

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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Palace orders alternative works setup, learning in NCR 17 areas

MANILA - Government offices in the National Capital Region (NCR) and 17 provinces will implement appropriate alternative work arrangements on Wednesday amid continuous heavy rains caused by the southwest monsoon (habagat).
(Turn to p.3)



(PNA photo by Joan Bondoc)

Meralco cuts outages to 2K customer, vows swift restoration

MANILA – The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) is working to restore power to its remaining 2,000 customers, down from the 10,000 outages reported on Monday.

In a news release Tuesday, the utility firm said it is closely monitoring the weather conditions as monsoon rains are

expected to persist throughout the week, hampering power restoration efforts in Cavite and Quezon provinces.

“Our crews and field personnel are working overtime to address concerns and safely restore power in areas affected by the habagat. Rest assured that we will not stop until service

is restored to the last affected customer,” Meralco vice president and head of corporate communications Joe Zaldariaga said.

The power outage was triggered by heavy rains and flooding brought by the southwest monsoon.

Meralco urged cus-

(Turn to p.2)



POWER RESTORATION OPS. Personnel of the Manila Electric Company work to restore power in Hagonoy, Bulacan in this undated photo. The distribution utility on Tuesday (Aug. 18, 2026) said operations continue to bring back service to roughly 2,000 customers in Cavite and Quezon, where power lines were disrupted by monsoon-driven rains and flooding. (Photo courtesy of Meralco)

Early cleft care urged as WHO reports birth defect every 3 mins

MANILA – Expanding access to comprehensive cleft care remains a critical priority as a child is born with a cleft every three minutes worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

In a news release on Tuesday, Smile Train Area Director for Southeast Asia John Manuel Flores said families continue to face barriers to timely medical intervention even though cleft lip and palate are highly treatable.

He emphasized that comprehensive care is vital for a child's basic



(PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

survival and long-term development.

“Clefts affect far more than a child's outward appearance. It impacts even basic functions like breathing and eating, and even their well-being as they grow into adulthood,” he said.

“Comprehensive cleft care includes essential treatments beyond cleft surgery, such as nutritional support, speech therapy, specialized orthodontics and dental work, hearing care, and psychosocial counseling
(Turn to p.2)

More Filipino families now able to put food on the table – DSWD

MANILA – The decline in self-rated food poverty nationwide showed that more Filipinos are able to feed their families, a positive sign that government efforts to address hunger are effectively reaching households and helping improve their daily lives, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said on Tuesday.

Based on the second
(Turn to p.2)



NUTRITIOUS FOOD. Fresh vegetables are among the items that can be redeemed with food stamps under the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Walang Gutom Program. The DSWD on Tuesday (Aug. 18, 2026) said it continues to strengthen the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s fight against involuntary hunger through the WGP. (Photo courtesy of DSWD)

MORE FILIPINO ... FR. P. 1

quarter 2026 Social Weather Station (SWS) survey conducted June 20 to 29 through face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adult respondents, self-rated food poverty declined from 42 percent in March to 36 percent in June.

The survey indicated that the number of self-rated food-poor families decreased from 11.7 million in March to 10.2 million in June.

"The DSWD welcomes this decline in self-rated food poverty. Ibig sabihin po nito ay bumababa na ang bilang ng mga Pilipino na kino-consider na ang kanilang pamilya ay food-poor. Alam natin na marami pa tayong kailangang gawin, pero ang ganitong datos ay nagpapakita na ang ating mga programa laban sa kagutuman ay nasa tamang direksyon at talagang nararamdaman ng ating mga benepisyaryo (It means that the number of Filipinos who consider their families food-poor have decreased. We know that there is still a lot of things to do, but this kind of data shows that our programs against hunger are in the right direction and really felt by our beneficiaries)," DSWD spokesperson Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlaog said in a news release Tuesday.

She said the results also highlight the importance of sustaining and strengthening government interventions that address hunger.

