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06 June 2016

Monday

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06 June 2016









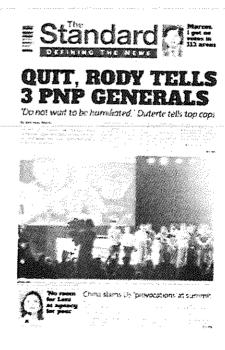


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Army vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride.

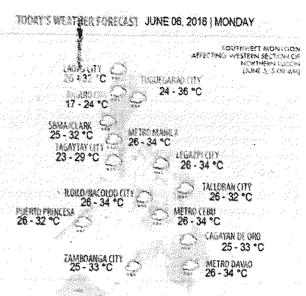
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P1Btokill200 druglords

By EDITH REGALADO

DAVAO CITY - A P1-billion fund for bounty hunters.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte said he has enough money unspent during his campaign and he could use it as bounty for the arrest or killing of notorious drug traffickers in the country.

"I have money good for 200 persons. Tanang drug lord ihawa ninyo (Kill all the drug lords)," Duterte said.

It is estimated that with up to P5 million each for the 200 drug peddlers, it would amount to at least P1 billion.

Duterte has increased the amount of the bounty from P3 million to P5 million for each large-scale drug trafficker and from P1 million to P3 million for those down the line.

For bit players, Duterte has pegged the cash reward at P50,000 each.

Duterte stressed the money he would use came from unspent campaign funds.

He said that at the start of the 90-day campaign last Feb. 9, nobody was giving him money.

"But when I shot up in the survey results, money kept coming," he said.

Duterte said he turned down certain campaign donors whom he thought have vested interests. "I never accepted from them," he said, mentioning in particular a business tycoon.

At the same time, Duterte maintained there would also be problems if he returned the money he accepted for his campaign.

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"The problem is if I return them, I do not want to embarrass them," he said.

He said most of his donors were longtime friends.

Picking the poison

Duterte made the campaign promise to eradicate crime and illegal drugs in the first six months of his presidency.

At one time, he promised to burn down the National Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City where he said thousands of drug suspects are detained for their illegal activities and continue their illicit trade.

Duterte claimed one-fourth of the market for illegal drugs came from the NBP. He said he would have NBP burned to the ground to put an end to one

source of illegal drugs in the country.

The outgoing Davao City mayor also branded the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as "contaminated" by corrupt officials coddling drug pushers.

He earlier vowed to disband PDEA for being ineffective in the fight against illegal drugs.

Duterte on Saturday said he would have three high ranking police officers involved in the illegal drug trade killed and called on the public to kill them if they fight back.

Duterte, during his victory party in Davao Čity, did not name the three police officers but urged them to resign or face the consequences.

"Either you are still in the

police force because you are protecting the illegal drug trade, don't take this as a joke, I will have you killed," he said.

Duterte said any law-abiding citizen has the authority to arrest drug suspects under the law.

But if the suspect fights back, any citizen is justified to kill him, he said.

If the suspect is armed and resists arrest, Duterte called on the public to shoot him dead. "I will (even) give you a medal," he said.

Duterte is pushing for the restoration of death penalty as a deterrent against crime and illegal drugs.

He proposed hanging convicted drug felons to serve as

an example.

Former senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., on the other hand, reminded Duterte that even criminals have rights to due process under the law.

Pimentel, who was among those who moved to abolish the death penalty, stressed that life is sacred even if the person has gone wayward.

Pimentel, founder of PDP-Laban that supported Duterte's presidential bid, said the Davao City mayor was able to convince the Filipino people to allow the reimposition of death penalty because of his popularity.

But with Duterte being criticized for his association with extra-judicial killings in Davao City, Pimentel saw the need to weigh the incoming president's statements in relation to his views on killings.

Pimentel said he had the impression that Duterte is asking the people to choose between

restoring the death penalty or to go vigilante against criminals. Pimentel stressed the current

laws, which provide lifetime im-

prisonment for heinous crimes and convicted drug lords, are enough to punish the offenders.

"If given the choice, I would prefer death penalty than extrajudicial killing but I wouldn't want the death penalty. A life sentence is harsh in dealing with these criminals," Pimentel said in Filipino.

Senator-elect Juan Miguel Zubiri, for his part, urged the public to support Duterte in his anti-illegal drug and crime campaign.

"Let us help him, although sometimes he is controversial, let us allow him to serve the way he served in Davao," Zubiri said.

"Let us forgive his shortcomings. At the end of the day, our government improves, and crime and the illegal drug problem eliminated, and more jobs (will be) created, let's give him our support," he said. - With Christina Mendez, Gerry Lee Gorit

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China tells US: We're not afraid of trouble

Hits back at Carter's Panatag warning

SINGAPORE—China on Sunday hit out at US "provocations" and said it was not afraid of "trouble" over its territorial disputes with neighbors in the South China Sea.

"The South China Sea issue has become overheated because of the provocations of certain countries for their own selfish interests," China's Adm. Sun Jianguo told a security summit in Singapore.

