



AngTanglaw

The Official Student Publication of Philippine School Bahrain, Kingdom of Bahrain
January - May 2026
Volume XIX: Issue 2

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Editorial
**Safeguarding Students' Futures Abroad:
The Role of PSOs**



Science News
**Artemis II splashes down after
return mission to Earth**



Centerfold
In the Hands of Strength



New KG block ready for use in SY 2026-2027

By Ms. Jenalyn B. Amaro



The newly built Kindergarten Block of Philippine School Bahrain is now set to be utilized for the upcoming School Year 2026–2027, marking another milestone in the school's commitment to providing a safe and learner-friendly

environment for young students.

The construction of the new building officially commenced on April 6, 2025, and was completed on January 7, 2026. The school administration shared that the facility is expected to be fully turned over by mid-

June this year following the completion of statutory approval requirements.

Designed to better serve Kindergarten learners, the new block features eight larger and more spacious classrooms, providing students with a more

continue to page 3

F2F classes disrupted: PSB shifts to online learning

By Rojan Raine J. Pinto

In response to heightened security concerns, Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) transitioned to online learning beginning March 1, following directives from

the Ministry of Education (MOE). The move aimed to ensure the safety of students and staff amid the ongoing threat linked to the USA-Israel-Iran conflict.

Students attended

synchronous online classes from Monday to Wednesday, with Thursday designated for asynchronous learning.

The shift came after a missile alert was issued by the Ministry of Interior (MOI)

continue to page 2

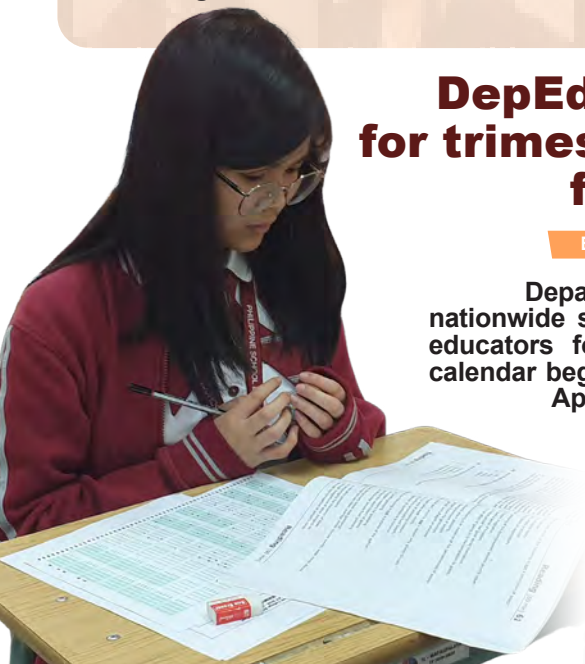
DepEd begins briefings for trimester school calendar for SY 26-27

By Sophia Roxanne D. Valencia

Department of Education (DepEd) began a nationwide series of orientation sessions to prepare educators for a transition to a three-term school calendar beginning in the 2026–2027 school year this April.

In an announcement on Wednesday, April 1, DepEd said this aims to guide education stakeholders on policy and operational changes tied to the shift, which forms part of efforts to improve instructional planning and strengthen delivery of the K-to-12 curriculum. This is aiming to address long-standing issues in

continue to page 3



SOLD-OUT SCREENING • (Left) Song of the Fireflies movie poster. (Right) The Filipino community in Bahrain fills the two VOX Cineco cinemas for the sold-out block screening of The Song of the Fireflies, a project initiative of Philippine School Bahrain. • Photo by Caddarick Francis M. Perera

PSB hosts sold-out screening of award-winning film 'Song of the Fireflies'

By Sophia Roxanne D. Valencia and Justine Pierre D. Arceo

Filipino community in Bahrain came together for a cinematic celebration of culture and resilience as the Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) hosted a special block screening of the award-winning film *Song of the Fireflies*.

The event, held at VOX Cineco Cinemas in Bahrain City Centre on February 14, drew an enthusiastic crowd of students, faculty, and families. Demand for the screening was so high that simultaneous showings in Cinemas 1 and 9 were officially declared sold out days in

continue to page 2

PSB holds EOSY ceremonies; honors student achievements

By M. Kristian B. Lego

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) conducted its End-of-School-Year Ceremonies May 8–9, 2026, highlighting student achievements across key academic levels.

The celebration began with the Recognition Ceremony on May 8, 2026, held at the Bahrain Society of Engineers in Juffair, where students were honored for academic excellence, outstanding performance, and exemplary conduct.

On May 9, 2026, PSB held its Moving Up Ceremonies for Kindergarten, Grade

6, and Grade 10 students at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel. The ceremonies marked the learners' transition to the next academic level.

The Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony was also held on May 9, 2026, at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, with the theme "Filipino Graduates: Prepared to Lead with Competence and Character."

The ceremony was attended by H.E. Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Philippine Embassy to

continue to page 2



PSB joins Ministry-led Master Debater Preliminary Rounds

By Mr. Kristian B. Lego

Students from the Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) participated in the preliminary round of the First Master Debater Competition organized by the Ministry of Education on April 28, 2026, at the Students' Media Center in Busaiteen.

The PSB team argued for the motion, "Practical Skills Matter

More than Higher Education in Today's Job Market," demonstrating critical thinking, clarity of expression, and teamwork.

Representing the school were Samuel C. Aguilar (G11), Clarissadel D. Escal (G10), and Marie Aliyah E. Ante (G11).

The school expressed pride in the students' performance as

they await the results of the competition.

Faculty members and staff who provided guidance and support included Ms. Ivy Jan O. Simbala, Ms. Melanie S. Cruz, Ms. Melody R. Arquibel, Mr. Kristian B. Lego, Mr. Gabriel Angelo C. Alunday, Ms. Elizabeth M. Caliguing, and Mr. Marvin C. Dallego.#

VOICE IN ACTION - Marie Aliyah E. Ante delivers her closing argumentative speech during the preliminary round of the Master Debater Competition organized by the Ministry of Education. Photo by Mr. Marvin C. Dallego



PSB holds... from page 1

the Kingdom of Bahrain, and Ms. Lulwa Ghassan Al-Muhanna, Director of Licensing and Follow-up of Private Schools at the Ministry of Education.

The program began with a processional and the Entrance of the Colors led by selected Grade 11 students. Nathalia S. Gutierrez delivered the invocation, followed by the Welcome Address of Anne Kirsten R. Brosas.

Mr. Reuel C. Castro, Chairman of the Board of Directors, delivered a message emphasizing institutional values. Ms. Ivy Jan O. Simbala, Secondary Education Vice-Principal, presented the candidates for graduation. Stanley Cen B. Saranguero formally asked Ms. Gydabelle B. Naval, School Principal, to confirm the graduating class, followed by the symbolic donning of Senior High School stoles.

