooperative

14 PARTY-LISTS/A6

Of 6 incumbents, Cayetano, Trillanes, Pimentel are the biggest gainers /A6

UNA wants explanation of '60-30-10' pattern

By Christian V. Esguerra

INSTEAD of telling the opposition to concede defeat in the senatorial election, the administration should ask the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to investigate the supposed "60-30-10" pattern in the returns so the public will know what really happened, the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) said yesterday.

Information technology (IT)

experts called attention to the supposed returns pattern on Wednesday, though they made clear they were not suggesting a manipulation of the May 13 vote, which the administration Team PNoy dominated, winning nine of the 12 Senate seats at stake.

Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco, secretary general and spokesperson for UNA, yesterday said that even before the

UNA WANTS/A6



ACTIVISTS in hazmat (hazardous material) suits from the environmentalist group Greenpeace uproot genetically engineered Bt eggplant, locally known as "talong," from a field trial site in Bay Laguna province, in this 2011 photo.

ARNOLD ALMACEN

Court of Appeals stops field trials of genetically modified eggplant

By DJ Yap and Jerome Aning

GREENPEACE Southeast Asia (Philippines) yesterday welcomed a ruling issued by the Court of Appeals (CA) to permanently put a stop to the field trials of genetically modified eggplant, which the environmentalist group believes is harmful to humans and the environment.

In a 26-page decision dated May 17 but released only yesterday, the appellate court granted the petition sought by Greenpeace and other groups against the planting of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) talong (eggplant). Bt is a soil bacterium inserted into crops to develop insecticidal properties.

The trials were being jointly conducted by the University of

the Philippines in Los Baños and various government and private agencies.

At the time of the filing of the suit, field testing had already been done in Pangasinan, Laguna and Camarines Sur provinces while others were still being conducted in Kabacan, North Cotabato province.

COURT/A15

Boy Scouts now open to gay scouts

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS—The Boy Scouts of America scores for gay rights.

The largest youth organization in the United States voted on Thursday to lift a century-old ban on openly gay scouts in what is considered a major victory for gay rights activists.

But the decision means a sea of change for an organization that depends heavily on faith-based groups.

More than 60 percent of the group's National Council, comprised of some 1,400 delegates,

voted in favor of ending the ban, effective Jan. 1, 2014, the group said in a statement. A prohibition on openly gay adult leaders remains in place.

The decision followed weeks of intense lobbying by gay rights activists and members of conservative organizations, many of them church groups that have traditionally formed the backbone of one of the nation's largest youth organizations.

"I'm a happy camper," said Mike Harrison, 71, a former

chair of California's Orange County Boy Scout Council who voted to end the ban. "The process was a very civil debate ... There wasn't any uncivilized behavior. People stated their case, passionately and from many different angles."

He said that by Thursday it had become clear that there was a generation change in the organization and that "the younger generation of scouting just don't see it the way the old guard did."

BOY SCOUTS/A15

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Stars' 'shameful' secrets revealed / F3

LIFESTYLE

You can't sink in the Dead Sea / D5



Here's why cockroaches won't go away

NEW YORK—People have been getting rid of cockroaches for decades by setting out bait mixed with poison. But in the late 1980s, in an apartment test kitchen in Florida, something went very wrong.

A killer product stopped working. Cockroach populations there kept rising. Mystified researchers tested and discarded theory after theory until they finally hit on the explanation: In a remarkably rapid

HERE'S/A14



GRIEVING DAUGHTER Hung Tzu-chien, daughter of slain Taiwanese fisherman Hung Shih-chien, says her family was not angry with the Filipino people but would ask for compensation. She said the death of her father was "murder." Her brother, Hung Yue-chien, skipper of the ill-fated boat, says the family is unaware of the Philippine government's apology to the family.

NANCY CARVAJAL

Kin of slain fisherman ...

From page A1

ments had been finalized through the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco).

Meco is the office in charge of handling relations between Manila and Taipei, which have no diplomatic ties.

Meco representative Antonio Basilio told the INQUIRER by phone that it was just a matter of time before the NBI team leaves for Taiwan.

"There are technical details—technical but important details—that are still being sorted out," Basilio said.

8-man NBI team

The eight-member NBI team is expected to leave this weekend, said an NBI source, who asked not to be identified because of a gag order issued by the Department of Justice.

Hung, the captain of the Guang Ta Shin 28, denied the Taiwanese boat had tried to ram into the Philippine vessel belonging to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources anti-illegal fishing surveillance group. He said they were fired upon by the Filipinos without provocation.

Hung, speaking in Mandarin, which was translated into English by an official of the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is the son of the slain fisherman. He spoke at a news conference attended by Taiwanese reporters in the family's house on Liouciou island in Pingtung county.

Hung said he was not aware that the Philippine government had is-

sued an apology and that this was rejected by Taipei.

"No, I did not know about the apology," Hung said. He also said he did not know that some Filipinos had been the target of "attacks" by Taiwanese "gangsters" as a result of the shooting incident.

On autopilot

Hung said he and his men did not often fish in the area where the shooting occurred and insisted it was a public fishing zone.

"We were traveling slowly at north territorial waters about 19 degrees and in the east about 129 [degrees] when we heard gunshots," Hung said. He said that before he ran and hid in the boat's cabin, "I put the boat on autopilot."

He said that aside from his father, his crew included another Taiwanese and an Indonesian.

But the other crew members were not present during the press conference.

Compensation demand

Hung said his father was in the engine room when the gunfire started and "was hit when he looked out."

Hung's sister, Hung Tzu-chien, who was also at the news conference, said her family was not angry with the Filipino people but would ask for compensation. She said the death of her father was "murder."

The daughter pressed for the release of a video of the incident supposedly taken by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). She also said her father had a previous Filipino

employee whom they described as a "good person."

The sister insisted that the Philippine government should call for an "international" press conference and apologize for the death of her father.

She also said her family would not allow an NBI team of investigators to conduct a "reautopsy" of her father's remains.

Meco clearance

An NBI source said the eight-man team that will conduct its own probe of what happened would include NBI-Foreign Liaison Office head agent Daniel Deganzo, team leader James Castro, medico-legal officer Dr. Ruperto Sombilon, ballistics expert Hiyasmin Abarrioentos, agent Eduardo Ramos and artist Ligaya Banawan.

The group has been divided into four teams. "Each team has a specific task," the source said.

The source did not say whether the Taiwanese request for a copy of the video of the supposed encounter between PCG and the Taiwanese boat would be met.

De Lima said the NBI probe team was only waiting for clearance from Meco to leave for Taiwan. "I have a standing clearance for the NBI team to leave anytime once all the needed arrangements have been made through Meco," she said.

De Lima said Manila was standing by its position that the incident happened in Philippine waters and this would be included in the final NBI report. *With reports from Jerome Aning, Norman Bordadora and Erika Sauler*



A GREENPEACE activist places genetically engineered Bt eggplants uprooted from a field trial site in Laguna into a hazardous material (hazmat) container to prevent contamination of neighboring fields and the environment. This photo was taken in 2011.

ARNOLD ALMACEN

Court of Appeals stops field ...

From page A1

The respondents in the case were: the environment department's Environmental Management Bureau; the agriculture department's Bureau of Plant Industry and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority; the University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation Inc.; the UP Mindanao Foundation Inc.; and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications-Southeast Asia Center.

Protect, preserve

The court directed the respondents to "protect, preserve, rehabilitate and restore the environment in accordance with the foregoing judgment of the court."

"It is clear that there is no full scientific certainty yet as to the effects of the Bt talong field trials on the environment and the health of the people," said the appellate court's Special 13th Division, speaking through Associate Justice Isaias P. Dican. "Consequently, the field trials of Bt talong could not be declared by this Court as safe for human health and our ecology, with full scientific certainty, being an alteration of an otherwise natural state of affairs in our ecology."

Appellate Associate Justices Myra V. Garcia-Fernandez and Nina G. Antonio-Valenzuela concurred in the decision.

The court said even the local and foreign experts presented by proponents of the purportedly pest-resistant eggplants all agreed that aside from the fact that there are no laws regulating the field testing of genetically modified plants, their safety cannot fully be guaranteed.

"We commend the Court of Appeals for living up to its constitutionally mandated role as protector of constitutional rights," said Daniel Ocampo, Greenpeace Southeast Asia's sustainable agriculture campaigner.

"This landmark decision reflects that there are indeed flaws and lapses in the current regulatory process for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) such as Bt eggplant which exposes our environment and health to unknown long-term consequences and does not establish their safety in any way," he said in a statement.

Damages to man, nature

In its petition, Greenpeace claimed the Bt eggplants could endanger consumers as it was found to cause damages to internal organs. With its built-in insect-resistance gene, Bt eggplants can also create aggressive weeds that may wreak havoc to local agriculture and natural habitats.

The group was joined by former senator Orlando Mercado, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casino, lawyers Harry Roque and Maria de la Paz, singer Noel Cabangon and various farmers and agricultural scientists under the Magsasaka and Siyentipiko sa Pagpapaunlad ng Agrikultura (Masipag).