"Hindi po ibig sabihin na may improvement ay titigil na tayo sa pagsasaayos ng ating mga programa. Gagamitin natin ang datos na ito upang ma-sustain at ma-enhance pa natin para mas marami tayong matulungan (It doesn't mean that we will stop renovating our programs because

of the improvement. We will use the data to sustain and further enhance our programs to help more people)," she added.

The SWS survey results were also supported by a separate SWS survey, which looked at food poverty among beneficiaries of the Walang Gutom Program (WGP), the Marcos administration's flagship anti-hunger initiative.

The Globe Telecom-commissioned survey covered 2,400 WGP beneficiaries and was conducted in two rounds -- Feb. 24 to March 8, and June 22 to July 1.

Among WGP beneficiaries, those who considered their families food-poor declined to 77.6 percent from 79 percent in the first round.

Meanwhile, the proportion of food-poor respondents who were not WGP beneficiaries slightly increased from 84.4 percent to 85.7 percent over the same period.

"Sa utos po ng ating Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. at sa direktiba ni Secretary Rex Gatchalian, patuloy natin paiigtingin ang ating mga programa laban sa kagutuman. Malinaw po na may mga positibong pagbabago, pero marami pa rin tayong pamilyang nangangailangan ng suporta. Kaya naman, hindi po tayo titigil dito. Maki-kipagtulungan tayo sa iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno at mga partners upang matiyak na nakakarating ang tulong sa mga pamilyang higit na nangangailangan (On orders of Presidente Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and the directives of Secretary Gatchalian, we will continue to intensify our programs against hunger. It is

MERALCO ... FR. P. 1

tomers to remain vigilant and protect their households from the impact of any weather disturbance and contact its assistance lines -- Facebook (Meralco), X (@meralco), 0920-9716211, 0917-5516211 and hotline

EARLY ... FR. P. 1

-- all important toward ensuring people with clefts not just live but thrive."

Estimates from health organizations and medical institutions in the Philippines show that about 4,000 children in the country are born with a cleft lip, cleft palate, or both every year.

Meanwhile, medical journals estimate that the local incidence rate ranges between one in 500 to one in 1,000 live births nationwide.

Flores also noted that surgical intervention alone is not enough, highlighting the necessity of long-term support systems across families, schools, and local communities to ensure children are fully integrated and supported.

To address systemic misconceptions early, Smile Train Philippines partnered with the REX Education Foundation Inc.

clear that there are positive changes, but many families still needed support. We will not stop. We will work together with other government agencies and private partners to ensure that assistance will reach the families who really needed it," Dumlaog said.

Under the WGP, the DSWD provides food-

16211.

The utility firm said its One Meralco Foundation also tapped personnel to distribute assistance to over 1,400 families in weather disturbance-affected families in Bulacan and Cavite. (PNA)

(REFI) to launch educational initiatives aimed at fostering empathy and inclusion within schools.

REFI vice chairperson Dominic Leandre Buhain said education has the power to shape children's knowledge, perception and treatment of others.

"Through our partnership with Smile Train Philippines, we hope to foster greater understanding of cleft conditions at an early age, helping nurture classrooms and communities where every child feels respected, included, and empowered to thrive," he said.

Smile Train provides funding, training, and resources to local healthcare professionals globally to deliver free, life-saving cleft treatments that significantly improve a child's ability to eat, speak, and thrive. (PNA)

poor beneficiaries with electronic benefit transfer cards loaded with PHP3,000 monthly food credits that can be used to purchase nutritious food from DSWD-accredited retailers.

The WGP currently serves 600,000 food-poor households nationwide. (PNA)

PALACE ... FR. P. 1

at).

The directive, which Malacañang issued through Memorandum Circular No. 129 on Tuesday night, also covers the provinces of Abra, Benguet, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro.

The measure was issued upon the recommendation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and in view of the heavy rainfall warnings issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Unless otherwise directed by their respective local chief executives, schools in the affected areas shall implement alternative learning modes

for classes at all levels in public and private schools.