Ambassador Gallaga delivered the Commencement Address, commending the school's academic standards and cultural formation of Filipino learners abroad. He also recited Max Ehrmann's "Desiderata," encouraging graduates to remain resilient and purpose-driven.

The school administration led the

distribution of diplomas and then followed by the awarding of academic excellence, institutional, and service award. The Department of Education and PSB criteria was read by Mr. Marvin C. Dallego, Acting Head of Curriculum and Instruction.

Student Loyalty Awards were presented by Ms. Ana Maria R. Banhaon, and Anzhelina Angel S. Balce led the Pledge of Loyalty. Meanwhile, institutional service awards were facilitated by Ms. Nica Avenido. Faculty and staff milestones were also recognized, including Ms. Melody R. Arquibel (10 years), Mr. Husain Jaafar Hasan Ali Juma and Ms. Aysha Dawood Salman Majed Ahmed (15 years), and Ms. Arlene D. Detera (30 years of service). oath-taking of the newly inducted alumni of PSB.

The graduates performed their graduation song, "Other Side," composed by Kelsy Anne P. Leyson.

Reign Yra M. Fernandez and Kelsy Anne P. Leyson, top graduates of the STEM and ABM strands, delivered a spoken word poetry performance. Their piece, "Words of Gratitude," used the metaphor of a pearl to symbolize growth and learning.#

THE LAST PERFORMANCE - Grade 12 students perform their graduation song during the Graduation Ceremony at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel. Photo by Mr. Kristian B. Lego



F2F classes disrupted: PSB shifts... from page 1

on the morning of February 28, upon detection of incoming missiles. One missile reportedly struck Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain serving as the headquarters for the U.S. Fifth Fleet and Naval Forces Central Command near the Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Causeway in Juffair. The explosion was felt across nearby residential areas causing panic among residents. Thick smoke lingered for hours as evacuations ensued, leading to heavy traffic while additional missiles were intercepted overhead.

Face-to-face classes were suspended the following day, as the MOE instructed schools to temporarily halt in-person sessions. To facilitate the transition, PSB conducted an initial survey on March 1 to assess students' access to devices and learning materials, followed

by another on March 4. Teachers then disseminated schedules and learning tasks through Google Classroom.

Online learning continued for the remainder of the Fourth Quarter. Third Quarter report cards were released via email, and the Achievers' Day was held virtually. Several planned school activities - including the field trips, Science Congress, and various group performance tasks - were cancelled due to safety restrictions.

Assessments were administered online through Google Forms, with teachers implementing anti-cheating measures to maintain academic integrity.

"Honestly, at first I was excited to stay home, but after a while, it became mentally and physically draining not interacting with people outside

my house," shared Akieha Chloe M. Clemente of Grade 9 Makatarungan. "Eventually, I got used to it, and it made me feel safer to be at home."

The final Club Activity Day was also conducted online, allowing members and officers to conclude the school year through virtual meetings and presentations. End-of-Quarter Assessments (EQA) were likewise held under stricter monitoring guidelines.

Despite the challenges, the transition underscored the commitment of PSB, MOE, and the Bahraini Government to sustain education while prioritizing the safety and well-being of the school community. #

DIGITAL CLASSROOM - The Student Government held their last Club Activity Day, while Grade 9 - Mapagkakatiwalaan took a final photo opportunity during the last day of school. Screenshots from Mr. Joe S. Pelchona and Mr. Kristian B. Lego

LONG LINE FOR A SOLD-OUT SHOW - Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) community lines up during the block screening of The Song of the Fireflies at Vox Cineco Cinema in Bahrain City Centre. Photo by Caddarick Francis M. Pereyra



PSB hosts... from page 1

advance. Directed by King Palisoc and written by Sarge Lacuesta, Song of the Fireflies (2025) chronicles the inspiring origin story of the world-renowned Loboc Children's Choir from Bohol. Set against a rich musical backdrop composed by National Artist for Music Ryan Cayabyab, the drama captures the choir's humble 1980s beginnings and their journey to international recognition.

The film arrived in Bahrain with significant critical acclaim, having earned five major awards

at the 2025 Manila International Film Festival (MIFF) in Hollywood. Highlights included Best Picture (Audience Award), Best Actress for Morissette Amon in her debut role, Best Supporting Actress for Rachel Alejandro, and Best Supporting Actor for Noel Comia Jr.

"The film really brought back my love for Filipino music through its beautiful, captivating songs. What made it even better was watching it with my friends. Seeing how much they enjoyed the movie made the whole experience even more fun and meaningful for me"

Isabella A. Alan of Grade 9 Makatarungan said.

Beyond a cinematic experience, the screening aimed to promote Filipino values, culture, and arts abroad. The event was distributed and promoted in Bahrain by PSB in partnership with Magis and E-Talent International, and supported by the Philippine Embassy headed by H.E. Ambassador Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga, various Filipino Community in Bahrain, and school organizations such as the Student Government, Pupil Government, and Ang Tanglaw.#

Cortez, Battung share career paths in Work Immersion webinar

By Don Charlez L. Chavez and Rholand Anthony T. Puig

Philippine School Bahrain highlighted the career paths of its alumni during a two-day online webinar held on March 15 and 22 via Microsoft Teams as part of its Work Immersion program for Grade 12 students.

The webinar, titled "Career Connections: Guiding Grade 12 Toward Professional Paths," featured alumni speakers who shared their academic backgrounds, career decisions, and professional experiences after graduation. The sessions also ended with a question-and-answer portion where students engaged

directly with the speakers.

On March 15, alumna Engr. Geaver Nicole G. Cortez discussed how her experience at PSB helped shape her career path in Biochemistry. She said that participation in school programs, particularly Work Immersion, influenced her decision to pursue the field. After graduating from University of Santo Tomas, she is currently working in her profession as Technical Engineer at ProLab Systems.

On March 22, alumna Engr. Gabrielle L. Battung shared her experiences as a student involved in both academic

and extracurricular activities, including her membership in the Banyuhay Dance Troupe. She credited her Work Immersion experience at Bahrain Airport Services for influencing her career direction. After graduating from University of Santo Tomas, she is now employed as an airworthiness engineer at Lufthansa Technick Philippines, Inc.

The webinar formed part of the school's Work Immersion program, aimed at exposing students to real-world career insights through alumni experiences and professional sharing.#

News Bit

Grade 4 students take PIRLS 2026

Grade 4 students of the Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) participated in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026 on May 5 at the Computer Laboratory of the RCC Building.

