



JULY 2021

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HERD IMMUNITY 2021 OR 2023

Philippines will not be the last country in Southeast Asia to get 'herd immunity' - GALVEZ

“Merry” Christmas in peril as Delta virus threatens Phl

MANILA - National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. has assured the public that the Philippines will not become one of the last countries

in Asia to achieve herd immunity against the coronavirus disease. Galvez made the statement after Pantheon Macroeconomics - a United Kingdom-based think tank

- released its findings saying that the Philippines could end up among the last to attain herd immunity as its mass vaccination has lagged behind neighboring countries.

The study said 85 percent of the population must be immunized to achieve herd immunity, with the re-

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Trudeau urges Filipino-Canadians to run for public office



Prime Minister Trudeau visit FV Foods in 2019. Owner Mel Galeon helps him pick dishes to eat. FV Foods employee Madyn Mendoza poses with him afterwards.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau led a group of Canadian ministers who virtually celebrated the culmination of Filipino Heritage Month.

Trudeau told Filipino-Canadian television personality Melissa Grelo that he loves chicken adobo which his wife, Sophie, has learned to cook. But he is on the fence about Jollibee spaghetti. “I got to go to Jollibee, both in Manila, but especially in Winnipeg and, and that spaghetti stuff don’t quite understand but the mango pie and everything else was just amazing,” said Trudeau. Trudeau also thanked Filipino frontline workers for helping Canada get through the pandemic. He also stressed that Filipinos shine not just in healthcare but in other fields as well.

He also noted the lack of Filipino representatives in Canadian politics and said it’s time that their voices are heard. “If not now, then in the coming years, some strong young Filipino Canadians stepping up and saying you know what, it’s time my voice got heard, I want to be part of this, and we will welcome you with open arms,” he said.

Dr. Rey Pagtakhan, the only

Filipino ever to be elected to parliament and ever to be a cabinet minister, also lamented the lack of a Filipino voice in parliament.

“In the 17 years since I left Parliament, there has not been a Filipino-Canadian in the Parliament of Canada and in government. I want to see this trend reversed,” said Pagtakhan.

Paul Jonathan Saguil, one of the founders of the Filipino-Canadian Political Association, said he’s willing to rise to the challenge.

A successful lawyer and financial crimes expert, Saguil hopes to be elected as an MP in Ontario.

“The time has come to end this 17 year drought, and I hope that I will be on the ballot in the next federal election, and I hope I will be able to represent the Filipino-Canadian community here in Ontario,” he said.

Saguil has also been mentoring young Filipino-Canadians and recruiting Filipinos to serve in boards and community organizations as a way of building a pipeline in the future.



SHANAIA Gomez & 41 other Artists sign up with ABS-CBN



MORE CORRUPT? Duterte challenges Pacquiao to prove claims, name names in gov’t. Pacquiao names DOH

MANILA — Senator Manny Pacquiao accepted the challenge posed by President Rodrigo Duterte, and declared that he would name corrupt government agencies in the current administration.

Pacquiao identified the Duque-led Department of

Health, telling investigators to begin inspecting the rapid test kits, personal protective equipment, masks, and other items bought by that department.

“Tinatanggap ko ang hamon ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte. Salamat po at binigyan nyo kami ng pagkakataon na

tumulong sa inyo at bigyan kayo ng mga impormasyon para kampanya kontra korapsyon,” Pacquiao said.

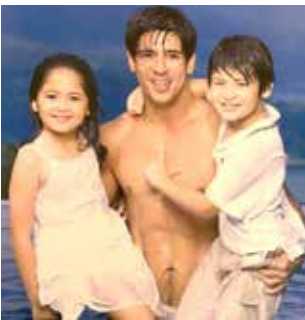
“Mawalang galang po mahal na Pangulo, nguni’t hindi ako sinungaling. May mga nag-

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Fans gush over Aga Muhlach's hot body

It was a photo meant to celebrate Father's Day, but fans were thinking otherwise. On Instagram June 20, actress Charlene Gonzalez-Muhlach shared a photo of her husband Aga Muhlach who was carrying their

children Atasha and Andres. The photo was taken several years ago when Aga intentionally made his body fit for a movie he was doing.



Cong. Nina Taduran, beauty queen Mariel L. Argente endorse wellness and beauty essentials

Party-list representative Niña Tadu-ran is a well-rounded personality who has worn different hats throughout her entire professional journey. From broadcaster to lawmaker, and now to becoming a beauty queen and product endorser, the solon's growing list of accomplishments remains in full year. She also has retained her positive outlook in life. And now, she turns a new leaf as BEST Magazine named her as MODEL MOM Earth 2021, a worthy appointment for a crusader of environment concerns. The pageant organizers saw her integrity as a lawmaker, and chose her as one of five MODEL MOM Queens. She, together with four other empowered women namely (Jane Jarencio – Mrs. MODEL MOM TOURISM 2021), (Marietta Nacional – Mrs. MODEL MOM WORLD 2021), (Arlene Jane Camus Knof – Mrs. MODEL MOM UNIVERSE 2021) will kickstart what will, eventually, turn out to be an annual search for outstanding mothers who will be role models for accomplished women pursuing outreach and pageant dreams. Her co-appointee MODEL MOM Globe 2021



Rep. Nina Taduran (right) and MODEL MOM Globe 2021 Mariel Argente

Mariel L. Argente, who owns the PASITHEA brand of health and beauty products has tapped Cong. Taduran to be one of its brand ambassadors. PASITHEA's range of products include cologne for men & women, Lotion, Soap Bars, Liniment Oils, as well as Hand Sanitizers and Disinfectants. Cong. Taduran is the proud mother of two daughters, aged 22 and 12. A very down-to-earth person, she has never let her profession changed her outlook nor the way the family has lived. And she's Happy that her family shares the same sentiment. With her feet solidly planted on the ground, surrounded by the love of family, friends, and peers, it is no wonder she has excelled in the things she puts her heart into.

Honey Shot

Shaylene is a work in progress. So far, for her hobbies, they keep changing. But msot of the time, she likes to dance and sing. Right now, she is currently learning how to play the ukulele. And for a first in our honey shot, her sport is wrestling. She currently goes to Newtonbrook Secondary School. As for her future career, she is still undecided yet. She is still young anyway.

She is the daughter of Angelie L. Dela Cruz and Jiomar Alogbate.

She is interested in learning more about the business and technology industry

PHOTO: BING MARIANO

Shaylene Kaye Alogbate

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Despite pandemic, more beauty pageants to be staged this year

MANILA -- National pageants continue to thrive amid the pandemic.

Two more competitions -- Miss Bikini Philippines and Miss FIT Philippines -- were launched to kick-start its annual search for a new wave of beauty contestants for the last half of 2021.

A bevy of current candidates of Binibining Pilipinas, Miss Philippines Earth and Miss World Philippines supported the launch amid preparations for the coronation finals of the three national pageants this July.

Binibining Pilipinas 2021 candidate 17 Shannon Tampon (PHOTO) from Caloocan City and reigning Miss Bikini Philippines Chelsea Fernandez joined Promedia pageant organizer Paul Izon Reyes in the pageants' launch.

After their virtual coronation last year, Reyes said that Miss Bikini Philippines and Miss Fit Philippines will now conduct actual live pageants which will unfold in the third and fourth quarters of the year. It will highlight health and fitness amid the pandemic.

Aside from the Bb. Pilipinas finals on July 11 at the Araneta Coliseum, Miss World Philippines and Miss



Philippines Earth will stage their coronation night on July 25, the former at the Mall of Asia Arena and the latter in a virtual show set-up.

Tampon also encouraged prospective pageant candidates at the Miss Fit and Miss Bikini pageants to commit to other advocacies they believe in. A pet lover who has a dog shelter, Tampon is against any form of animal cruelty.

A Miss Bikini Philippines 2019 semifinalist, Tampon also gave moral support to previous Miss Bikini Philippines titlists and candidates Louise Theunis of Suriago del Sur, Elda Louise Aznar of Davao City and Anita Rose Gomez of Olangapo City who are back in form as current Miss Earth Philippines candidates; and Natasha Jung of Tacloban, who is a contender at Miss World Philippines 2021.

Meanwhile, the Miss Universe Philippines 2021 pageant is also eyeing its coronation in the third or last quarter months of this year. It also announced that it has extended its deadline of filing to applications to July 15 to give more time for prospective candidates to complete their documents.

Beauty Gonzales now officially a Kapuso

GMA Network recently took to social media to make the announcement.

Posting a screenshot of Beauty Gonzales in a virtual meeting with network executives, they wrote, "JUST IN: Beauty Gonzalez signs contract with the Kapuso Network. #WelcomeKapusong-Beauty! (heart emoji)"

Prior, GMA confirmed the actress' appearance in an upcoming show on the network.

Beauty rose to fame in 2008 becoming the

4th grand placer of "Pinoy Big Brother: Teen Edition Plus" on ABS-CBN.

She's best known for playing the role of Romina Andrada-Mondragon on the hit series "Kadenang Ginto," which aired for two years in ABS-CBN.

Later, she appeared on TV5 via "I Got You," which aired its last episode January this year.



'Lika na!': Bea Alonzo asks for John Lloyd Cruz following GMA signing

New Kapuso actress Bea Alonzo asked long-time love team partner John Lloyd Cruz if she will see him in GMA Network.

In GMA Films president Annette Gozon-Valdes' Instagram account, she posted a photo of Bea video calling John Lloyd.

In another IG post, Annette posted a video of their conversation.

"Makikita ba kita dito?" Bea asked John Lloyd.

Annette then said, "Hilahin mo na."

Bea then held her hand on the screen and told John Lloyd, 'Lika na.'

It can be recalled that Annette posted a photo of her with John Lloyd recently.



"At last nagkita na kami. Exciting times ahead! Abangan!" she wrote.