Government agencies involved in basic and health services, disaster preparedness and response, and other vital services are directed to continue operations and provide necessary services.

Local chief executives may also order the localized cancellation or suspension of classes and work in government offices in other areas, pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

Meanwhile, contract of service and job order workers under alternative work arrangements will continue to receive corresponding wages/salaries, subject to existing rules.

Meanwhile, the suspension of work or adoption of alternative work arrangements in private companies and offices remains at the discretion of management. (PNA)

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Cavite Career Caravan Opens Doors to Jobs in Alfonso

Twenty-five jobseekers were hired on the spot as the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) brought employment opportunities and essential government services closer to residents through the Cavite Career Caravan held on July 29, 2026, at the Alfonso Municipal Plaza Covered Court.

Spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Services Manager (OP-PESM), led by PESO Manager Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, the career caravan connected jobseekers with employers offering a wide range of employment opportunities while providing access to government services in a single venue.

The event drew 77 registered jobseekers and featured 15 local companies offering a total of 3,495 job vacancies. The activity resulted in an immediate employment outcome, with 25 applicants hired on the spot, while another 25 were identified as near-hire applicants for further processing and consideration.

Beyond job matching and recruitment, the caravan also served as a one-stop venue for government assistance. A total of 151 clients availed themselves of services from participating national government agencies, providing residents with convenient access to various public services alongside employment opportunities.

The Alfonso leg of the Cavite Career Caravan underscores the PGC's continuing commitment to making employment assistance more accessible to Caviteños by bringing job opportunities directly into communities and strengthening connections between jobseekers, employers, and government service providers.



Cavite Career Caravan Connects Ternate Residents to Employment Opportunities

The Cavite Career Caravan (CCC) successfully brought employment opportunities closer to residents of Ternate, providing jobseekers with access to local and overseas employers as well as essential government services. A total of 61 registered jobseekers participated in the event, with 3 applicants hired on the spot.

The job fair featured 18 local employers and 1 overseas recruitment agency, collectively offering 7,013 job vacancies across various industries. This wide range of opportunities enabled applicants to explore career options



Medical and Dental Mission brings essential health services to Pasong Kawayan II

The Provincial Government of Cavite continued to bring accessible healthcare services closer to communities as a medical and dental mission was conducted on August 5, 2026, in Barangay Pasong Kawayan II, City of General Trias, benefiting a total of 573 residents.

The activity provided community members with essential medical and dental services through the of doctors and healthcare professionals from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) and the AMIGA District Hospital, with the assistance of barangay health workers (BHWs).

The health mission offered residents an opportunity to avail medical consultations and dental services without having to travel far from their community.

Board Member Kerby Salazar was present during the activity, demonstrating support for initiatives that promote accessible and responsive healthcare services for Caviteños.--- OPIO



PGC's Medical and Dental Mission Serves 477 Residents in Silang

The Provincial Government of Cavite conducted a Medical and Dental Mission recently, in Brgy. Malaking Tatyao, Silang, providing free medical consultations, dental services, fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, ECG tests and medicines.

Health professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital and the OPG Medical Mission Team led the activity, serving a total of 477 patients. Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) provided valuable assistance in ensuring the smooth delivery of services.

Also present during the mission was 5th District Board Member Ivey Jayne Reyes. The mission reflects the Provincial Government's continued commitment to bringing accessible healthcare services closer to Caviteños. --- OPIO

suitable to their skills and qualifications.

In addition to employment opportunities, the event also served as a one-stop shop for government services, benefiting 210 clients through participating national government agencies. The Cavite Career Caravan continues to support the Provincial Government's commitment to improving employment, strengthening workforce development, and making public services more accessible to every Caviteño. --- OPIO

ASEAN biodiversity body calls for improved protected area management, ecosystem restoration efforts



LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA) — As the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) celebrates its 59th anniversary, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) is calling on ASEAN member states to commit to the regional bloc's vision of restoring degraded ecosystems and further supporting protected areas through science- and knowledge-based restoration efforts.