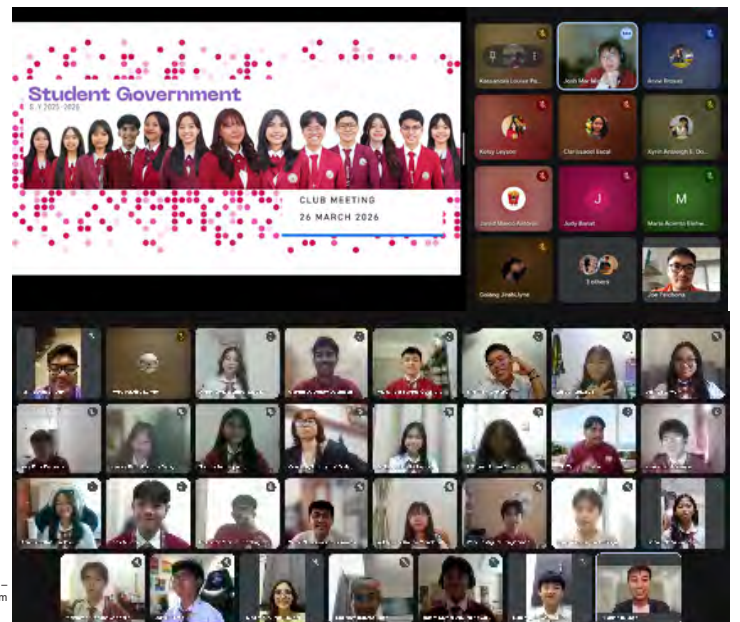
The PIRLS is an international assessment that measures reading

comprehension and literacy skills among Grade 4 learners, providing schools with data on students' reading performance and development.

The assessment was conducted under supervised conditions to ensure proper implementation and compliance with required procedures. PSB facilitated

the activity as part of its continued participation in international benchmarking assessments aimed at strengthening literacy instruction and improving student learning outcomes.

Teachers and technical staff supported the conduct of the assessment to ensure its smooth and organized administration.



PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS

Perceived Bank Behavior Factors in Islamic and Conventional Banking: Evidence From Overseas Filipinos
Alli Ihsa Hasan Saleh Saleh Blanco Alwashah, Chrissa Reine Anne Soler Junio, and Maria Khalid Ibrahim El Ehwany

Knowledge, Attitude, And Practice on Digital Eye Strain Among Senior High School Students at Philippine School Bahrain
Anzhelina Angel S Balce, Sebastian Aeron C. Mendoza, and Julio Andrei B. Aide

Herzberg's Two-Factor Theory: Measuring Employee Job Motivation and Satisfaction Among Filipino Employees of Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Kingdom of Bahrain
Bianca Shantelle P. Malayathiranalange, Francesca Louise S. Ereno, and Leanne Gayle E. Sinacruz

Congratulations!

Strengthened Senior High School (SHSS)

- 2 TRACKS**
 - ACADEMIC TRACK
 - TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL (TECHPRO)
- 5 CORE SUBJECTS**
 - Effective Communication / Mabisang Komunikasyon
 - Life and Career Skills
 - General Mathematics
 - General Science
 - Pag-aaral ng Kasaysayan at Lipunang Pilipino

** The core subjects have been streamlined from 15 to 5, and aligned with General Education (GE) subjects.
- STREAMLINED AND UPDATED ELECTIVES**
 - There are no more strands.
 - Electives are organized into clusters.
 - Clusters are not strands
- UPDATED TIME ALLOTMENT**
 - Grade 11 Core: 160 hours offered in one year
 - Grade 11 or 12 Academic Electives: 160 hours in one school year
 - Grade 11 or 12 Field Exposure: 160-320 hours in one school year
 - Grade 11 or 12 TechPro Electives: 320 hours in one school year
 - Grade 12 Work Immersion: 320-640 hours offered in one year
- STRUCTURE**

Under the Strengthened SHS Curriculum, learners may take electives from any cluster, including those outside their chosen track.

Information from DepEd: <https://www.deped.gov.ph/strengthened-shs-program/#home>

DepEd begins...

from page 1

instructional time, teacher workload, and learning recovery from frequent disruptions in classes due to natural disasters.

"We are pushing for this to safeguard the quality of education like there will be longer, continuous periods of learning, better pacing of lessons, and a lower administrative burden for our teachers," says DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara, as he proposed the reform on February 13.

Under the proposed trimester setup, it will divide 201 school days into three terms, each of which shall include improved lessons and activities for students. Each term has clearly defined

blocks: Opening Block—for beginning-of-school-year activities for first term only; Instructional Block—for teaching and learning; and End-of-Term Block—for assessments, remediation, training, and school activities, with each term having 54 to 61 days of instruction with minor interruptions for non-academic activities and enrichment blocks.

Beyond the calendar shift, the orientations cover revised grading guidelines, a strengthened Senior High School curriculum, and new flexible learning programs designed for use during emergencies.#

PSB conducts fire drill, evacuates building in under two minutes

By Lovely Farha P. Shaikh and Mica Ella San Mendoza

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) carried out a fire drill on February 26 involving Junior and Senior High School students as part of its emergency preparedness efforts.

The activity, held in observance of Fire Awareness Month, aimed to test evacuation procedures and assess students' familiarity with fire escape routes. The building was successfully evacuated in less than two minutes.

However, minor delays were noted as students assembled at the designated safety zones due to challenges at exit points.

"A second drill was planned to address these concerns but was postponed following the transition to remote learning" said by Ivy Jan O. Simbala, Vice Principal, Secondary Education.

Senior High School Program Head Melanie S. Cruz added that two simulated casualties were included in the drill to evaluate response effectiveness.

School officials emphasized that such fire drill exercises are essential in ensuring student safety and preparedness during emergencies.#

New KG block ready...

from page 1

comfortable learning environment. The building also includes a clinic equipped to accommodate two beds, a faculty room that can cater eight to ten teachers, and an activity room intended for various student engagements and learning activities.

One of the major highlights of the new Kindergarten Block is its spacious open playground area fitted with artificial turf grass, offering learners a safer and more enjoyable space for recreation and physical activities. According to Mr. Sheperino M. Pilares, the school's IT Administrator, the school is also

planning to install a solar skylight for the playground area to further enhance the facility.

Meanwhile, Kindergarten teacher Ms. Desarie Ann R. Mercado expressed her excitement about the opening of the new building, especially as one of the teachers who will soon utilize the facility. She shared that she was happy about the improvements and believed that the new Kindergarten Block would provide a safer and more secure environment for learners. She noted that the building has more doors that help

prevent students from easily getting out of the premises. She also emphasized that the restrooms are more student-friendly and specially designed to accommodate younger learners, making them more accessible and convenient for kindergarten pupils.

With its modern facilities and child-centered design, the new Kindergarten Block is expected to greatly enhance the learning experience of kindergarten students at Philippine School Bahrain for the coming academic year. #



WEAR YOUR IDENTITY

Medina highlights value of traditional weaves

By Aybil Eileen F. Paraiso and Fraulein Margaret S. Singh

Atty. Evie Medina delivered a talk titled "Our Weaves are Wearable" to selected high school students of Philippine School Bahrain, emphasizing the importance of preserving Philippine heritage through traditional weaving practices and their modern applications.

During the session, Medina discussed how indigenous weaving techniques and patterns reflect the history and identity of Filipino communities, noting that each thread represents generations of cultural preservation.

