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Vol. 1, No. 1

Citizen

March 8, 2023

Philippine economy grows at the fastest pace in 40 years

The Philippine economy has ended 2022 with the fastest growth in more than 40 years underpinned by a robust final quarter, but analysts and policymakers warn that a global slowdown and soaring inflation will make for a difficult year ahead.

Manila's fourth quarter forecast-beating annual growth of 7.2 percent reported by the statistics agency, compared with the 6.5 percent pace expected in a Reuters poll, brought full-year expansion to 7.6 percent, the fastest since 1976 and above the government's target of 6.5 to 7.5 percent.

Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan attributed the stellar fourth-quarter performance to strong domestic demand, a rise in jobs, and "revenge" spending following the lifting of pandemic curbs and full reopening in the last three months of the year. "We are confident that we will remain in our high growth

trajectory," Balisacan told a media briefing on Thursday.

He said China's reopening will be a boon for the Philippine economy, while protecting the purchasing power of Filipinos and ensuring food security would remain priorities for the government as the public grapples with high inflation.

Balisacan said the government was sticking with its 6 to 7 percent growth target for 2023, but that is not without risks, with the global economy expected to slow further this year, roiled by the Ukraine conflict, while rising inflation could lead to further policy tightening.

If inflation soars again, then multiple businesses would be greatly affected as well as their consumers. Prices in the market would increase furthermore, resulting to a negative effect for both business owners and consumers.

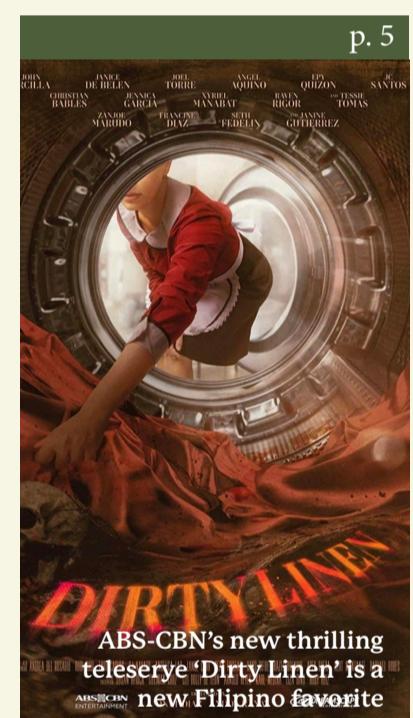
BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN & JULIA HORLADOR



The Philippine economy grew 7.2 percent in the final quarter of 2022.
Image by [Lisa Marie David/Reuters]



Jeepney drivers start week-long strike on March 6



ABS-CBN's new thrilling teleserye 'Dirty Linen' is a new Filipino favorite

Energy saving: 7 a.m.-4 p.m. government work hours proposed



This was part of the recommendations made by economic managers to President Marcos, deemed as the most expensive in Southeast Asia, according to Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno. Image by [Mong Pintolo]

To conserve energy in the face of rising global energy costs, government agencies were urged to start working at 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and to limit the temperature of air conditioning in offices to 25 degrees Celsius.

This was one of the recommendations made to President Marcos by economic managers during a meeting at Malacañang yesterday to address the country's high energy costs, which are regarded as the most expensive in Southeast Asia, according to Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno.

Diokno stated during a briefing at Malacañang that the economic team proposed the creation of an Energy Conservation Plan, with a focus on the demand side.

"Because we cannot influence the supply side ... the prices of gasoline in the world market, but we can start conserving," he stated.

To save energy, the National Economic and Development Authority proposed a four-day workweek with increased hours of duty per day in 2022.

Former socioeconomic planning secretary Karl Kendrick Chua stated that the Philippines implemented similar changes during the Gulf War in the 1990s and again in 2008, when fuel prices rose.

According to a report from think tank Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, energy prices in the Philippines were the most expensive in South-

east Asia in 2019, at around \$0.20 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) or P10 per kWh.

Multiple air conditioners can be found in schools, houses, malls, offices, and restaurants; but setting and limiting the temperature to 25 degrees Celsius could be energy saving but may not be enough to keep the room cold, as it varies on the size of the rooms, the number of air conditioners installed, and the effect on each individuals.

In addition, considering the hot, humid climate in the Philippines, it would be totally understandable if the air conditioner temperature is set lower than 25 degrees Celsius.

BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN & JULIA HORLADOR

Jeepney drivers start week-long strike on March 6



People showing support for the 'No to Jeepney Phaseout' protest.

Image by [Lisa Marie David/Reuters]

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

Starting March 6, 2023, at least 100,000 jeepney drivers and operators nationwide go on a weeklong transportation strike, unless President Marcos shuts down the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines which states that they will effectively phase out traditional jeepneys, according to a transport group leader.