Sun spoke one day after US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter warned that Chinese construction on Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal in waters within the territory of the Philippines would prompt "actions" by the United

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China tells US: We're not afraid of trouble

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States and other nations.

Carter declined to elaborate when pressed on Saturday over what "actions" Washington might take if China moved to construct an artificial island on Panatag Shoal.

But he proposed stronger biplateral security cooperation with China to reduce the risks of a mishap.

He also proposed a "security network" of countries in the Asia-Pacific region whose militaries would train together and eventually operate together.

On a visit to Mongolia on Sunday, Kerry warns on China air defense zone over sea. Secretary of State John Kerry also warned Beijing against setting up an air defense identification zone over the disputed waters, saying it would be a "provocative and destabilizing act." (See story on this page.)

Rhetoric has escalated ahead of a ruling from the United Nations Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on a case brought by the Philippines, a longtime US ally, against China, which has shunned the proceedings and says it will not recognize any ruling.

Military muscles display

Sun, in a clear reference to Washington, said "freedom of navigation" patrols in the South China Sea were a display of "military muscles" and that China was being forced to "accept and honor" the tribunal's ruling.

"China firmly opposes such behavior. We do not make trouble, but we have no fear of trouble," Sun, the head of the Chinese delegation to the Singapore forum known as the Shangri-La Dialogue, said in prepared remarks.

Great Wall of self-isolation

In an open forum, he addressed Pentagon chief Carter's statement on Saturday that Beijing risked building a "Great Wall of self-isolation" with its military expansion in the South China Sea.

Despite repeated notes of concern from countries such as Japan, India, Vietnam and South Korea, Sun rejected the prospect of isolation, saying many of the countries present at the security forum were "warmer" and "friendlier" to China than a year ago.

"We were not isolated in the past. We're not isolated, and we will not be isolated in the future. Actually, I am worried some people and countries are still looking at China with a Cold War mentality and prejudice," Sun said in response to questions from other delegates.

"They may build a wall in their mind and end up isolating themselves," he said.

In his speech, Sun said "countries not directly concerned are not allowed to sabotage our path of peace for selfish gains."

Competing claims

Hong Kong's South China Morning Post has reported that China plans to establish an outpost on Panatag Shoal, internationally known as Scarborough Shoal, located 230 kilometers off the coast of Zambales province in the Philippines, which considers it part of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

China claims nearly all of the strategically vital sea and has developed contested reefs into artificial islands, some topped with airstrips.

The Philippines says China took effective control of Panatag Shoal in 2012, stationing patrol vessels and shooing away Filipino fishermen, after a two-month standoff with the Philippine Navy.

Without military muscle to defend its territory, the Philippines brought a case to the UN arbitration court, challenging China's sweeping claims to the South China Sea and asking that its right to exploit resources within its EEZ be honored.

The court is expected to hand down a ruling in the coming weeks despite China's refusal to recognize it.

Apart from the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam also have competing claims in the South China Sea, which encompasses vital global shipping lanes and is believed to have significant oil and gas deposits.

Freedom of navigation

China's territorial claims, based on controversial historical records, have also pitted it against the United States, which has conducted patrols near the Chinese-built artificial islands to press for freedom of navigation.

Pentagon officials say two Chinese jet fighters last month conducted an "unsafe" intercept of a US spy plane in international air space over the South China Sea.

On the upcoming decision by the UN tribunal on the Philippine case, Admiral Sun reiterated on Sunday that China does not recognize the court's authority.

He said China wanted to solve the dispute with the Philippines bilaterally and said the door was open for dialogue with incoming President Rodrigo Duterte.

Duterte said on Thursday he would not surrender the Philippines' rights over Panatag Shoal.

Sun on Sunday repeated China's pledges to seek a peaceful solution to the territorial dispute.

"China has the patience and wisdom to settle any disputes through dialogue. We also be-

lieve the related countries have the wisdom and patience to make peace," Sun said. "Tve al-

ways believed that shaking hands is better than clenching fists." AFP and Reuters

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2 troops killed in Abu ambush

By Mario J. Mallari

Two soldiers were killed in an ambush by suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Basilan province yesterday morning, the military yesterday said.

According to Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), the attack took place around 10:25 a.m. in Barangay Tumahubong, Sumisip town when three suspected Abu Sayyaf members fired on the soldiers who were on "a logistic run and were returning to their headquarters."

"Accordingly, the victims came back from logistics run on a single motorcycle toward A Company command post in Barangay Sapah Bulak from Barangay Tumahubong," he said.

"Perpetrators fled on board a motorcycle toward the general direction of Sitio Gintalan also in Barangay Sapah Bulak

Tan said responding troops recovered the bodies of the slain soldiers

Pursuit operations are now ongoing against the Abu Sayyaf attackers, he added.

Seven battalions or more than two brigades have been deployed in Sulu and almost the same number of soldiers deployed in Basilan to hunt the Abu Sayyal.