Moving beyond classroom learning, the talk encouraged students to view traditional weaves not only as historical

artifacts but also as expressions of cultural identity that can be integrated into present-day styles. Medina underscored the importance of fostering a "renewed sense of cultural ownership," particularly among the youth, through the appreciation and use of traditional textiles.

The program concluded with a question-and-answer segment, where students engaged the speaker in discussions about cultural preservation and innovation. Selected participants also shared reflections, expressing insights gained from the session and the significance of embracing heritage in modern contexts.#



SELL THOSE GOODS • Grade 12 students displayed their keychain, sticker, and bracelet products during their Entrepreneurship Week 2026. • Photo by Mr. Leo S. Untalan

Grade 12 holds Entrepreneurship Week

By Lloyd Matthew B. Bermas

Entrepreneurship Week was held at Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) from February 23 to 24, 2026, featuring student-run mini-business stalls that allowed high school learners to engage in business-related activities on campus.

Grade 12 students organized and operated the stalls as part of the event, making their products and services available to fellow high school students.

The activity follows several weeks of preparation, during which

students plan, organize, and promote their products and services. The stalls are made available to fellow high school students as part of the event.

The businesses include Viola Viola, Top n Tato, On The Wings, StorCo, Berry Bitty Bites, Kantora, Cupid Sweethearts, Para Sa Streets, Serve N' Savor, and Tiny Treasures.

Stanley C. Saranguero, President of the Young Entrepreneurs' Club, says the activity provides opportunities to apply concepts learned

in class and encourages participation among students interested in business.

The event focuses on the application of skills such as communication, leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork. Students manage operations, handle transactions, and coordinate with group members during the activity.

Entrepreneurship Week is part of the school's program to provide practical learning experiences aligned with entrepreneurship education.#



WEAVING KNOWLEDGE- Atty. Evie Medina shares her talk, "Our Weaves are Wearable," reminding selected high school students of Philippine School Bahrain to uphold and preserve their cultural identity even while living abroad. • Photo by Mr. Glenn D. Raz



"There are atrocities that must be reported, leaders that must be held accountable, and innocents that must be defended while we remain trapped in the crossfire."

Reign Yra M. Fernandez

Reyna Ng Bayan

Trapped in the Crossfire

On February 28, Iran launched a wave of missile and drone attacks at the Kingdom of Bahrain, including the US Fifth Fleet headquarters, in retaliation to joint US-Israel military operations. Air-raid sirens and alerts echoed across the country as multiple bombings, fires, and collapsed debris threatened the safety of its people, prompting evacuation instructions and security reminders from the government. In the week that followed, families and individuals across the country would remain on high alert, witnessing an impending war unfold.

These events lay bare the destructive but often unwanted consequences of war; which history has repeatedly proven only favor the self-serving interests of politicians who wage it under the guise of protecting their nations. In truth, war forces us innocents into a blindfold; though our feet stay planted on the ground, our eyes are stripped of its power to foresee our bleak future.

For once, the present conflict has barred us from our schools and classrooms, mandating a switch to online learning as directed by the Ministry of Education. Even in this situation, access to education has become unequal, as some of our students relocate away from their homes or lack the resources and stable internet connections needed to facilitate their learning. And there is that constant fear that lingers during these online sessions, one amplified with every emergency alert, startling explosion, and alarming news of the situation. In fact, one of the war's deadliest attacks in Iran resulted in the death of 165 students and staff in Shajarah Tayyebah, an elementary school located in Minab, south of Iran.

Data from the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 10% of those who experience traumatic events from armed conflict suffer from serious mental health problems, while another 10% will develop behavior that hinders normal functioning. And truly, the psychological trauma is there—from the first wave of attacks and sirens heard from our homes, to the days that followed, marked by sudden evacuations and unexpected attacks on residential areas and buildings. The war has become an anxiety-inducing event for Filipinos residing and working in Bahrain, as we worry not only for our welfare but also for our families back home relying on our support. For us teachers and students, the conflict has rewritten the course of the school year's final stretch, affecting our most awaited activities, projects, and school celebrations.

In this time of crisis, the information we consume makes the difference between blatant fearmongering and useful knowledge. BBC reports an alarming surge of AI-generated content circulating across various social media platforms amidst the war, spreading misinformation among users. Seemingly realistic at first glance, these media often depict exaggerated attacks in specific areas, causing alarm to both residents and viewers worldwide. And when the added panic reaches the already overwhelmed person scrolling through his/her feed, reality becomes a lot more difficult to make sense of.

In light of these events, our community has been nothing short of supportive to all of us facing the circumstances heads-on. We have opened our own homes and shared reassuring words, offering each other strength in these moments. There is still gratitude to be felt for the privilege we have to protect ourselves and care for others. But our concern cannot end here—there are atrocities that must be reported, leaders that must be held accountable, and innocents that must be defended while we remain trapped in the crossfire.#



Editorial

Safeguarding Students' Futures Abroad: The Role of PSOs

On February 18, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) issued a statement encouraging Filipinos abroad to exercise caution when enrolling in academic institutions claiming to be Philippine Schools Overseas (PSOs) but lacking the necessary accreditation. This announcement was preceded by a meeting between key officials, including CFO Chairperson Secretary Dante "Klink" Ang II, Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso, and Vice Consul Kenneth Jim Joseph Jimeno of the Philippine Consulate General in Dubai, and other officials from the PSO in Dubai and the Northern Emirates. Here, Chairperson Ang reiterated that selected schools operating under the authority of PSO and the Department of Education are only those recognized as legitimate institutions.

Among the 35 institutions listed in the post, Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) proudly stands among the PSOs recognized worldwide and is also the first to be PAASCU-accredited overseas. These achievements reflect our dedication to upholding *excellence through wisdom*, a motto firmly embraced by students, teachers, and administrators alike. Beyond this, PSB's accreditation is evidence of the education it provides Filipino students abroad—one that safeguards their academic futures, prioritizes legitimacy, and promotes integrity in service.

Proper accreditation certifies the quality of education students will receive; it proves that a school's facilities, administration, faculty, and learning resources meet DepEd standards. Most importantly, this ensures alignment with the MATATAG Curriculum, equipping students with the required competencies and skills at each stage of their academic development. Enrolling in unaccredited schools eliminates these benchmarks for quality, affecting students' learning outcomes in the long run.

Within the Philippine educational system, accredited institutions ensure the authenticity of students'

records, degrees, certificates, and other important credentials. As a result, students receive better support in decisions such as admissions, transfers, and applications for higher education, given that their requirements are acknowledged by the governing bodies. On the other hand, students with records from unaccredited schools face difficulties in reintegrating themselves into the Philippine educational system. When authentication is not an option, students may face financial burdens, delays, additional placement tests, and other requirements, which can limit their acceptance and opportunities.

