

Cheap Airfare for Easter Holiday
Early Booking!
Hurry!!!

NEW MILE TRAVEL

Bring this AD to avail of \$20 discount

Ang Pinakamurang Air ticket!
HKG - MNL - HKG

(Licence No: 353095)

• Other Services Offered:
• China Visa • Hotel Reservation
• Package tour from and to Philippines
• Local Tour • Shenzhen Tour
• Worldwide tickets are also available

Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton,
Ottawa, Winnipeg, Montreal
Rm 501, 5/F Parkes Commercial Centre
2-8 Parkes St, Jordan, Kowloon
Call now! 3620 2919 or 3620 2911





Baby mix-up Pinay faces deportation

Saudi committee holds nurse responsible for accidental swapping of newborns four years ago

A Filipino nurse is facing deportation from Saudi Arabia over the accidental switching of two newborn babies at a government hospital more than four years ago.

The Filipina, who was not named pending a formal deportation order, was one of four people implicated in the incident. One is an Egyptian doctor, another an Indian nurse and a third nurse, a Saudi national, who was fined 4,000 riyal.

A committee set up to investigate the case has recommended the foreigners be deported and banned from returning to the kingdom to work.

The babies, one Turkish and one Saudi, were mistakenly swapped at birth at a state hospital in Najran. It took DNA tests to establish their identities.

Saudi newspapers reported that Yusuf Cucu, father of the Turkish child, said his son was born by caesarian

section at the hospital on September 7, 2003.

"When I asked them for my baby, a nurse went to the delivery room. I was shocked when I saw the baby because it didn't have any of our features," said Cucu.

"I told his mother about what I saw. She said she knew about it but ruled out anything strange saying that his brown color could be inherited from his uncle."

Cucu said a nurse at the delivery room reassured them that this was indeed their baby.

He said that at one point, he was almost convinced that the child was illegitimate. Furious that his wife may have committed adultery, he had even considered killing her.

Later, following questions from their family in Turkey, the couple underwent DNA tests, which proved that their baby was not their biological

son. Cucu returned to the Najran hospital where the baby was delivered to clear up the matter.

He also wrote a complaint to the governor of Najran.

Both families were asked to undergo DNA tests, which proved that the children had been swapped.

The two families have received 600,000 riyal in compensation from King Abdullah. Both families live in villas next to each other.

OFWs in Korea pay heavy price of separation

A Filipino chaplain in Seoul said migration has led to an increase in the number of broken Filipino families in South Korea.

Fr Glenn Ginanni Jaron of the Mission Society of the Philippines said providing pastoral needs to OFWs in Korea is a challenging task.

"Being away from their families and loved ones, and the pressure of work in a foreign land contribute to their distress," Jaron told the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

He said that during his nine-year stint as chaplain in Seoul, he encountered instances of OFWs staying as live-in partners.

Some of those who were cohabiting were OFWs who were married and had families in the Philippines. Jaron said it was a grave challenge as there are more than 46,000 OFWs working in Korea.

Jaron has served as a spiritual guide, counselor and liaison officer for OFWs, helping address problems, including marriage-related issues that affect Filipino migrants in Korea.

He said OFWs should not stay longer than three to five years as migrant workers and should return to home and invest their earnings wisely. This would reduce the growing number of broken families due to migration.

Jaron regularly conducts Bible study classes and counseling programs.

The making of a reluctant American Idol



Ramiele Malubay (center) is dwarfed by fellow contestants on the top-rated US TV show American Idol.

Ramiele cuts it the second time around

After a setback the first time around, Ramiele Malubay had no wish to give American Idol another try.

She had her reasons, but her father and supporters had a bigger argument going for them in getting her to try again: Malubay had become a rallying symbol for the Filipino community in Florida and beyond.

The long and short of it is that the diminutive 20-year-old with the big voice became one of 12 finalists this time around in the top-rated TV show.

"I think she was lacking a bit of confidence and didn't want the people close to her to expect too much from her," neighbour Isidra Yokose said, referring to Malubay's initial reluctance.

"She is so incredibly special to us and to the rest of the Filipino community," added family friend Geny Panaligan-Ke, who organizes the Watch 'N Vote 4 Ramiele gatherings.

"I don't know where she gets it, but she definitely has the talent, the potential and the confidence to make it," Yokose said. "We are

so proud of her, and we have all the faith in the world that she will make it big."

The Wynn Las Vegas casino's director of race and sports operations has given her 6-1 odds of winning the competition, behind David Archuleta at 4-1.

Before her good looks, tiny stature – she's 4-foot-11 – and big voice made her a fan favorite, Malubay worked part-time as a waitress at a sushi restaurant in suburban Fort Lauderdale, where she grew up with her parents and younger sister.

NEWSBITES

STUCK IN TOILET

Deputies said a woman in western Kansas sat on her boyfriend's toilet for two years, and they're investigating whether she was mistreated.

Ness County Sheriff Bryan Whipple said a man called his office last month to report that something was wrong with his girlfriend.

Whipple said it appeared the 35-year-old woman's skin had grown around the seat. She initially refused emergency medical services but was finally convinced by responders and her boyfriend that she needed to be checked out at a hospital.

"We pried the toilet seat off with a pry bar and the seat went with her to the hospital," Whipple said. "The hospital removed it."

NOAH'S ARK

A "doomsday" seed vault built to protect millions of food crops from climate change, wars and natural disasters opened deep within an Arctic mountain in the remote Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard.

"The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is our insurance policy," Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg told delegates at the opening ceremony for the storage facility.

"It is the Noah's Ark for securing biological diversity for future generations."

HORSE SENSE

A lucky gambler has made £1 million, or about US\$1.97 million, from a 50 pence (US\$1) bet, British bookmaker William Hill said.

The man, who was not identified, correctly guessed the outcome of eight horse races, beating odds of two-million-to-one.