

ERC stops power disconnections

By GABRIELL CHRISTEL GALANG

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has ordered power distributors to suspend electricity service dis-

connections, among other measures to ensure consumer protection amid the ongoing energy emergency. In an advisory issued on Thursday, July 16, the ERC directed distribution utilities (DUs) to suspend service

disconnections within their respective franchise areas. This covers residential and business consumers with unpaid electricity bills for the billing periods from August to October. In addition, DUs were directed to

provide customers with flexible payment arrangements, such as staggered or deferred payment schemes, to help ease their financial burden. “Consumers, with monthly consumption not exceeding 200 kilo-

watt-hours (kWh), are allowed to defer payment of their electricity bills for the extended covered billing period and pay the same on a staggered basis for at least three months from receipt of the electricity bill,” ►7



WALANG GUTOM COOK-OFF – First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, accompanied by Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, and DSWD Undersecretary Edu Punay, visits the DSWD Walang Gutom Kusinero Cook-Off Challenge National Finals 2026 on Friday, July 17, 2026, in Quezon City. (Santi San Juan)



MANILA BULLETIN VISITORS – Embassy of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Counsellor Shah Md. Ashrafal Alam Mohon (left) and Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood (second from left) visited the Manila Bulletin in Intramuros, Manila on Thursday, July 16, 2026. They were welcomed by Chairman of the Board Basilio C. Yap (second from right), President and Vice Chairman of the Board Dr. Emilio C. Yap III (right), Assistant Business Editor Ben Arnold O. de Vera, Provincial Editor Tristan Lozano, and Senior Editor Isabel C. de Leon.

Impeachment court OKs subpoena request for Landbank officials

By HANNAH L. TORREGOZA

The Senate Impeachment Court has granted the request of the House prosecution panel to subpoena two officials of

Landbank when it resumes the trial next week, Monday, July 20, 2026. Impeachment Court Presiding Officer and Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero announced this before closing the sixth day of the impeach- ►7

Marcos touts PH as next digital investment hub in Southeast Asia

President Marcos has pitched the Philippines as a leading destination for digital and technology investments in Southeast Asia as he capped what he described as his “most productive working visit” to

Singapore. “We have showcased the Philippines as a nation ready to lead, ready to innovate, and ready to partner in shaping the future of our region,” Marcos said in his post-visit statement on Thursday, ►7

DFA protests China Daily’s racist depiction of Filipinos

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has formally protested China Daily’s publication of videos and editorial cartoons depicting Filipinos in a racist manner, demanding the immediate removal of the materials and calling the content inconsistent with the mutual respect expected between states.

In a statement on Friday, July 17, the DFA said it first conveyed the Philippines’ strong objection on July 16 when Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Leo Herrera-Lim raised the issue directly with Chinese Ambassador Jing Quan during a face-to-face meeting.

Herrera-Lim demanded that the Chinese state-owned media outlet take down the offensive materials, stressing that ►7

SC imposes heavier penalty for online psychological violence

By REV G. PANALIGAN

The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that psychological violence committed against women and children through the use of social media that was sufficiently alleged in the complaint and proven in court should be imposed a higher penalty.

In a resolution made public last July 16, the SC affirmed its earlier ruling but modified and upgraded the penalty imposed on a man for inflicting psychological ►7



INSPECTION – The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development and Pag-IBIG Fund led by Secretary Jose Ramon P. Aliling and Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta inspected housing projects and turned over house-and-lot units in Tarlac on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, to showcase further progress under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program (Expanded 4PH).



This newspaper is recyclable and was printed with soy ink

Lifestyle

Making waves in Hong Kong



ENVIRONMENT & Sustainability

Bacau Bay’s vision for meaningful hospitality in Coron (Part 2 of 2)





Scan this QR code to sign up for our email newsletter