When weighing the pros and cons, studying in accredited schools is the more cost-effective choice because the quality of learning outcomes, credentials, and opportunities is guaranteed for students. Students are better prepared for academic progression and employment opportunities when their education has been effectively developed and authenticated by their alma mater. While unaccredited schools may offer similar education, seeking the same opportunities in the Philippine educational system may come with additional setbacks. Students experience uncertainty in their career advancement and higher education when their academic performance cannot be verified against official standards.

This incident serves as a wake-up call for academic institutions, authorities, and Filipino families alike. Accredited schools must view this as a reminder to not only maintain high educational standards but also aim to enhance their services. Governing authorities, including the Department of Education, must take the initiative by considering accreditation for more institutions abroad and assisting them in meeting required standards. Eliminating these choices for education is not the best solution, as many still consider enrolling in these schools for affordability and convenience. Ultimately, this serves as a reminder for Filipinos abroad to be vigilant in selecting schools, prioritizing quality, and treating education as an investment.#

ANG TANGLAW: EDITORIAL STAFF

Volume XIX: Issue 1 (SY 2025-2026)

REIGN YRA M. FERNANDEZ
Editor-in-Chief

RHOLAND ANTHONY T. PUIG
Associate Editor

LAYLA HASSAN JASIM ALGILLIDARY
Managing Editor

SOFIA VENICE S. REYES
News Editor

ANNA SOFIA R. ERAZO
Feature Editor

LEE-ANN A. MANALO
Science News Editor

MARIE ALIYAH E. ANTE
Opinion Editor

JAZRYLLE BHELDANDY F. MARIBBAY
Chief Reporter, Radio Team

CADDARIK FRANCIS M. PEREYRA
Chief Reporter, Television Team

JOERILY F. BUENAVENTURA
Head, Photojournalists

TIMOTHY MATTHEW A. ABING
Head, Videographers

DONIEL AMINITZIEL L. CHAVEZ
Head, Graphic Designs

REJIE LUIS M. LADRICA
Secondary to Elementary Liaison Officer

MR. KRISTIAN B. LEGO
Moderator

MS. JENALYN B. AMARO
Moderator

MR. JOHNIEL A. SEÑO
Moderator



Transmuted Grades and Why the System Should Stay

The K to 12 curriculum has long been debated among Filipinos. With the introduction of the strengthened curriculum, attention has increasingly focused on a critical issue: the transmutation table and its role in student evaluation. Introduced under DepEd Order No. 8, s. 2015, this system converts raw scores into transmuted grades that appear on report cards.

Amid discussions about its possible removal, questions about its effectiveness have intensified. Reports from Philstar show that Filipino students continue to struggle in international assessments like the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), where the Philippines continued to rank among the lowest-performing countries, with results remaining largely similar to its 2018 standing and showing only minimal improvement in reading, mathematics, and science in recent assessment cycles, raising the question: Why do many students graduate with honors while still ranking lower compared to their global peers? These results suggest a gap between reported academic achievement and actual competency, reinforcing concerns that grading adjustments, such as the transmutation table, may contribute to inflated perceptions of student performance rather than accurately reflecting mastery. Naturally, attention has turned to the



"Removing it would not address the root causes of low competency but would instead risk amplifying inequities within the education system."

Anzhelina Angel S. Balce

Zhel Takes

transmutation table.

Critics point out that a raw score as low as 60 can be transmuted into a passing grade of 75, allowing students to meet the minimum requirement without fully mastering essential skills. While this raises valid concerns about competency, particularly in literacy and numeracy, placing the blame solely on the transmutation table oversimplifies a deeper systemic issue.

In reality, the transmutation table serves an important purpose. It promotes standardization, transparency, and fairness in grading by reducing subjective bias and ensuring consistency across schools. Rather than distorting achievement, it provides a more equitable representation of student performance across diverse learning contexts. It also recognizes that student performance cannot be measured by raw scores alone; effort, progress, and varying learning paces all play a significant role in academic outcomes. Removing it would not address the root causes of

low competency but would instead risk amplifying inequities within the education system.

Furthermore, education today extends beyond the mere acquisition of knowledge. It is closely tied to competition, academic recognition, and future opportunities. In many schools, there is an Achievers' Day every quarter, where students see the list of those who excelled; batchmates improving, earning recognition, and moving up in rank. In these moments, students become more aware of their own standing in the classroom. Seeing others achieve and improve intensifies the sense of competition, pushing students to keep up or outperform their peers. Students who exert effort but fall short of academic standards risk discouragement. Removing the transmutation table could increase academic pressure and decrease motivation, particularly in an already demanding system.

If the goal is to enhance student performance and global competitiveness, attention should be directed toward strengthening instruction, addressing learning gaps, and improving educational resources. Simply eliminating a grading mechanism will not solve the underlying challenges in learning quality.

Ultimately, the real challenge lies not in how grades are converted, but in how education is delivered. #



"There is a clear difference between resting and avoiding responsibility. One helps you recover; the other holds you back."

Ruben N. Laguidao Jr. II

The Rewatcher

Five More Minutes

"5 more minutes" is all it takes to turn a simple task into a pile of stress and deadlines. What sounds harmless often becomes the reason work is delayed until the last possible moment. This is procrastination—a habit that many of us fall into too easily. Instead of asking if we procrastinate, the better question is: why do we keep choosing delay even when we know its consequences?

To understand this, consider a common situation. You sit down to complete a simple task, like a reflection. Only a few minutes pass, yet you already feel tired and unmotivated. This reaction is not always about laziness. More often, it is the mind resisting pressure. When thoughts, worries, and responsibilities build up, even small tasks begin to feel overwhelming.

Because of this, procrastination can sometimes act as a coping mechanism. When students feel mentally exhausted, they delay tasks to avoid additional stress. This becomes more noticeable during difficult times. With the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, many students experience anxiety and uncertainty, which can affect their ability to focus. In such situations, postponing tasks may feel justified, as it provides temporary relief from pressure. However, this temporary relief quickly creates bigger problems.

First, procrastination directly weakens academic performance. Tasks that could have been done carefully and thoughtfully are instead rushed and incomplete. As deadlines approach, the goal shifts from doing quality work to simply finishing. This not only lowers performance but also limits actual learning, since ideas are no longer developed properly.

Beyond academics, procrastination also takes a serious toll on mental health. Delaying tasks does not remove responsibility—it only postpones it. As work piles up, so does anxiety. The longer the delay, the stronger the pressure becomes, often leading to panic and self-doubt. Over time, this creates a cycle where stress leads to procrastination, and procrastination leads to even more stress.

Moreover, procrastination reduces productivity, especially in times of crisis. When people are already dealing with uncertainty, structure and discipline become even more important. Yet procrastination disrupts that structure. Instead of helping individuals cope, it leaves them feeling disorganized and out of control. In this way, delay does not solve the problem—it adds to it.

For this reason, procrastination should not be seen as a harmless habit. While taking breaks is necessary, there is a clear difference between resting and avoiding responsibility. One helps you recover; the other holds you back.