The groups brought the suit on April 26 last year before the Supreme Court under its new environmental protection procedures. The writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy under the new rules of procedure for environmental cases.

The Supreme Court issued the writ of kalikasan on May 2, 2012, directing the respondents to answer the petition.

The petitioners were represented in the suit by lawyers from the Roque and Butuyan Law Offices.

Greenpeace lauded the CA for ruling in fa-

vor of the petitioners based on compelling grounds, including the "irreversibility" of releasing GMOs into the environment even during field trials, and the fact that current field-testing protocols "look at efficacy and agricultural performance and not safety for human consumption or environment."

Lawyer Zelda DT Soriano, Greenpeace Southeast Asia's regional political advisor, said the respondents were unable to show that the benefits of conducting the field trials outweighed the risks.

"The respondents could not prove wrong the fact that Bt talong field testing is an environmental case where scientific evidence as to the health, environmental and socioeconomic safety is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain and preliminary evaluation indicates that there are reasonable grounds for concern, that there are potentially dangerous effects on the environment and human health," she said.

Ocampo said the CA decision would have a resounding impact on the future of agriculture in the Philippines and on how food production was being done in our country.

He added that the court's decision was an affirmation of what Greenpeace has been saying for years about the flaws in GMO regulations in the country.

Constitutional violations

"These flaws in the government regulations have led to the sad state we are in—62 GMOS are imported and fed to Filipinos without their knowledge and consent. While the environment and our farmers are exposed to eight kinds of GMOs that are allowed for propagation without knowing their long-term impacts," Ocampo said.

The petition argued that the field trials violated the constitutional right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology because of the danger of contamination of the technology posed to indigenous genetic resources of the country.

The petitioners cited results of the 90-day laboratory tests conducted by proponents of genetically modified organisms on mice fed with the new Bt eggplant, which showed signs of toxicity in the liver and kidneys of the test subjects.

In 2002, the Bureau of Plant Industry began approving GMOs for importation as food, feed and processing as well as for propagation. The proposals for GMO approvals used studies conducted by the GMO proponents themselves, instead of independent risk assessments.

Greenpeace claimed GMOs have never been proven safe, which is why they are highly regulated and even banned in many countries and regions. It urged government regulators to instead focus on sustainable agriculture instead of loosely allowing the conduct of field trials and commercialization of such crops for eventual human consumption.

It would be recalled that in December 2010, the Davao City government uprooted Bt eggplant from the field where they were being tested by the UP Mindanao Foundation.

Experts presented by the respondents, including some of the country's top scientists at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, argued that the Bt talong technology is safe and does not cause harm to the environment.

However, on questioning by the court, they admitted that the overall safety of the Bt talong remains to be unknown. The court also found that other than administrative issuances, there is no law that regulates field testing of GMOs in the country.

With a report by Jerome Aning

Boy Scouts now open to gay scouts

From page A1

The Boy Scouts' long-standing ban on gay scouts had become a polarizing issue at the center of the debate on gay rights in the United States, where gay soldiers may now serve openly in the military and where gay couples can wed in a number of states.

Emotionally charged

For months, the Boy Scouts have been caught between two sides in an emotionally charged debate that has seen both supporters and opponents of lifting the ban threatening to withdraw support.

The Boy Scouts have faced heavy pressure on one side from gay rights supporters and some of the major corporate sponsors who provide much of the group's annual funding, and on the other by a variety of major national church groups, who sponsor and support the large majority of troops nationwide.

"I just resigned from my troop," said Chris Collier, 41, a former troop leader in Alabama and Florida who said he would send his Eagle Scout award back to the organization's national office.

"My grandfather earned his eagle award in 1938. I earned mine in 1990. I was hoping my son could earn his when he grew up. I'm sad, but this is their cross to bear. I'm no longer part of the organization. I'll move in a different direction."

Thursday's vote came about three months after the organization's leadership delayed a decision on changing its membership

policy to research attitudes toward admitting gays.

Faith-based groups

About 70 percent of the group's 100,000 Boy Scout units are chartered by faith-based organizations, according to Boy Scouts membership data. Some 22 percent of the units nationwide are chartered by civic organizations, and 7 percent are chartered by educational groups.

One of the major turning points in the debate came earlier this year when the Mormon church—the largest sponsor of scouting troops nationwide—expressed support for ending the ban. The Mormon church charters nearly 38,000 scout troops representing nearly a quarter million scouts.

The next largest faith-based sponsor is the United Methodist Church, which charters about 11,000 scout troops representing about 363,000 scouts. They, too, issued a statement supporting an end to the ban. The Catholic Church, which sponsors about 8,400 troops, has taken no official position on the controversy.

While national polls show a growing acceptance of gay rights, an online survey of about 200,000 BSA members, parents and leaders indicated strong support for maintaining the ban, by a margin of almost 2-1.

'They're not listening'

"The Boy Scouts are not listening to us," said John Stemberger, an Orlando lawyer, Eagle Scout, former scoutmaster and founder of an organization that opposes

lifting the ban.

But the Boy Scouts' top leadership had endorsed the change and encouraged delegates to support it. BSA president Wayne Perry said in a webcast: "It was never our intent to prevent young people from being part of this organization."

Zach Wahls, an Eagle Scout raised by two lesbians, said the time has come for change.

"There is nothing Scout-like about exclusion of other people, and there is nothing Scout-like about putting your own religious beliefs before someone else's," Wahls, founder of Scouts for Equality, told a news conference on Wednesday.

Battle of petitions

Gay rights advocates gathered petitions with more than 1.8 million signatures in support of ending the ban while opponents collected about 250,000 signatures urging delegates to vote down the change.

Intel Corp., one of the largest corporate sponsors of the Boy Scouts, announced last September that it would stop supporting troops that continue to ban gay scouts. Intel donated about \$700,000 in 2009, according to the American Independent magazine.

That announcement followed pressure from gay groups who launched a nationwide campaign on Change.org, urging Intel to withdraw its support. United Parcel Service Inc., another major sponsor, followed suit in November, as did Merck & Co., according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER

GUJO DUENAS/INQUIRER VISAYAS

BREAKING THE RECORD Thousands of youths release sky lanterns—15,185 of them—within 10 minutes at the University of the Philippines Visayas campus in Miag-ao in Iloilo City to call for world peace through inner peace. This breaks the Guinness World Record of 12,749 sky lanterns released in a single event, according to organizers. (Story on Page A8)

Taiwan has new terms

Departure of NBI probers delayed anew

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TAIPEI—The government of Taiwan on Saturday imposed new conditions that would further delay the Philippines' investigation of the fatal shooting of a Taiwanese fisherman by Filipino coast guards three weeks ago.

Amadeo R. Perez, chair of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco), the Philippines' de facto embassy in Taiwan, said previous problems had been solved and eight agents of the National Bureau of Investigation had been issued visas by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco) in Manila.

"But this morning, we received new conditions, which we forwarded to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for decision," Perez told the INQUIRER by phone.

TAIWAN'S/A19



Mt. Pulag revisited: Quo vadis?

By Myk Miguel
Contributor

(Editor's Note: Myk Miguel, a member of Zeta Mountaineering Group of the Zeta Phi Sigma fraternity, first conquered Mount Pulag in 1978. A professional photographer, he takes shots while discovering the beauty of the country's highest peaks on foot.)

THERE ain't no mountain high enough for these "nature trippers," who have scaled the heights of the country's highest peaks.

But in all its conquests, the trekkers of Zeta Mountaineering Group of Zeta Phi Sigma fraternity have found a favorite in Mount Pulag—Luzon's highest summit.

So revisit the majestic peak the mountaineers did when the fraternity recently celebrated its 39th year. A member who was away for 30 years flew all the way from New York to join the reunion climb, along with this author, senior citizen card-bearing members and youthful recruits.

MT. PULAG/A20

Church revenge: Buhay says Catholic vote was key

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Philip C. Tubeza

A GROUP of dejected Catholics filed out of the plenary hall of the House of Representatives one early morning last December. The legislators had just passed the controversial reproductive health (RH) bill on second reading, the beginning of the end for the faithful followers of the Catholic Church, who fought the proposal for 10 years. The bill would eventually

clear both houses of Congress and would be signed into law by President Aquino four days before Christmas.

But Church leaders and their followers vowed revenge: The legislators who voted for the bill and who would run for reelection or other offices in the May midterm elections would fall at the polls.

The supporters of the bill scoffed at the threat. There was no such thing as a "Catholic

CHURCH/A13

Triangle of light: Mercury, Jupiter, Venus align today

By DJ Yap

IN A RARE treat for stargazers, the planets Jupiter, Mercury and Venus will appear close together across the skies today, the astronomy division of the weather bureau said.

Typically, Venus, the second-closest planet to the sun, and

Jupiter, which orbits beyond Mars, are tens of millions of miles apart. But they have been cycling together while moving ever closer to each other this month, joined by the innermost planet, Mercury.