In an interview with Mody Floranda, president of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (PiSTON), said that everything is set for the protests they plan to stage for the week and that only an executive order from Malacañang can stop them.

He said the protests begin at 7 a.m. and that the protest actions will be held in Southern Tagalog, Region IV-A, Bicol, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Region 1, Bulacan, Baguio City and Metro Manila.

"Here in Metro Manila, we will assemble at UP Diliman and from there, we will (form) a caravan... to LTFRB (Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board in Quezon City), proceed to Delta and then Quezon Avenue, and we will proceed to Mendiola (in Manila) to ask the President to act on the plight of the public transport," Floranda said.

When asked about the Malacañang statement that 94% of jeepney drivers are not joining the strike, Floranda responds: "The success of the strike is not measured on the extent of the mobilization, but the legitimate issue that the drivers and operators are presenting."

Piston believes the President should issue an executive order in support of the public transport sector, because the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the LTFRB would insist on modernization.

"We are not against modernization. What we are opposing is its provision that we need to join a new cooperative or form a new cooperative. We are in favor of forming a cooperative, but it should be composed of operators and drivers and not manipulated by big corporations," Floranda states.

"We are returning the question to the LTFRB: how can you cancel our franchise when you have already removed the franchises of traditional jeepneys and what we have is a temporary permit to operate?" quipped Floranda.

Aside from Piston, members of transport group Manibela, led by Mar Valbuena, are joining the one-week transport strike.

Sentro Artista celebrates Women's Month through the art community

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

In celebration of Women's Month, Sentro Artista paid tribute to some of the most influential female artists of the country.

One of them notably being Inday Cadapan, who was a first prize winner of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP)'s Higante Contest in 1985, a Top 50 finisher in Philip Morris' art contest in 1980, and a Foundation University awardee in 2003.

Magel Cadapan, the only child of the late Inday Cadapan and now a working consultant in the Arts and Culture Tourism Office of Antipolo City, thanked Sentro Artista for honoring her mother's contribution to the art world of our country.

"I was approached by Marj [Ruiz] through a common friend and she asked me how we can honor my mother. I sensed the sincerity of her offer and I'm so thankful for this tribute," Cadapan said.

Atty. Lorna Patajo-Kapunan, CCP vice chairman, expressed her appreciation to Sentro Artista creative director Marjorie Ruiz for providing a venue for women visual artists, jewelry designers, and musicians with their gallery at Arton Strip in Quezon City.

"There is an artist in all of us," Kapunan said after the ribbon cutting. "I am very thankful to Jay [Ruiz] and wife Marjorie for hosting an event like this."

Also present at the event are broadcaster Rikki Mathay and artist Helena Alegre. And besides honoring Cadapan's legacy, Sentro Artista featured the works also of Lydia Velasco, Daisy Carlos, Michelline Syjuco, Maxine Syjuco, Fatima Baquiran, Melissa Yeung Yap, Tanya Gaisano Lee, Mylene Quito, Kahlila Baquiran, Ayen Quias, among others.

"This event is very exciting because I want to champion the creativity of Filipinas from different generations and we

gathered a very eclectic mix of contemporary and traditional art styles," Ruiz said.

"There are painters, sculptors, and there are singers as well," she added. "It's really time for our Filipino women to show their creativity in the arts." Also joining the event were Jazz singers Melinda Torre, Anna Torre and Coleen de Guzman of Baihana who serenaded the guests.



Sentro Artista ribbon cutting.
Image by [The Philippine Star]

OH MY GULAY! Surge of rice, onions, and more cause disappointment to farmers

According to Calingasan, farmers were classified as consumers in 2022 because they were compelled to buy onions at a higher price since they were unable to preserve their produce, owing to a shortage of storage facilities in the province and in Metro Manila. Farmers were allowed to cultivate onions on 3,485 hectares of land last year, but only around 5% of their yield could be accommodated in storage facilities. Farmers were forced to sell 95% of their produce to merchants.

"Last year dahil nalugi ang kanilang farm, nag-suicide ang kanyang asawa. Milyon-milyon ang utang nila dahil don sa harabas." In the past years, Sombilla said that the prices of onions do not exceed P200 to P250 per kilogram, and they were also surprised that the market price had reached almost P800 per kilogram.

"Ngayon pa lang po sila sana nakabawi pero dahil may importasyon po, wala pang 100 days ang kanilang onions po, kailangan nang i-harvest 85 to 90 days," Laceda explained. Laceda then urged the Senate authorities present to purchase agricultural products at a price that benefits both farmers and consumers.