In the end, the responsibility still lies with us. Deadlines will not adjust to our delays, and tasks will not disappear on their own. So the next time you say "5 more minutes," do not treat it as a small decision.

Treat it as a choice.

Because in that moment, you are either taking control of your time—or slowly losing it. #

The New Gen 'Bakwit'



"Choosing to remove themselves from negativity and finding ways to find peace - that is true strength."

Marie Aliyah E. Ante

The ANTEdote

Weak. It is a word often associated with fragility and feebleness. This very word has now singularly defined the identity of an entire generation, simply because ignorance towards the redefinition of strength in this age has surfaced.

On February 11, during a hearing of the Senate Committee on Public Information and Mass Media, Senator Robin Padilla referred to today's youth as "weak." He also noted that the term "depression" was uncommon during his generation. However, what the senator failed to take into account is how much the times have changed. What the current generation has faced and continues to face—pandemics, wars, corruption, the climate crisis—are things his generation would not have expected to arise in a single lifetime. The youth of today should never be considered weak if their definition of strength has not kept up with the times.

The Filipino youth carry heavy burdens, making exhaustion—physically, mentally, and emotionally—understandable. UNICEF Data reports show that an estimated 100 million additional children fell into multidimensional poverty due to the

pandemic, and that includes the youth in the Philippines. Now, the very children who grew into adolescents during the pandemic have to experience the deprivation that the recent corruption crisis caused to the nation: inadequate classrooms, scarcity of employment opportunities, lack of health-care access, and the ever-widening disparity between the rich and the poor. We haven't even explored the traumas of war, responsibilities borne by the environmental collapse, and so many more social and national dilemmas. Yet, society still expects them to remain unmoved and numb, as if that alone defines "strength."

These unbearable burdens have evidently taken a toll on their mental health. According to the Department of Health, nearly 1,000 individuals contacted their hotline during the recent holiday period alone. Depression and anxiety disorders, now more than ever, have emerged as a great concern in this generation. Experiencing these and other mental health problems is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign that indicates the need to "evacuate" from the hostile environments many are choosing to endure.

The old generation expects the youth to be an army of soldiers, unwavering and enduring. However, the youth today reacts with a different model of strength and power—a fitting response to the challenges they face; they are the "New Bakwits". They choose to remove themselves from situations and environments that no longer support their well-being. This does not make them quitters. Instead, it is their way of protecting their capacity to keep going. Being "numb"

to the issues society faces and allowing such negativity to affect their mental health is not something that must be considered as a strength. Choosing to remove themselves from negativity and finding ways to find peace—that is true strength. Moreover, tolerating conditions of toxicity, whether in relationships, in school, in the workforce, or in the government, is more than a weakness. It is self-destruction.

Strength is realizing that asking for help is not shameful. Courage is choosing to dismantle the systems that have failed us. Resilience is facing difficulties and still making the most out of life. These are the words that truly define this generation. Yes, weaknesses are present, but those do not define them. Despite all the challenges, they continue to study and work diligently to fulfill their aspirations and reach their dreams—not just for themselves, but for their families and communities.

To the older generation, instead of invalidating their troubles, help the youth get through them. If the road is so treacherous that even the resilience of youth struggles to walk it, then it is the road—not the traveler—that is the issue. It is about time to rebuild the flawed systems that have failed the majority and redirect paths towards positive change—for the benefit of this generation and those that come after. Instead of glorifying their grit and endurance, go back to the root causes of their troubles and anguish, allowing mere survival to transform into thriving. True progress isn't just about building stronger 'bakwits,' it is about making their paths traversable. #

SPA Notes

With the release of *Ang Tanglaw* Volume XIX, Issue 2, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the editorial staff of SY 2025–2026 for successfully publishing two issues in one academic year. This achievement reflects your dedication and commitment to excellence.

Like doors opening to

new opportunities, this issue marks both an ending and a beginning. As some doors close, others open—leading us toward new paths and greater possibilities.

To Reign, Rholand, and the Grade 12 students, as you step beyond these doors as graduates, thank you for your service and leadership. May the doors ahead lead you closer to your aspirations. To Layla, the

Grades 10 and 11 students, may you be ready to open your own doors as the next torchbearers of *Ang Tanglaw*.

As for me, as I leave Philippine School Bahrain, I stand before a new door—ready to open it while carrying all the lessons and memories I will always treasure.

Salamat. Paalam.

- Mr. Kristian B. Lego



Building Blocks

Kids Bulletin

Jeffrey G. Celejes Jr.
Terrence Andrew M. Abanilla
Alexander Ethan M. Santos
Corazon Janeil R. Viñas
Xyanna Ivielle R. Pasamonte
Karla Elysse R. Loyola
Althea Daine B. Basilio

Noor Abduhari
Gailenn Andreia Dulay
Jhonrei Gerald Padulip
Rubecca Janielle N. Laguidao
Daenerys Adriel J. Solar
Elaine T. Francisco
Ashlee B. Villanueva

Axl John C. Artillaga
Lee-Añel A. Manalo
Neo M. Siazon
Justine Pierre D. Arceo
Lloyd Lucas B. Bermas
Mc Neil S. Cadelinia
Migo Miguel Cosare
Lojine L. Ettayem

Efren III T. Francisco
Vince Nikko L. Gonzales
Ruben Jr. II N. Laguidao
Chloe T. Panizales
Aybil Eileen F. Paraiso
Rojan Raine J. Pinto
Fraulein Margaret S. Singh
Jian Carlos P. Urbano

Sophia Roxanne D. Valencia
Kathleen Audrie L. Alzate
Vrianna Avryll Y. Cunanan
Zoe Rae L. Canlas
Chrysaberyl C. Reyes
Zane A. De Asis
Mica Ella S. Mendoza
Jana Marcela R. Nival

Clarisse R. Ramiro
Lovely Farha P. Shaikh
Anzhelina Angel S. Balce
Lloyd Matthew B. Bermas
Don Charlez Gabrielle L. Chavez
Natalia Vera C. Garcia
Kolin Dwane R. Lacson
Sebastian Aerol C. Mendoza
Zylin Rocel L. Pura

MR. MICHAEL J. FALLER
Acting Coordinator, Student Activities

MR. GLENN D. RAZ
Head, Student Affairs

MS. ARLENE D. DETERA
Vice Principal, Elementary Education

MS. IVY JAN O. SIMBALA
Vice Principal, Secondary Education

MS. GYDABELLE B. NAVAL
Principal

High School Bulletin

In the Hands

Pusong Alay, Puno ng Kabutihan

Adea Sienna Mari Obias, Grade 8

An act of kindness someone did for me during the situation right now is reassuring me that everything is gonna be okay and to trust in the Lord at all times. Short phrases like "stay safe" or "you're not alone in this" already make me feel like everything is gonna be fine and feel safe. It's meaningful because it shows that during busy and hard times, they care for me, making sure that I'm okay, and reassuring me keeps me calm and comforted. Sending a text checking up on people makes them feel seen or remembered, and it strengthens relationships during times of struggle.