Bea is set to star in her first teleserye on GMA but she did not elaborate on the project.

"Meron na 'kong teleserye na gagawin pero hahayaan ko na lang ang GMA mag-disclose kung ano 'yon because I think hindi ko pa siya puwede sabihin. I know na kung sino ring makakasama ko so it's very, very exciting," she said.

"Pero I can already say that it's gonna be in primetime," she added.

Bea is the latest celebrity to transfer to the Kapuso channel from the Kapamilya network after Beauty Gonzalez, Pokwang and John Lloyd Cruz.



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Life's brighter under the sun



The dispersal of stars in the showbiz scene

If you were already a showbiz fan back in the 2000s, it would surely be bewildering for you to watch John Lloyd Cruz in GMA 7 or any other network for that matter aside from ABS-CBN.

Johnny Manahan, or Mr. M as he goes by in the industry, was also synonymous with the best star-building body, which was Star Magic, up until his exit in 2020. Now sources are saying that his and partner Mariole Alberto's entry to build stars in ABS-CBN's biggest rival GMA is already a done deal.

Just last year, the industry was shocked as Mr. M had a short yet memorable stint on TV5 for the then promising Brightlight-produced Sunday Noontime Live, topbilled by Piolo Pascual, Maja Salvador, Catriona Gray and Jake Ejercito. The show spearheaded by Edgar Mortiz which was Banana Sundae was slightly repackaged as Sunday Kada Kada Sunday on TV5 and gave laughs to the fans with almost the same casting, including Jason Gainza, Pooh, Sunshine Garcia and many more.

Now... ABS-CBN discovery Beauty Gonzalez, who also had two shows with TV5, has jumped ship and signed a contract with the Kapuso. I remember interviewing Beauty while she was doing the Paano Ang Pasko? which became Paano Ang Pangako? on TV5 back in summer. She shared how she considered

herself so blessed to be one of the first artists during the height of the first quarantine to experience working with such a diverse cast from different networks, such as Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Julia Clarete and so much more. "From ABS Kadenang Ginto, ito na sa TV5 I Got You, which got two seasons and now

Paano Ang Pasko? na nagkaroon ng three seasons and I'm very thankful and happy. Siguro tama nga yung sinasabi ng mga katrabaho ko dati na maswerte ako sa mga shows kasi tumatagal haha!"

It would also be shocking five years ago to hear the Phenomenal Star Maine Mendoza a.k.a. Yaya Dub has a major show such as PoPinoy on another network

besides GMA. But now that it's happening and her talent in hosting shines brighter on a talent show platform, one of the points that excites Maine is the opportunity to broaden her showbiz horizon apart from the dabarkads. She shared with us, "Prinepare ko lang yung sarili ko mentally kasi ibang environment ito and iba yung makakasama ko pero excited din ako kasi marami akong matututunan sa show na ito and hopefully, magkaroon ng friendships with the headhunters so doon ako pinaka-excited."

Not only stars but the biggest and the brightest in production and star-making are now more open to working with everyone. We have Cornerstone adopting

DISPERSAL continued on page 5



Entertainment, Culture, Santacruzian Food, ...and many more!

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A2Z is bigger than LGBTQIA C

Pretty soon, there will be a special interest group for every letter in the alphabet. Right now, it is just LGBTQIA which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual. This acronym is getting longer. I remember when the movement started as gays and lesbians. Then, it became LGBTQ. Then, it added I-A. How long before every person wants to be represented and uses every letter in the alphabet? Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne. 🙄🙄🙄🙄

Just like police, Miss Universe Philippines removes minimum height requirement for pageant
Well, almost. Iyong mga police naman, may minimum height requirement pa rin. Pero, this one, no minimum height talaga. Nadagdagan na ang LGBTQIA ng S, for short. Paano na iyan? Pati maliliit, sasali na? If you turn them down, are

they going to claim discrimination? Sino na nagpapatakbong Miss Universe Philippines? Na take-over na ba ni Presidente Duterte? Ano ba iyan?

The Dark Age of Enlightenment
Should everyone have equal rights. Everyone agrees that everyone should. What happens if some believe others are getting more rights than others? Can you disagree? Welcome to the age where everyone believe in equality for all and that freedom of speech is guaranteed. Freedom of speech is guaranteed as long as you agree with the majority. But, who is the majority? Who is the minority? It seems what constitutes freedom of speech is being “dictated” by the vocal “defenders” of free speech. Well, they will defend it as long as you agree with them. It seems you cannot disagree with anyone anymore. If you disagree you

are not with the progressive “majority.” The times, they are a changin’. Or, these are the best of times, these are the worse of times. Welcome to the dark ages of enlightenment.

Unfair Reporting
Duque complains the foreign media puts the Philippines 2nd to last in the vaccination drive. From what I understand, he wants them to change their standard of measuring success. He complains rich countries bought all the vaccines. He complains the Pilippines does not have enough for all. And yet, they claim that they can vaccianted 70% of the population by Christmas. I just don’t know what year. Too bad foreign media. Otherwise, they can just arrest the editors, close the publication or deny a franchise. You cannot get everyone. Hay sus Guinoo ni Roxanne.

Jasmine Curtis Smith joins Maja Salvador’s talent management company

Nadagdagan na naman ng prized artist ang bagong tatag na talent management company ni Maja Salvador, ang Crown Artist Management Inc. Noong June 13, ipinakilala ng nasabing kumpanya ang bago nilang talent—si Jasmine Curtis-Smith. Ayon naman kay Jasmine, bagong panimula ito sa kanya. Ginamit pa nga niya ang kasabihan ng German theologian at philosopher na si Meister Eckhart. Saad ng Kapuso actress sa kanyang post noong Linggo rin:

“And suddenly you know: it’s time to start something new and trust the magic of new beginnings ~ Meister Eckhart Komento ni Maja sa kanyang post: “We Love You Our Indie Queen! [crown emoji]” Sa comments section, naghayag din ng suporta ang ilang kaibigang artista ni Jasmine sa desisyon nitong lumipat ng



management. Kabilang sa kanila sina Angel Locsin, Iza Calzado, Shaira Diaz, Sophie Albert, Benjamin Alves, Angie Mead King, Valeen Montenegro, at ang direktor na si Gino Santos. John Lloyd Cruz ang unang pumirma at ipinakilala siya ng Crown noong May 15, 2021. Maayos daw na nagpaalam si Jasmine sa former manager na si Betchay Vidanes ng Vidanes Celebrity Marketing.

MORE CORRUPT continued from page 1
ing pagkakamali ako sa buhay na aking itinuwid at itinama nguni’t dalawang bagay ang kaya kong panghawakan. Hindi ako tiwali at hindi ako sinungaling,” he added.
On June 28, Duterte told Pacquiao to name corrupt agencies or else he would campaign against him in the 2022 national elections.
“If you fail to do that, I will campaign against you because you are not doing your duty. Do it because, if not, I will just tell the people: Do not vote for Pacquiao because he is a liar,” Duterte had said.
“I am not questioning your ability, intellectually or what,” the President went on. “But if you can’t do that, I will be after you every day. I will expose you as a liar.”
Nevertheless, Pacquiao cited Duterte’s own statement from last October about corruption in government “growing

stronger.”
“In his own words sinabi niya na ‘I will concentrate the last remaining years of my term fighting corruption kasi hanggang ngayon hindi humihina lumalakas pa lalo.’ Mr. President I feel the same way,” the boxing champ-turned-politician said.
Start with Duque-led DOH
Pacquiao specifically mentioned the Department of Health (DOH), saying the government should investigate possible corruption within the agency.
“Magsimula tayo sa DOH. Silipin at busisiin natin lahat ng mga binili mula sa rapid test kits, PPE (personal protective equipment), masks at iba pa. Handa ka ba Sec. Francisco Duque na ipakita ang kabuuan ng iyong ginagastos? Saan napunta ang pera na inutang natin para sa pandemya?” he said.
(Let’s start with the DOH. Let’s take a look and scrutinize all the rapid test kits, the PPE sets, masks and other

items it procured. Are you ready, Sec. Francisco Duque, to show everything that the DOH has spent? Where did all of the money we borrow for the pandemic response go?)
The senator further said he was saddened that issues on corruption are causing a rift between him and the President.
“Nakakalungkot na sa isyu ng korapsyon kami magtatalo, dahil ang kailangan ng bansa ay mga lider na magtutulongan laban dito,” Pacquiao went on.
(Sadly, this corruption issue will cause us to fight, for the country’s leaders need to fight together against corruption.)
Pacquiao’s name has been floated as among the possible presidential candidates for 2022. At least two of his colleagues in the Senate have said that he expressed interest in running for the top post in the coming elections.
Pacquiao has not yet announced which post he plans to seek next year.

MAKE NO MISTAKE:

Kris Aquino corrects basher’s grammar



Queen of All Media Kris Aquino hit out at a basher, saying she couldn’t stand being attacked by someone with grammatical errors. It all started when an Instagram user identified as Sharon_Briz made a comment on Kris.

Sharon_Briz wrote: **U ARE USING U EVIL MECHANISM TO BONG GO TO SILENT MOCHA RIGHT? ALAM NA NG MGA TAO ANG UGALI MO.... STOP PLAYING INNOCENT AS IF YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOUR PARENTS DID KAYA NAG HIRAP ANG PILIPINAS!!! #stupidbrat**
Kris replied: **“Sweetheart, may I correct your first sentence – it really bothers me to be attacked with wrong grammar: You are using you evil machinations (not mechanism) with (not to) Bong to silence (not silent) Mocha, right? There you go. Now be proper, and thank me for correcting your deficiencies.”**
Danton Remoto, associate professor at the Ateneo de Manila University in Que-



“Kristina Bernadette Cojuangco Aquino is an AB Literature graduate of Ateneo de Manila University. She was a bright and bubbly presence in my English class. Serves you right, Ms Troll,” Danton wrote.
Kris and her family are in mourning following the death of former president Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III last June 24. The cremated remains of the former chief executive were laid to rest at the Manila Memorial Park in Paranaque City last June 26.