The celestial show peaks today, when the trio will appear

TRIANGLE/A19



READ-ALONG Ambassadors read their oath. They are (from left) 2007 Bb. Pilipinas Anna Theresa Licaros, actress Jasmine Curtis-Smith, Miss Earth official Cathy Untalan, broadcasters Karen Davila and Kim Atienza, INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and singer Nikki Gil. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Read-Along at 6 picks celebs as ambassadors

By the Inquirer Read-Along Team

THE INQUIRER Read-Along yesterday marked its sixth year by training master storytellers and honoring celebrity readers in a daylong affair that gathered children ages 7 to 12 at the INQUIRER office in Makati City.

The celebration's main event was twofold: coaching the first batch of "champions" to become Read-Along storytellers

and organizers in their communities; and introducing the program's first "ambassadors"—celebrity readers who have regaled children in the past with their engaging storytelling.

The activity started with a training session on interactive storytelling facilitated by Read-Along veterans Rich Rodriguez and Posh Develos, followed by a reading session featuring

READ-ALONG/A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

SPORTS • Pacers trip Heat, gain homecourt advantage
LIFESTYLE • FF Cruz: A life well lived
• Katrina Razon—out of the shadow of her billionaire father
ENTERTAINMENT • Juday: Violence against women unacceptable



It's Furlough Friday for federal workers

WASHINGTON—More than 100,000 federal workers are having a three-day weekend, but not all of them are enjoying it.

The first day of US government furloughs imposed by a budget crunch saw

IT'S FURLOUGH/A18

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Taipei welcomes start of fisheries talks

TAIPEI—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa) on Friday said it welcomed remarks made by a Philippine official that Manila and Taipei were likely to discuss a possible fishery agreement soon, probably by June or July this year.

"We welcome such a positive response by Manila," Anna Kao, a spokesperson for Mofa, said.

The opening of fishery talks is one of four demands Taiwan issued to the Philippines follow-

ing the fatal shooting of a Taiwanese fisherman, Hung Shih-chen, by Philippine coast guards on May 9.

Launching bilateral fishery talks would help establish a fishery management mechanism for overlapping waters and significantly improve the chances of preventing such a tragedy from happening again, Kao said.

She did not confirm whether the proposed meeting will be

held next month or in July.

Fishery accord

According to Philippine news reports, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said that a technical working group composed of fisheries officials from both countries will soon meet to discuss key issues that should be tackled for the creation of a fisheries agreement.

"The meeting may be held possibly by June but perhaps it

would be better by July," Alcala told reporters.

One of the key issues to be discussed, Alcala said, is the delineation of territorial waters of the Philippines and Taiwan.

Hung was killed by gunfire from a Philippine state vessel on May 9 when his boat strayed into overlapping Philippine and Taiwanese waters.

The incident sparked a heated diplomatic row between the two countries.

Taipei has also demanded that Manila issue a formal apology, apprehend the perpetrators and compensate Hung's family.

Kao made the remarks when asked to comment on a statement reportedly made by Alcala in Manila on Thursday.

Philippine proposal

Asked about the date for a possible meeting, Fisheries Agency Director General James Sha said the Philippines had

proposed the talks be held as soon as possible, "but no exact date has been touched so far."

Related details are being discussed by officials of both countries, Sha added.

President Aquino said earlier last week that his government was open "to discussing a fishery agreement with its neighboring countries" after resolving the diplomatic row with Taiwan triggered by the shooting. *China Post/ANN*

Taiwan's new demands further delay departure of NBI probers

From page A1

He declined to disclose the new conditions.

"We referred them to the DOJ. They alone have the authority to reveal the new conditions," he said.

According to Perez, the justice department had approved Taiwan's request for access to a video of an encounter between a Philippine coastal patrol vessel and a Taiwanese fishing boat off Balintang Island in northern Philippines on May 9.

Taiwanese fisherman Hung Shih-chen was shot dead by Filipino coast guards in that incident, sparking public anger in Taiwan and new tensions between the two countries.

Taiwan rejected an apology from President Aquino and took retaliatory measures against the Philippines, including freezing new jobs in Taiwan for Filipino migrant workers.

Taipei demanded, among other things, a sincere apology from the Philippine government, compensation for Hung's family, the arrest and punishment of the coast guards involved, and a joint investigation of the incident.

Cooperation

But as the Philippines' one-China policy does not allow a joint investigation, the two countries agreed to give each other's investigators access to evidence and witnesses in separate probes aimed at determining the circumstances surrounding the shooting death of Hung.

The NBI wants to examine Hung's boat, the Guang Ta Hsin 28, which Taiwanese investigators said had taken 45 hits, 24 of them on the cabin.

The NBI also wants to inter-



TAIWANESE ACTIVIST Chu Mei Fong, who identified herself as a former Taiwanese councilor, demands a public apology from President Aquino in a protest in front of Malacañang on Saturday. Antiriot police (right photo) push back the Taiwanese protesters.



view the fishing boat's crew and do a new autopsy to determine how Hung died.

Video access OKd

Taiwan requested round-the-clock protection for its investigators during their stay in Manila, which the Philippine government immediately approved.

But the DOJ initially rejected Taiwan's request for access to the Philippine Coast Guard video of the incident that Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had described as "very revealing."

Its request for a copy of the video denied, Taiwan on Wednesday "declined for the time being" the Philippine request for legal assistance.

The DOJ relented on Friday and approved the sharing of the video with the Taiwanese investigators, which was all that Teco was waiting for to release the visas for the members of the NBI's investigative team.

But the new conditions came down on Saturday, delaying the NBI team's departure for Taiwan.

"Unless the new terms are immediately acted upon, the departure of the NBI will again be delayed," Perez said.

Calming down

Perez reported an improvement in the security situation of

Filipino workers in Taiwan.

"The situation has improved and new new attacks on Filipinos have been reported," he said.

"But for their security, we advise Filipino workers here not to go out unless necessary," he added.

Borcia Talal, a Filipino woman married to a Taiwanese who lives in Taichung City, which has a large concentration of Filipino migrant workers, said the Taiwanese there had "calmed down."

"Their anger has eased, but

we are still a bit afraid. We hope this will be resolved soon," Talal said.

The Filipino community here is planning a "vigil" at St. Christopher Church on Chungshan North Road for a speedy resolution of the crisis.

Triangle of light: Mercury, Jupiter, Venus align today

From page A1

as a bright triangle of light in the western sky beginning about 30 minutes after sunset.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) described the celestial phenomenon as "a spectacular series of conjunctions in the evening twilight."

In its astronomical diary for May, Pagasa said the three planets would form a tight grouping after sunset in a celestial show that would be visible to the naked eye.

"Jupiter, Mercury and Venus will make a spectacular series of conjunctions in the evening twilight from the middle of the month and onward," it said in the astronomical diary prepared by Pagasa officer in charge Vicente Malano.

Triple conjunctions are relatively rare, according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The last one was in May 2011 and the next one will not occur until October 2015.

"This is especially good because it involves the three brightest planets in May's night sky," the US space agency said on its website.

The formation should be visible even in places with bright city lights, though a clear view of the western horizon is a must.

Like approaching airplanes

Astronomers suggest skywatchers let Venus and Jupiter be their guide. As the sky darkens, the planets will

be visible to the naked eye.

"They really do shine so brightly that you might mistake them for one or two approaching airplanes with their landing lights turned on," the University of Texas' StarDate magazine wrote on its website.

On Sunday, Mercury forms the top of the triangle. By Monday, Venus and Jupiter will be side by side, less than 1 degree apart.

"After that, Venus and Mercury will continue to climb higher into the evening sky while Jupiter drops toward the sun," said StarDate.

Pagasa added that Saturn will be visible in the evening sky throughout the month above the east southeastern horizon.

"Viewing through a telescope, the ringed planet will show its disk at 18.83 seconds of an arc in diameter across the equator," it added.

Titan, Saturn's largest satellite, can also be seen easily through any optical instruments, Pagasa said.

Titan orbits Saturn once every 16 days.

Neptune and Uranus will be visible before dawn during the month, Pagasa said.

The two planets will be located "among the background stars of the constellations Pisces, the Fish, and Aquarius, the Water-Bearer." A modest-sized binocular or a telescope and star map will be needed in observing both planets, it added.

Due to its proximity to the sun, Mars will be difficult to observe during the month, Pagasa said.

