



Leyte-Samar

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M G D O

TACLOBAN
RIZAL AVENUE

But 2 new cases were confirmed by the health office

DOH: 5 recover from COVID-19

JOEY A. GABIETA

TACLOBAN CITY- The Department of Health (DOH) here in the region reported of five patients to have recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

With the recovery of the five patients, who are all from the town of Taranagan in Samar province, the total number of recoveries in the region

due to COVID-19 has rose to 19 in all, says John Paul Roca, information officer of the health department in the region. According to him, the

recovered patients, two men and three women, were confined on May 8 at a temporary treatment and monitoring facility see DOH /page 5 ...

Villanueva says a teleserye motivated him to become a soldier

This year's top 2 of PMA grads is from Tacloban City

TACLOBAN CITY- A popular 'teleserye' titled 'Tayong Dalawa' was what inspired Jade Villanueva to enter the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 2016.

The 25-year old Tacloban landed second among the top 10 in this year's graduating class of the country's premier military school.

see Villanueva /page 6 ...



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WE DELIVER!



PMA CLASS SALUTATORIAN. Poverty and other challenges that came his way did not hinder Jade Villanueva to reach his ambition to enter the prestigious Philippine Military Academy and become soldier. He graduated as their class' salutatorian. (PMA)



About 35 overseas workers from Tacloban City finally returned home on Monday after almost two months of being quarantined in Metro Manila. The returning overseas workers, however, still need to undergo a 14-day quarantine at the quarantine facility installed by the Tacloban city government as part of the protocol. (TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)

35 OFWs return to Tacloban; to undergo 14-day quarantine

TACLOBAN CITY- About 35 Taclobanons' overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) arrived on Monday(May 25)— 14 of them arrived in the morning while another 14 arrived on 10:30 pm flight and seven at 12:20 midnight flight.

The rest were from other parts of the region. OFW Quenzelle says this would have been her third time to be quarantined.

The first was when she disembarked from the ship that she worked in as a waitress in March, 2020

in London, the second time was in Manila, and now in Tacloban when she arrives home.

She said that she was even swabbed twice, both results of which were negative. She says she's happy to be finally back.

OFW Alden also said that he was quarantined for two months after he arrived on dry land. Both attest to going through the process of preparing their documents, if only to be allowed to come back to Tacloban. According to them, as part of the health protocol, if someone tested

positive, s/he would not be allowed to board the plane. Testing negative for COVID-19 is the most important requirement for a returning OFW.

According to Tacloban City Rescue Unit (TACRU) staff Annaliza, these arriving OFWs have with them complete documentation requirements. All have been tested, and got a negative result for RTP-CR.

After the short validation and verification processes, the arriving OFWs

see 35 OFWs/page 5 ...

2 were hurt after soldiers open fire in Samar town

TACLOBAN CITY – Two civilians were hurt after soldiers based in a Samar town discharged their firearms on Sunday (May 24) night.

Based on the reports reaching the regional headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) based in Palo town, Leyte province, at around 10 pm, the three soldiers were having a boisterous drinking spree inside the house of one Rogelio Barondo in Purok I of Barangay San Isidro, Paranas town which prompted village watchman Marcelino Nacar to call their attention.

But instead of heeding the request of Nacar, the three soldiers who reportedly belong to the 46th

Infantry Battalion, which is based in Calbiga town, also in Samar, fired their service firearms on the ground which ricocheted and hit Nacar on his left hand.

Teodorico Cinco, a farmer and resident of the said village and who happened to be standing nearby, was also hit on his right armpit, left leg and stomach.

The two victims were brought at the Samar Provincial Hospital based in Catbalogan City as the three soldiers fled.

The police report only identified one of three soldiers as Corporal Jover Mabaga.

Members of the Paranas police are still conducting their follow up operations on this incident.

(JOEY A. GABIETA)

DPWH Southern Leyte ranks 7th in absorptive capacity nationwide

MAASIN CITY – The Southern Leyte District Engineering Office (SLDEO) has landed in the seventh spot in terms of absorptive capacity for the month of April among 183 district engineering offices nationwide.

Assistant District Engineer Allan Eway said that they are elated for having managed to accomplish a 92.22 percent actual absorptive capacity thereby putting them in the top engineering offices in the country in this regard.

“The target for the month of April is 58 percent but we’re able to absorb more than that,” Eway said.