How Hannah Precillas learned to shrug off bashers

Kapuso OST Princess Hannah Precillas is not letting naysayers distract her from reaching her goals. Hannah reiterated how she wants to be “genuine” and “authentic” amid negative comments thrown against her. Asked if she is bothered in any way, Hannah said she used to but not anymore. Hannah noted it was after she realized it won’t do her no good reading hateful messages.
“Now, as long as I’m happy with what I’m doing, I’m all good,” she said in mixed English and Filipino. She now take netizens’ opinions as sugges-



tions to help her become a better performer. “I just think that maybe sometimes, I do need to improved myself.” The most hurtful thing she read? Somebody describing her voice as “masakit sa tenga.” “But I realize I cannot blame them. We have different tastes. So I let them be.” Then again, it’s different when it involves her family.
According to Hannah, she won’t take it sitting down, if ever.
Hannah is out with a new EP under GMA Music titled “Hannah Precillas Sessions.”

No transgenders in pageants (for now)

MANILA - Pageant fans have been wondering if transgender women in national beauty competitions will finally be a done deal. Pundits are waiting to see if the Philippines is now ready to join in the bandwagon.
Miss Universe Philippines (MUPh) National Director Shamcey Supsup-Lee was first to give an opinion, saying: “as long as they have legal documents to prove they are now females and they already underwent gender reassignment surgery.” If you read between the lines, the statement is the Miss Universe 2011 Third Runner Up’s polite way of saying “no,” especially with her use of the word “legal.”
For its part, the Miss

World Philippines Organization (MWPO) gave a more direct response on accepting transgender contestants in their pageant. MWPO President Arnold Vegafria said: “The global Miss World Organization has made it very clear that only natural born females can qualify for the title, these transgender candidates are automatically disqualified from winning the Miss World crown.”
Carousel Productions, the organization behind the Miss Philippines Earth and Miss Earth competitions agrees. According to Lorraine Schuck, there is no reason for the group to change any of their rules and guidelines to accommodate participation by transgenders



DISPERSAL
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GMA's Kris Bernal (PHOTO), continuously producing shows such as Stay In Love with TV5 and even managing to maintain a good relationship with ABS-CBN.

There's VIVA as well which has its own channel on Signal which is Sari Sari, an online streaming platform called VIVA MAX and numerous shows on TV5, including the latest game show Rolling In It Philippines hosted by Yassi Pressman, which garnered the highest rating on the Saturday night timeslot for the year at 2.9 percent, according to Nielsen Nutam Overnight Data.

Arcangel Media, which produced shows for the stars of ABS, GMA and Dabarkads to shine on TV5 and Regal, also started with the teen drama show Gen Z on TV5 as well.

Now even stars are creating their own talent agencies, most notably Maja Salvador's Crown Artist



Management who got their second talent Jasmine Curtis-Smith breaking away from former manager Betchay Vidanes since her entry in showbiz and now joining John Lloyd Cruz under Maja's wing. Willie Revillame is also expanding his WBR Entertainment Productions, Inc. as he produced a major concert on GMA for an online shopping app.

With this, are we seeing a more "open-border" relationship in the showbiz industry? I say, we are getting there. From the senior stars to the biggest names of today... The majority is enjoying discovering the talents of their colleagues in all networks which they never have had the chance if it weren't for the more open attitude that has been happening lately in showbiz.

The pandemic might have cut the number of the production people and talents per show, but the concept building and producing of new programs and the concentration of the whole unit courtesy of the locked-in taping situations managed to produce more unique plot lines and acting discoveries for the household names that we love. May this be for the long haul for the betterment of the industry.

SWEET! Julia Barretto says her 'best days' are with Gerald Anderson

Young actress Julia Barretto recently shared behind-the-scenes photos of her motorcycle road trip with babe Gerald Anderson.

On her Instagram story, she uploaded a two-fie of them while wearing helmets.

"All best days are with you!" Julia wrote as the caption. Gerald, who was tagged in the post, immediately reposted it on his social media account along with three heart emojis.

Meanwhile, the video of the two stars holding hands while walking wearing the same outfit, is currently trending.

A few days ago, Julia and Gerald enjoyed a yacht trip along with their friends and family.



Catriona Gray encourages public to register for 2022 national polls



Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray celebrated Philippine Independence Day by imparting a lesson to her followers.

On her social media accounts, Gray wrote: "The fight for freedom and independence is a constant and enduring one. Today let's not just look back on history but instead ask ourselves how we are playing a part in writing our future."

"Happy Independence Day my beloved Pilipinas," Catriona added.

The beauty queen-singer also reiterated how everyone is "free" to register and vote.

Catriona encouraged the public to register before the deadline on Sept 30.



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US forever dedicated to Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — The US Embassy in Manila on July 1, reiterated its commitment to the Philippines as the two countries celebrate the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires John Law said he remains confident that the relationship between Manila and Washington will continue to prosper and thrive in the next years.

“Through wars, natural disasters, pandemics, and whatever else may come our way, the U.S.-Philippine relationship is—as Ambassador Romualdez would like to say — Thriving at 75,” Law said in his speech.

The embassy’s commemoration of Philippines-US diplomatic ties also coincide with its celebration of the 245th anniversary of American independence.

“And to that proposition, I assure you, the United States is and will forever remain dedicated,” Law said, referring to the “lasting friendship and



partnership” of Filipinos and Americans.

“Ang tunay na mag-kaibigan, walang iwanan (True friends never leave each other),” he added.

Law further noted that the Philippines and the US have forged a security

alliance since the signing of the 1946 Treaty of Manila, which relinquished US sovereignty over the Philippines.

The two countries have since been allies upon signing the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty.

The US Embassy chargé d’affaires also pointed out how trade and investment ties increased economic opportunity for the allies.

“These three pillars of our relationship—military alliance, economic partnership, heartfelt friendship—remain vibrant and vital today,” he said.

The fate of the VFA remains on hold as Duterte “studies” some aspects of the agreement, which he initially ordered to be terminated in February 2020.

Alwyn Uytingco shows Jennica Garcia love after slammed by Jean Garcia

Actor Alwyn Uytingco expressed his love and asked for forgiveness from his wife Jennica Garcia after getting lambasted by the actress’ mother and his mother-in-law, Jean Garcia.



“Mahal kita, @jennicauytingco. Sorry sa lahat ng pagkukulang ko. Patawad sa lahat ng pagkakamali ko. Di mahalaga kung ano sabihin nila... ang mahalaga para sakin ay mga salita na manggagaling sayo,” Alwyn wrote.

“Natalisod man ako, hindi ko hahayaan na nandito lang ako. Babangon ako, mahal. At patuloy na babagtas patungo sayo. Mahal na mahal kita,” he added.

In Alwyn’s Instagram account, Jean commented multiple comments on the actor’s post expressing his love to Jennica.

“Talaga ba yan Alwyn?!!! Sana sinagot mo message ko sayo... respeto kase yon bilang magulang ni Jennica. Kausapin mo kaya ako para magka-intindahan tayo! Ok ka lang ba?!” Jean wrote.

Is Lou Yanong ready to love again?

After her breakup with boyfriend Andre Brouillette last January after almost two years of dating, Star Magic artist Lou Yanong revealed she is not yet ready to love again.

“Definitely not. I definitely want to focus on myself more. Focus sa craft ko. It’s something really exciting and it’s something also that I want to explore. Kasi sanay ako na magkasama kami lagi and working together. It’s alienating but it’s definitely interesting. I want to keep it that way (laughs),” she admitted during the Star Magic Black Pen Day.

Lou said she looks forward to prioritizing her career this year as part of the Star Magic family.

“It’s exciting. It’s out of my comfort zone so I want to focus more on acting and on hosting. It’s something exciting for me to try. I would like to try and explore that field more,” she said.

New actress Sela Guia misses being part of MNL48: ‘Gusto ko silang makita ulit’

After graduating from the idol girl group MNL48 last November, Sela Guia is ready to officially embark on her solo career as a new member of the Star Magic family. After almost three years with MNL48, Sela said she is ready to do not just dancing and singing but acting as well.

“It’s such an honor na makapag-workshop sa Star Magic kasi before pangarap ko lang talaga yun and ngayon nagkaroon na ako ng chance na makapag-workshop and sobrang dami ko ng natutunan kahit introductory class pa lang. Kasi nalaman ko na hindi lang dapat magaling magsaulo ng script, dapat marunong ka alamin ang objectives ng isang scene, overall scene. Kasi before hindi ako aware sa mga ganung facts and now I’m just grateful for the opportunity,” she shared during the Star Magic Black Pen Media Con last June 21.

The 21-year-old artist said she has always loved acting and can’t wait to learn more



through the Star Magic workshops.

“I remember nung mga kinder pa ako, sa tuwing tatanungin ako ng teacher kung ano gusto kong maging, lagi kong sinasabi I want to be a dancer, I want to be an actress, ganun. So I think talagang nasa dugo ko na yung pagiging passionate sa acting. Kasi I remember din madami akong mga artistang ini-impersonate.

As part of the first generation of MNL48, Sela admitted she still misses the girl group she has built a strong bond with.

“Of course. After my announcement ng departure sa group last November 2020, hindi ko talaga maiwasang malungkot kasi siyempre two to three years yung ginugol kong time sa MNL48 and hindi ko talaga maiwasang malungkot. Like the first few months, gusto ko lagi sila makita, yung dati kong routine na-mi-miss ko. Kasi ang trato na namin sa isa’t isa bilang magkakapatid na, like sisters. Sobra naming close. Of course gusto ko silang makita ulit and makatrabaho ulit sa isang project,” she said.