SINAG President Rosendo So indicated on Sunday that retail rice prices might rise further in 2023, following a P2 per kilo hike in December 2022. In a radio interview, So stated that, while he anticipates

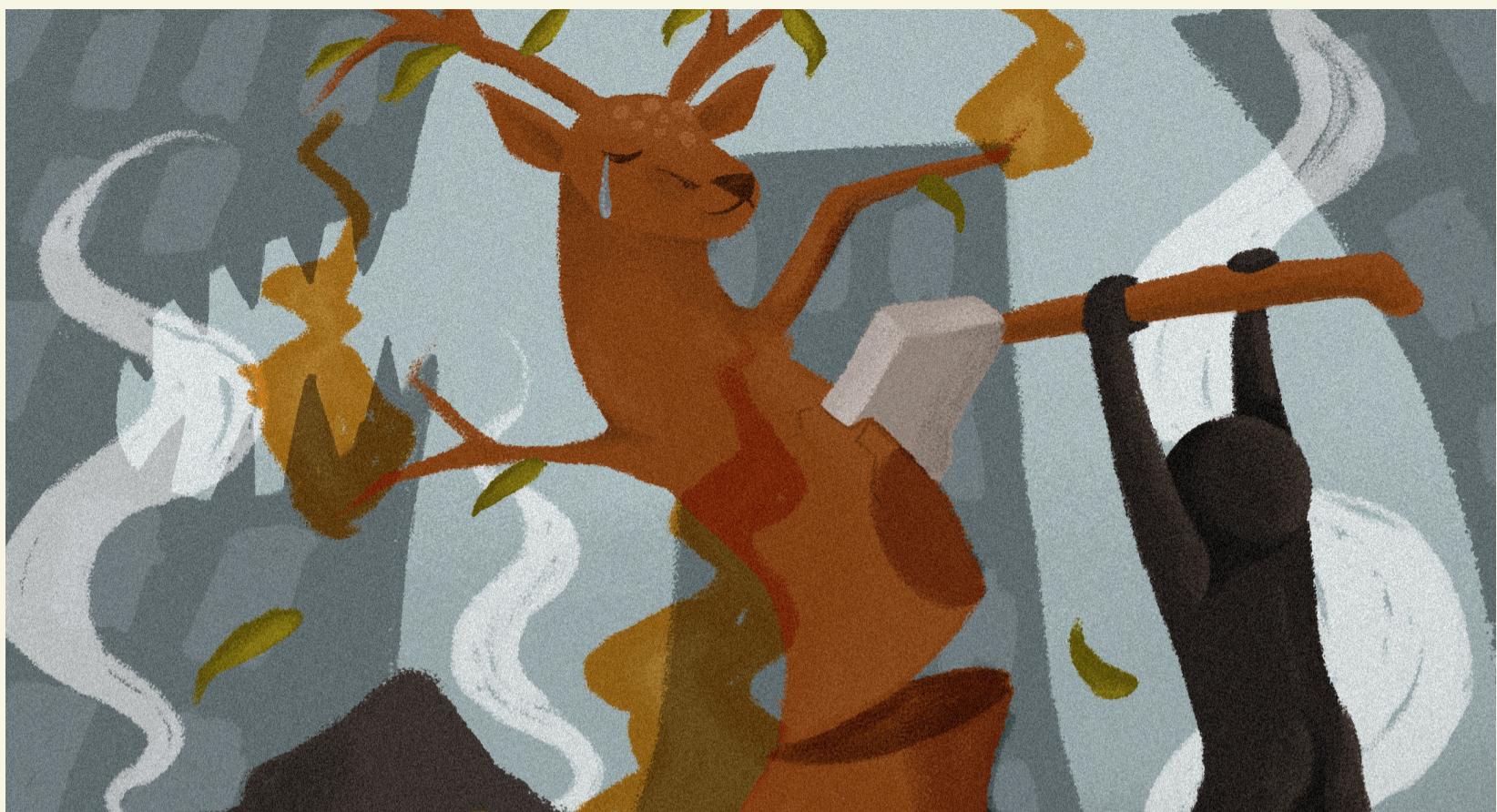
a stable supply of the basic food in the next two weeks, price volatility in grains could be expected due to an increase in the farm gate price of palay. "We can see that the retail price of rice might go higher since the purchase price of palay has climbed to P21.50 (per kilo) and it could yet adjust to P22 (per kilo)," he added. "If the buying price of palay increases, of course, the retail prices will also go up. So far, in the next two weeks, there will still be no adjustment," So added.

BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN



Price surge of rice, onions, and more affect farmers. Image by [Philippine Daily Inquirer]

It's time to invest in our only home



The threat of climate change, which has been around for far longer than the pandemic, will still need to be addressed even after the COVID-19 threat has been significantly decreased.

The Philippines has recently been plagued by extreme weather events that have killed thousands of people and ruined billions worth of crops, infrastructure, and private property. Manila Bay, one of the

bay areas long thought to be shielded from the severity of tropical storms, was struck by damaging storm surges that gave rise to severe flash floods.