The absorptive capacity is determined by dividing the total obligation incurred by the total net allotment. It is measured by the ability to obligate the allotments received from DPWH central office and Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Eway said the faster bidding process, close monitoring of pre-detailed engineering works, and immediate obligation of the district office’s project allocations are few of the factors that contributed to the district’s high absorptive capacity.

“The recognition indicates how effective and efficient the district is in terms of managing financial resources. In all projects, we pushed contractors to really work,” the official added.

For 2020, the district got Php1.5 billion for the implementation of about 91 projects. The SLDEO is tasked to maintain 299 kilometers of national roads and 156 bridges, built in 18 towns and one city. (PR)

DOT leads in the sending off of tourists from the region who were stranded in Luzon

TACLOBAN CITY – After almost two months of being stranded in Luzon, 86 tourists from various parts of the region have returned home.

The stranded tourists returned to their respective areas on May 22 with officials from the Department of Tourism with the help of the provincial government of Leyte, Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board, An Waray party-list group and the Philippine National Police in attendance during a simple send-off ceremony at the MacArthur Park in Palo town.

Of the 86 tourists, 35 of them were from the towns of Barugo, Javier, Leyte town, Palo, and Tanauan in Leyte province, and cities of Tacloban and Ormoc; 24 from the towns of Bontoc, Hinunangan, Malitbog, St Bernard and Maasin City in Southern Leyte; and 24 from the cities of Calbayog and Catbalogan and the town of Sta Rita in Samar province.



About 86 tourists from various parts of the region stranded in Luzon finally returned homes this week. A simple sending-off ceremony was held initiated by the Department of Tourism. (DOT)

All of these local tourists were in Luzon which was placed under lockdown on March 15 in the aftermath of its increasing number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, DOT Regional Director Karena Rosa Tiopes said.

“We are thankful to the concerned local government units who also assisted us,” she said.

Meantime, Tiopes said that there 106 tourists coming from various parts of Luzon are still in the region due to lack of needed documents.

“Some did not want to take a bus ride and

will wait for the resumption of airline operations,” she said.

Tiopes added that aside from the DOT, the Office of Civil Defense had also assisted some stranded tourists but they have no record if how many were sent home by the agency.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

Over 31,000 farmers in 3 Samar provinces lose their crops due to ‘Ambo’

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Agriculture (DA) here in the region has reported that there were more than 31,000 farmers who sustained losses after typhoon ‘Ambo’ hit the three Samar provinces.

Based on the report of the DA-8, out of the 31,945 farmers who lost their crops due to the typhoon, majority of them were from the province of Eastern Samar.

About 28,556 farmers from the province were affected by the onslaught of Ambo.

The other affected farmers were from the province of Northern Samar (2,302) and Samar, 1,087.

The DA-8 also reported that 30,823 hectares planted with agricultural products were destroyed, the biggest

of which were in Eastern Samar with 28,556 hectares followed by Northern Samar with 1,163 has and Samar, 1,087 has.

The destroyed farm products from these three Samar provinces were valued at P134.82 million.

Eastern Samar’s damaged to its agriculture sector was placed at P62.97 million while in Northern Samar, P56.22 million and in Samar, P15.62 million.

Both Eastern Samar and Northern Samar provinces were placed under state of calamity due to Ambo.

Meanwhile, Assistant Sec. Jonjie Gonzales of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas, said that the typhoon victims from Eastern and Northern Samar provinc-

es could expect assistance from the national government.

He said, for one, their office has facilitated for the distribution of more than 1,000 food packs.

Gonzales assured the typhoon victims that they could expect more assistant

coming from the national government.

“We are giving focus to Eastern Samar and Northern Samar as these are the badly-hit areas,” he said during an interview aired over Radyo Pilipinas on May 20.

(JOEY A. GABIETA)

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Dalmacio C. Grafil
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Business Manager

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CONTACT

Tel. Nos. (053) 321-4833/(053) 888-0037

WEBSITE

www.leytesamardailynews.com

EMAIL ADDRESS

lsdaily2@yahoo.com

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No longer heroes

They used to be called modern heroes due to their huge monetary contributions to the government coffers with their dollar remittances into the country. With this, they partly sustained the economy as dollar earners, hence their

branding as modern heroes for without them, the nation would be handicapped financially.

But, alas, a vicious virus emerged, sickening people with its toxic effect, and claiming the lives of those who cannot stand its onslaught. The plague it created swept across the world, and paralyzed all societal institutions, making people hungry, scared, and desperate. As businesses halted their operations, millions of workers eventually lost their jobs, especially the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) working in alien soil.

