

Oriental Mindoro coastal waters ‘improving’ — PCG

Oil spill compensation claims can top ₱1.1 B

By MARTIN SADONGDONG and ELLSON QUISMORIO

Cleanup efforts in areas affected by the massive oil spill in Oriental Mindoro continue as the situation in its coastal waters started “improving,” the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said yesterday.

Admiral Artemio Abu, PCG com-

mandant, visited Pola town on Saturday with Department of National Defense Officer-in-Charge (DND-OIC) and acting National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Chairperson Carlito Galvez Jr. to oversee the cleanup operations by the coast guard, local government units, and other concerned agencies.

Aerial and coastal inspections

were also conducted to assess the situation in the area.

“CG Admiral Abu shared that the officials arrived at a common observation that the area’s situation is improving,” the PCG said.

Prior to this, PCG personnel conducted a shoreline clean-up and assessment technique (SCAT) in nine barangays in Pola and two barangays in Naujan towns ▶ 4

CONTINUING CLEAN-UP — Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) personnel confer with experts in conducting a re-survey as part of the Shoreline Clean-up and Assessment Technique (SCAT) in Pola, Oriental Mindoro, on March 23, 2023. (Photo from PCG)



EARTH HOUR — A mother takes a photo of her daughter with a giant ‘60’ as background at the Quezon Memorial Circle on Saturday, March 25, 2023, when lights were turned off for 60 minutes for Earth Hour 2023. The event, which was held for the first time in two years due to the pandemic, was organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines (WWF), and supported by the Quezon City government. (Juan Carlo de Vela)

Palace: Study on full devolution out in 2 months

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Malacañang said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will come up in two months with the necessary policy recommendations to President Marcos on possible amendments to Executive Order (EO) No. 138 and to determine what national government functions should be devolved to local government units (LGUs) due to the Supreme Court’s Mandanas Ruling.

“After the completion of the study, the DBM will propose the necessary policy recommendations for the Chief Executive ‘to issue and to serve as guidance of the local governments and the national government agencies in the implementation of the full devolution effort,’” Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil said.

In a news forum, DBM Director John Aries Macaspac said Marcos ordered the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to study the implementation of this full devolution further, ▶ 4

Senate to probe Degamo, other political killings during break — Sen. Dela Rosa

By HANNAH TORREGOZA

The Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs can start its independent probe into the series of political killings happening in the country, including that of Negros Oriental Governor Roel Degamo.

Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, chairman of ▶ 4

PPA on heightened alert; long queues expected at sea ports this Holy Week

By AARON RECUENCO and MARTIN SADONGDONG

Personnel of the Philippine Port Authority (PPA) involved in port operations have been placed on heightened alert and were barred from going on leave for the long Lenten break next month in anticipation of the influx of passengers.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago said the move is to

ensure a sufficient number of port personnel that will attend to the needs of the passengers who are expected to go to their hometowns to take advantage of the long weekend.

The Lenten break will start on April 6, Thursday, with Malacañan adding another extra holiday when it moved the observance of Araw ng Kagitingan on Sunday, April 9, to Monday, April 10, as part of its holiday ▶ 4

ARTA vows to ease export, import transactions

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) has reiterated its commitment to streamlining government processes and regulations concerning the country’s import and export industry to pursue a more robust Philippines.

ARTA director-general Secretary Ernesto Perez said this after he received ▶ 4

Bulacan town police chief shot dead by robbers; ₱1-M bounty offered for info on gunmen

By AARON RECUENCO and FREDDIE VELEZ

Two armed robbers shot dead the chief of police of San Miguel, Bulacan who was leading the conduct of a follow-up operation on a robbery case on Saturday, March 25.

A report reaching Camp Crame in Quezon City disclosed that the shootout between ▶ 4

BUSINESS B-1
BSP maintains ‘very liquid’ reserves at all times — Medalla

ENTERTAINMENT B-6
Valera on MMFF biopic: ‘I want to inspire people’



LIFESTYLE B-8
Julie Lluch goes skin deep



ALVEO IRONMAN WINNERS — Photos show the winners in the swim, bike and run Alveo Ironman 70.3 that was held in Davao City on Sunday, March 26, 2023. (Left photo) Sarah Cowley of Australia (middle) topped the Pro Women category with American Lauren Brandon (left) finishing second, and Lottie Lucas taking third place. In the Pro Men category (right photo), Portuguese Felipe Azevedo (middle) emerged No. 1, with Serbian Ognjen Stojanovic (left) finishing second, and Tuan Chun Chang of Taiwan, third. Story on Page 8. (Keith Bacongco)

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