The bandit group is a radical offshoot of a Muslim separatist insurgency in Mindanao that has claimed more than 100,000 lives since the 1970s.

It is believed to have just a few hundred

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2 troops killed in Abu ambush

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militants but has withstood repeated US-backed military offensives against it, surviving by using the mountainous, jungle terrain of Jolo and nearby islands to its advantage.

Abu Sayyaf gangs have earned many millions of dollars from kidnapping foreigners and locals since the early 1990s.

Although the Abu Sayyaf's leaders have pledged allegiance to Islamic State, analysts say they are mainly focused on their lucrative kidnappingsfor-ransom rather than setting up an Islamic caliphate.

The Abu Sayyaf is also believed to be holding four Malaysians, a Dutch birdwatcher and four Filipinos, seized in separate raids.

It is also blamed for deadly bombings, including an attack on a ferry on Manila Bay in 2014 that claimed 116 lives in the country's deadliest terror attack.

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Standard

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Abu Sayyaf kills 2 AFP troops in Basilan attack

By Florante S. Solmerin and Sandy Araneta

SUSPECTED members of the Abu Sayyaf Group killed two more soldiers in Basilan province on Sunday even as the Armed Forces of the Philippines said it was working on a program to annihilate the terrorist group in six months.

A report from the Western Mindanao Command said the soldiers were riding a motorcycle when they were ambushed at 10:25 a.m. in Barangay Tumahubong in Sumisip town.

Military public affairs officer Ma. Filemon Tan said the two victims died instantly of multiple gunshot wounds.

Tan did not give the names of the

slain soldiers because their families had not yet been informed, but said they belonged to the Alpha Company of the Army's 64th Infantry Battalion.

"They were on their way back from Barangay Tumahubong to their command post in Barangay Sapah Bulak when a band of Abu Sayyaf bandits ambushed them," Tan said,

Meanwhile, incoming AFP chief

of staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya, the current Southern Luzon Command chief, said a "drastic operational plan" will be implemented against the ASG.

"It's now being prepared. Definitely, we will implement a plan that aims to eliminate the ASG problem in six months," Visaya said.

He declined to elaborate, saying only that he saw no need to insert more troops into the provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

"We've a lot troops already there," he said.

At present, up to seven battalions are deployed in Sulu and almost the same number of soldiers are assigned in Basilan, all of them

seeking out the ASG.

The bandits are still holding nearly a dozen hostages, including Robert Hall and Kjartan Sekkingstad, a Canadian and a Norwegian, respectively. The bandits are also holding Hall's Filipino girlfriend Marites Flor.

In April, the ASG beheaded John Ridsdel, another Canadian, after his family failed to give their demand for a ransom of P300 million.

The bandits promised to behead another captive if the P300 million each demanded for Hall and Sekkingstad is not delivered.

President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has called on the Abu Sayyaf to surrender or else "I will invade Jolo."

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2 soldiers slain in Abu attack

ZAMBOANGA CITY – Two Army troopers were killed in an ambush by Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sumisip, Basilan yesterday morning.

The troopers were in a tricycle when at least three bandits waylaid them at around 10:25 a.m. in Barangay Tumahubong.

The troopers, who belonged to the Army's 64th Infantry Battalion, came from a logistics run and were on their way back to their post in Barangay Saph Bulak.

The bandits fled on a motorcycle toward nearby Sitio Gantalan.

Maj. Filemon Tan Jr., spokesman for the Western Mindanao Command, said the names of the slain soldiers were withheld until after their families are notified. – Roel Pareño, Jaime Laude

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NPA hinihikayat na sumuko na

BUTUAN CITY — Hinihikayat ng military and mga miyembro ng New People's Army sa Mindanao na sumuko na at makinabang sa pangkapayapaan at pangkabuhayang proyekto ng gobyerno. Sa magkahiwalay na pahayag na ipinalabas ng Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) at Northeastem at Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) ng Philippine Army, tiniyak nila na mga miyembro ng NPA na magbabalik loob sa gobyerno ay makakatanggap ng tulong pinansiyal kapalit ng kanilang mga isusukong armas sa ilalim ng "Balik Baril Bayad Agad" program. Bukod dito, makakatanggap din sila ng livelihood support mula sa national and local government units. Ginawa ni Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, director of PRO 13; at Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, commanding general ng 4th ID, ang panawagan matapos na madakip ang tatlong NPA commanders sa kabundukan ng Barangay Tungao noong Hunyo 2. (Mike U. Crismundo)

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Army, NPA clash in Sorsogon

CAMP G. NAKAR, Lucena City - The Philippine Army's 31st Infantry Battalion (31IB) encountered some 30 New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Barangay Sangat, Gubat, Sorsogon, yesterday morning. Southern Luzon. Command (SOLCOM) reported the clash breaking out at 5 a.m. while soldiers were conducting combat patrols due to a reported rebel formation in the village of Sangat. As soldiers drew nearer the village, they were met by a volley of gunfire, A five-minute gun battle ensued and the rebels withdrew deeper into the forest area. Blocking and hot pursuit operations are now underway to get the rebels (Danny J. Estacio)

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NPA rebels urged anew to give up armed struggle

By MIKE U. CRISMUNDO

BUTUAN CITY - The regional command of the Northeastern Mindanao Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) and Northeastern and Northern Mindanao 4th Infantry (Diamond) Division (4th ID) yesterday called on fighters of the New People's Army (NPA), armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to return to the fold of the law and avail the government's peace and development program.