Not only did they lose their jobs; they were also left penniless, thus hungry and deprived of mobility that basically requires money. Stuck in lockdowns and quarantines every step of the way in their jour-

ney back home, they also got exposed to the dreaded virus, many of whom contracted the disease and died in foreign lands. Those who made it back to the country equally faced a similar ordeal—confined in extended quarantines, swab testing whose results take eternity to retrieve, and paper requirements that are next to impossible to comply with.

All for the same reason—they are being avoided by mainstream society due to suspicions they could be virus carriers albeit asymptomatic. Rid of cash this time, and penniless as they go home, they no longer play their roles as contributors to our economy. Instead, they are deemed as threats to people's health and safety, hence their good as rejection in their local communities where they came from.

What a shift in their roles played. From being heroes, they came to be regarded as villains to the community folks who may end up contracting the disease and dying as a result. No wonder that, from such frustration and desperation, some OFWs had already taken their own lives as they could not accept society's seeming rejection.



Things To Mind

DOMS PAGLIWAN

Long hair

Guess what happens when, for weeks and months, you fail to visit the barber shop! That's right, you grow your nails, I mean, your hair. It's something you can't help, especially if you don't know how to do it yourself. Hair grows quickly and, in a month's time, men ought to have their

hair cut or else it would grow that long.

No problem with ladies; they can manage their long hair, designing it in many ways. You can't even tell if a lady's long hair had grown longer. There seems to be no difference. But for men and younger boys, the difference is glaring enough.

When their hair starts to cover their ears, or their forehead to include the eyes, then that's an indication it had grown longer, and it needs trimming.

Well, up to now, we are still in the midst of various types of quarantine in the country, depending on the extent of pandemic effect in a given locality. We know how it is to live in such scenario—too many restrictions are in place, such as social distancing, wearing of face masks, frequent handwashing, and above all, staying inside the house. Outside, there is no public transportation available, most businesses are closed, and just a few are operational.

Barber shops are among those that are closed. So even if you are

able to get out by virtue of a quarantine pass you got, still you cannot have your haircut, unless of course you will hire a barber to have it at home, through home service. But this is still not allowed perhaps since, in the process, you get in close contact with the barber. And if both of you are not careful enough, you might contract the disease.

And so this is what happened to many guys during this lockdown season—their hair had grown so long. In fact, it's not just their hair on the head that grew long enough; their beard and mustaches likewise grew long such that, to a number of men, looking suddenly mature age-wise see Long hair/page 5...



Commentary

FR. ROY CIMAGALA

The apparent victory of evil

WE have to be ready for this. Evil, though it surely will not have the last word, will always have a degree of victory over us in our life here on earth. Let's not be too idealistic that we can wipe it out completely in our lifetime, or even the whole life of the world, the entire span of time.

Not even Christ, our savior, in all his divine power could completely end it here on earth. Evil in all its forms will continue to hound us until the end of time. In fact, it continues to mutate into more subtle and more dangerous forms as we ourselves have also learned how to combat it with better means.

That is why Christ had to go through his passion and death, because in spite of all the good that he said and did, evil simply continues to rage. What Christ did was to show us how to handle this lifelong predicament of ours.

And that is simply to learn to suffer and eventually to die with the same attitude, with the same spirit with which Christ suffered and died

on the cross. It is only by doing so that we can aspire to share in his resurrection, the final victory over evil.

It therefore is wrong to think that the ideal state to aim at in this life is never to have anything to do with evil, whether it is our personal weakness, temptations, sins, or those of the others, or evil in general that is proliferating around us.

That would make us fall into an anomaly called perfectionism that can lend itself into various forms, like Puritanism, conservatism, idealism and many other isms that do not correspond to the objective reality of our human condition here on earth. What we have to do is meditate very closely on the passion and death of Christ, and try our best to live out the precious lesson taught there.

Yes, we have to do everything to follow the teachings of Christ on how to be in the truth, how to be charitable, how to ceaselessly preach the truth to everyone, how to do a lot of good, how to avoid sin and temptation, etc. But it cannot be de-

nied that at the end of the day, evil would still have some hold and dominion over us.