With a report from Reuters

Enrollment Ongoing
for Freshmen and Transferees

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COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S RESPECTS President Aquino pays his last respects to the seven Marine soldiers killed in the May 25 ambush by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu as relatives of a slain soldier comfort each other during the wake at the Marines' barracks in Fort Bonifacio. **LYN RILLON**

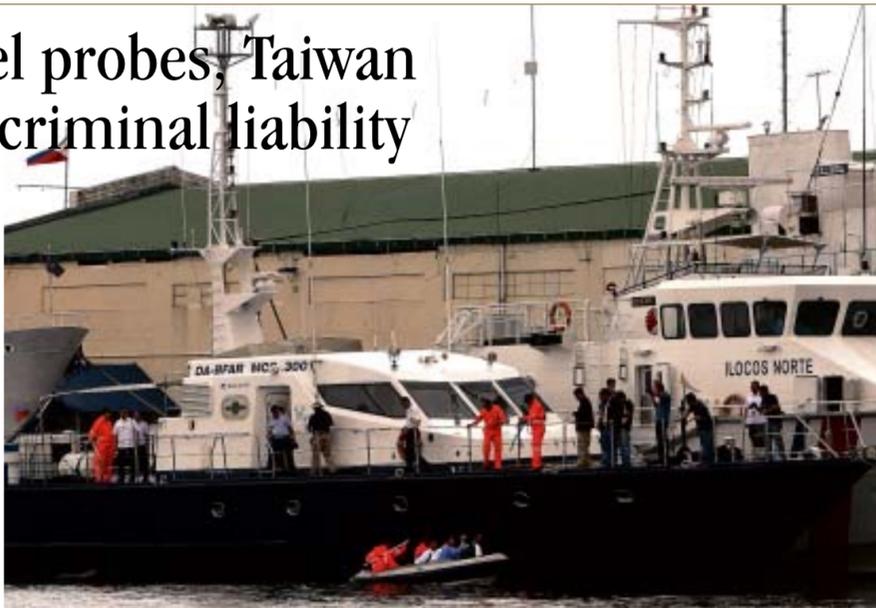
Poll discrepancies found

After parallel probes, Taiwan to insist on criminal liability

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TAIPEI—Taiwan and the Philippines will discuss the results of their respective investigations into the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman in the northern Philippine waters on May 9, but Taipei will insist on criminal liability if warranted, according to an official of Taiwan's Ministry of Justice.

"Each team will come out with separate reports and in case of major differences, we will again meet to discuss the result, but we will insist on the criminal liability of those who are guilty," Chen Wen-chen, director general of the International Cross-Straits Legal Affairs, told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.



TAIWANESE investigators use a rubber boat in Manila's South Harbor to inspect the hull of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ship involved in the shooting death of a Taiwanese fisherman in the Balintang Channel earlier this month. The Taiwanese are here while NBI investigators are in Taiwan to make a parallel investigation. **RAFFY LERMA**

AFTER/A17

Flaws bared in initial audit, says Brillantes

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE INITIAL findings of the random manual audit (RMA) of the May 13 elections showed "discrepancies" in some precincts compared with the computer-generated tallies, Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said yesterday.

Brillantes said the Comelec had received the reports from 167 out of the 234 randomly chosen precincts across the country but could not immediately state the extent of the problem.

"There were discrepancies," Brillantes said in an interview, adding that the questionable results were being segregated

for review. He said the discrepancies may have been due to the shading of the ballots. The Comelec has decided to have the precinct

POLL DISCREPANCIES/A17

Comelec failed to review source code, says poll watchdog / A17

53 of 58 party-list seats now filled up

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) yesterday announced the winners of 53 out of the 58 seats at stake in the House of Representatives in the May 13 party-list balloting.

In a three-page resolution, the Comelec proclaimed 24 new winning party-list groups, bringing the total to 38, and announced the distribution of the 53 party-list seats.

The remaining five winners

53 PARTY-LIST/A17

Palace outraged by NPA ambush of cops

MALACAÑANG yesterday expressed outrage over the killing of eight policemen by a rebel landmine in Cagayan on Monday, saying this was a violation of international humanitarian law and treaty, and the convention banning the use of the explosive devices.

"It's very clear. It was a violation or against the law on the use of landmines," President Aquino's deputy spokesperson, Abigail Valte, said during a press briefing.

The policemen—all belonging to the Special Action Force—were killed when a

mine planted by the communist New People's Army (NPA) blew up in Allacapan town in Cagayan.

They were in "athletic uniform," not in combat fatigues, as they were on their way for a medical checkup, Valte said. "We couldn't make sense of

their (rebels') reason for justifying (the attack)," she said.

Luis Jalandoni, chief peace negotiator of the communist-led National Democratic Front

PALACE/A18

The 'devils' took her son away / A18

8-year-old leads 280 spellers in US contest

WASHINGTON—The 86th annual National Spelling Bee kicks off on Tuesday with an 8-year-old speller from Kentucky leading 280 youngsters from eight nations in testing their ability to spell some of the most obscure words in the English language.

Sponsored by the Scripps media group, the three-day competition at Gaylord National Resort outside Washington is an American institu-

8-YEAR-OLD/A18



Centenarian Act vetoed for being 'oppressive'

By Michael Lim Ubac and Leila B. Salaverria

ABOUT 7,000 Filipinos aged 100 years old and above will have to hang on a little bit longer before they get additional benefits after President Aquino vetoed the proposed Centenarian Act that would

have earned them each a P100,000 bonus, plus discounts on purchases.

Mr. Aquino vetoed the measure for being "excessive (and) unreasonable" and for being "patently oppressive."

What caught the attention of the President was a provision in

CENTENARIAN/A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

NATION

Appeals court: No to Subic coal plant ECC / A11

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SPORTS

'Old' Spurs tab NBA Finals berth / A20

NEWS

National Artist Eddie Romero dies; 88 / A17

Comelec failed to review source code, says poll watchdog

By Jerome Aning

A POLL watchdog yesterday alleged that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in conducting the May 13 automated balloting illegally relied on an official certification of the source code for the computer machines used in the 2010 polling and the aborted 2011 balloting in Mindanao.

Nelson Celis of the AES Watch bared a violation of the Automated Election Systems (AES) Law (Republic Act No. 9369) with the Comelec's technical evaluation committee unable to review the source code of the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines used in this month's balloting.

Celis said in a statement that under Section 11 of RA 9369, the technical committee must certify that the automated election systems, including its hardware and software components, were operating properly at least three months before the polling.

Such a certification should be made on documented results, such as the successful completion of a source code review and the audit on the accuracy, functional and security controls of the AES software, among others.

"Unfortunately, there was no more time for the technical committee to check the source code, which was delivered by [software owner] Dominion Voting Systems three days before the elections, [when the] machines [had] been deployed nationwide. Too late," Celis said.

He said the committee's certifications were based on the source code used in the 2010 elections and the source code intended for the aborted 2011 elections in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The source code is a software or program which instructs the PCOS machine how to read, tal-



COMELEC Commissioners Lucento Tagle and Elias Yusoph (right) and Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. discuss a point during yesterday's session which declared 53 of 58 party-list seats occupied by at least 24 party-list groups.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

ly and transmit votes after scanning and storing the images of ballots fed into it.

After senatorial candidate Richard Gordon filed in the Supreme Court a suit seeking to compel Comelec to disclose the source code, Dominion and the independent third-party reviewer, SLI Global Solutions, turned over the source code to Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. who ordered the code delivered for safekeeping to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as required by law.

The technical committee, composed of representatives from the Department of Science and Technology and the Comelec's information technology (IT) department, certified the AES on Feb. 12, 2013. This was affirmed by the Comelec in Resolution No. 9641 issued three days later.

Critics of the PCOS machines have pointed out that the lack of a review of the source code could be used in electronic rigging of votes through hacking the software.

Mysterious pattern

Speculations about vote-rigging turned up a few days after the elections when the canvassing of votes by the Comelec revealed a mysterious "60-30-10" pattern of votes, wherein administration, opposition and independent senatorial candidates consistently obtained 60 percent, 30 percent and 10 percent of votes in the province tallies received by the Comelec.

In his Facebook account, IT expert and AES Watch convener Pablo Manalastas suggested that citizens who had reason to doubt the Comelec count, could

do their own tally by downloading the computer records of the canvassing on the poll body's website (<http://2013electionresults.comelec.gov.ph>) comparing them with 'borrowed' election return (ER) printouts held by the political parties and the accredited citizens' arm, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

Manalastas, a retired math professor at Ateneo de Manila University, suggested using the simple Excel program to conduct a minicanvass by comparing the computer and hard copy results.

"If this check yields canvass results that are wildly different from the results that were used by Comelec to declare winners, then the citizens group has reason to complain and file an electoral protest, and can use the printed ERs and Excel files as

documentary proof to support their protest," he said.

Manalastas said there were other ways to do a 'citizens' recount but they all involved using the images of the ballots stored in the compact flash card of each PCOS machine, or the original ballots themselves. This, however, may not be readily allowed by Comelec.

Law of large numbers

Manalastas earlier theorized that the "60-30-10" pattern may be explained by the "law of large numbers," a rule in statistics which basically means that as more and more votes are randomly counted over time, the results will tend to average out and follow an expected pattern.

However, former diplomat Ado Paglinawan, a US-based political activist and consultant,

dismissed the application of the law of large numbers theory.

Writing on his blog (<http://pedestrianobserver.blogspot.com>), Paglinawan said the law was inapplicable in the Comelec canvassing for the Senate race because the results were coming from groups of provinces that did not represent the Philippines as a whole.

He claimed the certificates of canvass (COCs) from provinces, chartered cities and overseas absentee voting centers received by Comelec came from batches that did not represent a random national count.