In his ASEAN Day message, ACB Executive Director Dr. Jerome Montemayor laid out the initiatives being undertaken by the region's center of excellence for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The ACB, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, will hold an ASEAN Heritage Parks Forum in September as part of the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN Chairship.

Themed "Navigating Sustainable Future for ASEAN Heritage Parks," the forum will bring together park managers, experts, stakeholders, and partners from across ASEAN member states in

Manila to highlight the vital role that ASEAN Heritage Parks play as anchors of resilience, prosperity, and people empowerment.

"[It] aims to showcase and facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches to AHP management from the Philippines and to contribute to the effective and sustainable management of protected areas across the ASEAN member states," Montemayor said.

In relation to people empowerment and emphasizing the shared goals of multi-sectoral cooperation for biodiversity, the ACB is re-introducing the ASEAN Green Initiative (AGI), a merit-based recognition program for outstanding ecosystem restoration efforts in Southeast Asia.

The initiative also calls on outstanding individuals and organizations to join the planting of 10 million native trees across ASEAN member states over a ten-year period.

Among the awardees under the Medium-Scale Category is the Daang Kalikasan Native Trees Arboretum and Ecological

Restoration Initiative of Pangasinan Native Trees Enthusiasts Inc., which was recognized for planting 101 to 5,000 native trees in its area.

Montemayor recognized the organization's vital work in the conservation, propagation, and promotion of science-based restoration of Philippine native tree species.

"The project established a living arboretum and long-term sustainable maintenance systems, thereby providing educational opportunities and contributing to biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, climate resilience, and environmental awareness," he added.

Through these efforts, the ACB director noted recent discoveries in several ASEAN member states where species previously identified as critically endangered have been spotted and observed again in some ASEAN Heritage Parks. He said these sightings signal new beginnings and a testament that continued environmental initiatives being done are effective (Turn to p.2)

Credit registry to expand financing access for MSMEs

MANILA — A new credit registry for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is underway to help small entrepreneurs secure financing from a broader pool of lenders.

Officials of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and private credit bureau Advance.CBP inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) which aims to allow the latter to establish a credit registry for businesses registered with DTI Negosyo Centers.

In a reply to e-mailed questions from the Philippine News Agency, Advance.CBP country manager Michelle Ann Chan said the MOA allows the private firm to get the information or entrepreneurs' data needed for the registry through the Negosyo Centers.

"Advance.CBP already has the technology, framework and implementation plan in place to begin the program, which is designed to be simple and accessible for MSMEs," she said.

Chan said the program's first phase involves launching a secure digital platform where Negosyo Center staff will encode small business details.

The system will then integrate Credit Information Corporation (CIC) and alternative data to generate predictive credit scores, making MSMEs more visible to credit providers.

"Our goal is to help bridge the information gap that prevents



SMALL BUSINESS. Products of a small business from Oslob, Cebu on display during a trade fair in June 2024. Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry and private credit agency Advance.CBP have inked an agreement to establish a credit registry that will expand micro, small and medium enterprises' access to lenders. (Photo courtesy of Cebu Capitol PIO)

many otherwise viable MSMEs from accessing affordable financing. By making MSMEs more visible, verifiable and credit-assessable, we aim to support the broader national agenda of empowering entrepreneurs, expanding economic opportunities and accelerating inclusive growth across the Philippines," she said.

MSMEs account for 99.6 percent of business in the Philippines and employ over 60 percent of workers.

However, MSMEs contribute only around 40 percent to the country's annual economic output. This has prompted a government push to help small businesses ex-

pand their operations and increase their contribution to the gross domestic product.

"Success will be measured not only by the number of businesses onboarded, but by the quality, completeness and usability of the information that can help MSMEs become more visible to lenders and other ecosystem participants," she said.