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Jose “Joey” Baking

A wife sent her husband this picture and the message said “Come home early, I’ve got a surprise for you”... So he raced home, almost crashing the car thinking he was about to get lucky, only to find that she’d just adopted a black cat ..



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Happiness

Nadine Lustre not obligated to greet everyone?

“She was just there! And she was expecting me to say hi to her. So if you want me to say hi to you, say hi to me or acknowledge me, or greet me. And I’m not gonna go out of my way to say hi to you.”

Nadine Lustre is not your typical celebrity who goes out their way to acknowledge or greet someone.

Lustre in Edward Barber’s “Kwentong Barber” on June 23 recalled how people expected celebrities to greet them.

Barber shared on his live stream how some individuals tend to sometimes make actors’ and actresses’ jobs more difficult at work. But Lustre stressed that it happens even outside of work.

“That’s not just the people with who you work with. It’s also for people outside just walking around the mall,” said the actress-singer.

Recalling an event that transpired inside a mall, Lustre revealed that a woman expected the actress-singer to actually greet her.

“There’s one time I was walking around the mall, walking lang, like passing lang. And then one of the shops, there is this one person, a lady, and she said, ‘Suplada naman.’ And I looked at her and I’m like, ‘Am I supposed to say hi to you? I don’t know you,’” she shared.

Lustre is not the type of person who



would greet everybody even though they are complete strangers.

“She was just there! And she was expecting me to say hi to her. So if you want me to say hi to you, say hi to me or acknowledge me, or greet me. And I’m not gonna go out of my way to say hi to you.”

Though the actress-singer understands how people think that celebrities are obligated to greet every person they see.

That it’s not our responsibility to acknowledge everyone and to please everyone. Our responsibility is to give entertainment and that’s not a part of it,”

Still, it is not an artist’s responsibility. It is about providing entertainment and saying hi to everyone is not part of their job description.

“And I think it’s also because people

forget that we are also people, humans. That it’s not our responsibility to acknowledge everyone and to please everyone. Our responsibility is to give entertainment and that’s not a part of it,” pointed Lustre.

In the meantime, the singer-actress is busy with her upcoming virtual concert Virtual Madness, organized by her music label, Careless Music.

Are Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay preparing for their wedding day?

This after Ellen teased about a photo of a woman “fitting” a white gown, which she shared on Instagram.

Recall that some months ago when Ellen announced that she will become Mrs. Ramsay this year.

Ellen said that it won’t be a grand wedding.



Why James Reid took a break from acting to focus on music

MANILA – James Reid admitted he decided to take a step back from acting and really be hands-on in handling his music label because he wanted to have creative control.

Reid said he wanted to make the music he likes.

“It was purely because I wanted creative control. I didn’t know it was going to go this far. The first project I did was ‘Palm Dreams.’ And then it was funny because when I released it, a lot the tweets were saying, ‘You know I’m not a fan of James Reid but ‘Palm Dreams’ is lit,’” he shared.

Reid considered this as a good sign that he was doing the right thing and that there was a future in it.

While he already reached a level of fame for doing one job after the other in the past, Reid said “it wasn’t as rewarding as I thought it would be.”

“What I did crave was artistic expression. I didn’t want people to recognize me for my name or the fame. It was for the things that I did or that I created myself,” he said.

“I love acting. But sometimes after doing teleserye after teleserye, it gets repetitive and I felt like kind of robotic. I craved something that came from me, that I can really express.

The hard part, Reid said, was the business aspect of it all.

Since everything slowed down because of the pandemic, Reid said he’s been working harder than ever. All of this, however, seems to be paying off because as he describes it, he is living the “dream life right now.”

Halfway into 2021, the singer and actor said he does not honestly know what’s next for him.

“I’m focused on a lot of music. Hopefully by the end of the year, I can work on an album.”



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Will the voices of this all-female coast guard unit will keep Chinese ships away?

With tensions rising in the South China Sea, the Philippines is turning to an unusual resource to manage maritime conflict: the supposedly soothing voices of female radio operators.

The Philippine coast guard held a graduation ceremony on Friday for a new unit of 81 female radio operators dubbed the “Angels of the Sea,” who will be tasked with carefully confronting the rising number of Chinese ships that have strayed into the exclusive economic zones of China’s neighbors in what analysts see as an attempt by Beijing to assert legally unrecognized claims to those waters.

“The command recognizes the evolving

unique importance of having female radio operators aboard PCG vessels and shore-based units ... so as not to elevate tension,” Vice Adm. Leopoldo Laroya said during the ceremony. “We want our Angels of the Sea to become the voice of peaceful and rules-based order at sea, especially in our country’s sensitive maritime frontiers.”

Another coast guard official said female radio operators evoked “the reassuring voice of a mother to a child, or a girlfriend or wife to a loved one facing a perceived danger.”

The Angels initiative was inspired by the successful deployment of several female Filipino radio operators, the South China Morning Post reported.

On April 27, an operator on a coast guard ship



near the Sabina Shoal — an atoll in the South China Sea claimed by the Philippines and China — challenged seven Chinese ships.

“Unidentified foreign vessel at Sabina Shoal: This is the Philippine coast guard. You are within the Philippine exclusive economic zone,” coast guard member Gretch Mary Acuario told the Chinese ships in a prerecorded message. “You are requested to provide the following: name of vessel, intention, last and next port of call.”

Instead of replying, the ships left the area — an outcome that drew praise from President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte’s administration is taking a harder line toward Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea. Unlike his predecessor, the late Benigno Aquino III, Duterte had largely shied away from confronting Beijing. But in recent months, Manila has significantly boosted its sea patrols.

Duque Mad over Foreign Reporting of Philippines Vaccination Drive

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III expressed displeasure over what he said was an unfair study by media company Bloomberg that showed the Philippines ranks second to the last in a list of 53 countries in terms of COVID-19 pandemic resilience.

Duque noted that most of the parameters used in Bloomberg’s COVID Resilience Ranking are “skewed” to a high vaccination rate. He admitted that the Philippines still does not have enough vaccines to provide its population with protection. Duque noted that the Philippines still has low coverage for fully vaccinated individuals as richer countries have already secured the bulk of the COVID-19 vaccine supply. “We’re only at 3 point plus percent for fully immunized individuals. People covered by vaccines, we are only at 3.2 percent. Why? Because the rich countries have already secured 80 percent of the global supply of vaccines and that leaves us among the middle-income countries scrambling and almost begging for vaccines,” he said.

Asked what action the DOH will be taking in the wake of the study, Duque said: “We can exercise the option of writing them a letter and questioning how skewed the parameters are towards a high vaccination coverage. There has to be a better balance.”

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Catriona Gray shares hardship as breadwinner at 21

MANILA, Philippines — Before Catriona Gray became Miss Universe 2018, and now, a recording star, the Filipino-Australian beauty also went through hardship as a breadwinner of her family at the young age of 21.

“One of them was when I was quite young. I was 21. I was breadwinner of my family at that time and I didn’t have any new work opportunity coming in and I just felt like kept getting ‘no,’ like every single opportunity kept closing me.”

Catriona, who was then a budding model, didn’t know what to do with her life.

“I was like, ‘Is there something wrong with me? Am I kulang? Don’t have I anything good to offer?’ Like I questioned everything about myself.”

She also doubted her decision to live in the Philippines at that time.

“I felt like I was such a disappointment to my family and it was a very hard time to me.”

Catriona, however, found her way out of the dark tunnel by being a Christian.

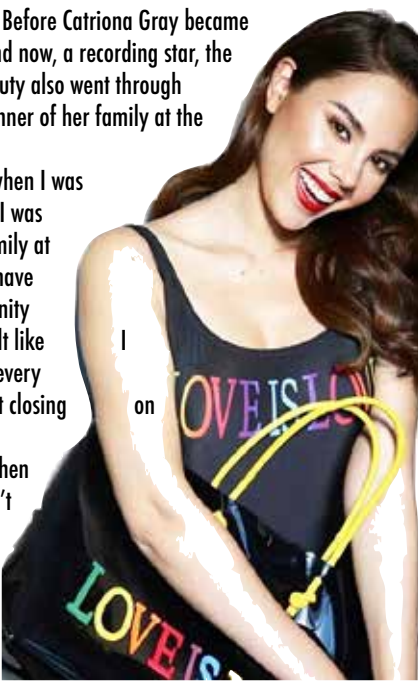
“But it was very true in strengthening my faith, because that’s how I started my faith journey as a Christian. That really pulled me out from that.”

True enough, her faith led her to her advocacy to promote children’s welfare and education, which eventually led her to try her luck in pageants that enabled her to speak more and raise funds for her causes.

“And also I was introduced into volunteerism that introduced me to pageantry so I was all of a sudden feeling that si Lord is guiding me talaga. He’s like, ‘Wait lang anak! I have something for you. Be patient lang!’”

She encourages parents to be supportive of their children’s dreams, too. She, for one, didn’t realize that she wanted to become a singer until she was 18. It all began when she felt a certain “kilig” when she recorded her voice for a Mother’s Day tribute and heard her voice beaming from the speakers.

“I’ve always been passionate about music and



I’ve been trained, vocal lessons and everything, when I came back to the Philippines after my reign,” shared Gray.

“Because I would just sing along in the house. I always loved listening to music and all throughout my academic life, I would always be in the choir and I took part in musicals... Even to this day, I have a lot of nervousness when it comes to the arena of music because I feel such a newbie and I feel there’s a lot of room for me to prove myself...”

Similarly, she hopes “R.Y.F.,” now streaming in major music platforms under ABS-CBN Star Music and CS Music, will inspire listeners to stand up for someone or something.

“I hope this song could be a reflection that life isn’t easy, getting to a dream isn’t easy... But just keep that internal compass to get you into the right direction!”