Food security is also under risk from global warming because of the detrimental consequences that rising temperatures are having on traditional fishing, farming, and agro-forestry areas. Food supply routes are constrained as natural ecosystems collapse.

Governments are urged to support green business practices and to motivate people and organizations to advance a resilient future. The takeaway is that employing green business strategies is not just moral but also profitable in the long run. Research has demonstrated a link between-sustainable business practices, stock prices, and overall business performance.

Sustainability is the key

to prosperity for the private sector, national economy, and the environment. Particularly in the Philippines, which scientists say is one of the nations most susceptible to the negative effects of climate change, this needs to be internalized. Today is Earth Day, and the message is that maintaining a healthy planet is essential, not optional.

BY AARON MENIABLE

Fighting Corruption in Today's Time

BY AARON MENIABLE
& JULIA HORLADOR

The Philippines has strict regulations in place to combat several types of corruption. In addition to the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, there is a Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officers and Employees that forbids doing things like accepting lavish gifts from those doing business with government agencies.

Like with other laws in this nation, enforcement is a major concern. Every day, people violate that code of conduct in numerous and different ways, with the potential penalty of five years in prison and a fine. Systems and practices provide provisions for accepting grease money. This is

one of the main obstacles to investments that create jobs.

The absence of political will is a separate problem. Before lawmakers approved the addition of corruption among the predicate offenses covered by the Anti-Money Laundering Act, it took years and threats of an international financial blacklist. But nonetheless, corrupt public officials might still find sympathizers in the judiciary even when the AML Council enforces the AMLA.

Very frequently, justice is sold to the highest bidder, making even the strictest rules ineffective. Moreover, the Office of the Ombudsman is not even permitted to independently look into potential

corrupt judges. The Supreme Court has instructed the Ombudsman to hold off on opening a criminal investigation until after its own administrative investigation of magistrates accused of impropriety is complete. Before the Office of the Ombudsman can get a hold of a judge or justice who has been accused of corruption, he can already be dead.

Thus it comes as no surprise that corruption is rife with impunity. In addition to being exempt from penalty, those who abuse public office for personal gain are also allowed to run for office again. It is ironic how these law makers are supposed to create a better society, but are the ones who violate it.

MANA

JULIA HORLADOR



#DareToBe braveHER, boldHER, strongHER Watsons' celebrates women this March



Watsons' launches new campaign #DareToBe.

Image by [Watsons]

BY AARON MENIABLE

Every March, the Philippines joins a large number of other nations in recognizing the contributions made by women and raising awareness of issues that concern them.

With the introduction of the Dare to Be campaign, Watsons builds on the success of The New Beautiful campaign by urging young women to challenge preconceived notions.

Everyone has the capacity to overcome their own limitations and overcome the stigma that society imposes upon them, according to Watsons and the 90 million female Watsons Club members.

A.S. conducted an inter-

view study with 11,000 women. Consequently, more than half classified themselves as "unconfident." The Dare to Be campaign attempts to change this by spotlighting women who are breaking down limits and showing the way for others.

"Women have the strength to be the best version of themselves and to transcend societal limitations." "Watsons is committed to empowering women to find their faith in themselves. We know they can Dare to Be bigger than any barrier, bolder than any bias and stronger than their struggles."

The bravery of frontline healthcare workers through-

out the pandemic encouraged any to choose this fulfilling career path. For Women in Medicine, which seeks to give women educational opportunities to become global leaders in healthcare, Watsons and Operation Smile partnered.

Women in Medicine, which aims to give women educational avenues to become global leaders in healthcare, is a collaboration between Watsons and Operation Smile.

To advance cleft surgery and comprehensive care, empower women in global medicine, and increase their possibilities in other disciplines, Watsons has supported all-women

medical programs in low- and middle-income nations. Via its Give a Smile hallmark global community program, it has funded over 6,000 free corrective procedures.

By hosting a number of events, workshops, and mentoring opportunities throughout the month, Watsons is actively connecting with its customer base. They are run by influential women who have defined success for themselves and have built their own careers on it.

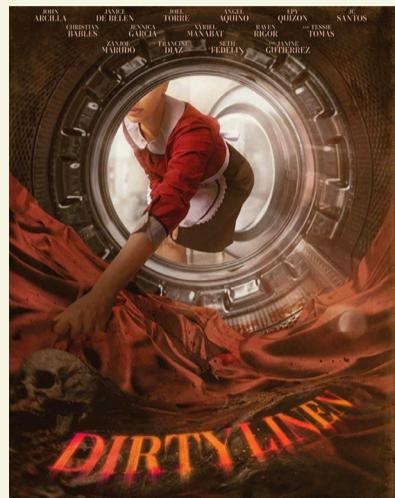
Watsons empowers women through the Dare To Be campaign to discover their best selves.

