



**WOMEN SOLIDARITY.** A delegate of the Women's International Solidarity Affair in the Philippines has her face painted with slogans during a conference in suburban Quezon City, on Sunday Aug. 5. The women's group expressed support to Muslim women who could be displaced due to a military offensive against Muslim guerrillas on southern Basilan island.

AP Photo by Aaron Favila

## US-Philippines Expo Opens to...

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of RSG Jewelry with a store in the Jewelry District in downtown Los Angeles, had a booth facing the main stage at the south end of Fairplex's Building 4. "Today was really good," she said. "So many

people came, and that made me very happy. This is a very successful expo" Ms. Samadi added.

If the vendors were happy for the good attendance, the fairgoers themselves were full of praises for the array

of attractions. "So much enjoyment, especially the Miss US-Philippines Pageant," said, Josie Vilorio, a hospital social worker from Downey who attended with her husband, Jeff, and their two children, Briana, 11, and Justin, 7. "Talagang maganda. maraming entertainment. Nag-enjoy kami sa pageant," she said. This was the Vilorios first time to attend. They purchased a lot of jewelry and body care products.

"We wish them luck," Mr. Panopio said when Asian Journal mentioned the other Expo that is opening at the Los Angeles Convention Center this weekend. "I wish that our kababayans will also rally behind them. This is a large community, and there's a lot of room," Panopio said. "Our focus is not the competition; it's the community, and we intend to make this expo better and better every year." Part of the expo proceeds will be donated to Filipino-American Library located in Historic Filipinotown, according to Mr. Panopio. (AJ)

## Flood Damage Estimated at...

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down by a collapsed riprap in Old Cabalan village, Olongapo City.

The monsoon rains were induced by tropical storms "Chedeng" (international codename: Pabuk) and "Dodong" (Wutip), which hovered over waters off the northeast Philippines before hitting Taiwan.

Except in Bulacan, evacuees started returning to their homes elsewhere in Luzon.

In Metro Manila, only 75 people remain in evacuation centers in Malabon City.

Elsewhere in Central Luzon, 2,625 people were evacuated in Bataan province, 488 in Tarlac, 180 in Zambales, and

81 in Pampanga.

In Southern Luzon, only 500 people in Rosario town, Cavite province remain in evacuation centers.

Early Thursday evening, Malacañang approved the recommendation of the NDCC for elementary and high school classes in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Zambales and Bataan to remain suspended on Friday.

This was announced by the Office of Civil Defense on verbal instructions from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Classes in Metro Manila and nearby provinces will resume. (Inquirer.net)

## Suspect in Marine Beheading Surrenders...

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erick Furigay said reports reaching Basilan said NBI agents apprehended Jamiri when he arrived in Lamitan in a bus from Tipo-Tipo at about 7 a.m. yesterday.

Basilan police director Senior Superintendent Salik Macapantar confirmed the surrender of Jamiri, but did not give any details.

"The reports indicated that the guy surrendered presumably after negotiation," he said.

NBI agents arrived aboard a Navy patrol boat, which fetched Jamiri from an undisclosed place in Zamboanga City, he added.

Furigay said he had no other details of the surrender or of the whereabouts of Jamiri, younger brother of former Tuburan mayor Hajarun Jamiri.

NBI officials in Zamboanga

City would not comment on the reported surrender of Jamiri

**MILF disengages Marines**  
Meanwhile, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has agreed to reposition its forces away from towns in Basilan where Marines are running after Abu Sayyaf terrorists accused of beheading 10 Marines last month.

Von Al-Haq, chairman of the MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities, told reporters he and his counterpart in the government, Brig. Gen. Edgardo Gurra, forged an interim, low-level security arrangement detailing the repositioning of guerrilla forces.

"This will allow an undisrupted hunt by government forces of the ASG members implicated in the beheading of 10 of the 14 Marines killed

in the July 10 encounter with MILF fighters in Albarka (in Basilan)," he said.

Al-Haq said the security agreement was forged the other night after an extensive dialogue by members of the government and MILF's joint ceasefire committees.

The security agreement will prevent clashes between the MILF and government troops involved in the police action against those responsible for the beheading of 10 Marines in Basilan last month, he added.

Marines have been running after the Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Tipo-Tipo and Ungkaya Pukan towns in Basilan since Tuesday.

Troops have been bombarding with mortar and 105 Howitzer cannons strategic points in Tipo-Tipo to flush out the Abu Sayyaf, according to the MILF news website, www.luwaran.com. ■

## Filipino Biophysicist's Breakthrough in...

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"Nonlinear Spectral Imaging of Biological Tissues", offers a new procedure in cancer diagnosis.

In an interview with the Asian Journal, Palero explained his doctoral research and breakthrough work. "The microscope has been around since the 1600s, but it was not until the early 1900s that it emerged as a scientific tool rather than a hobbyist's toy. Since then, the microscope's potential in biology and medicine was put to use.

A new development in skin cancer diagnosis emerged more than a decade ago. This is known as Optical Biopsy. Traditionally, cancer diagnosis is carried out by slicing or punching a hole into the diseased skin, cutting the biopsy into thin slices, fixing them on a slide, and placing

these under the microscope for scrutiny by a Pathologist. This procedure takes about six weeks or more. Besides the invasiveness of this method, it is time-consuming and prone to inaccuracies. Optical biopsy on the other hand promises accurate diagnosis of skin cancer without cutting up the tissue.