In a separate statement, the command group of PRO 13 and 4th ID assured that the NPAs who also wanted to yield their firearms will be given immediate cash assistance in exchange of their surrendered firearms in line with the government's "Balik Baril Bayad Agad" program, aside from the livelihood support coming from the national and local government units.

Chief Supt. Rolando B. Felix, regional director of PRO 13 and Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Madrigal, commanding general of the 4th ID, made the assurance after three alleged high-profile NPA commanders were captured at mountainside village of Tungao in this city

The joint operations of the government security forces from PRO 13 and 4th ID also lead to the seizure of two M16 Armalite rifles, one AK 47 rifle, one caliber .22 sniper rifle with scope, two caliber .22 rifles, three pistols, two revolvers, improvised explosive devices, blasting caps, detonating cords, two hand grenades, ammunitions and documents with high intelligence value.

Chief Supt. Felix said the arrest of Roldan Bungolto, alias Aka Itom or Loloy, commanding officer of guerrilla-Front Committee 4-A SPARU Unit and Militia ng Bayan of the CPP-NPA Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee; Danilo Acania, alleged former 1st Deputy Secretary of guerrilla-Front Committee 4-A and commanding officer of Policard NPA Platoon and Jake Borja of GFC 4-A, el no. (02) 845-9555 Local: 5285, 5295 boosted the peace and development efforts of the government.

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Standard

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'Delisting of NPA can form part of talks'

INCOMING National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the suggestion to request the United States government to remove the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, from its list of terrorist organizations should be part of the renewed peace negotiations.

Esperon said this call from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan to the government of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte can be settled by the negotiating panels of both sides.

"There should be no pre-conditions [for the resumption of the talks]. Having said that, the National Democratic Front can bring up the issue on the negotiating table and it should be part of the peace talks," the former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said in a brief phone interview.

The government panel is headed by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza while Luis Jalandoni is representing the NDF in the negotiations.

Esperon said that sincerity on both sides is key to hammering out a final peace agreement that will finally end hostilities between the government and the NPA that have gone on for more than 47 years, making the conflict the longest-running communist armed struggle in Asia.

During his time as military chief of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Esperon promised to eliminate the NPA. Florante Solmerin

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HULICE FILES

Ex-NPA members sa gabi

PINAWI ni incoming AFP chief-of-staff Lt. Gen. Ricardo Visaya ang pangamba ng mga sundalo kaugnay sa pagiging miyembro ng gabinete ni President-elect Rodrigo Duterte ang ilang miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA).

Sinabi ni Visaya na wa-lang dapat ikabahala ang mga sundalo dahil hindi naman hahayaan ni Pangulong Duterte na mapaha-mak ang kaniyang mga anak.

Ayon kay Visaya wala naman siyang nakikitang problema sa ganitong set-up dahil magpapatuloy pa rin ang militar sa kanilang mandato at misyon at ito ay panatilihin ang kapayapaan lalo na sa mga lugar na nagpapatuloy ang operasyon ng militar.

Inihayag ni Visaya na

titiyakin din ag Commission on Appointments (CA) na ang mga itatalagang gabinete ni Duterte ay qualified Executive posts.
Dagdag pa ng heneral na lahat ng mga nakalinyang

programa ng AFP ay naka-

align sa programa ni President-elect Duterte.
Pahayag ng incoming AFP chief na nakalatag na ang kaniyang plano lalo na sa pagtugis sa mga bandi-

dong Abu Sayyaf, at masugpo ang pamamayagpag ng kidnapping activities sa may bahagi ng Southern

Philippines.
Suportade rin ng AFP ang anti-illegal drug campaign ng pambansang pulisya.

Una rito, iminumung-kahi ni Visaya na magka-roon ng Presidential Task Group para epektibong mapatupad ang operasyon lahan sa illegal drugs.

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Defense experts tackle US-PH deal

THE impact of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement between the Philippines and the United States on security in the Asia Pacific region will be discussed among security and defense experts on Tuesday morning at a forum to be held at the National Defense College of the Philippines in Quezon City.

This was announced yesterday by Dindo Manhit, the event organizer. Manhit is president of independent think tank Stratbase Albert del Rosario Institute (ADRi) for International Studies.

Former Foreign Affairs secretary Albert del Rosario and Defense Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino will attend the event.

In a press statement, Manhit said the event with the theme "Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Implementing the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement" would feature representatives from the country's Departments of National Defense and Foreign Affairs who will share insight from the bilateral strategic dialogue that took place in Washington early this year.