"Given the Philippines' millions of MSMEs and DTI's nationwide reach, we see significant long-term potential for the registry to become an important piece of the country's financial inclusion and enterprise development infrastructure." (PNA)

"Happy are those conscious of their spiritual need, since the Kingdom of the heavens belongs to them.

"Happy are those who mourn, since they will be comforted.

"Happy are the mildtempered, since they will inherit the earth.

"Happy are those hungering and thirsting for righteousness since they will be filled.

"Happy are the merciful, since they will be shown mercy.

"Happy are the pure in heart, since they will see God.

Matthew 5:3-8

US stocks close lower as rising oil prices revive inflation concerns

ISTANBUL — US stocks closed lower on Monday as escalating tensions between the US and Iran pushed oil prices higher, fueling concerns that renewed energy inflation could keep interest rates elevated.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 272.63 points, or 0.51 percent, to finish at 53,459.78.

The S&P 500 fell 0.52 percent to 7,745.06, while the Nasdaq Composite declined 0.32 percent to 26,644.91.

Markets came under pressure as the ceasefire framework between Washington and Tehran expired Monday without an extension, while negotiations between the two sides remained stalled.

Oil prices rose sharply amid uncertainty surrounding the conflict and traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for global energy supplies.

International benchmark Brent crude climbed about 2.7 percent to USD90.87 per barrel, while US benchmark West Texas Intermediate gained 2.6 percent to USD84.50.

Higher energy prices



also weighed on the bond market. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note rose more than 3 basis points to 4.728 percent, while the 30-year yield reached its highest level since June 2007.

Gold gained 0.9 percent to USD4,415.30 per ounce as investors turned toward safe haven assets.

The VIX volatility index, also known as the “fear index,” jumped 6.6 percent to 15.19.

Chipmaker Micron Technology bucked the broader decline, rising around 4.1 percent, while Nvidia and Broadcom also gained amid continued optimism over artificial intelligence-related demand.

Investors will now focus on minutes from the Federal Reserve’s latest policy meeting, due Wednesday, for clues about the interest

rate outlook.

European stocks also end mostly lower

European stock markets closed mostly lower Monday as rising energy prices and government bond yields weighed on investor sentiment.

The pan-European Stoxx Europe 600 index fell 0.22 percent to 656.40 points, while the euro area’s blue-chip Euro Stoxx 50 dropped 0.19 percent to 6,529.90.

The UK’s FTSE 100 lost 0.28 percent to 10,720.30, extending its losing streak to six sessions, while Germany’s DAX 40 fell 0.38 percent to 26,338.61.

France’s CAC 40 dropped 0.66 percent to 8,579.70 and Spain’s IBEX 35 declined 0.87 percent to 19,981.90. Italy’s FTSE MIB was nearly flat at 53,543.02. (Anadolu)

navigating a sustainable and greener future for ASEAN. Happy ASEAN Day!”

In accordance with the ASEAN Biodiversity Plan and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to which ASEAN member states are signatories, the target of restoring 30 percent of all degraded ecosystems is being pursued through science- and knowledge-based restoration efforts.

These include enhancing scientific knowledge exchange, incentiviz-

Batangas City opens Human Milk Depot to support infants, breastfeeding mothers

BATANGAS CITY (PIA) — Breastfeeding mothers in Batangas City now have a new facility where they can donate excess breast milk, following the establishment of a Human Milk Depot at SM City Batangas through a partnership among the Department of Health (DOH), SM Cares, Batangas Medical Center (BATMC), and the city government.

The partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on August 12 at the mall’s Atrium Center, with the Human Milk Bank Association of the Philippines also supporting the initiative.

The Human Milk Depot aims to provide safe donor milk to infants who need it most, including premature babies and those whose mothers are unable to breastfeed or produce enough milk.

Under the MOA, lactating mothers with excess breast milk who wish to donate will undergo screening by the City Health Office (CHO). The donated milk will then be collected, processed, and pasteurized by BATMC before being brought to the Human Milk Depot at SM City Batangas.