Jairus Aquino thanks 15 years with Star Magic: ‘I’m very much grateful with them’

Umalis na rin sa poder ng Star Magic ang aktor na si Jairus Aquino. Ang Viva Artists Agency (VAA) na ang bagong manager ngayon ni Jairus.

“Medyo nakakalungkot kasi talagang tahanan ko yon, naging pamilya ko rin naman sila, pero yon nga, kailangang mag-move forward,” ani Jairus.

“Wala naman akong naramdamang separanx (separation anxiety). Hindi naman mahirap, pero sobrang nakakalungkot din naman po kasi ang haba din naman po ng pinagsamahan namin.



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Life’s brighter under the sun



I’m very much grateful with them din naman po kasi binigyan din po nila ako ng maraming opportunities somehow,” patuloy ng 22-year-old actor.

Ayon pa kay Jairus, matagal din niyang pinag-isipan kung lilipat ba talaga siya ng management o mananatili sa Star Magic.

Lahad niya, “Siguro po, na-realize ko na 15 years (with Star Magic) is really good enough for me to move forward, to explore more opportunities for me. Pero kung merong opportunities to work with ABS-CBN again, why not? Bakit hindi?”

Umaasa naman si Jairus na mababago na ang

kanyang image at mabubura na sa image ng mga tao na isa siyang child star ngayong nasa Viva na siya.

Balak din ni Jairus na sumabak sa action films kung mabibigyan ng pagkakataon.

“Ang gusto ko po talagang gawin ngayon is action, yung mala-John Wick na action. Hindi yung overload na action.

“When you see John Wick action or Denzel Washington movies, it’s just clean action scene. Yon po yung gusto kong gawin para makita ding may ibang touch yung Pinoy when it comes to watching films or teleserye,” excited at huling pahayag ni Jairus.



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A Society page with Socializing

It wasn't easy writing a society page with no community events to cover. Special events consisted of everyone was having birthdays in their houses. Or having a picnic with their own family at the park, but sitting in their vehicles. Or getting vaccinated. Now, with the stay at home order lifted, and more people getting vaccinated, the economy, and life is coming back to life, even if slowly. Finally, I can now write about a society page with a social life.

That virus threw us a curve ball.

Some want to get back to the old normal, others for the new normal. I do not know what the new normal is. I assume it is for rich people. I figure that I am poor, so, I want the old normal, the one I know. And part of getting back to the normal is getting vaccinated.

Getting vaccination appointments would become our equivalent of war stories. We did not storm the beaches of Normandy. We sat in our computers clicking for an appointment. Some lined up for hours at pop-up clinics even if all the doses have been spoken for. Such is our desire to return to normal life.

Getting the 2nd vaccination became a mad scramble. My original schedule was August 11. I tried re-booking before I was qualified to rebook and was only given a choice of the same date (not earlier date), different locations and

"There is no greater predictor of human well-being than the amount of social time we spend with one another."

Tom Rath, Life's Great Question: Discover How You Contribute To The World

time. So, I changed mine from International Centre (IC) to Scarborough Town Centre (STC), which is just 5km from my house. On June 14, the first day I was qualified to re-book, I managed to book June 25 at Niagara Falls. I was willing to drive that far to get my second dose. On June 15, I re-booked and got June 24 at STC. On June 16, I re-booked and got June 18 at IC. So, on the third day, I rested from re-booking. A

On June 13, Honeylen Tan asked if I can come to a wreath laying by the organizers of Taste of Manila composed of Rolly Mangante, Philip Beloso, Jimmy Torres and others. It was sponsored by Danny, owner of

Harina Bakery. I forgot that Ontario already reopened June 11. We can now socialize in limited numbers outdoors.

On June 30, Ontario proceeded to stage 2 reopening with lesser restrictions.

I asked June Villaruz of PIDC if there will be a fall or winter PIDC 2021 event.

"No, we won't have one this year," he said.

From the looks of it, Mahistrado fashions will be staging a fashion show soon. They already had a pictorial with photographer Bing Mariano.

Here's hoping we do not get a stage 4 lockdown with a covid19 variant.

Take care everyone.

Jake Ejercito on acting workshops: 'It really did help me a lot'

It's only been a few months since he was first launched as part of Star Magic and Squad Plus and Jake Ejercito is already shaping up to one of the most promising new actors this year. As one of the three leads in the upcoming series Marry Me, Marry You, Jake proves his acting chops against screen veteran Paulo Avelino and new Kapamilya

Jake remembers enjoyed being on stage. As the son of Joseph Estrada and former actress Laarni Enriquez, Jake knew acting was in his genes.

In preparation for his big acting debut in Marry Me, Marry You, Jake shared his experience doing acting workshops virtually.

"It was under direk Rahyan (Carlos) and unfortunately it's just via Zoom. it's quite difficult pag via Zoom. Iba pa rin siyempre yung face-to-face but we have to make do with it as of now. But considering na naka-first cycle na kami ng lock-in taping for Marry Me, Marry You, it really did help me a lot. Tama yung sabi nila na when you get to the set talagang multi-tasking eh. Mentally you have to know your lines and then yung mga technical side of things, yung marking, yung blocking, and then siyempre yung emotions mo

pa. So talagang it's a big help.

"Actually, next week we'll be entering the bubble again and it's been a fun experience. It's exciting because it's a different genre as well. And it's the first time for a lot of us in the cast doing a light drama comedy. So, it's something fresh that we can offer our audience so nakaka-excite talaga," he added.

After BTS like, AC Bonifacio gets Cardi B approval

AC Bonifacio keeps on impressing international stars with her dance covers of their hits.

Star Magic tweeted that their talent has earned the approval of Cardi B,

singer of "UP." This was after Bonifacio uploaded her cover of the rapper's song on her YouTube channel.

AC is known to her 2.3 million subscribers on YouTube for her dance covers. She gained attention for her dance covers of songs by B.I., Selena Gomez and K-pop acts BTS and Blackpink.

She even won Blackpink's "How You Like" That cover contest.

Earlier last month, AC's dance cover was liked by Korean superstar boy-band

Bashers make Makki Lucino stronger

Tawag ng Tanghalian Season 4 grand finalist Makki Lucino began joining singing tilts in grade school after his teacher discovered his ability to carry a tune. He, too, became a member of a choir in the biggest cathedral in his hometown Sorsogon that also served as his vocal training ground.

Makki would also compete in inter-barangay and inter-town amateur singing contests to his heart's content but not without escaping the painful verbal beating of bashers, who took a swipe at his looks, if not for his gender preference.

But no amount of lambasting could ever dampen his spirits and stop him from realizing his dream of becoming a singer. Yes, he admitted to have almost given up yet he came up with a resolve not to focus on the negative.

Being part of the LGBTQIA+, Makki affirmed, is not a hindrance to him entering the music scene.

"For me, music has no gender talaga and especially now that we're celebrating Pride Month, in order to lessen the stigma, just don't be afraid of who you are. Show your true self."



THINKING OF SEX

Google searches for birth control methods rise in PH amid pandemic

Emergency contraceptive pills are a popular search, but there are no registered, dedicated ECPs in the country yet. As couples and families in the Philippines remain indoors for more than a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, there's a growing interest in searching the internet about birth control methods, a new study found.

According to a study by meta-search website iPrice.ph, the Philippines' Google searches on contraceptives - birth control pills, condoms, emergency contraceptives, and vasectomy - grew by 96% in the first trimester of 2021, compared to the same period in 2019.

Since 2020, such searches have been on a steady rise.

Of the four contraceptive methods, "birth control pills" were the most popular Google search. "Pills" reached an all-time high in March 2021, with more than 180,000 searches. Compared to 2019, this was a 91% increase.

Meanwhile, interest in "condoms" rose by 79%, while "emergency contraceptives" saw a 76% increase. Emergency contraceptives, also known as "morning after pills," are taken after sexual intercourse to prevent pregnancy.

Searches on "vasectomies," or surgical procedures on males that prevent sperm from being released, rose by 211%.

iPrice.ph also found that surges in birth control searches were most notable around the "ber months" of the pandemic's first year, or from September to December 2020.

Glige De Lana wants to collaborate with rapper Gloc-9: 'Kasi sobrang galing niya'

She has been singing since the age of five so it was definitely a dream come true when she was recently asked to perform on ASAP and got to meet one of her singing idols face-to-face.

"Gustong gusto kasi talagang maging regular sa

ASAP. Kaya ako napasok last live sa ASAP gawa ni ate Regine Velasquez kasi sinabi niya sa akin personally, 'I requested for you to be here.' Grabe yung matalagal ko ng iniidolo nakaharap ko, nakausap ko, tapos ang trato sa akin parang kaibigan, kapatid. Hindi ko ini-expect kasi si ate Regine ang tagal ko na siyang iniidolo, bata pa lang ako. And pinangarap ko na kahit man lang makita ko siya ng harapan, kahit hindi ko siya makausap. Pero bakit ganun, maraming salamat sa lahat ng nangyayari ngayon na hindi ko naman ini-expect," she shared.

Even though most of the repertoire with her band Gigi Vibes are ballads and pop songs, Gigi said the collaboration she would most love to do someday is with Pinoy rapper Gloc-9 and his song "Upuan."

"Gusto kong mag-venture sa iba pang genres. Actually depende rin siya sa projects and siyempre yung future compositions ko at saka ng banda ko. Tapos gusto kong maka jamming sa totoo lang si Gloc-9 kasi sobrang galing niya mag-conceptualize ng music and ng mga words niya. And at the same time yung lyrics niya kasi eh nakakadala. Nakaka-affect siya ng madaming tao. Meron akong gustong i-cover na kanta niya. Gusto ko yun. gusto ko siya i-cover," she said.