He said a panel of representatives from the non-government sector in the Philippines, Japan, the US, and Australia will then give their feedback on the agreement.

Their feedback will then serve as a jump-off point for discussions, including the progress in its implementation and its effects on areas of cooperation in the region.

Other speakers are DFA Undersecretary for American Affairs Maria Andrelita S. Austria; Stratbase ADRi convenor Renato de Castro; Ernest Bower and Gregory Poling of US-based think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies; Lisa Sharland, senior analyst of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and Professor Katsuyuki Yakushiji of Toyo University in Japan.

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DND opens bids for P191M projects for Air Force facilities

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Aquino government has earmarked P191 million for the construction and repair of facilities at the Air Force head-quarters in Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, and in Occidental Mindoro and Bataan provinces.

Roy Deveraturda, defense undersecretary for plans and programs and concurrent chairman of the DND's Special Bids and Awards Committee, said the project is part of the ongoing modernization program of the Armed Forces.

The bid invitation said the project involves the construction and rehabilitation/repair of different facilities at Villamor Air Base, Gozar Air Station in Lubang island in Occidental Mindoro, and Mariveles Radio Relay Station in Mariveles, Bataan.

Deveraturda said the facilities to be constructed or repaired under the project will house air surveillance radars, worth P2.58 billion, that are being acquired by the defense department.

"These are like support facilities," said Deveraturda of the P191-million project. "Before acquiring the radars, the ground has to be ready, the facilities... These are called base support facilities."

Deveraturda said the air surveillance radars that are being acquired will help in monitoring the country's airspace. He said the radars are also important in aviation safety because they can monitor both commercial and military aircraft.

"You will be able to see intrusion into your airspace, those are the radars. But the project that was published is for ground

support, basing support. These are where the (radar) equipment will be housed in the layman's term," he said.

In an invitation to bid posted on the DND website, Deveraturda said bidders "should be construction-oriented, affiliated group of professionals who can successfully prepare the project."

"They should have experience and capability in the type of services, and the field under consideration, specifically on the rehab/repair and construction of the different facilities under the radar basing and support system project and other requirements," he said.

The DND-SBAC will conduct a pre-bid conference on June 8 at the DND-SBAC conference room in Camp Aguinaldo. Deadline for the submission of bids and the opening of the bids is on June 22.

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Marcelino vows to get back at those behind his arrest

By Mario J. Mallari

Marine Lt. Gol. Ferdinand Marcelino, who was allowed to post bail by a Quezon City court, has wowed to go after the individuals responsible for his incarceration whom he hinted as behind the clandestine shabu laboratory in Manila where he was arrested last January.

Marcelino, who posted bail last Friday, said he already knew who was behind his incarceration and he will expose them.

"We will bring out the truth which we established in the course of our investigation. I know who was really at fault in all of these, just like me, they have to face our justice system," Marcelino said.

Marceline was arrested by



MARCELINO

combined elements of the police Anti-Illegal Drugs Group and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) last January at a shabu laboratory in Sta. Cruz, Manila

He was immediately presented to the media as a suspect along with his Chinese companion, Yan Yi Shou alias Randy. Marcelino was a school commandant of the Navy at the time of his arrest.

Approximately P320 million worth of shabu was seized during the raid.

Marcelino has repeatedly denied any involvement with illegal drug syndicate and claimed he was on a surveillance mission in the area when he was nabbed.

"We will give you evidence to prove who was really behind that place," Marcelino vowed.

Pressed if those behind his incarceration were government or

police officials, Marcelino replied "yes." But he did not name names.

"We have proof and they have to answer that later on," he said.

A former officer of PDEA, Marcelino is known as a no-nonsense anti-illegal drug operative. His fight against the illegal drug menace has become his personal crusade.

Marcelino said incoming President Duterte is on the right track in prioritizing the illegal drug problem in the country. He said the incoming administration is up for a huge challenge in addressing the drug menace.

"I support him (Duterte) 101 percent. I believe that that (illegal drugs) is really one of the big (problems) that needs attention and time of the government," Marcelino said.

06 June 2016



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US warns China over air defense zone in Spratlys

WASHINGTON - US Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday the United States would consider any Chinese establishment of an air defense zone over the South China Sea to be a 'provocative and destabilizing act."

US officials have expressed concern that an international court ruling expected in coming weeks on a case brought by the Philippines against China over its South China Sea claims could prompt Beijing to declare an air defense

identification zone, or ADIZ, as it did over the East China Sea in 2013.

"We would consider an ADIZ... over portions of the South China Sea as a provocative and destabilizing act which would automatically raise tensions and call into serious question China's commitment to diplomatically manage the territorial disputes of the South China Sea," Kerry said during a visit to Mongolia.

"So we urge China not to move unilaterally

in ways that are provocative."

Kerry will visit China after Mongolia.

China drew condemnation from Japan and the United States when it imposed its ADIZ, in which aircraft are supposed to identify themselves to Chinese authorities, above the East China Sea.

