



‘VERY UNHEALTHY’ – A hazy skyline hovers over most of Metro Manila on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026, prompting pedestrians, including a nun walking along United Nations Avenue in Manila (right photo), to mask up to protect themselves from the harmful smog. Thick smoke from forest fires in Kalimantan, Indonesia are believed to have contributed to the haze that affected the air quality in 10 cities in Metro Manila. (Santi San Juan/ Mark Balmores)



By JEL SANTOS and ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

‘Acutely unhealthy’ air hits parts of Metro Manila

DENR-EMB, PAGASA say it may be associated with Indonesia fires

Eleven of 15 monitoring stations in the National Capital Region (NCR) recorded “acutely unhealthy” air quality based on fine particulate matter (PM2.5) readings on Tuesday morning, Sept. 1, amid haze that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) said was “possibly associated with smoke and transboundary haze from ongoing fires in Kalimantan, Indonesia.”

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THE PH EAGLE IN THE ₱1,000-BILL – Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) senior animal keeper Dominic Tadena interacts with Philippine Eagle Viggo at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Barangay Malagos, Davao City, on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026. Viggo has become a major attraction at the PEC since its image was featured on the ₱1,000-bill. (Keith Bacongco)

Economic growth seen topping 4% in Q4 – UA&P

Philippine economic growth could return to above four percent by the fourth quarter of 2026 as a rebound in government infrastructure spending, softer crude oil prices, and improving demand conditions offset a likely weak third quarter, according to

economists from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). In its “The Market Call: Capital Markets Research” report for August 2026 released last Monday, Aug. 31, UA&P’s Business Economics Club (BEC) said gross domestic product (GDP)

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Escudero bans phones, earpieces for impeachment trial witnesses

By DHEL NAZARIO

Presiding Officer Francis “Chiz” Escudero on Tuesday, Sept. 1, ordered all witnesses appearing before the Senate impeachment court to re-

frain from using cellphones, smartwatches, earpieces and other communication devices while testifying, citing the need to protect the integrity of the proceedings. Escudero issued the directive after an AI-generated image circulated

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Palace: Climate change master plans for NCR, Cebu ignored for decades

By BETHEENA UNITE

Malacañang said the master plans for the National Capital Region (NCR) and Cebu were left ignored for decades. Had the plans been followed,

Palace Press Officer and Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said flood-prone areas should have remained open, preventing intense flood occurrence. “The master plans for Metro Manila dating back to 1941 and for Cebu dating back to 1936 were not followed,” Castro said in a Palace

briefing on Tuesday, Sept. 1. “Had these plans been implemented, many areas would not have been developed with infrastructure, while flood-prone areas should have remained open and free of infrastructure so they could serve as natural catchment areas for rainwater.”

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JBC invites 5 SC senior justices to apply for Chief Justice post

By REV G. PANALIGAN

The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) has invited the five senior associate justices of the Supreme Court (SC) to apply for the Chief Justice post that would be vacated on Nov. 6 with the compulsory retirement of Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo.

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ACER DAY AT 10 – Acer marks a decade of Acer Day and 50 years of innovation with one massive night at the Araneta Coliseum. Over 8,500 fans gathered to #ShiftTheGame with powerhouse performances from SB19, 6cyclemind, Hey June!, El Manu, Jessy Kang, Dionela, Fitterkarma, and Earl Agustin, with unforgettable surprise stages from Janine Berdin and Jose Mari Chan. Acer Day 2026 has brought the ultimate fusion of music, lifestyle, and high-energy tech. The celebration isn’t over yet, with the finale, Asia’s Fittest Party, happening at the Music Run on September 13 at the SM MOA Complex.

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