With her recent cover of Roselle Nava's song "Bakit Nga Ba Mahal Kita" making it to the trending charts on social media, Gigi said she is happy people enjoyed her video with the Gigi Vibes band.

"Hindi namin talaga ini-expect na mag-va-viral yung video kasi talagang binibiro lang ako ng mga kabanda ko and hindi ko naman inurungan yung kakuwelahan ng banda ko at yung challenge sa akin (laughs)," she added.



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Pinay wins prestigious global award named after Princess Diana

The BBC recognized her efforts last year for sending food to thousands of her jobless kababayans



MANILA, Philippines – Shawntel Nicole Nieto’s more famous brothers Matt and Mike might make the headlines more because of their exploits on the court for Ateneo and the Philippine men’s basketball team, but the former, who also donned the blue and white jersey in UAAP badminton action, has been feted internationally with the Diana Award by no less than by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex.



For her exemplary and tireless work during this pandemic in providing Personal Protection Equipment, food and goods, as well as medicine to frontliners and ordinary citizens, Nieto was honored along with several others from all over the globe in a virtual ceremony last June 28 with the Diana Award.

The Diana Award is named after the late Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales, and established in 1999 by a board chaired by former United Kingdom Prime

Minister Gordon Brown and the Spencer family as well as Prince William the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Harry.

“When the pandemic started and lockdowns were announced, my family and I knew how big a need there was to support our communities,” related Nieto. “The lockdown was meant to last for only a month but even then, we already knew what a month’s worth of unemployment meant

PRINCESS DIANA
page 18

Sanya Lopez on Pia Wurtzbach’s offer to train her as beauty queen

For the longest time, people have been pushing Sanya Lopez to join a beauty pageant.

Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach even actually offered to help train her.

“Whenever you’re ready, we’re here waiting for you,” Pia said in an interview.

Well, is she?

With Miss Universe Philippines recently opening its



door to applicants, Sanya was asked if she is finally planning to make a go for it.

The dusky Bulakeña admitted with a smile that she was “flattered” to hear Pia’s

suggestion.

She said she wants to “try joining (a beauty pageant)” but not now.

Apparently, her current schedule prevents her from even considering the idea.

“As of now, I have lots of good projects with GMA so it’s hard,” she said in Filipino.

But she’s not closing her door on the notion.

She shared, “If that’s what fate has in store for me in the future, well, let’s see...”

Sanya is currently busy with “First Yaya,” as with “Agimat Ng Agila.”



EVENTS

1. Katherine Reyes graduates. 2. Ricky Ventocilla celebrates a birthday. 3. Skyea D’aoust celebrates her birthday.



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RISE Artists Studio talent Shanaia Gomez



12

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On behalf of our team, thank you to our colleagues, nominated and finalist, and thank you to our patrons whose votes placed us in such exalted company!
Keep everyone safe, better days will return and we will celebrate!
God Bless us all.



GRADUATIONS
4. Arielle Perez
5. Mom Gina Baterna with daughter Lizzy Trovato
6. Lizzy Trovato
7. Krystal Castillo
8 Chiara Silo



BIRTHDAYS



1. Hermie Esguerra celebrates his birthday at Capra's Restaurant; 2. Luth celebrates Hermie's birthday at Capra's restaurant with (PHOTO 3) granddaughter Zane and her friend.



9. Zane Ojha celebrates her graduation with parents Marie and Len; 10. Philip Beloso, Taste of Manila founder, Congen Castro and Danny, owner of Harina pose at the Filipino Heritage month wreath-laying at Bathurst and Wilson parkette; 11-12. Decor with Philippine themes were made courtesy of Honeylen Tan.



Jayda proves she's born to be a star in first major concert

Kapamilya songstress Jayda is definitely the next big thing to watch out for as she went all out with fierce and heartfelt performances in her first-ever major concert.



Kung Naging Tayo," "M.U.," as well as tracks from her recently released debut album, title track "Bahagi" and "Tunay." The rising superstar also proved to be incomparable among her contemporaries as she showed off her amazing skills as an instrumentalist, singing multiple times during the concert while playing the piano, acoustic guitar, and electric guitar. Jayda was also joined by her guest KD Estrada, who sang a duet of her composition "Perfectly Imperfect" with her. She also paid tribute to her loving parents through a performance of "Points of View" and "Bakit Pa?" with her special guest and mom Jessa Zaragoza, and a solo presentation of her single with

Darren Espanto "Sana Tayo Na," which was composed by her dad, Dingdong Avanzado. Embracing her OPM roots when she gave life to "Sana Tayo Na" last year, Jayda told her concert viewers, "Full circle moment din ito, since my dad wrote this over two decades ago. Hindi pa ako pinapanganak and way before he met my mom. Over the past few years, he was looking for someone to sing it and that someone was me all along." Aside from her own songs, Jayda also performed covers of pop hits like Dua Lipa's "Levitating" Lady Gaga's "Always Remember Us This Way" and "I'll Never Love Again," and Olivia Rodrigo's "Driver's License."



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Miss Universe Philippines announces no minimum height requirement for pageant

Miss Universe Philippines 2020 Rabiya Mateo Never mind the height, but are you the next Miss Universe Philippines?

For the first time in national pageantry, the Miss Universe Philippines announced that it has removed its minimum height requirements for candidates who wished joined the competition. This was revealed by the MUP on its official Facebook account on June 8. "No minimum height requirement," read one of the requirements of MUP on art card.

Other requirements:

- * at least 18 years of age and under 28 years of age at the time of Miss Universe Philippines pageant.
- * must be a Filipino citizen and a Philippine passport holder
- * female, never been married or borne children.

The winner will represent the Philippines at the 70th Miss Universe beauty pageant, which will be held either in December 2021 or January 2022.

WTFu (What the FU) by MR. FU: Lucy's lockdown hobbies

I was with Congresswoman Lucy Torres-Gomez virtually for two consecutive days. (kami na ang virtual friends!) For the first day, I hosted the "Kamustahan with the Gomezes via zoom with her husband Mayor Richard Gomez (live from Ormoc sila!) and some members of the press and media. The following day, Cong. Lucy guested on our digital show with Lolit Solis and Cristy Fermin, still on Zoom. (Zoom Queen ang lola nyo!)

Cong. Lucy still exudes that regal aura when she speaks. (dinaig ang Regal films at papakinggan mo talaga sya!) Her words are always inspiring, but she has this "comedic timing" now and then. (feeling ko komedyante yan sa past life nya!) She would even text me hilarious messages while the virtual presscon was on going. (yung pigil na pigil ako sa tawa dahil ako nga yung host!) She also did that during her guesting on our online show. (well ganyan naman talaga kabaliwan namin!)

She has been in a Work From Home set-up in Ormoc since the lockdown, while Mayor Goma is busy



fulfilling his duties and responsibilities in their town. During her free time, she would concentrate on her "do it yourself" crafts. (mahilig magbutingting!) She even made several sets of pillow cases and initiated renovations in their home bedrooms. (parang karpintero lang!) Mayor Goma, on the other hand, would include the shoot of his online cooking show in his schedule as his stress reliever. (patikim po Mayor!)

The couple is happy with the "probinsya life" especially Cong. Lucy who is a proud "probinsyana". She even has this emotional attachment with Mayor Goma's pets in their farm. (mapa manok or baboy!) She took time to give them names and understand the personality of each animal. (walang sinabi si Kuya Kim!) This is the reason why she stopped eating cooked chicken. (pero baboy kaya pa raw nya kumain!)

Their only daughter Juliana stays with them in Ormoc. Showbiz Insiders speculate that Juliana is playing good music with athlete Miguel Bautista but Cong. Lucy and Mayor Goma would not want to

Woman sues Tony Labrusca for acts of lasciviousness

The actor also faces a criminal complaint for aggravated physical injuries for choking another victim



Tony Labrusca faces two counts of aggravated acts of lasciviousness complaints for allegedly exposing a woman's chest and forcefully pulling her towards his lap. The actor also faced a complaint of aggravated slight physical injuries for choking a man in the same night. According to the statement, Labrusca allegedly unstrapped the complainant's top to expose her chest and forcefully pulled her by the waist to sit on his lap. The actor also allegedly "aggressively choked" the other complainant who is the brother of jewelry brand owner Drake Dustin Ibay. Tongol noted that Labrusca had been drinking, and was seen by "not less than 4 witnesses."

Labrusca had previously been the subject of a procedural probe by the Bureau of Immigration in 2019 for after he shouted at an immigration officer after arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Bretman Rock proud of his 'self-made' success, credits Filipino culture for work ethics

Internet sensation Bretman Rock couldn't help but feel prouder for all the achievements he got the past years. "I present to you the 3 other coves I did for @nylonmanila (glittering flashes of sparkles and Philippine flag emojis) I hope you guys can feel how magical this moment is for Me... MOM I'm a f*cking Cover Girl," he declared. Then he added: "What am I most proud of? .. My Damn Self."

"My family and I did this all on our own. I'm proud of my work ethics and the humility and compassion that I have for others that my Filipino culture (taught) me and on the same breath I am so proud of the confidence and Aloha that Hawaii nurtured me with...," he pointed out.

"I AM SO PROUD OF MYSELF YALL I WORKED SO HARD."

Recall that the international social media darling was recently featured on the cover of Nylon Manila's digital magazine issue last month. In a series of Instagram stories, the influencer noted how "important" and "iconic" his stint with the magazine was, relating his photos are his "love letter" to "all gay, queer Filipino kids out there." Some months ago, Bretman named the new Breakthrough Social Star at MTV Awards. During his speech, Bretman dedicated his recognition to all the Asian-Americans who believe in him, as well as the Pacific Islanders and the LGBTQ community.

Recall that early this year when he got his reality show titled "MTV Following: Bretman Rock."