That is why St. Paul said: "All people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. As the Scriptures say, 'No one is righteous—not even one. No one is truly wise. No one is seeking God...' (Rom 3,9-11)

St. Paul himself, for all his zeal for God, said: "I see another law at work in my body, warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells in me." (Rom 7,23)

So, let's not kid ourselves and pretend that we are sinless or rid of any stain of evil, whether of our own making or that of another. We just have to learn how to accept this reality of our human condition and unite ourselves to Christ in his passion and death so we too can share in his resurrection.

Whatever personal responsibility we may have in evil in all its forms, we should just ask for mercy which Christ is offering us readily and in abundance. And we should just move on, doing our best to follow God's will as revealed in full by Christ.

Let's remember that when we find ourselves in the very pangs of evil and tempted to fall into despair, let's make Christ's words on the cross as our own: "My God, why have you forsaken me?" "It is consummated." "Father, into your hand I commend my spirit."

And let's just move on, believing with strong faith, that God will take care of everything.



Foulshot

AL ELLEMA

Normalling

Aside from heightened temperatures and strong typhoons, people live normal lives despite hardships in socio-economic conditions. Changes in the environment and climate had brought people to adjust lifestyles to what they consider as new normal. In the county, the awakening to the changing strengths of typhoons and sea movements pricked the public mind. The destruction caused by supertyphoon Yolanda made people realize that the forces of nature had upped its strength several notches than past experiences. The bitter lessons of the great sufferings people experienced caused them to pledge mending their lifestyles. Calls to care for the environment and lessen human activities that ruin mother nature took mainstream advocacy on various media platforms.

Governments begun linkages to address the global concerns that threatens the lives of people and the safety of our habitat. The awareness led nations to adopting measures,

mainly the discharge of toxic gases that deplete the ozone layer. The issue caused protracted debates as industrialized countries pushed the weight in ramming their position over the weaker nations. There eventually was an agreement to set carbon emissions at levels that is considered less harmful to the environment and destructive to the ozone layer. How compliance in monitored and policed among the signatories to the agreement is beyond the awareness of people in the countries around the globe.

The emergence of new normal in terms of climate change and disasters had kept people positing for policies that would reduce the ill effects of strong super-typhoons, heightened floods, tidal waves and stormsurges. People are now gradually adopting practical safety and security measures that could mitigate damages of calamities on their lives, properties and livelihood. Quick response to emergencies, the provision of evacuation sites and the basic needs for food, water, medicines and

shelter are now part of the mandatory requirements among local governments, national government and the private business sector.

All the responsive adjustments to the new normal from calamities and disasters got nil in contrast to an unseen covid19 virus that had affected nations and peoples across the globe. The dreaded covid19 virus that emanated from China has infected peoples in various countries of the world. It has killed many people, including medical professionals attending to covid19 patients in hospitals, health facilities and frontline checkpoints.

The number of infections and deaths keep increasing daily despite efforts to control its spread. In the face of real economic losses and the impending breaking of public order, government had set timelines for the gradual transition from its imposed enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) to what it desires as a lowered general community quarantine (GCQ). Without testing the entire population, the number of covid19 cases will certainly decrease. But the figure does not show that the virus had been halted and people are already safe. It is dangerous to declare that the decreased number of reported positive covid19 cases is an indication that the situation of the country is normalling.

comments to aellema@yahoo.com

Long...
...from Page 3

became the trend. Of course, because these hairs on one's face create an imagery that makes one look rather old.

As the quarantines prolong, so did men's hair. You can't even recognize your friends anymore with their hairy faces. It's a good thing quarantine in our region has been relaxed a little bit. Under Modified General Quarantine, barber shops are already open, allowing long-haired boys to have their hairs cut.

But make no mistake. Safety protocols must be observed when

having your haircut. You must wear a mask, and before the barber starts, you should demand that he first disinfect the chair, the blade, the comb, the scissors, and his hands with 70% alcohol. If possible, he should use a newly-washed cloth covering on you, and he must wear a mask, too. Moreover, he should avoid talking while he's at work for safety precautions.

If you are not used to having long hair, but circumstances drove you to having it, then you only have the virus and its consequent quarantines to blame. In this extremely hot summer, better get rid of that long hair.

Commentaries from readers whose identities they prefer to remain anonymous can be accommodated as "blind items". It will be our editorial prerogative, however, to verify the veracity of such commentaries before publication.