Paglinawan pointed out the 14th canvass report which only contained results from Davao del Norte, North Cotabato and Tawi-Tawi; the 15th which contained COCs from Marinduque and Samar, and the 16th which only contained Lanao del Norte results.

Revenge of the machines

Paglinawan elaborated on two theories about how electronic cheating could have happened. One states that there were "strategically inserted default mechanisms" in the AES that favored nine administration and three opposition candidates and locked all 33 candidates in "pre-determined rankings."

His second theory, which he dubbed "the revenge of the machines," states that the insertion of default mechanisms just "overheated" the AES and "scrambled on its own to default into a 60-30-10 template on the national level."

"The PCOS was just meant to scan and read the ballot, count the returns and transmit its tally. Brought about by Comelec's endless improvisations and collapsing of the minimum required safeguards in the AES law, it has virtually opened the system to hacking and fraud," he said.

Poll discrepancies found

From page A1

count optical scan (PCOS) machines count as votes even the ovals in the ballot paper that were only "20 percent" shaded.

"They know that we had lowered our threshold to 20 percent from 50 percent (in 2010)," Brillantes said.

He said those with 10 discrepancies and below were disregarded while PCOS machines that had more than 10 discrepancies were brought to the Comelec central office in Intramuros, Manila, together with their ballot boxes.

Brillantes could not say how many precincts had registered

more than 10 discrepancies, adding that Commissioner Christian Robert Lim, who is handling the RMA, had yet to make an initial report.

Former Ambassador to the Vatican Henrietta de Villa, head of the Comelec random manual audit committee, said many "clerical errors" were uncovered that could not be considered discrepancies.

When asked if these could be considered "discrepancies," De Villa said: "Not yet. In the sense of the word that there's a difference between the electronic and the manual count."

"We cannot say that at this point because these are mostly

clerical errors. There are many like that which we have to clean up. That is why we are forwarding this to the NSO (National Statistics Office)," De Villa said.

She said the NSO had reviewed cases of precincts that had "10 or more variances."

When asked how many of the 234 randomly chosen precincts had "variances," De Villa said: "There were many. Many."

But she declined to give an exact figure, saying the committee was still waiting for reports from the field.

"It's not good to do that since we don't have all the reports. That could lead to speculation. It won't be helpful," De Villa said.

53 party-list seats filled up

From page A1

will be announced once the estimated 36,000 uncanvassed votes from a special election in five precincts in Lanao del Norte province and other precincts are finally tallied later this week, said Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr.

"We're just making sure that we will not be proclaiming any party-list that will still be affected by the remaining votes uncanvassed," he said.

Buhay, which got 1,265,992 of the 26,722,131 party-list votes canvassed, got three House seats. Its three nomi-

nees include former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Securing two seats each were A-Teacher, Bayan Muna, 1-Care, Akbayan, Abono, AKB, OFW Family, Gabriela, Coop-Natcco, Agap, Cibac, Magdalo, and An Waray.

Abamin, Act Teachers, Butil, Amin, ACT-CIS, Kalinga, LPGMA, TUCP, Yacap, Agri, Angkla, ABS, Diwa, Kabataan, Anakpawis, Alay Buhay, Aambis-Owa, 1-Sagip, Ave, Atong Koop, 1-BAP, Abakada, Ama, and Ang Nars snagged one seat each.

The Comelec said that it did not include in its tabulation

the 1,809,653 votes that 12 disqualified party-list groups received. It said these votes would be considered "stray."

One of the groups disqualified was Senior Citizens, which got 677,642 votes and, according to Brillantes, would have secured two seats if it was not disqualified. Senior Citizens and three other disqualified party-list groups have appealed the Comelec decision to the Supreme Court.

"We will follow whatever the Supreme Court says," Brillantes said. "You can be assured that we will not wait until June 30 to finish."

After parallel probes, Taiwan to insist on criminal liability

From page A1

She also said she expected no "major difference in the findings because we are looking at the same evidence."

"There is no deadline and the investigators will bring here the evidence they collected, like the slugs. The investigation will take time," she said.

Investigators from both countries started their parallel investigation on Monday into the killing of the Taiwanese fisherman by the Philippine Coast Guard off Balintang Island at the northernmost part of the Philippines.

Asked About Taiwan's suspension of the hiring of Filipino workers imposed following the May 9 incident, she said, "Our

demands remain the same and we insist on the punishment of those who shot the boat."

Pingtung County inquiry

In an earlier interview, labor attaché Rey Conferido of Manila Economic and Cultural Office expressed confidence that the crisis would be over by July when most of the Filipino workers were to renew their contracts.

During the inquiry in Pingtung County yesterday presided by local chief prosecutor Choi Zong Zong, a team of the National Bureau of Investigation questioned the three crew members of the Taiwanese fishing boat allegedly fired on by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Based on accounts of an informant who had access to the in-

vestigation room of the county justice hall where the probe was being conducted, the NBI team was seated near the door facing Choi, who was seated in an elevated area, just like court judges.

In the middle of the room were the family of the slain fisherman and the three crew members, including and the Indonesian fisherman identified as Imam Buchaeri, 35. It was the first time the Indonesian was seen by media.

The inquiry started past 2 p.m. and as of press time no one had come out from the investigation room.

The NBI team headed by lawyer Daniel Daganzo arrived at the Pingtung County Prosecutors Office before noon and immediately met with the prosecutors.

Based on an earlier account on Friday, the captain of the Taiwanese fishing boat whose father was shot and killed in the May 9 shooting claimed that he and his men were fired upon without provocation, and his family accused the Filipinos of murder.

Denying that his boat had encroached on Philippine waters, the fishing vessel's captain, Hung Yue-chien, 39, insisted at a press conference that the incident occurred in a "public fishing area."

Probe in Manila

In Manila yesterday, members of the Taiwanese investigative team watched a two-hour video of the incident.

NBI officials later accompa-

nied the team to the port area to inspect Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) vessel manned by PCG personnel that was involved in the incident.

The Taiwanese probes completed the ballistics test on Monday, firing the weapons for cross matching, according to NBI deputy director Virgilio Mendez.

"I think it's helpful, of course, for both sides," Andrew Lin of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office later told reporters. He added that he could not comment further because the investigation was continuing.

He said the inspection of the vessel was a technical issue and the investigators would depend on the assistance of the NBI and the Coast Guard.

It took the investigators 80 minutes to investigate the BFAR vessel. They were escorted by Commodore Eduardo Guingona, PCG fleet commander.

The Taiwanese investigators were also scheduled to interview BFAR and Coast Guard personnel today.

The slugs and shells will be matched with those recovered from the Taiwanese vessel to determine if the firearms turned over by the Coast Guard to NBI are the same weapons used in the May 9 incident.

The NBI team in Taiwan also brought samples of the slugs but the results of the comparison cannot be divulged at the moment, Mendez said. **With reports from Erika Sauler and Jerry E. Esplanada in Manila**

National Artist for Film Eddie Romero dies at 88

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

NATIONAL Artist for Film Eddie Romero passed away at 9 p.m. yesterday, son and fellow director Joey Romero said.

He was 88.

Romero directed such acclaimed films as "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon," "Aguila," "Banta ng Kahapon" and "Kamakalawa."

In a phone interview with the

INQUIRER yesterday, the younger Romero said that the veteran director "fell into a coma" while confined in a hospital.

"The doctor told us that he had a blood clot on the right side of the brain," said the younger Romero.

He had been in and out of the hospital for the past few weeks.

Romero was confined from May 18 to 19 and returned to the hospital on May 23 because

of "health complications."

"He died peacefully," said his son. "The last time we talked, he said he wanted to go home."

The family plans to hold the wake at Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Romero started out as a short-story writer and was "persuaded" to write scripts by another National Artist for Film, Gerardo de Leon. He began directing at age 23.

In a 2005 interview, the National Artist described himself as "an old hand in the movies" by the time he was in his 20s.

"The interesting thing was, I directed my first seven movies by *oido*," he told the INQUIRER in 2005.

Raised in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental province, he didn't speak a word of Filipino then. "I wrote most of the screenplays in English and these

would be translated on the set."

He considered himself an independent filmmaker. In 1952, he directed his first indie film, "Buhay Alamang," which top-billed screen legends Mona Lisa and Anita Linda.

"I preferred not to be under a major studio," he said.

He also made Hollywood movies in the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s and 1970s.

"My period of Americanization," he said in jest.

He was the overall Philippine coordinator for Francis Ford Coppola's 1979 Vietnam War film, "Apocalypse Now."

In 2007 and 2008, he made his last two movies, "Faces of Love" and "Teach Me to Love."

Romero is survived by wife Carolina Gonzalez, sons Joey, Ancel and Leo John and 12 grandchildren.

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER



UNDERWATER GARDEN The water had been unusually warm—30 degrees Celsius—this summer in the Tubbataha Reef. The big fish had gone deeper. No matter, the reef has been as colorful as ever. YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

They laughed while firing

Video of sea incident 'embarrassing' for PH

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IT LOOKED like hoot, with six coast guards laughing as they fired at the Taiwanese fishing boat.