“

Women have the strength to transcend societal limitations.

Malina Ngai,
CEO of A.S. Watson

ABS-CBN's new thrilling teleserye 'Dirty Linen' is a new Filipino favorite



Dirty Linen directed by Onat Diaz and Andoy Ranay. Image by [ABS-CBN]

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

ABS-CBN releases a new tv series starring Janine Gutierrez, Zanjoe Marudo, Francine Diaz, and more, thriller 'Dirty Linen' packs a twisted revenge story that is surely on the Filipino's watchlist.

The Philippine teleserye media has been improving rapidly since 2022 from the success of Maria Clara at Ibarra,

the Gen Z retelling of Noli Me Tangere, to the acclaimed Doctor Foster adaptation of The Broken Marriage Vow, to the ever-trending Darna. It's been a great year for the Filipinos and the entertainment scene and it seems like it's not slowing down any time soon as the Pinoys are beginning to add to their watchlist ABS-CBN Entertainment and Dreamscape Entertainment's suspenseful, thrilling, and action-packed newest offering, Dirty Linen.

Unveiled to the public in May, the show began production in July and was announced to be helmed by the esteemed TV directors Andoy Ranay (The Good Son and The Broken Marriage Vow) and Onat Diaz (maker of Wildflower). And just like in the Maja Salvador-starring, four-season spanning Wildflower, Diaz finds himself to be leading a similar worlds wherein a powerful fami-

ly (from the Ardientes to the Fieros) reigns as the primary antagonists, with murder, vengeance, and betrayal as the main narrative showrunners.

Only the difference with this is that the stakes are much higher with the inclusion of blood in its visuals. From the short glimpse from the trailer, the killing of a worker named Olivia (played by Golden Globe nominee, Dolly de Leon) by the influential Fero clan, starting a vicious and redemptive cycle of revenge and deception. This happening fuels a passionate and determined life purpose on Olivia's daughter (played by Janine Gutierrez), as she stops at nothing to exact vengeance, even if this means working for the same powerful family her mother has worked for.

Triangle of Sadness star, Dolly De Leon comments on the recent 2023 British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) that despite falling short on winning the supporting actress award, says that being nominated is already an achievement for her.

"They say I'm the first Filipina to be nominated [for a BAFTA], so it's a huge honor for me," she said in a red carpet interview ahead of the awarding ceremony in Royal Albert Hall, London on Sunday, February 19 (early Monday morning, February 20 in Manila.)

The actress later added that Ruben Ostlund was an "eye-opening experience" and that it helped her "grow as an actress" letting us know how much of an honour it is to work alongside them.

"To be able to be part of a monumental film like Triangle of Sadness, I'm so proud to be here because it was such

a great production," she said.

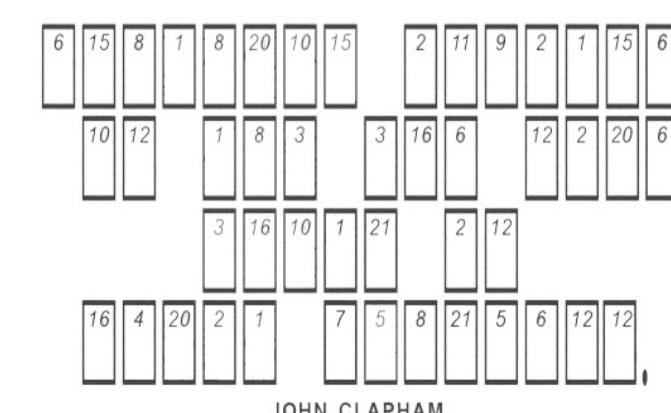
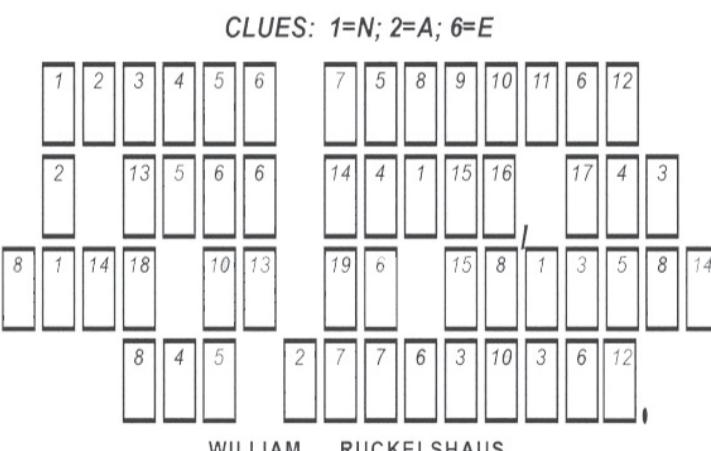
Actress Kerry Condon won Best Supporting Actress for her role in Banshees of Inisherin, beating fellow nominees De Leon, Angela Bassett (Black Panther: Wakanda Forever), Hong Chau (The Whale), Jamie Lee Curtis (Everything Everywhere All At Once), and Carey Mulligan (She Said).