Letters should be as brief as possible, and sent with the writer's name, signature address and phone numbers (if any) to: "Letter to the Editor", Leyte Samar Daily Express. They may be edited for length and clarity



Pray the Holy Rosary daily for world peace and conversion of sinners (The family that prays together stays together)

Prayer for the Nation and for Those who Serve in Public Office

God, our Father, you guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers we offer for our nation, by the wisdom of our leaders and integrity of our citizens, may harmony and justice be secured and may there be lasting prosperity and peace.

Almighty and eternal God, You know the longings of our hearts and You protect our rights in your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy freedom, security and peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen. (Courtesy of Daughters of St. Paul)

2 men drowned in a river in Ormoc City

ORMOC CITY- The bodies of two persons who were drowned at Pagsan-gaan River, this city, on May 23 afternoon while collecting shells were re-trieved at the same spot where they were last seen, according to the police.

Police Station 3 chief Major Reynaldo Honrado said that the body of Rogelio Balunan, 63, was found by the responding rescuers two hours after he was last seen being swallowed by the whirlpool at the river's deep.

While the body of Balunan's nephew, 23-year old Gerald Kent Balunan who was with him during that fateful incident, was spotted floating at the same area where his uncle's body was found afternoon

the next day while rescue operation was ongoing.

The police said that the rescue and retrieval oper-ation was temporarily sus-pended on Saturday eve-ning due to murky waters and was continued on the next day.

Police said that the vic-tims were collecting shells at the river near the victims' residence in Sitio Pikas of Barangay Lilo-an, this city, along with four others when the two set foot at the portion of the river having a waterspout. Their compan-ions tried to save them but failed.

Police added that the victims have been used to gathering pails of shells for the family's food in the past days at the shallow portion of the river.

But during that day, the victims proceeded to the deeper area that according to the City Disaster-Risk Reduction and Manage-ment Office's Operations and Warning Officer Fran-cis Omega was about 30 feet deep.

Joint teams from the Philippine Army, Ormoc Coast Guard, City Police, Ormoc Divers' Club, vil-lage officials and the locals worked in the operation to retrieve the remains of the victims.

Pagsangaan River is a catch basin where flood-waters from the nearby towns traverse going to the sea. During heavy rains this portion of the river fre-quently overflows affecting the locals.

(ELVIE ROMAN ROA)

More typhoon victims in Samar areas get food aid

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Social Welfare and De-velopment (DSWD) has already distribut-ed 20,079 family food packs (FFPs) to Typhoon 'Ambo' (international name Vongfong) victims in Samar provinces.

Each food pack con-tains rice, coffee, and canned goods enough for three to five days for a family of five mem-bers, said Joshua Kempis, DSWD Eastern Visayas disaster response opera-tion division information officer, in a statement.

“Our relief efforts are still ongoing both in Eastern and Northern Samar. We only dispatch



AID FOR TYPHOON VICTIMS. A woman receives a food pack during relief operations for Typhoon Ambo victims in Eastern Samar. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Friday (May 22, 2020) said 20,079 family food packs have been distributed to the typhoon victims in Eastern and Northern Samar. (Photo courtesy of DSWD)

relief items when local government requests for augmentation, as they are always the first responder in any disaster,” he added.

The DSWD has served a total of 18,395 families in Eastern Samar -- 7,300 in Oras town, 4,571 in Ar-teche, 3,324 in Dolores, 1,700 San Policarpo, and 1,500 in Can-avid.

In Northern Samar, 1,684 families have re-ceived the food packs, 750 in Las Navas, 684 in San Roque, and 250 in Catubig.

The DSWD has al-ready poured out over PHP11-million in food assistance to Ambo vic-tims in Samar provinces, Kempis said.

The regional office here has requested ad-ditional 40,000 family food packs from the DSWD Visayas Disas-ter Response Center in Cebu City and as of May 19, a total of 32,950 packs have been deliv-ered and the remaining 6,300 is expected to ar-rive in the next days.

On May 14, Ambo brought violent winds and heavy to intense rains over the northern portion of Eastern Sa-mar and the southern part of Northern Samar, according to the Phil-ippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and As-tronomical Service Ad-ministration.

(GERICO SABALZA/PNA)

Electrical connection causes fire that burned 5 houses in Ormoc City

ORMOC CITY- A fire incident that gutted five houses and displaced sev-en families in Juan Luna St., of the city's District 4, originated from an elec-trical connection.