"The video showed the soldiers acted unprofessionally. They were laughing while they were shooting the boat," a source who had seen the video of the Philippine Coast Guard shooting of fishing boat Guang Ta Hsin 28 three weeks ago said yesterday.

Taiwanese fisherman Hung Shih-chen, 65, was hit and killed in the shooting, which happened during a high-speed chase in waters off Balintang Island in northern Philippines on May 9.

The source said the Coast Guard submitted the video to

"It is disturbing and embarrassing for Philippine law enforcers," the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the INQUIRER in an interview.

THEY/A19
No special talks to help OFWs losing their jobs in Taiwan / A19

Asteroid flyby a 'close shave,' says stargazer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida—A large asteroid accompanied by its own small moon, measuring nearly 2.7 kilometers, has flown past Earth, the latest in a string of celestial visitors drawing attention to the potential dangers of objects in space.

Asteroid 1998 QE2—which is not named for the British monarch—is so large it is orbited by its own moon and is about nine times as long as the Queen Elizabeth II ocean liner.

It is far bigger than the small

For poll winners, group has good governance tips

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE VOTES have been counted and the winners of the electoral contests proclaimed.

Now, the real work begins, when the victors assume their posts on July 1.

For those who want to become effective local chief executives, the Galing Pook Foundation offers some suggestions based on the lessons learned from the best local government programs in the Philippines that it has recognized since 1993.

The foundation was one of

FOR POLL/A17



Blast probe focuses on condo tenant

By Michael Lim Ubac and Nikko Dizon

THE INVESTIGATION of the explosion that ripped through a posh apartment building in Taguig City on Friday night yesterday began to center on the renter of the unit where the blast occurred, as President Aquino ordered probes to find out what caused the explosion that killed three people and injured five others.

The blast blew out the walls of an apartment on the fifth floor of Two Serendra in Bonifacio Global City, sending a slab of concrete flying onto the street below and smashing into a passing delivery van.

The van's driver and two of his crew were crushed to death. Five others, including an American and a 9-year-old, were injured.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management



INQSNAP this page (not just the logo) to view more photos!



BLASTED This is the aftermath of the blast that ripped through Unit 501B of Two Serendra at Bonifacio Global City on Friday night (top photo). From the same angle on Saturday morning, Interior Secretary Mar Roxas is shown inspecting the damage (lower photo). RAFFY LERMA/RICHARD REYES

With summer ending, image of carabao as fiesta star lingers

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—Summer is about to end, but the lingering image tourists bring home from this corner of Luzon is that of carabaos being treated as celebrities.

The country's food growers would feel

IBA NA ANG SIKAT!



Apply online: Job hunting goes social

By Fe Zamora, Kate Pedroso and Sara Pacia

WORKING on an island resort "in a most beautiful place" was far from Kiali-i Chaluyan's mind when she updated her resume on LinkedIn.com, a social net-

working site for job seekers and employers, in mid-2012.

Chaluyan, 28, a journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, had been working for some years in Manila when certain unfavorable events occurred.

APPLY/A8

WHAT'S INSIDE

SPORTS • Federer, Nadal, Serena march on • LeBron says Heat 'desperate' to finish off Pacers
LIFESTYLE • A night with 'Draybers,' feeling like royalty
SUNDAY BIZ • 'Oui,' PH products can have a market in France
ENTERTAINMENT • Girlfriend warns hunk vs handsome costar
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They laughed while firing; video 'embarrassing' for PH

From page A1

the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) after President Aquino ordered an investigation of the fatal shooting of Hung, which sparked a major diplomatic row between Taiwan and the Philippines.

It was the video that Justice Secretary Leila de Lima described two weeks ago as "very revealing," but did not disclose its contents.

But that it was very revealing was probably why the Department of Justice initially refused to share the video with Taiwanese investigators, delaying clearance from Taipei for an NBI team to travel to Taiwan to investigate the fatal shooting of Hung.

Not until De Lima allowed the video to be seen by Taiwanese investigators did the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Teco), Taiwan's de facto embassy in Manila, give visas to the eight members of the NBI team.

The source said the video showed the fishing boat, after sailing side by side with the MCS-3001, a patrol vessel owned by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources but manned by coast guards, peeled away and moved in "circles, as if daring the (Coast Guard vessel to come after it."

Not raked with gunfire

Contrary to reports, the source said, the coast guards did not rake the fishing boat with gunfire.

"They did not spray it with bullets, but they were laughing as they fired at the fishing boat," the source said.

The coast guards aimed for what they thought was the engine room to stop the boat, the source said.

But the NBI inspection of the fishing boat at the dockyard on Pingtung Island, southern Taiwan, showed no bullet holes on any part of the engine room.

"There were no bullet holes on the engine room probably because (the coast guards) did not know its location," the source said.

Two other sources who had seen the video confirmed the statements of the first source.

According to the Coast Guard report on the incident, Cmdr. Arnold de la Cruz, the patrol vessel's commander, "ordered his men to fire at the fishing vessel when it did not stop after several warnings."

Philippine waters

One of the two other sources who had seen the video said the shooting happened on the Philippine side, not on the Taiwan side, of overlapping territorial waters between the two countries.

The NBI and Taiwanese investigators ended their parallel probes of the incident on Friday, with the NBI team saying its report would be ready in a "day or two."

De Lima said the government's next step would depend on the NBI report, which would contain recommendations.

She said Philippine laws would be followed should the NBI recommend the prosecution of the coast guards involved in the shooting.

Murder charges

The fisherman's daughter, Hung Tzu-chen, filed murder charges, but did not name anyone in her complaint.

Taiwanese investigators told a news conference on Friday that they could identify the coast guard who fired the bullet that killed Hung through the results of the ballistic tests on the firearms submitted for the probe.

The Taiwanese investigative team returned to Taipei on Friday.

The NBI team, headed by Daniel Daganzo, chief of the bureau's foreign liaison division, returned to Manila on the same day.

No special talks to help OFWs losing their jobs in Taiwan

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THERE are no special talks to help Filipinos who are losing their jobs in Taiwan after the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman by Filipino coast guards three weeks ago.

Arthur Abiera, Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) representative, told a news conference on Thursday that negotiations with Taiwanese authorities involved general matters for the restoration of good relations between the Philippines and Taiwan.

Labor issues are only part of the talks, he said.

Taiwan froze new jobs for Filipino migrant workers and Taiwanese employers are not renewing contracts in retaliation for the shooting death of fisherman Hung Shih-chen on May 9.

Many of the 87,000 Filipino migrant workers in Taiwan are affected by the retaliatory measure but Abiera said Meco could not do anything about it.

"That's the Taiwanese government's decision," Abiera said. "We are trying to address all issues. It's sad that

they will be affected."

Why us?

"Why should we suffer for what other Filipinos had done?" asked Maryanne, a Filipino migrant worker in Taiwan who asked that her last name be withheld.

"What happens to us if our contracts are not renewed?" she said.

Benedict Ray Balondo, a migrant worker from Batangas City, said at least 50 Filipinos were affected by the retaliatory measure in the tools factory in Taichung City where he worked.

Abiera said he understood the migrant workers' situation but Meco could not go for special negotiations on their behalf.

"We cannot act piecemeal," he said.

Roy Patoy, a migrant worker from Quezon City, said he believed the freeze on Filipino jobs would not last long.

"Taiwan's economy will be affected if they will not hire Filipinos," Patoy said.

"Almost all factory workers in Taiwan are Filipinos. If there are no Filipino factory workers, there is no production," he said.

With summer ending, image of carabao ...

From page A1

less of a farmer without the carabao by their side, even in today's technological world.

So the farm festivals of various regions always have a place of honor for carabaos, according to a documentary being prepared by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

Tourists have been entertained by carabaos feted at the Kneeling Carabao Festival in Pulilan, Bulacan; at the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban, Quezon; Katigbawan Festival in Catigbian, Bohol; Turogpo Festival in Barangay Camansi in Carigara, Leyte; Karbo Festival in Vigan City in Ilocos Sur; the Carabao-Carroza Festival in Pavia, Iloilo; and the Nuang Festival in San Agustin, Isabela.

Every 14th day of May, hundreds of carabaos parade on the streets of Pulilan, adorned with capes and body paint or shiny horns and hooves. As the parade passes by the Church, the carabaos are made to kneel one by one.

Carabao royalty

As the 15th day of May opens in Lucban, the town's skyline bursts with different hues of *kiping* (decor) made of rice dough, vegetables, fruits, rice grains, coconuts, cottage products like *buntal* hats, meat products like sausages, chandeliers and miniature sets.

But the festival highlight is still the carabao grand parade, where the animals are made to



PAINTED CARABAO This beast of burden, hired by the city government for P1,500, serves as a canvas for local artists in Vigan City as part of the city's Viva Vigan Binatbatan Festival's carabao-painting contest.

RICHARD BALONGLONG

pull sleds filled with the community's best produce.