China has neither confirmed nor denied it plans such a zone for the South China Sea, saying that such a decision would be based on

the threat level and that it had every right to set one up.

China claims most of the South China Sea through which trillions of dollars in ship-borne trade passes every year and has been undertaking extensive reclamation and construction activities on islands and reefs it occupies.

Neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

- Reuters

[(June 2016

The Manila Times

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MILF camps turned into productive farms

MUNAI, LANAO DEL NORTE: Despite initial uncertainties with regard the continuation of the Bangsamoro peace process with the upcoming change of administration, the Department of Agriculture (DA) together with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and other government agencies including the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), turned over farming assistance to beneficiaries in Camp Bilal here in Munai, Lanao del Norte, including farm tractors, three carabaos and provisions for agriculture farm inputs totaling 600 bags of corn seedlings and 1,000 pieces of fruit-bearing tree seedlings.

The six previously acknowledged MiLF strongholds included Camps Abubakar, Omar, Badr, Rajamuda, Bushrah, and Bilal.

Col. William Alunday, Commanding Officer of the 2nd Mechanized Brigade of the Mechanized Infantry Division, Philippine Army and Carlota Madriaga, Operations Division Chief of DA Regional Field Office X, were in attendance during the event and served as coordinators for Camp Bilal.

Incoming Presidential Peace Adviser
Jesus G. Dureza vowed to continue the
momentum of the Bangsamoro peace
process once the new administration takes

over on June 30,

Meanwhile in Cotabato City, representatives from the different international non-government organizations gathered in a one-day activity workshop on socio-economic survey on the six acknowledged MILF camps conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in partnership with the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) and the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA).

The JICA-spearheaded socio-economic survey detailed the recommended economic opportunities that the different invited agencies can help develop in order to help uplift the lives of the people in the six municipalities covered by the study, namely: Barira, Matanog and Buldon of Maguindanao; Kapatagan, Balabagan and Marogong of Lanao del Sur.

The Normalization Annex is part of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) under which the MILF and GPH agreed to intensify development efforts of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the Bangsamoro addressing the needs of MILF-BIAF members, Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) and poverty stricken communities.

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MILF confident BBL will pass, hails Duterte talks with MNLF

BY VICTOR REYES

THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front expressed confidence that President-elect Rodrigo Duterte would keep his word to pass the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law, which will establish a new political entity in the South.

"We believe in him (Duterre) and his commitment to proceed with the BBL," the MILF said on its website of the proposed measure which didn't pass Congress during the last year of the Aquino administration.

At the same time, the MILF welcomed a planned meeting between Duterte and Moro National Liberation Front chairman Nur Misuari, whose group signed a peace accord with government in 1996.

"The purported meeting between President-elect Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Chair Nurulaji Misuari is in the right direction. The MILF interposes no objection to it," the MILF said.

"If there are serious matters to consider, (these) are the facts that Misuari has a pending warrant of arrest and the security of Duterte," it added.

Misuari is facing a rebellion case in connection with the Zamboanga City siege in September 2013.

The MILF and the Aquino government signed a peace accord in March 2014. Aquino endorsed to Congress the proposed law a year after but it was not passed, partly because of the MILF's involvement in the January 2015 Mamasapano incident that left 44 police commandos dead.

"We asked people close to him about the attitude of Duterte, (and) they told us that once he commits he fulfils it, and once a friend, he is a friend forever. Except for a major or serious breach of friendship or trust, he stands by his friends or associates," the MILF said.

The MILF noted that that during the campaign period, Duterte had the "clear edge" in terms of policy statements on Moros, BBL, and peace process issues.

"His is not only the commitment to solve the Bangsamoro Question but the unequivocal conviction that 'nothing will satisfy the Muslims, nay Moros, except to give them the BBL'," the MILF said.

It also cited Duterte's meeting with MILF vice chairman for political affairs Ghadzali Jaafar last Feb. 27 at the MILF base in Camp Datapanan in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao.

During the meeting, the MILF said "he (Duterte) was categorical in stating his position that he would pass the BBL as a template to make the Philippines shift to federal system of government. Again, the same promise was re-echoed in Cotabato City during the campaign."

The MILF said the peace agreement signed by the MNLF and the government in 1996 "has already been practically implemented or fulfilled."

"All the remaining unimplemented aspects of the agreement, namely, provisional government, socioeconomic intervention, and strategic minerals, were settled or are being addressed," the MILF said.

