

Review centers face deadline

Operators warned to integrate with accredited institutions or risk closure

Nursing review centers have been warned to integrate with schools to prevent a repeat of cheating in the 2006 board examinations.

The Commission on Higher Education said it will not extend the May deadline for review centers to comply.

Deputy executive director Julito Vitriolo gave the warning after receiving a position paper from a parents' group expressing their apprehension over the apparent lack of accredited and integrated school-based review centers with permit.

"Failure to get the proper accreditation will mean closure of independent

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of years review centers were given to integrate with accredited schools

1



among countries that threatened sanctions against the Philippines if the tainted results were allowed to stand.

Vitriolo said that their main concern is guiding students and parents in enrolling in authorized review centers.

"We want to make sure that these review centers are up to international standards and avoid embarrassing incidents,"

Vitriolo said his office will not hesitate to close review centers that fail to comply.

"We strongly suggest that they complete the requirements and act now. Otherwise, last-minute applications may not be processed on time," he said.

President Arroyo last year signed an executive order giving the CHED oversight over review centers.

The order also decreed that only accredited higher educational institutions may qualify to operate review centers.

Existing review centers were given one year from November 2006 to integrate with school-based review centers. The deadline was extended to May this year.

review centers," he said.

In 2006, the country suffered a severe beating from the international community in the wake of massive cheating during that year's nursing board exam.

The US, Britain and Australia were

Massive relief, rehab for Eastern Samar start

Food, water, used clothing and medicines were airlifted to Eastern Samar as part of massive relief and rehabilitation organized by the government for the flood-ravaged province.

President Gloria Arroyo led the sendoff for the Hercules C-130 transport plane carrying the relief goods bound for Borongan, the capital of Eastern Samar. The relief effort is one of the largest multi-agency disaster assistance operations.

Forty-four government agencies and non-government organizations led by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp, the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Highways have pulled resources and manpower together to assist the victims.

Among the items included in the initial mission were 10,000 relief packs composed of assorted used clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, medicines and basic commodities such as rice, noodles, coffee and sugar.

Thirty-four medical personnel from the DOH accompanied the mission. In Borongan, medical personnel from Manila will be joined by other government doctors and nurses from Tacloban City.

Arroyo was joined at the sendoff by Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, League of Cities of the Philippines president Benhur Abalos and Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone.



A FAMILY THAT SELLS TOGETHER ...

It's all hands on deck for this family operating a licensed street stall in Metro Manila. A recent campaign to remove illegal hawkers from the city's streets has resulted in easier traffic flow and less overcrowding, especially in side streets. This family may benefit from the clean-up campaign with fewer competitors in the area.

PCA bans cutting of coconut trees

The government has banned the illegal cutting of coconut trees to stop denudation and protect the industry.

"We are implementing this moratorium to once and for all stop the unabated incidence of illegal cutting," Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Oscar Garin said.

He underscored the need for

stricter regulations to stop the illicit practices of unscrupulous coconut lumber traders. Permits to cut coconut trees and the corresponding transport and transshipment clearances will be stopped, with limited exceptions.

These exceptions include cutting in areas hit by typhoons where there is damage to coconut trees, or in places that are declared typhoon calamity

areas; trees which pose a threat and danger to life and property; for areas authorized for conversion; and for personal use of the farmer for family housing or animal shed. In any case, no more than five trees will be felled at any one time.

The ban restricts the transport of coconut lumber within provincial limits to four-wheel vehicles with a capacity of 2,000 board feet.

IBANGBALITA

NEGOSYANTE, HULIDAP

Naging holdaper ang apat na pulis ng Quezon City Police District sa halip na maglingkod at maging tagapagtanggol laban sa masasamang loob makaraang ireklamo ng tatlong katao na pawang mga negosyante kahapon.

Habang sinusulat ang balitang ito, patuloy na iniimbestigahan ng QCPD-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit ang mga biktimgang sina Melvin Cruz, 27, Jammel Romuros, 26, at Cecille Garrido, 32, ng 163 M H del Pilar St, Malabon City.

Sa inisyal na pagsisiyasat, naganap

umano ang pangyayari sa pagitan ng alas-kuwatro hanggang alas-singko ng madaling-araw noong March 13 sa Edsa, Balintawak.

Sa salaysay ng mga biktima, sakay sila ng isang taxi patungo sa Baclaran, Parañaque City upang mamili ng mga cellphone nang parahin ng dalawang mobile car na sakay ang mga suspek.

AMA, PATAY SA ANAK

Dahil sa kalasingan napatay ng tatlong lalaking anak sa pamamagitan ng pagbugbog ang kanilang 55-anyos na ama



habang nag-iinuman sila sa barangay New Iloilo, Koronadal City, South Cotabato.

Kinilala ng Koronadal Police ang biktima na si Porferio Malinao na nabugbog at napatay ng mga

anak na sina Percival, Mark Angelo at Abner bandang ala-sais ng gabi noong Marso 13.

Sa ulat ng pulisya, habang masayang nag-iinuman ang mag-ama nagkaroon ng mainitang pagtatalo ang biktima at anak nitong si Abner.

Dahil sa nasabing pagtatalo, nasuntok ng biktima ang anak na si Abner na ikinagalit ng dalawang mga kapatid nito. Bilang pagtatanggol sa kapatid pinagtulangang bugbugin ng tatlo ang ama na naging dahilan ng agaran nitong kamatayan.

Davao

Davao Region ranked first in the country's aquaculture production with a growth rate of 19 per cent last year.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional director George Campeon said the region yielded about 67,000 metric tons in 2007 as against the 55,000 metric tons in the previous year.

He attributed the growth to more fish cages established in different parts of the region.

Samal Island had about 16 while Panabo City had 56 units. Both areas are located in Davao del Norte.

He said the growth rate is higher than the average figure in other areas of the country which was between 10 and 14 per cent.

Fish cages will be a continuing project for the region this year.

Pampanga

Some 100 policemen have been deployed to Magalang town to ease tension after mayor Lyndon Cunanan refused to yield to businessman Romulo Pecson despite a court order.

Pecson had taken his oath of office before municipal circuit court judge Magdalena Balderama, after a regional trial court ruled that he won the May 2007 polls.



Hundreds of supporters of Cunanan and Pecson trooped to the municipal hall, both camps claiming the mayor's post.

It did not help that Cunanan padlocked the municipal hall and holed up inside with his supporters, refusing to honor the court order.

Pampanga provincial police director, senior superintendent Keith Ernard Singian, ordered the deployment of the Pampanga Mobile Group and Intelligence operatives.

Nueva Ecija

Three people were killed while a woman was critically hurt when two unidentified suspects fired at close range at the Mitsubishi Pajero they were riding in barangay Pinagpanaan.

Three other passengers were unhurt, police said.

The fatalities were identified as Cesra Fraile, 68, Jessica dela Cruz, 21 and Marie dela Cruz, 30.

A certain Irene de Guzman is presently undergoing medical treatment at a hospital in Cabanatuan City.

Those unhurt were identified by the police as Macys Fraile, 19, Yolanda Fraile, 42 and Dennis Joy Aisporna, 19.

Investigation showed that the suspects jumped out of nowhere and raked the vehicle with gunfire as it slowed over a hump in purok Diego Silang, barangay Pinagpanaan.