Forrest Maverick Santos, Grade 10

I remember the first week of our current predicament. I was so full of anxiety not just for my family's safety but for our living situation as well. My dad's salary was days away, and my mom's work was halted indefinitely. The budget was decreasing, and stocks were falling. As days went by, I wasn't sure if the food on the table would continue to be filled. It wasn't until my church family reached out that I was left by my worry. They had messaged my mother, saying that people blessed us and that someone from our church was gonna drop by. I hadn't expected much, really. But when they arrived, my face was lit with shock and gratitude when they came with bags of groceries. It might feel small to others, but it felt major to us, especially with the current situation. As they prayed for my family and went on with their day after, I was left with a heart full of gratitude and hope for the days to get better.

Samuel C. Aguilar, Grade 11

One act of kindness I will never forget during these perilous times was the quiet consistency of my pastor. Even while being here in Bahrain, facing the very same uncertainties brought by the ongoing conflict, he never stopped showing up for us. For me. Through Zoom meetings, he continued to prepare and deliver sermons that were carefully thought out, prayerfully written, and deeply encouraging. What makes this so meaningful to me is not just the act itself, but what it truly represents. He was living through the same conditions, hearing the same sirens, waking up to the same late-night booms, and carrying his own concerns—yet he still chose to give. That consistency left a deep impact on me. I saw that true kindness is not dependent on comfort, but is a choice to serve even when it costs something.

Nheil Andrei M. Lalog, Grade 12

So there is this one person who has been with me. She was the sort of person that knew how to bring a smile to my face. Especially with this difficult time, she is the type of person who would always make time for me. The act of kindness that she would do is simply giving quality time. When the sirens are on, and I get overstimulated, she is always there to check up on me and reassure me that everything will be okay soon. She is the person who not only spreads kindness but also motivates others to do so. Which is why she holds a special place in my heart. Not only because of her kindness, but also for her selflessness toward others.

Kelsy Anne P. Leyson, Grade 12

The most memorable act of kindness someone did during these difficult times was when my best friends Maria, Zyilyn, and their families opened their homes for us to temporarily evacuate. That day when the first strike happened, it was really life-changing; it left a stain on my experience. Knowing that the area where I resided was at risk, all we could do was leave temporarily, and even without notifying my friends, they willingly lent their homes for us to stay. It was so meaningful because during these difficult times, there will always be someone who'll stand up for you and give you a helping hand, and they did that out of their own comfort zone. Also, while we all stayed under one roof, all of us grew closer and stronger together, which touched our hearts. The day we had to leave and go back to our place, we couldn't resist each other because we had already made a connected community despite what was going on.

Leo S. Untalan, Teacher

One act of kindness I will never forget during these difficult times, especially with the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, is the support I received from my housemates. In the midst of so much uncertainty and stress, they created a space where I felt genuinely safe, calm, and cared for. It wasn't one big gesture, but the quiet consistency of their kindness—checking in on me, being present, and maintaining a peaceful environment—that meant the most. I'm deeply grateful for the way they helped me feel less alone and gave me a sense of stability when I needed it most. Their support reminded me how powerful simple human compassion can be.

Anonymous

One act of kindness I will never forget happened during a very frightening moment. My colleagues and I decided to go out for dinner, thinking that the situation had already improved. We simply wanted to relax and unwind after a stressful time.

However, just as we were about to head home, there was a sudden loud blast nearby. I was overwhelmed with fear and started crying. It was a very traumatic experience for me, especially since I get easily startled.

What meant so much to me was how my colleagues immediately responded. They stayed calm, comforted me, and reassured me that we would be safe. Even though I know they must have been scared too, they chose to prioritize helping me feel secure.

Their kindness and presence in that moment made me feel protected and not alone. It is something I will always be grateful for, especially during such a difficult and frightening time.

When the Silence A Day that C

By Anna Sof

On February 28, residents across Bahrain began their day following academic projects, employees headed to their workplaces, and children at 7 a.m., an unfamiliar and powerful sound disrupted the calm - an explosion.

In the days that followed, reports emerged confirming missile and drone attacks on various facilities in Bahrain. Emergency response teams were immediately deployed to the surroundings, and ensure the safety of residents.

As the situation developed, its impact became increasingly evident in the Kingdom, prompting some residents to consider alternative routes through nearby areas. Security presence and regular public advisories became part of daily life. Authorities continue to assess the situation and implement measures to ensure the Kingdom.

Despite the ongoing uncertainty, residents across Bahrain have remained informed, and supportive of one another during this period of tense circumstances while preserving normalcy in their daily lives.



As of mid-April 2026 the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) has intercepted and destroyed a total of

 **194**
Missiles

 **523**
Drones

Information: Bahrain Defence Force (BDF)

Relief and Response Measures

- **Civil Defence Actions:** Civil Defence successfully contained fires caused by attack with cooling operations implemented to secure locations.
- **Economic Support:** Parliamentary approval was given for a fast-track economic relief package, including:
 - Waiving electricity, water, and municipal fees for affected businesses.
 - and for salary coverage for Bahraini employees in SMEs.
 - A three-month suspension of personal loan installments.
- **Energy Supply:** Declared force majeure on specific operations but confirmed that local fuel supply was fully secured.
- **Infrastructure and Safety:** Operations were temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure before returning to normal.
- **Community Safety:** Initiatives such as "First Aid at Home" were highlighted to encourage community resilience during the conflict.
- **MoE:** The Ministry of Education ordered all educational institutions (public and private schools, higher education) to switch to remote learning, initially planned to run until further notice.



s of Strength

ce Broke: Changed Bahrain

ia R. Erazo

their usual routines. Families spent time together, students worked on n attended sports training sessions. However, at approximately 11:00 on that marked the beginning of heightened national concern.

l drone activity targeting areas associated with United States military oloyed to affected locations, where they worked to control fires, secure

n everyday life. Airspace restrictions led to disruptions in travel plans, by areas such as Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, an increased routines, with many residents closely monitoring news updates each t precautionary measures aimed at maintaining stability within the

ve demonstrated resilience and unity. Communities remain vigilant, ion. As developments continue, many strive to adapt to changing



BAHRAIN AIRSPACE CLOSED



FROM FEB 28 - APRIL 8

Gulf Air flights temporarily moved to Dammam International Airport.



Confirmed Report of Casualties

February 28 - April 20, 2026

3 Killed

Dozen injured in Bahrain
Information from AJ, Jazeera

Repatriation Figures

February 28 - April 20, 2026

Middle East Region

The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) reported that a total of 6,532 OFWs and their dependents have been repatriated from the Middle East as of April 20, 2026, amid rising regional tensions.