On the occasion of its founding anniversary, Catigbian in Bohol is not the *tigbi* (Job's tears grass) or *tigbaw* (caves) from which its name was derived. Instead, it honors the carabao as the center of the festival by making them kings and queens for a day.

The festival features 22 king or queen carabaos, each representing the town's villages.

Carabaos are also the stars of the Turogpo Festival, which is held every Black Saturday in the farming village of Camansi in Leyte.

Animal joust

Turogpo is a joust of two carabaos to test their endurance. The competing animals are made to lock horns until one animal drops off and

runs away.

The first Turogpo Festival was held 400 years ago. It was then considered a form of protest because it subtly depicted community resistance to the Spanish colonizer.

In Vigan City, the Karbo Festival acknowledges the carabaos' contribution to the city's agriculture industry. Karbo is from the words *karabaw* (carabao) and *bokel* or seed. During the festival, carabaos become a living canvass for artists who express through paintings the theme of the festivities.

The Carabao-Carroza Festival is held every third of May. It displays a barangay's teamwork as residents collaborate to put together the most gaily decorated carabao-carroza (carabao-drawn carriages), compete in a carabao-carroza race, and vie for

the carabao-carroza festival queen.

Crossbred capital

Gearing to become the "carabao crossbreed capital of the Philippines," San Agustin town in Isabela holds the Nuang Festival every Sept. 28 on the occasion of its founding anniversary. *Nuang* is an Ilocano term for carabaos.

The raising of crossbred carabaos and propagation of carabao-based enterprises have been the town's main pre-occupation since 2005. The town has now more than 1,500 dairy carabaos. In Angono, Rizal, the art capital of the Philippines, replicas of carabaos are included in the parade of papier-mâché giants which are featured in its Higantes Festival.

NASA engineer, 2026.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY Philippine flags flutter in the wind near the statue of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, the President of the first Philippine Republic, at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite, as the country celebrates today its 115th year of independence.

JOAN BONDOCO

NBI: Coast guards liable

Raps poised in Taiwanese fisher's slay

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has recommended the filing of criminal charges against the Filipino coast guards involved in the shooting death of a Taiwanese fisherman in northern Philippine waters last month, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

A source, who has knowledge of the investigation of the incident but asked not to be identified because he has no authority to speak on the matter, declined to say whether murder or homicide charges had been recommended.

But the source said there was a debate on whether to bring murder charges against the

coast guards, as "superior strength" was used "against an unarmed civilian," or homicide, as the shooting death of fisherman Hung Shih-chen was "not premeditated."

The source said the NBI report on the investigation of Hung's death had been submitted to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

NBI: COAST/A10

Expert says PH can't rely on US vs China

By TJ Burgonio

IN ITS territorial dispute with China in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), the Philippines has tended to look to the United States for help, a mindset that, according to an analyst, it should be "emancipated" from if it is to assert its independence.

When more Chinese vessels sailed into the disputed waters in the last 13 months, not a few officials invoked the Mutual De-

fense Treaty with the United States to argue for American intervention, but then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last year the United States would be neutral.

"Part of the fact that we're not that independent is that we still believe... America will come to our rescue on the issue of contested territories. We have

EXPERT/A15

PH security concerns shifting to external threat /A15

Only 5 in PH make list of Asia's top universities

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ONLY FIVE of the country's universities, led by the University of the Philippines (UP), made it to this year's list of top 300 Asian universities ranked by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

This was the lowest number of Philippine universities to make the cut since QS began ranking universities in Asia in 2009.

Last year, 14 of the country's own made it to the list of Asia's top universities, according to QS.

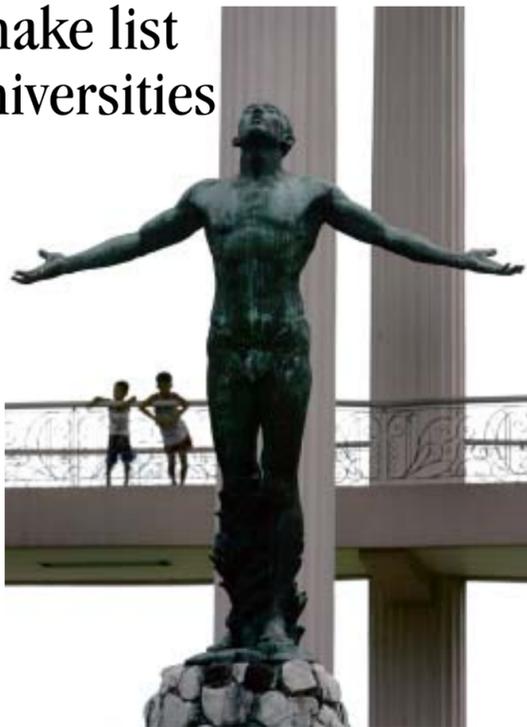
There were 15 Philippine universities on the 2011 list, 18 in 2010 and 16 in 2009.

UP's ranking went up by a notch—to 67th—in the 2013 QS University Rankings for Asia released on Tuesday.

It was ranked 68th last year, 62nd in 2011, 78th in 2010 and 63rd in 2009.

This year Ateneo de Manila University was ranked 109th, down from its

ONLY/A10



UP BY A NOTCH University of the Philippines now ranks 67th.



Exorcist gives tips on how to ward off evil

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WANT TO ward off nightmares or strange occurrences at home? Go back to the basic sacramentals, like wearing a scapular or using holy water and exorcised oil and salt.

A Rome-based theologian and exorcist, Fr. Joseph Iannuzzi, advised Filipino Catholics that these were some objects present-day believers could use to protect themselves from evil that usually goes unnoticed but is too common.

EXORCIST/A10

P-Noy inaugurates new, safer C de Oro airport

By Bobby Lagsa
Inquirer Mindanao

LAGUINDINGAN, Misamis Oriental—Barely three days before its commercial operation, the P7.9-billion Laguindingan Airport is already in need of expansion to meet the expected influx of air passengers in Northern Mindanao.

Despite the lack of several

precision instruments to guide landing aircraft, the new airport, located some 50 kilometers from the old Lumbia airport in Cagayan de Oro City, was inaugurated yesterday, with President Aquino and other top government officials attending. It will be open to commercial flights on June 15.

Mr. Aquino affirmed the air-

P-NOY/A10

Unemployment rate rises to 7.5%

By Michelle V. Remo and Michael Lim Ubac

THE COUNTRY'S unemployment rate jumped in April despite a high-growth momentum as adverse weather conditions led to a loss of jobs in the agriculture sector, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Some 3.086 million Filipinos were unemployed from a total labor force of 40.9 million, the NSO said. It said the unemployment rate swelled to 7.5 percent in April from 6.9 percent in the same month last year, even higher than the 7.1-percent jobless rate reported this January.

The relatively high figure, led by joblessness in agriculture, is being blamed for the

still serious poverty problem in the Philippines. In June last year, poverty incidence stood at 27.9 percent, one of the highest among emerging Asian economies.

"Jobs were lost in the agriculture sector due to modified planting calendars that farmers had to observe [because of the] intense heat and inadequate water supply,"

UNEMPLOYMENT/A10

WHAT'S INSIDE

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NBI: Coast guards liable; raps poised in fisher's slay

From page A1

"It is a thin report, because the annexes have yet to be forwarded to [Secretary De Lima]," the source said.

The report, according to the source, includes the identities of the coast guards who fired their rifles at Hung's fishing boat in waters off Balintang Island on May 9.

Shooter identified

It also contains the identity of the coast guard who fired the bullet that killed Hung, the source said.

The shooter was identified through a cross-match between the slug recovered from Hung's body during autopsy

and the signature of the coast guard's M14 rifle.

The shooting happened in Philippine waters, as the Philippine Coast Guard stated in its report on the incident submitted to the NBI, the source said.

The source said the incident took place within 79.2 kilometers of Philippine territory and 316.8 km from Taiwanese territory.

No attempt to ram

But the Coast Guard's claim that the fishing boat Guan Ta Hsin 28 tried to ram the coastal patrol vessel MCS-3001 was disproved, the source said.

The Coast Guard claimed that the

fishing boat's hostile move was the reason for its officers' firing at the vessel, aiming for the engine to make it stop.

But the NBI report says the results of the ballistic tests and trajectory examination on the fishing boat showed the shooters did not know where the engine was, the source said.

Diplomatic row

Hung's family has brought murder charges against the Philippine Coast Guard in Pingtung County District Attorney's Office in southern Taiwan and with the NBI team of investigators who traveled there last month for the Philippine probe of Hung's death.

The shooting death of the fisherman

sparked a major diplomatic row between Taiwan and the Philippines.

Taiwan demanded an official apology from the Philippine government, compensation for Hung's family and punishment for the shooters.

To pressure the Philippines into complying, Taiwan froze new jobs in Taiwan for Filipino migrant workers and suspended tourist travel to the Philippines and trade and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

President Aquino apologized for the shooting death of Hung, but Taiwan rejected his apology because of his description of the killing as "unintended" and an "unfortunate loss

of life."

Cooperate

The two countries, however, agreed to cooperate in the investigation of Hung's death.