This was the result of the investigation that they conducted on the May 19 incident, Fire Of-ficer 3 Samuel Matugas, Jr. case investigator of the city's Bureau of Fire Pro-tection.

Matugas said that house owner Michaela

Noval admitted that the blaze originated in her bedroom but could not described how it began.

BFP investigator also cited the account of Roy Cabibi, neighbor of Noval whose house was also to-tally burned, that when he went to the second floor of Noval's house to put out the fire, he saw an electric fan dropped at the bed still plugged at the electrical outlet hat was on fire.

Responding firefight-ers managed to put off the

blaze nine minutes after they received a call. It was declared under control at 5:55 pm and fire out at 6:20 pm.

Also left homeless were Wilfredo Cabibi, Romeo Abordo and Virgilio Cabi-bi with house sharers in a total of seven families. All of them received immedi-ate aid from the city gov-ernment.

These families were also victims of a huge fire in 2012 that gutted not less than 60 houses in the same

place. A new road built af-ter the said fire was used as an access for the fire re-sponders to penetrate and eventually helped a lot to control the spread of the fire.

Mayor Richard Gomez rushed to the scene and kept reminding the crowd to strictly observe physical distance.

Total damage was pegged at more than P1 million and no one was re-ported hurt or injured.

(ELVIE ROMAN ROA)

DOH... ...from Page 1

of Tarangan, considered to be the epicenter of COVID-19 in Eastern Visayas.

Out of the 28 COVID-19 cases of the region, 23 of them were from Tarangan includ-ing its new cases involv-ing a 16-year old boy and a 44-year old man.

Roca said that the two new COVID- 19 patients are now at the community isolation unit of Tarangan and ap-pears to be asymptomat-ic.

The health official also said that the five recovered patients were already discharged from the local government

unit-managed facili-ty and have returned to their respective houses.

The town of Tarangan was placed under lock-down by its mayor, Arnel Tan, as a way to contain the spread of the virus, and the only area in the region still under en-hanced community quar-antine.

The DOH in the re-gion earlier confirmed of a community transmis-sion in Tarangan, a town of more than 25,000 peo-ple.

Meantime, since the COVID-19 laborato-ry testing center at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVM-RC) in Tacloban City started its operations on May 11, 753 swab sam-

ples were already tested with eight of them turned to be positive of the virus.

Currently, it has 526 pending swab samples that would be tested for any coronavirus.

Prior to the opera-tion of the EVRMC as a COVID-19 testing cen-ter, all swab samples from the region were ei-ther brought at the Re-search Institute for Trop-ical Medicine (RITM) in Mandaluyong City or at the Vicente Sotto Me-morial Medical Center in Cebu City.



35 OFWs... ...from Page 1

were given tags which would only be taken off by a City Health Office person-nel after they completed the mandatory 14-day quaran-tine period.

Five TACRU responders man the Balik Tacloban ver-ification/ validation booth at the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport.

CDRRMO staff were also on hand to bring these returnees to their homes.

(TACLOBAN CITY INFOR-MATION OFFICE)

Teacher arrested over drugs in Northern Samar

TACLOBAN CITY-A 39-year old teacher tagged as a high-value individual was nabbed in a joint an-ti-illegal drugs operation in Allen, Northern Samar.

The suspect, Bryan “Brix” Sevilla, married, was arrested at around 5:50 pm on May 23 at Barangay Jubasan of said town.

Purchased from the sus-pect was one piece small heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet containing white crystalline substance suspected to be metham-phetamine hydrochloride

“shabu” as subject of sale, according to the police.

Confiscated from his possession and control were one piece small heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet containing white crystalline substance sus-pected to be shabu; two pieces of P500 used as buy-bust money; one piece P20; some coins; purse; and a motorcycle.

The operation was led by Allen Municipal Po-lice Station-MDET with Lieutenant Manuel Tadeo and Captain Al-Sham-ir Hamin, Northern Sa-mar Provincial Police Office-Provincial Drug Enforcement Unity (NSP-PO-PDEU), and Philip-pine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in the re-gion. (RONALD O. REYES)

DAILY PROGRAM:

“IGSUMAT KAN KA OYO”

HIMANGRAWON - 104.7

MON. - SAT 8:00 PM

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Eastern Samar town mayor expresses gratitude to national government for ‘Ambo’ aid

ARTECHE, Eastern Samar – Mayor Roland Boei Evardone of this town expressed his gratitude to the national government for its assistance it extended to them amid the destructions they suffered due to typhoon ‘Ambo.’