Taking home a total of seven awards was the German remake of the anti-war classic All Quiet on the Western Front, it being the big winner of its category.

As for the movie Triangle of Sadness, Dolly plays a maintenance staff who ends up stranded on an island with rich strangers after they survive the sinking of a luxury cruise ship.

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

QUOTES N' QUIZ



WORD SEARCH

1st Edition

Multimedia arts

O	O	A	R	D	T	G	D	N	M	L	F	R	N
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Philippine banks to hold out against credit risks from rate hikes, Fitch

Interest rate hikes meant to cool down red-hot inflation are unlikely to create alarming credit risks for Philippine banks, thanks to a "supportive economy" and loan portfolios that mostly consist of big corporate borrowers with large financial buffers.

But last February, BDO Unibank Inc. decided to move the effectivity rate of the higher 3% monthly interest rate on credit card transactions to March 12 as opposed to the original date of February 10.

BDO said that existing rates would still apply to all BDO credit card unpaid outstanding balances before the March 12 statement date.

In a report released Monday morning of March 6, Fitch Ratings said bad debts held by the local banking sector are forecast to corner 3.5% of their entire loan portfolio

by the end of 2023, higher than the 3.3% ratio last year as higher borrowing costs weigh down on credit quality.

But this deterioration in credit quality is deemed "manageable". Fitch explained that any risks would be largely offset by high concentration of corporate borrowers, which still make up over three-quarters of local banks' loan portfolios despite the rapid expansion in retail lending prior to the pandemic.

At the same time, a "robust" economy, which Fitch forecasts to grow 5.5% this year, should help big borrowers weather the impact of rising

interest rates on their earnings. "Earnings buffers are more than sufficient to cover the expected increase in interest expenses for the

vast majority of debt among listed corporates," Fitch said. Since May last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has raised its policy rate by 400 basis points amid a painful battle against brutally high inflation. Banks typically

use the BSP's benchmark rate as basis when charging interest on loans, so raising it has the effect of tempering consumption. This, in turn, brings demand in line with limited supply, thereby taming inflation. But crimping consumption, a main growth driver, could hurt the economy and make

debt servicing difficult for some borrowers.

Fitch said small businesses and consumer loans are more vulnerable to shocks from tight financial conditions given their thinner buffers. But the credit rating agency said any weakening would be manageable on expectations that the local job market would remain resilient in the near term.

"Buffers have likely eroded amid high inflation and the normalisation of credit card interest rates," it added.

The BSP in January raised the monthly interest rate ceiling on credit card charges by 100 bps to 3% from 2%. The unemployment rate stood at 4.3% in December, higher than November's 4.2% but lower than 6.6% a year earlier.

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

Image by [Pixabay]



14 Hour wait time for OFWs as technical issues in NAIA cause disrupted work

On the morning of January 2, some overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) based in Hong Kong were faced with a problem when a technical issue at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) disrupted their scheduled flights.

One of the OFWs working as a domestic worker was unable to go to their job in Hong Kong on their scheduled early morning flight on January 2. The OFW complained that this situation has become costly for them since the fares are expensive.

On January 1st, Secretary Susan Ople placed all Migrant Workers Offices on alert to help the OFWs stranded at posts due to the flight cancellations and delays at NAIA.

Another OFW who was stranded at the airport on January 1 was able to take a rebooked flight to Hong Kong on January 2. However, the rebooking process was a 14-hour wait at the airport. Just as they were about to fly,

she and her fellow passengers' flights were canceled. She recounted waiting for 14 hours in order to be rebooked. Thousands of people were stranded at the ticketing offices as it took some passengers 10-15 minutes to transact.

On January 3, as a solution, the DMW tapped private recruitment and manning agencies to assist OFWs affected by the technical issue.

While the two OFWs interviewed said that their employers were understanding of the delay, some do not have the same peace of mind.

One OFW worried that she may be faced with consequences if she does not get back in time to Hong Kong. She frets that regardless of the procedures they are supposed to do, nothing is happening.

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

Smart head office padlocked after telecommunications giant has over P3.2B of unpaid taxes and lack of business permit

As of February 27th, the headquarters of PLDT's mobile phone service unit, Smart Communications Inc. has been padlocked by the local government of Makati City for allegedly having billions of pesos worth of unpaid taxes and for operating without a business permit over the last four years.

According to Makati officials, Smart has, to date, "failed to settle or obtain any relief from the courts over its franchise tax deficiency worth over P3.2 billions covering the period January 2012 up to December 2015."