A team of Taiwanese investigators traveled to Manila to examine the coast guards' weapons, interview them, and see their own video of the chase between their vessel and Hung's fishing boat.

An NBI team traveled to Taiwan, examined Hung's boat, interviewed its crew, and studied the Taiwanese coroner's autopsy report.

The two teams agreed to release their findings separately.

Unemployment rate rises

From page A1

Rosemarie Edillon, assistant director general at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said in a press briefing.

Around 624,000 jobs were lost in agriculture in April, Edillon said. However, she said, the industry and services sectors were able to absorb those who lost their jobs because of increased investments.

The Neda official said the country's net year-on-year job loss in April stood at 21,000.

Delayed planting

President Aquino said in an interview following the inauguration of Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental yesterday that the delayed planting season last summer led to the loss of jobs in April. He cited results of a survey conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics during the month.

He explained that farmers noted "intense heat (aside from other) unfavorable weather conditions" that discouraged early planting of rice and other crops. "As you know, farmers will always want—will have the weather dictating their planting cycles," he said, without elaborating.

Quoting a report submitted by Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, Mr. Aquino said: "The decline in employed persons was accounted for by agricultural workers, especially unpaid family workers."

The release of the latest unemployment figure came after the government reported that the economy, measured in terms of gross domestic product, grew by 7.8 percent in the first quarter from a year ago. This was the fastest growth rate in Asia for the period, surpassing even China's 7.7 percent.

Government officials said the Philippines was poised to sustain the high-growth momentum.

Nonetheless, Edillon said the unemployment rate still increased due to natural causes and the fact that a significant portion of the country's labor force belonged to the agriculture sector, which contributed less to the economy compared with the industry and services sectors.

Temporary?

Edillon said the government was hopeful that the jobless trend would be temporary. "We are targeting the unemployment rate to improve, potentially to 6.5 percent by 2016," she said.

The official said job-creation projects in the pipeline included investments in coconut production and processing, linkage of farmers to agriculture-based industries and skills training.

In a statement, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said the results of the NSO survey pointed to a continuing challenge for the government and the private sector to create more decent jobs amid a growing economy.

"What is very encouraging in the results is the fact that the overall quality of employment continues to improve considerably, with persons in full-time employment growing by 15.3 percent, or 3.194 million, and persons in part-time employment decreasing by 18.9 percent, or 3.063 million," she said.

"As a consequence, the mean hours of work have vastly improved from 39.2 hours a year ago to 41.8 hours in April 2013," said Baldoz, who is attending the 102nd International Labor Conference in Geneva.

"Wage and salary employment during the quarter was up by 2.9 percent (619,000) and down among the self-employed (143,000) and unpaid family workers (398,000), she said.

"Structurally, the biggest growth remains in the service sector but growth momentum in industry and manufacturing is high and needs to be sustained," she added. *With a report from Tina G. Santos*



PRESIDENT Aquino walks on the tarmac of the new Laguindingan International Airport in Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental, on Tuesday for a final inspection of the airport that will replace Lumbia airport.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

P-Noy inaugurates new, safer airport

From page A1

port's high safety assessment during a press forum, saying it was safe to land there even during bad weather. Three times bigger than Lumbia, it could accommodate five wide-bodied planes at a time, he said.

Also known as Cagayan de Oro Airport, Lumbia was considered the second busiest airport in Mindanao after Francisco Bangoy International Airport in Davao City. Located on a hilltop where visibility is usually affected by fog, it serves Cagayan de Oro and nearby areas in northern Mindanao.

Currently, there are 25 daily flights at Lumbia.

3-km runway

Laguindingan Airport sits on a 400-hectare property donated by Ayala Corp. It has a three-kilometer runway and a terminal with a floor area of 7,184 square meters.

The safety issue persists as it lacks the Instrument Landing Systems, a vital piece of ground equipment that tells aircraft the precise position of the runway; VHF omnidirectional radio range (VOR); the Distance Measuring Equipment (DME), Meteorological Observing System; Precision Approach Light-

ing System-Category 1; and the Precision Approach Path Indicator.

Several groups led by the Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce and Industry have asked to defer the opening of the new airport, pointing out that the absence of air navigation and systems support facilities and the pilots' reliance on the visual-flight rule would reduce the number of flights.

"The sunrise-to-sunset operation which will greatly affect our campaign to entice airline companies to invest in the city. Most significantly, such a move will jeopardize public safety and the integrity of the multi-billion-peso project," the Chamber said.

Lt. Gen. William Hotchkiss III, director general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), said that despite the absence of several guiding instruments, planes could take off and land more safely at the airport than at the older and aging Lumbia.

Test flights

In April, two test flight landings of a Cessna and Pilatus PC-12 aircraft were conducted as part of the airport's "dry run" activities. Maj. Gen. Artemio Orozco, CAAP chief of staff, had said the pilots would assess wind conditions for landing

and that a probing flight for passenger airlines would also be scheduled in the coming weeks.

One of the pilots said he was impressed with the new airport's runway and that even without navigational lighting, it was safer than Lumbia.

The construction of the airport was started in 2008 although the project was conceptualized during the administration of President Corazon Aquino in the late 1980s and approved by then President Fidel V. Ramos. During the term of President Joseph Estrada, only P375 million was allocated for the project.

Under the administration of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the airport's construction was put on hold until 2006 when the Laguindingan Airport Development Project was inaugurated, with Arroyo herself leading the groundbreaking ceremony.

The opening of Laguindingan Airport was moved from April to June 15 on the request of airlines, which found it difficult to rearrange flight schedules of affected passengers.

Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya, who was present during yesterday's ceremony, said the number of air passengers was projected at 1.6 million per year.



Only 5 in PH make list of Asia's top universities

From page A1

86th ranking last year.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) was ranked 150th, compared to 148th last year.

De La Salle University was ranked in the 151-160th range, down from its 142nd rank last year.

The University of Southeastern Philippines remained in the 251-300 range, where it was last year.

UP Ateneo, La Salle and UST have consistently made it to the QS list of top Asian universities since the rankings began in 2009.

Missed the cut

The nine Philippine universities that were on last year's list but did not make the cut this year were Silliman University, Xavier University, Saint Louis University, University of San Carlos, Ateneo de Davao University, Adamson University, Central Mindanao University, Mapua Institute of Technology and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

They were in the 301-plus rank last year. These universities were among the Philippine universities that were consistently in-

cluded in the QS ranking since 2009.

9 indicators

QS ranks universities worldwide according to nine indicators, mainly based on reputation and research citations.

The indicators are academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty and student population, citations per paper, international faculty, international students, papers per faculty, inbound exchange and outbound exchange.

QS started the ranking among Asian universities in 2009. From 2009 to 2011, it ranked the 200 top universities in the region. Last year it expanded the ranking to cover the top 300 Asian universities.

QS said it used a "slightly different" methodology from the one it used for the annual QS World University Rankings to "reflect the region's different priorities."

Top universities

This year's top Asian universities were the same as last year.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology once more topped the QS ranking. Once again it was followed by National University of Singapore, University of Hong Kong and Seoul National University.

Last year's sixth-ranked Peking University rounded up the top five this year.

Exorcist gives tips

From page A1

"The devil has been able to roam undetected even to the point that we don't believe he exists," the CBCPNews, the official news service of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), quoted Iannuzzi as saying.

The Italian priest, who has been assisting for years Fr. Gabriel Amorth, one of the chief exorcists in the diocese of Rome, gave a series of talks to Filipino audiences during his visit to the country over the weekend.

Iannuzzi of the Gregorian Pontifical University of Rome, also gave a theological presentation on the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a nationwide consecration to the Virgin held on Saturday in different churches.

Someone to devour

Iannuzzi explained how diabolical activities were more commonplace

than people liked to believe.

"Any sense of fear or anxiety is an evil spirit... As St. Peter said in his letter, the devil roams the earth, looking for someone to devour," the theologian said, noting that even nightmares might be the doing of the devil.

Stressing how potent sacramentals can be, Iannuzzi said these objects—such as holy water, exorcised oil and salt, scapulars and the Benedictine cross—should be used for protection against evil.

The Catholic Church defines sacramentals as sacred objects, actions or blessings that communicate grace to believers through the prayers of the Church. Exorcised salt and oil are special sacramentals blessed with exorcism prayers by a priest.

Weapon vs nightmares

Iannuzzi advised Catholics to sprinkle their homes with holy water

should they experience "strange happenings." The holy water—available in churches—is also powerful to combat nightmares, he said, advising the faithful to bless themselves with it before going to bed.

Iannuzzi also recommended using exorcised oil, whose effects last longer. But only olive oil can be used for such purpose, he pointed out.

But Iannuzzi was quick to add that the faithful must not overdo these holy practices. "I am not saying be scrupulous, [like] if anyone bothers you, throw [holy water] in their faces," he explained.

For those who have been using the sacramentals to ward off evil, they must not complain if they don't feel any differently, Iannuzzi said.

"Often, the proof is precisely that nothing happens," he said. "This is what is keeping your family safe, believe it or not."