Evardone in particular cited the officials of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which provided assistance intended for families who were directly hit by the disaster.

DSWD Undersecretary Imee Neri lead in the distribution of P3,000 cash assistance to 202 residents of Barangay Catumsan whose houses were totally destroyed by the typhoon.

The residents also

received family food packs or family kits.

Almost 70 percent of the 202 households in said coastal village in the northern part of the town near its border to Northern Samar province was destroyed by the first typhoon that hit the country this year and made its first landfall in the nearby town of San Policarpo.

Aside from residents in Catumsan, villagers in Barangay 1 of San Policarpo also received cash assistance and family food packs from the DSWD.

“We are thankful to our President for sending DSWD to distribute the government’s assistance to my constituents,” Mayor Evardone said.

The town’s 4,602 families all received food packs from the

DSWD, four days after Ambo pummeled their town on the May 14.

The Office of Civil Defense also distributed 30 tarpaulins which were given to families whose houses were totally destroyed by the typhoon.

Mayor Evardone added that due to the COVID-19 response effort of the municipality, their calamity fund including the Bayanihan grant, is now depleted.

“I think we only have P500,000 remaining amount from our Bayanihan grant. That is why I’m asking our residents to understand our situation if we cannot immediately give assistance to them,” he said.

To support the recovery needs of the local government, the



DSWD USEC Imee Neri with Mayor Roland Boei Evardone lead in the distribution of P3,000 cash assistance to typhoon ‘Ambo’ victims in Barangay Catumsan, Arteche, Eastern Samar.

This year’s... ...from Page 1

Villanueva’s life is a stuff of a teleserye.

Born to a poor family with his father, Romulo, Jr. working as a carpenter and his mother, Lucila, a public secondary teacher and a ‘kuya’ to his young sibling, Jason, Villanueva admitted that he was surprised that he landed second behind their class valedictorian, Cadet 1st Class Gemalyn Sugui.

He admitted that he is not a highly intellectual as a student, describing himself as a ‘lucky individual.’

“I just remained focus and determined to finish my studies here at PMA,” Villanueva, who will join the Philippine Army, said in a phone interview hours before their graduation rites on May 22.

Villanueva received the Vice Presidential Saber, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO) Award, the Academic Group Award, the Australian Defense Best Over-all

Performance Award, the General Antonio Luna Award, the Army Service Professional Courses Plaque, the Department of Leadership Plaque, and the Humanities Plaque.

He disclosed that his desire to become a soldier was a result of his being an avid fan of “Tayong Dalawa”, a teleserye aired at ABS-CBN in 2009 which starred Gerald Anderson and Jake Cuenca which tackled sibling rivalry who both entered at the PMA.

“I was inspired to become a soldier after watching Tayong Dalawa and help protect my family. (But) eventually my desire to become a soldier is to serve our country, especially on peace and order (preservation),” Villanueva said.

He is a proud product of public education system. He finished his elementary at Kapagian Elementary School, took his high school at the Leyte National High School and have his college at the Leyte Normal University, earning a degree of Bachelor of Education major in physical science

in 2016.

Villanueva admitted that when he first tried his luck to enter PMA in 2011, he flunked. This made him to finish his education degree, sans any honors.

But his desire to become a soldier was ‘too strong,’ he tried again to take another shot in 2015. And this time, he passed paving the way for him to realize his dream.

“Nanay actually dissuaded me to take PMA entrance exam for the second time saying that I have already earned a degree. But then again, she eventually relented and supported it. I know she is proud of me,” Villanueva said, adding that he could now fully support his family.

The newly-minted PMA graduate said that when he was young, he would join his mother sell ‘yema’ a candy made purely of condensed milk to help augment their family’s income.

“I miss them so much. Hopefully before I will be assigned, I could visit them,” he said.

(JOEY A. GABIETA/
RONALD O. REYES)

local chief executive disclosed that they slashed the budget on maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) of some offices in the executive branch and at the legislative branch.

The town mayor also expressed his gratitude to other towns in the province for their assistance.

Among them were Sulat Mayor Gigi

Zacate who donated 20 boxes of noodles; Guiuan Mayor Analiz Gonzales Kwan who donated 30 sacks of rice; and Hernani Mayor Amado Candido who also donated five sacks of rice.

About 1,369 houses in the town were totally destroyed houses while 2, 674 others were partially damaged.

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