Recently, he's back with another reality show called "30 Days: Bretman Rock" to be uploaded on his YouTube Channel, where he has 8.65 million subscribers.

Bretman is among the most followed Filipino stars, with 16.9 million Instagram followers and 4.3 million on Facebook.



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Note that Maine shared about her new song on Twitter, wishing her fans would like it.

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Pokwang says ABS-CBN bosses support her move

Now that she's officially a GMA 7 artist, Pokwang said one of the things she's looking forward to the most is working with two of show biz's biggest female comedians, Ai-Ai delas Alas and Eugene "Uge" Domingo. "I'm now in the same network as Miss Ai-Ai and Miss Uge. Maybe we can remake 'Sis' (defunct morning talk show). But since we're all titas, we can call it 'Tits'! Or why not a sitcom?" Pokwang said in a recent Zoom press conference, shortly after signing a three-year contract with the network.



Collaboration

Collaborating with Michael V—another comedy icon—and being invited to the upcoming prequel of his long-running sitcom "Pepito Manaloto" is another dream come true for Pokwang. "He's a genius! He's so intelligent and his imagination is limitless," she said. But aside from comedy, Pokwang said she would love to host a food and travel show a la Anthony Bourdain. "Hindi masamang mangarap!" she said, laughing. "I'm a big fan of his, so I couldn't accept that he is gone now. I have one of his books. And even though it is thick and heavy, I brought it with me whenever I went overseas—so I can have it signed, just in case I bump into him!"

While some people assumed that Pokwang's transfer to GMA 7 was prompted by ABS-CBN's shutdown last year, she clarified that she already had talks with executives of the Kapuso network as early as 2019. "I'm thankful for the opportunity," she said.

'Like a dream'

"I'm overflowing with gratitude and I'm excited for the projects lined up for me," she added. "This is like a dream—something I have prayed for." Pokwang said ABS-CBN did have some plans for her back then. However, there was no concrete timeline. "I'm not getting any younger, and I want to do the things I want to do while I'm still strong and able," she said, adding that the network had to juggle numerous stars that time. ABS admitted that they couldn't guarantee her work, after the shutdown. "Everything went well." Pokwang used to drive past the GMA 7 headquarters, wondering what was inside. "Before entering, I knocked on the gate first—a habit or superstition of mine ... [a] sign of respect," she said.

Brown rice nutribars for COVID-19 frontliners to be produced soon



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has announced the pilot production and distribution of vegetable protein-enriched functional food products from special purpose rice. DOST Secretary Fortunato "Boy" T. de la Peña said the project is being implemented by the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) as part of the Central Luzon Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (R&D) Consortium's (CLAARRDEC) contribution to the government's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response. CLAARRDEC is a conglomeration of 26 agencies conducting research and development in agriculture, forestry and natural resources. He said functional food products were being developed from special purpose rice to "help ease problem of availability of nutritious food during period of emergency and for vulnerable groups." Its major objective is to develop strategies and and sustain regional development goal with the end in view of maximizing the generation, verification, dissemination, exchange of information and utilization of research results.

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PRINCESS DIANA
continued from page 11

to hundreds of thousands of people both in Cainta and in the Philippines. Thus, we decided to utilize our network in order to bring as much help as we could to Cainta."

What Nicole, her family and friends carried out through the One Cainta Food Program (OCFP) they organized was to secure an initial donation of 2,000 masks from Gamesville, 50 boxes of snacks from Chocoworld, and 500 pieces of bread from Manila Catering Corporation.

Since then, the OCFP have been able to coordinate and partner with more than 30 corporations like URC, CDO, Project Smile, Gatorade, and three restaurant chains to distribute 1.1 million goods to about 400,000 people in Cainta as well as in areas in Caloocan, Pinagbuhatan in Pasig,

Cogeo, Antipolo, Bulacan, Morong, and Valenzuela to distribute the much-needed support to front liners, hospitals, and the affected communities.

Nieto was nominated the Global Changemakers Association, the Dalai Lama Fellowship, and BMB Solutions.

The nominee was judged through their impact in five key areas — vision, social impact, inspiring others, youth leadership, and service journey.

Nieto, who is the first Filipino recipient of the Diana Award, dedicated this honor to her late grandfather, who passed away this past February.

"This award is also something I dedicate to my late grandfather, Renato Martinez," said Nicole. "He passed away last February but was one of the most loving and generous people I, and anyone

who knew him, know. This award and everything it stands for is something I dedicate to him. And I hope that by receiving this award, I open the door up for more Filipinos to receive it, too. I know I'm not the only change maker in the country and I look forward to working with and supporting many more Filipino change makers nationwide."

"Most definitely, I am inspired now more than ever both to continue my work and to grow in my advocacy and leadership. I know that, unlike other awards — those we receive during school graduations or championship games, this is not the culmination of a job well done but, rather, the start of even bigger roads and journeys ahead."

Nicole played in the UAAP from 2013-16 won one gold and three silver medals.

'Di kasi kami naba-bother': Maris Racial on May-December love affair with Rico Blanco

MANILA, Philippines — Kapamilya actress Maris Racial said that she's not bothered with her May-December love affair with vocalist Rico Blanco.

Maris said she and Rico have a normal relationship even though they have a 25-year age gap.

"It's really a normal relationship," Maris said.

"In their world, people may have opinions about age gap and relationships. But regarding the issue of age, we're okay, 'di kasi kami naba-bother," she added.

Maris said she's surprised that the public and her family are in favor of her relationship with the vocalist behind



numerous hit songs.

"I told my mom about it, she was first on my list. Surprisingly naintindihan niya. Inakala ko maraming magagalit pero kabaligtaran ang nang-yari," she said.

"Walang mawawala sa'yo 'pag magpa-katotoo ka. Kung wala kang pretensions, a lot of people will gravitate towards you. Dala-dala ko 'yan up to now na maging truthful lang," she added.

GOD'S LITTLE PARADISE

Another gem of the Visayas, Bohol's Historical significance extends way back to the blood compact between boholano chieftain sikatuna and the Spanish Conquistador, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, in 1565.

Scenic Bohol Casts an enigmatic charm drawn from the many archaic mementos spread throughout the oval-shaped island: from the chocolate hills and the tarsier to the 16th century watchtowers and Jesuit baroque mission churches. The Chocolate Hills that abound in Central Bohol, two have been developed into top class resorts.

Sunset @ Sta. Fe Beach

Chocolate Hills

Balicasag Resort & Diving Spot

Clown Fish, Flowers & Loboc River

One of the Rare Faunas found in the Phillippine archipelago, the Tarsier is the smallest primate in the world. It is a nocturnal primate measuring from four to fice Inches, with a tail that is longer than body.

Those interested in tarsier watching are always welcomed by the Boholanos to see the famous primate in its natural adobe up the hills in the town of Corella

A tropical havel of beauty, the coastline of province is skimmed by gentle coves and white sand beaches. You can fins some of the country's great dive sights here. Balicasag in Bohol is one of the most popular dives in visayas.

A black coral forest is among its main attractions but virtually anywhere you drop in is sure to be rewarding. another major attraction, Cabillao is renowned for the hammerhead sharks that shoal around the clear waters. Large pelagics are very common here. And if you are really luck, you can find yourself swimming with a passing school of dolphins.

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Comedian Jimmy Santos' side job inspires netizens

Jimmy Santos recently shared that he has a side job as a meat vendor at a local market.

Comedian Jimmy Santos, also popularly known as vlogger Jimmy Saints, was seen doing a side job as a meat vendor at the Pampanga Market located in Angeles City. In the recent weeks, a lot of people have witnessed the showbiz personality working at the market which led to photos and videos trending on social media.

Admittedly, Jimmy shared he lost his showbiz career due to the pandemic but instead of wallowing in defeat, the comedian chose to rise above adversity, saying in his trademark English speaking style, "I will pick up from where I fell."

As shown in 'Tito Jimmy's' vlog, he started off by riding a tricycle to the market and talked about the variety of goods being sold there. The video also showcased a detailed overview of what he is tasked to sell as a meat vendor.

Many netizens were inspired by the video and sent well wishes to Jimmy on his new job. They also encouraged him to keep on vlogging.



Sotto, who generously gave the humble comedian a house and another vehicle. These acts of kindness inspired other celebrities to help Jimmy out as well.

On Instagram, comedienne Giselle Sanchez remarked that those who helped the former basketball player are like God's blessings made present at the right time.

She was quick to commend Jimmy for having the right disposition despite life's trials that came his way. He bravely went through the adversities that came his way and continued to have faith in God.

As of now, Jimmy has 244k subscribers on his YouTube channel. His video selling meat in the market has gotten 602,000 views in just two weeks.

MANILA - Fil-Am actress Aina Dumlao did not pursue an acting career

TV host Willie Revillame was quick to react to the vlog too and provided aid by giving Jimmy a fruit stand business and a car. This was shortly followed by his former Eat Bulaga co-host 'Bossing' Vic

in the Philippines, thinking she was not "enough" to fit the beauty standards in order to thrive in the industry.

But she has one piece of advice to those aspiring to become an actor like herself: "Go for it, you're enough."

"Hindi ko alam [I don't] how the industry works in the Philippines but I know what the reasons were then that prevented me from having that dream. I didn't think I was pretty enough, my skin wasn't white enough, I didn't think I was tall enough," she said.

"But to all the girls and boys who have been reaching out to me saying that they want to be an actor, go for it. You're enough. You don't have to change anything about yourself," she added.

Dumlao, who recently played the role of Filipina nurse Gerlie Bernardo on Grey's Anatomy, said her acting career started in the U.S. when her husband encouraged her to pursue what has been a dream of hers all along.

"Not to put down the industry in the Philippines but it's like, people who look like me...hindi ko naman na-entertain ever to become an artista in the Philippines when I grew up there," she said.