"The work we did was intended to advance Optical Biopsy into a more accurate diagnosis method. By using an advanced technique called Nonlinear Microscopy, we were able to image cells deep inside living skin tissues," Palero reported.

"Although imaging cells inside tissues has been done before, we were the first to observe the natural 'glow' or auto-fluorescence of the cells in full color without the use of any artificial coloring or

'staining'. The shape as well as the color of a cell changes depending on its state - healthy, dying, or cancerous. This has been a big step towards a more accurate cancer diagnosis," he added.

Because of the dramatic results and the impact of his research, Palero's work was featured in a national newspaper in The Netherlands and was on the front cover and main story of the August issue of Biophysical Journal.

Despite all the amazing attention that he has been getting as a result of his work, Jonathan remains humble and unassuming. "Simple lang ako," (I'm really quite simple) Jonathan or Onats (as he prefers friends to call him) describes himself.

"Napakadaling makibagay. Walang akong pinipiling

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## RP Bans Poultry Products from 2 US States Due to Avian Flu

MANILA — Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap has ordered a temporary ban on all imports of domestic and wild birds from Virginia and Nebraska in the US, after American authorities confirmed the presence of avian influenza in the two states.

Yap justified the ban and said this was necessary to protect the health of the people and the poultry industry in the country, which has so far managed to be free of the bird flu.

"I have ordered DA quarantine officers and inspectors at all major airports and seaports to stop and confiscate all shipments of live birds, poultry and poultry products into the country originating

from Nebraska and Virginia," he said in a statement.

The Philippines, Brunei and Singapore are the only three avian flu-free countries in Southeast Asia.

Dr. John Clifford, deputy administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the US Department of Agriculture, submitted a report on July 23 to the Animal Health Organization on the presence of low pathogenic strains of avian influenza H5N1 in Virginia and H7N9 in Nebraska.

The ban covers all "domestic and wild birds and their products, including day-old chicks, eggs and semen," according to Yap.

The agriculture secretary

ordered the immediate suspension of the issuance of Veterinary Quarantine Clearances to all imports covering these products from Togolese Republic in West Africa.

The DA earlier imposed a similar ban on all live bird and poultry imports from Korea, the United Kingdom and Japan after the bird flu virus was detected in these countries.

The ban on poultry products from Japan has been lifted since May after the Bureau of Animal Industry said that the risk of AI contamination from bird and poultry products originating from this country was negligible. (Inquirer.net)

## Filipinos Sweep Awards in...

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which offered to manage her career from Hollywood. But we said we all have to go home first and celebrate our victory in Manila. Besides, Aria has to talk with her parents to discuss her future plans, which includes a scholarship at the famous Juilliard School in New York. We are truly the team to beat. There are champions but there are world champions. Hindi na sekreto sa buong mundo na talagang magaling ang Pilipino. (It is no longer a secret to the world that the Filipinos are truly great!)," Orosa proudly exclaimed.

In WCOPA's website, many leaders in the entertainment industry lauded the event. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in a prepared statement said, "As a former professional actor, I understand the discipline and commitment it takes to perfect skills... Over the years, the World Championships of Performing Arts has launched

numerous professional careers and contributed generously to the world's rich artistic traditions."

This invitation only - international meet is often cited as the official and only "Olympics" for aspiring performers and entertainers. Pattered after the Olympics, outstanding rising "world stars" from over 50 countries compete at this esteemed international event. Included in the competition categories are dance, vocal, modeling, acting, instrumental and variety arts. Each act is allowed 60 seconds to showcase their skills in the final competition.

"Contestants from over 40 countries vied for 'the gold' plus \$50,000 in scholarships awarded by the School for Film and Television in New York," said Griff O'Neil, competition president. The veteran entertainment producer recruited over 75 Scouts and National Directors who scoured the globe for potential talent. Some 75,000

people from around the world applied to participate in the 2007 championships. "This is the only truly Olympic-style talent competition ever created," O Neil added. "We've been planting seeds for the past eleven years and are now ready to really show off our spectrum of talent, in both junior and adult categories."

Over 100 persons from the entertainment industries in Hollywood, Nashville and New York including agents, managers, casting directors, producers, and record label reps were invited to judge, conduct seminars and "go-sees" during the frantic week of activities. Fifteen (15) VIP and celebrity entertainment industry greats from Hollywood and New York served as judges for the finals. Popular TV host and Emmy winner Bob Eubanks emceed the colorful Opening Ceremonies, and One Tree Hill's Michael Copon hosted the spectacular finals at the Bonaventure Hotel in LA. (AJ)

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Attorney Gali Koren graduated her Juris Doctor with honors from Western State University. She also holds an LLM in international law with a major in immigration from University of San Diego. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association, the Orange County Bar Association, Los Angeles Bar Association and is licensed to practice by the State Bar of California. Ms. Koren is also a member of the California Association of Healthcare Facilities (CAHF). She practices exclusively immigration law, with an emphasis on healthcare professionals. HUNDREDS OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS ARE NOW WORKING LEGALLY IN THE U.S. AFTER BEING HELPED BY ATTORNEY KOREN AND HER DEDICATED STAFF.

The firm is proud to announce the addition of two new attorneys to our staff. Mr. Carlo Borja, a graduate of Ateneo de Manila University, is a licensed attorney in the Philippines. Ms. Lisa P. Lim, a graduate of Whittier Law School, is a licensed attorney in the State of California.

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