The donor milk will follow best practices in the region, supporting the establishment of nurseries, and enhancing natural propagation sites for native plants and trees across ASEAN. (CH/PIA-CALABARZON; with reports from ACB)



be safely stored at the depot and provided to infants who need it most, including premature babies and those who cannot be breastfed by their own mothers.

According to Atty. Pearl Turley, SM Program Director for Women and Breastfeeding Mothers, the program started last year and aims to establish more Human Milk Depots in SM malls across the country.

“SM Supermalls believes that social responsibility is part of its advocacy, where all mothers should be supported in caring for their children, as well as in helping babies grow healthy and strong. That is why all our malls have breastfeeding stations to provide mothers with an appropriate place for their babies while they are strolling or shopping,” said Turley.

In her message, DOH Calabarzon Assistant Regional Director Dr. Rosa Marie Rempillo said the agency has long been promoting breastfeeding because it is an effective way to help infants grow healthy and become less prone to illness. “Through this collaboration among SM, the Batangas City LGU, Batangas Medical

Center, and our agency, safe milk for infants will be ensured. This will also help mothers who are unable to produce enough milk for their babies. With the help of this Milk Depot, many infants can receive safe milk,” said Rempillo.

Mayor Marvey Marino said many children need access to safe milk and emphasized that the initiative is for the welfare of infants, which is why the city government fully supports the program.

Meanwhile, more than 100 lactating mothers in the city participated in a milk-letting drive as part of the Nationwide Breastfeeding Activity (Hakab’ta), with the theme “Strengthening Breastfeeding Support through Human Milk Donation and Partnership.”

The Human Milk Depot is the seventh established by SM Supermalls and the first of its kind in Southern Luzon.

August is observed as National Breastfeeding Awareness Month. Mothers are encouraged to exclusively breastfeed their babies during the first six months of life to help promote their health and well-being. (MP-DC-PIA Batangas)

ASEAN... FR. P. 4

in restoring biodiversity. “While recent sightings of these “long-hidden” species may be attributed to several factors like ecosystem recovery, news like this does not only renew our hope—it further amplifies the urgent need to improve protected area management and boost ecosystem restoration efforts to prevent, halt, and reverse habitat and biodiversity loss,” he stressed.

Apart from the AGI, the Center will also open the call for nominations for

the next ASEAN Biodiversity Heroes, which recognizes ASEAN citizens whose exemplary efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management in their respective countries create significant positive impacts in the region.

Montemayor emphasized, “We call on governments, civil society, the private sector, and every citizen to be part of these efforts to protect our web of life. Together, let us continue

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Alas Pilipinas Girls finishes 15th in FIVB U17 World Championship

MANILA – The Philippines ended its campaign in the FIVB Volleyball Girls' U17 World Championship on a high note Sunday, beating Czechia, 21-25, 25-22, 25-14, 25-22, at the Parque Estadio Nacional in Santiago, Chile.

The Alas Pilipinas Girls, bannered by Caera Celis, Xyz Rayco, Jhayna Bulandres, Irish Mahinay and Khaira Manzano, placed 15th, which is the country's best performance in any volleyball world championship.

The Philippines finished 19th at the 2025 FIVB Men's World Championship, and 18th at the 1974 FIVB Women's Volleyball World Championship in Mexico.

Celis noted that while every moment of the tournament was special, nothing beats the feeling of winning.

"We learned a lot from every game, even when we made mistakes. But the victories were for sure the most fun we had here," Celis, who scored 25 against Czechia, said in a news release.

She averaged 18 points per game, matching the tourna-



ON A HIGH NOTE. Some members of the Alas Pilipinas Girls in an undated photo. The Philippines ended its campaign in the FIVB Volleyball Girls' U17 World Championship on a high note Sunday (Aug. 16, 2026) after beating Czechia, 21-25, 25-22, 25-14, 25-22, at the Parque Estadio Nacional in Santiago, Chile. (Photo from Volleyball World)

ment's third-highest total score of 162 and was fourth in total attack points at 141. Rayni Merab Mondesi Arias of the Dominican Republic topped both departments with 217 attack points and 235 total.