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Airman pinaslang sa Laguna

STA ROSA, Laguna — Patay ang isang Air Force sergeant nang pagbabarilin ng dalawang lalaking nakamotorsiklo sa Sta Rosa-Tagaytay Road sa Barangay Don San Jose, Sabado ng umaga. Kinilala ng pulisya ang biktima na si Sgt. Elmer N. Lonzaga, 47, nakatira sa Laguna Bel Air, Barangay Don Jose. Ayon sa police report, ang biktima at ang kanyang asawa ay bumibiyahe sakay ng Subaru car (HW 3120) nang barilin siya ng mga suspek habang nakahinto sa stop light. Isinugod si Lonzaga sa Southern Luzon Hospital ngunit idineklara siyang dead on arrival. Mabilis na tumakas ang mga salarin patungong Tagaytay pagkatapos ng pamamaril. Ayon sa mga pulis, patuloy nilang iniimbestigatan ang insidente para malaman ang motibo ng pagpatay sa biktima. (Danny J. Estacio)

(6 June 2016



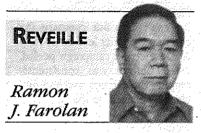
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'Bloody Omaha'

LAST MONTH the nation lost one its most distinguished public servants. Our family lost a dear friend. Domingo Siazon Jr., the first career diplomat to be appointed secretary of foreign affairs passed away in Tokyo after a lingering battle with prostate cancer. He was 76.

"Jun," as he was known to friends and colleagues, was a member of Ateneo High School class 1955. Among his class-

mates were former president Joseph Estrada, Ambassador Jesus Tambunting; businessman Antonio Lopa, and a host of other prominent personalities in society and government. Siazon



had a degree in physics from Tokyo University and a master's degree in public administration from the JFK School of Government in Harvard.

Prior to his appointment as foreign secretary, Siazon served as director general of the Vienna-based UN Industrial Development Organization, one of the few Filipinos to head a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Kay and the children remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Most tourists go to France to have their picture taken with the famed Eiffel Tower in the background, or to visit the Louvre with its treasure trove of valuable paintings and historical artifacts. Many Filipinos head for Lourdes to wash at the springs located in the town where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared before the peasant girl Bernadette Soubirous.

My boyhood dream was to visit Normandy in the northern part of the country, site of several allied invasion landings during World War II.

Ten years ago, Penny and I attended the wedding of a nephew in Geneva. We decided to leave a bit earlier so as to be able to include a side trip to Normandy. It was the fulfillment of dreams that were nurtured by two movies, "The Longest Day" and "Saving Private Ryan."

For those of the younger generations who may not be too familiar with events during World War II, "The Longest Day" is the title of a book on the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944, by Cornelius Ryan. The title has its origins in a comment by German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, six weeks before the assault was launched. Rommel declared, "The first 24 hours of the invasion will be decisive. The fate of Germany depends on the outcome... for the Allies as well as Germany. It will be the longest day."

On the sixth of June 1944, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, gave the signal to commence the invasion of Europe. His orders: "In company with our allies and brothers-in-arms you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in the free world... We will accept nothing less than full victory!" That same day, he scribbled a far different message and tucked it in his wallet. It read "Our landings have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

June 6, 1944, was also the graduation of his son John from West Point. The class of 1944 was graduated a year early because of the needs of the war. On June 9, in possibly the classic understatement of the century, General Eisenhower sent the following telegram to his wife Mamie, "Due to previous engagement, it was impossible to be with you and John but I thought of you and I know you understand." Incidentally, Eisenhower's appointment as supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force came as a complete surprise. Before he received the four stars he wore on his shoulder, 53-year-old "Ike" Eisenhower had never commanded so much as a platoon in battle. The man who was tipped to command the invasion of Europe was Gen. George C. Marshall, but President Franklin D. Roosevelt did not feel he could spare Marshall from Washington. And so, Eisenhower who had impressed all his bosses with his intelligence, hard work and strategic vision was chosen to lead the most important operation in World War II.

History tells us that the invasion plan called for five landing beaches in the Normandy area: "Utah" and "Omaha" were to be hit by American forces led by Gen. Omar Bradley, while British and Canadian units under Lt. Gen. Miles Dempsey were to move into areas designated as "Gold," "Juno" and "Sword." The landings were preceded by airdrops spearheaded by the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions and the 6th British Airborne. For the French resistance forces operating inland, a couplet from Paul Verlaine's "Chanson d'automne" (Autumn song) would be the signal by radio for them to start preassigned sabotage missions.

Of the five invasion beaches, "Omaha" turned out to be the bloodiest. For one, US forces went up against one of the best defensive positions laid out by Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. Over 2,000 GIs died during the initial assault as they were raked by interlocking machine gun fire and by heavy guns from concrete bunkers. Aerial bombardment was ineffective due to poor visibility. Total Allied losses on D-Day exceeded 10,000 with the Americans suffering some 6,500 killed, while the British and Canadian losses were about 3,000.

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At Colleville-sur-Mer, on a cliff overlooking Omaha beach, is the Normandy American Cemetery, home to over 9,000 American casualties from all over Europe. A total of 173 acres in the Normandy area were ceded in perpetuity by France. Along with the American cemetery, there are also British, Canadian and German memorials honoring their soldiers who fell in battle. They are gardens of silence and serenity, perhaps evincing the desire of all nations involved to forgive, if not to forget.