"When businesses in Makati choose to operate without a valid business permit, they are essentially operating outside the law," City Administrator Claro Certeza said. "This is unacceptable, and I want to make it clear that we will not tolerate this kind of behavior, whether you are a big or small company." "You are hereby commanded

to cease and desist from further operating your business establishment until such time compliance with the said ordinance is made," written on the closure order issued last week and posted this morning at the entrance of the Smart's Ayala Ave. headquarters.

The issuing case started from an examination launched by the Office of the City Treasurer in 2016, and from there concluded that Smart owed the city government over P3.2 billion in franchise tax over the four-year period.

Despite Certeza's request for Smart to submit a breakdown of revenues and business taxes paid in all branches nationwide, the telecommunications giant refused to present the documents.

In 2018, Smart filed a petition for review before a Makati Regional Trial Court in hopes to nullify the Office of City Treasurer's Notice of Assessment, which states that the telecommunications giant did

not pay for the franchise tax.

During the trial, Makati City filed a motion for production and inspection of documents, which the court granted. But Smart challenged the court's decision and filed an opposition against Makati's motion before the Court of Tax Appeals. To which the CTA denied Smart's petition and affirmed the decision of the Makati RTC in 2022.

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO



Closure of Smart head office due to unpaid taxes and business permit.
Image by [Philippine Daily Inquirer]

Hidilyn Diaz receives fourth Athlete of the Year award from the Philippine Sportswriter Association

BY CHARLIZE GALLARDO

It's been more than a year since Hidilyn Diaz won the Philippines' first-ever Olympic title as she accomplished an impressive lift in the women's 55kg category of the IWF World Weightlifting Championships in Bogota, Colombia, last December.

She bags all three gold medals in the event as she topped the snatch with a lift of 93kg, the clean and jerk with a lift of 114kg, and the total with a lift of 207kg.

Because of this, the weightlifting star earned the distinction as she finally captured a world title to complete her collection, which includes gold medals from the Olympics, Asian Games, and Southeast Asian Games. She will be receiving the Athlete of the Year trophy during the tradition-

al San Miguel Corporation PSA Awards Night at the Diamond Hotel on March 6, 2023.

"Hidilyn Diaz was the unanimous choice as Athlete of the Year for 2022 by the Philippine Sportswriters Association," said PSA president and Tempo sports editor Rey Lachica. "Her latest triumph is a testament to her being a true world-class athlete who continues to be an inspiration to the Filipino people since her historic gold medal win in the Tokyo Olympics."

Diaz will receive the Athlete of the Year trophy during the traditional San Miguel Corporation PSA Awards Night at the Diamond Hotel on March 6.

Diaz – who won in 2016, 2018, and 2021 – will claim her fourth Athlete of the Year honor. Diaz is the third

person since 2000 to win at least four times after boxing victors Manny Pacquiao and Nonito Donaire Jr.

As of today, Pacquiao and bowling icon Paeng Nepomuceno are tied for most Athlete of the Year wins with five each.

2022 proved to be a memorable year for Hidilyn Diaz as she nailed her second straight SEA Games gold medal in the women's 55kg class in Vietnam in May.

Eyeing her fifth straight Olympic appearance, Diaz is setting her sights on qualifying for the Paris Games in 2024. "It will be the Olympics again next year, I'll do everything to bring home the gold medal," Diaz said in Filipino. "I hope that I'll be able to return here next year for my fifth Athlete of the Year award."



Hidilyn Diaz receives award from the Philippine Sportswriter Association.
Image by [Vincenzo PINTO / AFP]

UAAP: La Salle's Angel Canino unfazed by atmosphere of rivalry game

BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN

Angel Canino, a freshman at De La Salle University, showed no signs of being intimidated in her first UAAP seniors level rivalry match.

Instead, Canino shone once more, leading the Lady Spikers to a 25-16, 25-20, 25-13 UAAP Season 85 women's volleyball tournament victory over archrival Ateneo de Manila University on Sunday at the Mall of Asia Arena.

Canino, who was already off to a fantastic start in her collegiate career, starred for La Salle once more, scoring 23 points on 21 kills, an ace, and a block. She also had nine digs and five receptions to help the Lady Spikers win the tournament for the third time in a row.

Canino is now tied for second-leading scorer in the UAAP after three matches, with 54 points on 48 kills,

four aces, and two blocks. She has the same output as University of Santo Tomas star Eya Laure and trails only National University opposite hitter Alyssa Solomon (62).

However, the rookie insists that her scoring prowess is simply a result of their system and her desire to help the Lady Spikers win.