Rayco, meanwhile, matched the ninth-best total in the tournament for successful receives at 38, while averaging 9.33 points.

Nadeth Herbon matched the 14th-best total at 33. Chinese Taipei's Ting-yi Chen had the highest total of 88.

Herbon, who played outside hitter twice while taking the role of libero in the other matches, was 11th in the digs department with 95. Peru's libero

Vannia Giordana Adrianzen Ocrospoma led the field with 166.

Mahinay had 15 aces to match the sixth-highest total. Italy's Beatrice Scalzotto topped the list with 23.

Alas Pilipinas Girls, which also feature Madele Gale, Megan Hernandez, Sharina Rhyza Lleses, Resty Olaguir, Frances Ramos, Jello Mauricio, Jhenica Sadia and Taj Arkhea Teves, made it to the Round of 16 with a 2-3 record, beating world No. 8 Mexico in four sets and sweeping past No. 20 Tunisia.

The USA won the gold medal after prevailing over Turkiye, 25-23, 25-11, 25-23, in the final. (PNA)

Eala, Centeno lead PSA monthly achievers for July

MANILA – Tennis star Alexandra Eala and billiards whiz Chezka Centeno were feted as the top achievers of the Philippine Sportswriters Association for the month of July.

The 21-year-old Eala dethroned defending champion Iga Swiatek, 7-6 (9), 6-2, at Wimbledon to become the first Filipino in the Open era to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam in London.

At the WTA 1000 DC Open in Washington, she stunned Paris Olympics gold medalist Quinweng Zheng of China and defending champion Leylah Fernandez of Canada to reach the quarterfinals.

Centeno, on the other hand, reaffirmed the country's status as a hotbed of global pool after ruling the WPA Women's 8-Ball World Championship in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

She bagged the world 10-ball title in 2003 and 2025, and shared the mixed team gold in the WPA Teams 10-Ball World Championship with fellow world champions Rubilen Amit and Carlo Biado and fast-rising Jeffrey Roda last February.



Alexandra Eala (Contributed photo)

Other achievers included pole vaulter EJ Obiena, young weightlifter Alexsandra Diaz, the Manila and Sagay Pony baseball teams, jiu-jitsu queen Annie Ramirez, and the Philippine Volcanoes.

Olympian Obiena topped two competitions in July - Raiffeisen Austrian Open at 5.75m and Internationales Stabhochsprung-Meeting auf dem Domplatz in Germany at 5.76m - while posting a season-best record of 5.85m in his runner-up finish at Meeting Madrid in Spain.

Diaz won three gold medals while breaking two world records at the IWF World Youth Weightlifting Championships in Cali, Colombia. She dominated the women's 48kg division with golden lifts in clean and jerk (new mark of 98kgs), snatch (77kgs) and total (new standard of 175kgs).

Jay-R Colonia took home the clean and jerk gold with 140kgs to go with silvers in snatch (109kgs) and total (249kgs).

Young batters scored a golden double with Manila reigning supreme in the premier 18-under division of the Pony International Softball World Series in McAllen, Texas, at the expense of the United States' Pride Elite, 8-1, and Sagay winning the 14-under after turning back Mexico's RXII Kino, 4-2.

Two-time world champion Ramirez topped the adults 57kg division at the 10th Jiu-Jitsu Asian Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan, her third time to win in the continental tournament.

The Volcanoes dominated the Asia Rugby Unions Cup in Nonthaburi, Thailand, capping their unbeaten run with a 39-18 win over Malaysia in the finals. (PNA)

**Better is a piece of dry bread where
there is peace Than a house full of
feasting along with quarreling.**

Proverbs 17: 1