In comparison, the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial located in the Philippines is home to 17,206 US soldiers who perished in the Pacific War with some 36,000 in the missing rolls. For me, it remains one of the most impressive of the memorials established by the United States in honor of their war dead.

ONLINE NEWS

06 June 2016

PH, Indonesia conduct joint maritime patrol

From Update.Ph (Jun 5): PH, Indonesia conduct joint maritime patrol

The Philippines and Indonesia have conducted an 8-day coordinated patrol in Philippine-Indonesia maritime border that ended June 2. The joint maritime patrol activity was dubbed as CORPAT PHILINDO XXX-16 joined by Armed Forces of the Philippines – Eastern and Western Mindanao Commands, and Indonesian Armed Forces.

The closing ceremony was held at Naval Station Felix Apolinario, Panacan Davao City.

"The activity was graced by Commodore Elson K Aguilar of Naval Forces Eastern Mindanao representing Lt General Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, Commander of Eastern Mindanao Command, Indonesian Acting Consul General TatianaHandayani and was attended by the delegates from Indonesian Navy and Eastern Mindanao Command," Eastern Mindanao Command (EASTMINCOM) said.

The joint patrol aimed to secure the border areas between the Philippines and Indonesia from any illegal activities as well as to enhance the interoperability and foster harmonious working relationship between the two neighboring countries.

The opening ceremony was held May 25 Manado City, Sulawesi, Indonesia. Philippine forces utilized the Miguel Malvar-class corvette BRP Pangasinan (PS-31). Indonesia utilized KRI Sura (802).

EASTMINCOM said the activity also paved the way for the Department of Foreign Affairs repatriation of 128 Filipino fishermen who were apprehended in the high seas of Indonesia. The first batch composed of 35 repatriates arrived in the early afternoon of May 25, 2016 aboard C295 of the Philippine Airforce under Colonel Alejandro Baclayon at Tactical Operations Group XI, Old Airport, Sasa, Davao City while the second batch composed of 93 repatriates arrived at Makar Wharf General Santos City on the evening of May 29, 2016 via BRP Pangasinan.

http://www.update.ph/2016/06/ph-indonesia-conduct-joint-maritime-patrol/6264

US terror tag on NPA can be tackled at the peace table: incoming NSA chief

From InterAksyon (Jun 5): US terror tag on NPA can be tackled at the peace table: incoming NSA chief

The peace negotiating table is the better venue for tackling the "terrorist" group tag that the United States government continues to keep on the New People's Army, the incoming National Security Adviser has said.

Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said the Bagong Alvansang Makabayan's suggestion that the incoming Duterte government request Washington to de-list the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), from its "Foreign Terrorists Organizations," is a matter that should be part of the new administration's peace negotiations with the Left.

Incoming President Rodrigo Duterte, a former student of CPP founder-in-exile Jose Maria Sison, had early on listed rapprochement with the Left as a key plank of his administration. He has named former Justice secretary Silvestre Bello III, a veteran negotiator, to head his team of peace advisers, and he has named leftist leaders to Cabinet positions: as agrarian reform chief and Cabinet secretary.

The terror tag issue was raised Saturday by Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes

Jr.,just as both negotiating panels were preparing to meet for preliminary peace talks in

Oslo, Norway, on June 15.

The US State Department lists the NPA among 58 foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs), a list that also includes the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) operating in Basilan and Sulu.

"The US once again hopes to use the terrorist listing as a form of intervention in an internal matter and cast a cloud of doubt even before the talks begin," Reyes said in a statement.

He noted the fact that Cabinet posts were even offered by incoming President Duterte posts in his government as the best foil to the 'terrorist' claims of the US. "This practice of 'terrorist listing' should be rejected. Any form of US intervention in the peace talks should be exposed and opposed by the Filipino people who have long sought a just and lasting peace," Reyes added.

Esperon said the request for the Duterte administration to flag Washington over its tagging of the NPA as a terror group looks like a "precondition" raised by the Left for the resumption of peace talks. But, he said, this can be settled at the level of the two negotiating panels: led by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process on one hand and Luis Jalandoni of the National Democratic Front on the other.

"There should be no pre-conditions. Having said that, the NDF can bring up the issue on the negotiating table and it should be part of the peace talks," said Esperon, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, in a phone interview at the weekend.

Sincerity on both sides is key to successful peace negotiations, stressed Esperon, echoing the

Army Vision: By 2028, a world-class Army that is a source of national pride

hopes of both sides for final peace agreement to end the armed hostilities waged by the NPA the past 47 years, making the insurgency the longest in Asia.

Way back when he was AFP chief under then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Esperon had vowed to eliminate the NPA.

CPP founder and NDF political consultant Sison had, in a press conference via Skype on June 3 in Quezon City, expressed optimism that a final peace agreement can be forged with the Duterte administration.

Sison, who has spent 30 years in self-exile in Utrecht, The Netherlands, said he will come home once a peace agreement is in place.

http://interaksyon.com/article/128665/us-terror-tag-on-npa-can-be-tackled-at-the-peace-table-incoming-nsa-chief