Filipina beauty queen makes it on New York's Times Square

MANILA – Miss Globe 2019 second runner-up Leren Mae Bautista took to social media over the weekend, saying her digital billboard was for Pinay Magazine. "Good morning, Pilipinas! We made it to Times Square, NYC!" she said in an Instagram post. "I humbly thank everyone behind this milestone. Dati pangarap ko lang makapunta ng New York to perform and show my talent," she added. "When the time is right, the Universe will let it happen. Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings." Bautista's Times Square stint was also reposted by Binibining Pilipinas, the national pageant that crowned her as the country's representative in Miss Globe. In a Facebook post, it used the hashtags #IAMFilipina and #IAMBinibini. Bautista is set to crown her successor as Bb. Pilipinas Globe on July 11 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. Three other reigning queens will also pass on their respective titles.

The pageant will be shown on A2Z channel as well as on the Bb. Pilipinas YouTube page.

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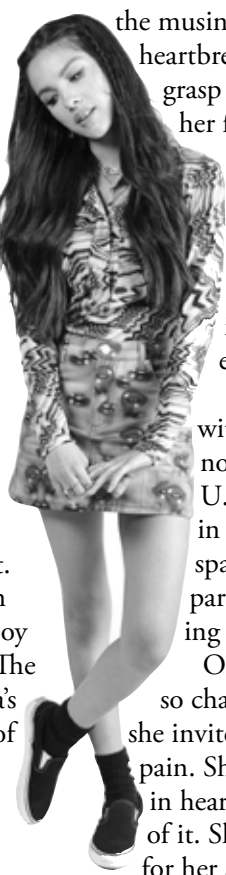
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Olivia Rodrigo not sour at all

Sour is the title of Olivia Rodrigo's debut album. Why Sour? I do not know. But there is nothing sour, acerbic, sore, angry or rancid as in rotten milk about the album. In fact, while a lot of other artists seem to be cowering under the colossal of-fense launched by the sweet, fatty Butter of BTS, Olivia is giving those overly cute boys from Korea a big run for their money. BTS may be lording it over the Hot 100 four weeks in a row but Olivia is at No. 2 with Good 4 U and she has eight other singles in the chart. Déjà Vu, Drivers License, Happier, Favorite Crime, Brutal, Jealousy, Jealousy, Enough

For You and One Step Forward Three Steps Back. That is almost all of the cuts in Sour. This girl, an 18-year-old singer and songwriter who is part-Filipino, has got it made. She is also No. 1 in the Artist 100 while Good 4 U is No. 1 in the Global 200. The song is the No. 2 Song of the Summer and also No. 2 in the Global Chart which ranks songs' standing outside the US. You all know which one is No. 1. But then this piece is not about them, but Olivia. It is a fact that most young girls who want to get into the music business nowadays look up to Taylor Swift. Olivia is no different. So she has taken a failed relationship and a particular boy as her main subject. Just like Swiftie. The guy is said to be Joshua Bassett, Olivia's leading man in the TV series version of High School Musical. Bassett should be put in chains for being a cad, but the way Olivia dealt with the experience has resulted in one great album. Some might initially dismiss Sour as

the musings of a young girl over her first heartbreak. But Olivia has an instinctive grasp of the right words to express her feelings. She sings with utmost sincerity and hits the right spot in her listener every time. She also knows music like a pro and sets her poetry in an assortment of pop styles I find so surprising in someone of her age and experience. Recorded while in lockdown with Dan Nigro who I am sure is now the hottest producer in the U.S. of A, Sour explores punk rock in Brutal, sweet ballads in Traitor, sparkling alt-pop in Déjà Vu, even pared-down acoustic in the enchanting Enough for You and more. Olivia is a born storyteller who is so charming in her self-deprecation, she invites cheers while singing about pain. She did everything right. Wallow in heartbreak, OK. But make cash out of it. She got that and more. Waiting for her second album has become truly exciting.



Lovi Poe's intimate photo with unidentified hunk creates huge buzz

Netizens are agog with Lovi Poe posting on social media a photo of her hugging a man who is definitely not her boyfriend Monty Blencowe. There are those who are wondering if Lovi has split with Monty. Some surmise it is just a teaser for a new project. The photo shows the actress-singer hugging the unidentified guy while on a stage, complete with a spotlight and red curtains. Her caption read, "There's a place where we lost all the love that we had..." She also used the hashtag "#comingsoon." Adding to the mystery is that of Lovi tagging model, actor and fitness coach Eric Guilmette. Quick to react was Benjamin Alves, who wrote, "Selos me." The photo has garnered over 50,000 likes.

Yassi Pressman happy with hosting gig

Yassi Pressman admits her elation one her maiden hosting job via TV 5's latest game show offering called, "Rolling In It." "Oh yes! I'm proud because I'm the personal choice of the show's original creators in the United Kingdom to host the Philippine version. Since August 8, 2020, it's number one in the UK," she says. Yassi is grateful to Robi Domingo for giving her pointers. "That's right! He called me up, gave me tips on how to do the job and said, 'Just go, just be yourself and have fun!' Thank you Robi!" The pretty star also wants to thank her producers for entrusting the show to her. "Of course, my deepest gratitude to 'Rolling In It' UK' and 'Rolling In It Philippines.' Then, there's TV 5, Signal and Viva. Thank you for trusting me. It's an honor to be here. For me, it's such a huge challenge but more than

anything, I'm so excited to entertain both the contestants and viewers," Yassi avers.

John Lloyd Cruz denies romantic rumors with Katrina Halili

Returning actor John Lloyd Cruz denied that he and Kapuso actress Katrina Halili are dating. Joe Barrameda texted John Lloyd, asking what's the real score between him and Katrina. "Katrina is basically family. Walang basehan yan kuya jo," John Lloyd replied to Joe. Romantic rumors between the two rose after Katrina greets John Lloyd on her Instagram account. Katrina posted photos with John Lloyd, greeting the actor on his special day. "Belated happy birthday @johnlloyd-cruz83," Katrina wrote in the caption. In the same post, Katrina also posted photos of her bonding with John Lloyd's son Elias.



Lugaw is life!

What you need to know about DOST's ready-to-eat chicken arroz caldo



Ready-to-eat (RTE) Arroz Caldo is now ready for commercialization. It is one of the home-grown technologies developed by the Department of Science and Technology- Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) under the "Pack of Hope" project. DOST Senior Science Research Specialist Cherry Luz Moico said the ITDI researchers developed the product in 2014 "to address immediate hunger of disaster victims." "The Philippines is vulnerable to natural and man-made calamities. During calamities and disasters, communities are hounded by lack of food supplies, water supplies and nutritional food for children." "So in order for these problems to be addressed, the researchers of the ITDI have developed technology that will address immediate hunger during calamities, second is to provide victims with safe food through longer shelf life of the product, and third, is to aid in quick response in the distribution of goods to the victims," Moico explained.

Kim Molina feeling 25 kahit 30 yrs old na

July 1 ang 30th birthday ni Kim Molina. Pero 25 years old lang daw ang kanyang pakiramdam na epekto ng mga karakter na ginagampanan niya sa pelikula. Dahil pandemic, Kim and bf Jerald Napoles satyed home and cancel the Bohol trip. Sabi ni Kim, "Feeling ko po, 25 years old pa lang ako. "Maybe because most of my movie roles were early to late 20s lagi ang edad ko. "I still feel young and, feeling ko, debut ko lang today!" natawang sabi ni Kim. Para sa lahat ang nag-iisang birthday wish ni Kim: "Ang makapagpa-vaccine na po ang lahat! "Yun po talaga ang birthday wish ko, hindi na para sa akin pero para po sa lahat para makagalaw na tayo ulit nang normal at makasama na ang family members natin. "Kapag okay na ang sitwasyon, makapag-birthday party na ulit nang maramihan, hindi lang ako but all of us na magbi-birthday."



SHANAIA GOMEZ from page 13

content for various platforms. We dream to grow bigger and go global. To see our artists perform alongside the best artists in the world is what we will strive to achieve," Dyogi said. "Star Magic will also start creating content that will entertain, inform and educate our audience locally and globally. This will be a family that learns together, collaborates and grows together." He also announced the integration of all management groups in ABS-CBN under the Star Magic umbrella and strategic partnerships and co-management deals with various independent managers. "This is only the beginning. We enjoin you to be part of the magic," he said. RISE Artists Studio talents, such as Gigi De Lana, Zach Castaneda, Shanaia Gomez, Karina Bautista, Aljon Mendoza, Jayda,



and "Hello, Stranger" breakout star JC Alcantara also signed their contracts on the historic day. Moreover, artists from partner talent agencies signed on with ABS-CBN including Alyssa Muhlach and Kiko Estrada from Arnold Vegafria's ALV Events International, and artists from Ogie Alcasid's ATEAM. Other artists from Star Music, Polaris, Star Hunt's Ashley Del Mundo, and Andi Abaya likewise inked a deal with the network's talent management arm. One talent from Rise studio is Shanaia Gomez (PHOTO). While others, at one point, hesitated if they wanted to try their hand in the industry, in Shanaia's case, being in show business is a choice that she would make over and over again. She first auditioned for commercials and at ABS-CBN back in 2016. But surprisingly, she only got a callback when she had already left and landed in Canada. That life-changing call made her decide to go back to the Philippines and stay for good. The decision led to several commercials and to her becoming a contestant of "Idol Phil-

ippines 2019." However, the pandemic led her to pack her bags anew and head back home to Canada. But, just when all hope was lost, she got a call to audition for Rise Artists Studio. Now that she's officially a Star Magic artist, Shanaia dreams of working with Kathryn Bernardo and Liza Soberano, among others.

Candid SPOOF

(Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



Taste of Manila founder Rolly Mangante receives the 2021 "Quincentennial Organization Award" from the Philippines Consul General in Toronto, Orontes V. Castro.

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