DLSU's rookie Angel Canino confident in match against archrival Ateneo de Manila University.
Image by [UAAP]

Gold, Silver, Bronze for Carlos Yulo

BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN & JULIA HORLADOR

CARLOS "CALOY" YULO did not disappoint in Doha, adding silver medals in parallel bars and bronze in vault to his gold medal in floor exercise, boosting his bid to compete in the world championships in September, where berths to the Paris 2024 Olympics are at stake.

Yulo vowed to improve his performance in the International Gymnastics Federation Artistic World Cup series after taking bronze in bars in the first leg last week in Cottbus, Germany.

Yulo, 23, received 14 votes. In the floor exercise final, he scored 833 points to defeat Japan's Kazuki Miami (14.200) and Britain's Luke Whitehouse (13.966).

"It's great to have a variety of medals. I'm overjoyed," Cynthia Carrion-Norton, President of the Gymnastic Association of the Phil-

ippines, told BusinessMirror via internet call. "After what happened in Cottbus, Caloy is taking this seriously."

Juancho Miguel Besana is racing alongside Yulo in the series, but he has yet to reach the podium.

Yulo and Japanese coach Munehiro Kugiyama flew to Baku, Azerbaijan, on Sunday for the third leg, which runs from March 9 to 12. His final stop is the Cairo fourth leg, which runs from April 27 to 30.

The series will determine who will compete in the world championships, which will be held in Antwerp, Belgium, from September 30 to October 8.

Even though Yulo won't win big in the upcoming competition, he has already won the hearts of the Filipinos with his exemplary skills and talents, and there is nothing else he needs to prove.

How Lazada Redefined Filipino Beauty Through the LazBeauty Room

BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN
& JULIA HORLADOR

Discovering new beauty finds, receiving free makeovers, and learning the best tips and tricks from a few of our favorite local content creators and big beauty brands were all highlights of Lazada's #LazBeautyRoom at the SM Mega Fashion Hall. And, with its Epic 11th Birthday sale already underway, Lazada has given us a taste of what beauty fans can look forward to throughout the celebration!

LazBeauty's advocacy of redefining Filipino beauty gave customers a first-hand taste of everything it has to offer through a weeklong series of festivities, talks, and interactive experiences that encouraged self-love and confidence.

Beginning with the opening of the #LazBeautyRoom,

where everyone could try the various amazing beauty products on display, LazBeauty kept the excitement going in the days that followed with masterclasses and exhibitions in collaboration with its partner brands, seller ambassadors, and more LazBeauty Besties.

Thanks to talks by Gesika Baylon, owner of Greenika, Sheena Pausal, owner of S&S Organics, Guia Peralta, e-commerce manager of Do Day Dream Philippines, and Kristine Andaya, owner of Kanna Beauty, one of Lazada's top Marketplace sellers, business owners on Lazada were able to learn how to effectively grow their businesses, maximize their online presence and branding, build a loyal community of

customers, and make smarter financial decisions. This demonstrates how much Lazada encourages and empowers its sellers to succeed.

Through the LazBeauty room, it became a great and powerful platform for multiple business owners, specifically women that they are a huge part of helping the Filipino beauty industry to flourish and be more recognized by various people nationwide or globally.

Their talk would inspire and empower women and other people who are planning on starting a business. This would be a great opportunity for numerous people who wants to learn the basics and tips on how to make their business flourish; not only that but to show support to local brands.



Event of Lazada's #LazBeautyRoom at the SM Mega Fashion Hall.
Image by [When In Manila]

Acclaimed films, ‘Triangle of Sadness,’ ‘Delete’ coming to Prime Video this March

BY CHRISTINE JACOBSEN



‘Triangle of Sadness’ directed by Ruben Ostlund and ‘Delete’ directed by Mikhail Red.



Prime Video has announced a new slate of March releases, which includes two critically acclaimed films.

The film “Triangle of Sadness,” directed by Ruben Stlund, will be released on March 9th. It tells the story of a pair of models who are at a crossroads in their careers. Carl and Yaya, a fashion model couple, have been invited on a luxury cruise. They are stranded on a desert island with a group of billionaires and a cleaning lady after their yacht sinks. Because the cleaning lady is the only one who knows how to fish, old hierarchies are turned upside down in the fight for survival.

At the 2022 Cannes International Film Festival, the film received the prestigious Palme d'Or award. Since then,

it has consistently been nominated for numerous other awards, including three Academy Award nominations for Best Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Picture.

On March 16, Prime Video will begin streaming Mikhail Red’s “Delete,” a techno-horror thriller about Lyra, an online content moderator who deletes a suicide video posted by her coworker, Aileen. Days after committing suicide by jumping off her building's rooftop due to depression, Aileen reappears as a vengeful spirit haunting Lyra because the latter deleted the video that explains why the former committed suicide. Lyra eventually learns the truth about Aileen's suicide, but will it be enough for her to move on?