Information from Department of Migrant Workers Office (Philippines)

The Days We Were Promised

By Sofia Venice S. Reyes

There was so much more to look forward to.
Days when we should've been stressing about school,
Laughter and hangouts with friends,
We should've saved those memories.

We were supposed to spend the time together,
Sit beside each other, greeting teachers,
Even saying "See you tomorrow,"
Like it was something guaranteed.

Yet, here we are
It changed memories before they even began,
As if moments that have just passed through us.
Without even asking if we were ready.
Instead, we learned to listen to silence,
To pause at sudden sounds,
To be wary of our surroundings.

All while we wonder about how it was before.
Still, we keep up and stay,
Checking up on each other,
Holding on to each other,
In the best way we can.

Because, until now, we hope.
We choose to believe that better days will come,
That there are still moments waiting for us.
Even if those days became the ones that got away.
Remember the last time we all said, "See you tomorrow,"
Like it was something guaranteed.
Yet now, we used to be so excited to go home.

Sama-sama, Kakayanin Natin

by Anna Sofia R. Erazo

Early mornings vanished, routines disappeared, and no one knew what the day would bring. For many families, the struggle went beyond safety but necessity instead; it crept, with many left wondering about lost income, sudden change, and unanswered questions.

Yet somewhere in the middle of those uncertain days, a spark lit up amidst the darkness of it all, with people showing up for one another.

With remote learning, teachers would show up not just to teach but to ask, "Kumusta ka?" Schools found ways to support their students, reminding them that their second home is still there for them and that they had not been forgotten. Not only teachers, but students as well opened their homes to friends, especially those who had lost theirs or were forced to evacuate. Civil defense officers and community workers, too, remained steadfast and selfless, where they kept protecting and helping, even when everything around them seemed uncertain.

Beyond the well-known institutions, kindness found its way into people's hearts and homes. From neighbors sharing meals to families helping one another, even if they themselves had little to give. Several businesses distributed necessities, like diapers and food, to families who suddenly had nothing. Even in the midst of their own struggles, they chose to extend a helping hand to those who needed it more. They did it not because they had to, but out of genuine care and a deep desire to uplift their community.

As Kelsy Leyson, a grade 12 student, shared, "With all of us under one roof, we grew closer, and our hearts got stronger together." With the quiet exchange of kindness, the heavy weight people carried turned lighter because they didn't have to carry it alone. In those moments, people looked deeper and realized that strength does not always come from having enough. Sometimes, it comes from choosing to care and to stay, especially when everything feels uncertain.

This is Bayanihan.

It isn't expected nor is it required, but in every hand that helped without hesitation and in every heart that refused to sleep because they couldn't bear the thought of others going through hardship alone, it is evident that hope came from one another, and we survive because we have each other to hold onto.

Sa bawat pagsubok na darating, handa ka bang tumulong nang buong puso sa kapwa mo?

Discover, Experience, Grow: PSB Students in Real-World Learning

By Chloe T. Panizales, Kathleen Audrie L. Alzate, and Reign Yra M. Fernandez

Students from Philippine School Bahrain participated in a series of educational activities across different grade levels, including field trips, community outreach, and career exposure trips that extended learning beyond the classroom.

Elementary Students Explore Nature, Heritage in Bahrain Field Trips

The Elementary Department took part in educational field trips that brought classroom learning into real-world settings through visits to nature and cultural heritage sites in Bahrain.

Kindergarten to Grade 4 learners visited the Mohamed bin Zayed Nature Reserve, where they observed wildlife and explored nature trails through guided outdoor activities. The experience allowed young learners to engage in hands-on discovery while developing curiosity and appreciation for the natural environment.

Meanwhile, Grade 5 and Grade 6 students visited the Bahrain Fort and the Bahrain National Museum as part of their heritage education activities. Through guided tours and exhibits, students learned

about Bahrain's history, culture, and traditions.

Grade 7, STM Conduct Outreach Program at BARC

Grade 7 students and Sci-Tech Masters (STM) conducted a meaningful outreach activity at the Bahrain Animal Rescue Center (BARC) in Hamala. The visit aimed to promote compassion, responsibility, and community service among members while supporting the shelter's mission of caring for abandoned and rescued animals.

Students and club members observed the physical needs, health requirements, and social habits of cats and dogs firsthand. They also provided care and interaction by cuddling the animals, helping socialize them, and walking the dogs to support exercise and enrichment. In addition, the group donated food

supplies for the animals.

Jacob Ian Deveza, STM President, shared that the experience was "very memorable in feeding the cats and animals, very exciting in taking the dogs for walks outside the vicinity of the shelter, and talking and listening to the stories of each adopted animal from the caretaker."

Grade 10 Students Visit BIBF, BAETC for Career Exposure Trip

Grade 10 students participated in a career exposure trip visiting the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) and the BAS Aircraft Engineering Training Center (BAETC) on February 17.

The activity aimed to expose students to potential career paths in business, finance, and engineering through guided visits and facility tours.

At BIBF, students were

introduced to the institute's learning environment, including its library and digital learning tools, and observed how it prepares individuals for careers in banking, management, and innovation.

The tour continued at BAETC, where students were oriented on aircraft maintenance tools and aviation engineering procedures. They also had the opportunity to enter an aircraft, where they took photos and observed its interior as part of the guided experience.

Grade 12 Students Explore HighEd at UTB

As part of Career Month activities, Grade 12 students visited the University of Technology Bahrain on January 21.

The visit began with a campus tour, where students explored the university's learning

spaces, libraries, laboratories, and classrooms. They were also introduced to the World Aquatics Center of Excellence, a specialized training facility for aspiring aquatic athletes.

Students were oriented on the university's academic programs, affiliations with international institutions, and opportunities for student development. They also engaged in discussions with faculty and students regarding university life, course selection, and campus experiences.

Grade 12 student Stanley Cen B. Saranguero of Grade 12-Mapitagan shared that the visit was his first experience inside a university and gave him a clearer understanding of college life and future possibilities.#

Field Trip Photo Memories



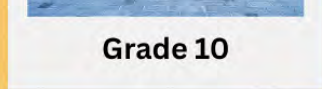
Kinder to Grade 4



Grades 5 and 6



Grade 7 and STM



Grade 10



Grade 12



Don't Say Cheese!

If I asked you to listen to "So Easy (To Fall in Love)" by Olivia Dean, how would you feel? How would you react? Would you be singing it to your heart's content, like an audience member by the barricades at Coachella? Or would you move the vibe out instead and transform every single note and lyric into an interpretative dance that might get you a perfect score on your PE performance task?

For some, they prefer the former; for others, they would rather move their feet until they fall off. And surprisingly, there are still a good number of people who would just give you a nod in nonchalance and say, "That's dope," and then go about their day. To this group of half-smiling "chill guys," no matter how upbeat, warm, or even energetic the song may be, a brief head tilt is all it takes to understand the essence of Olivia's hit single. As underwhelming as the reaction may seem, the real question is why.

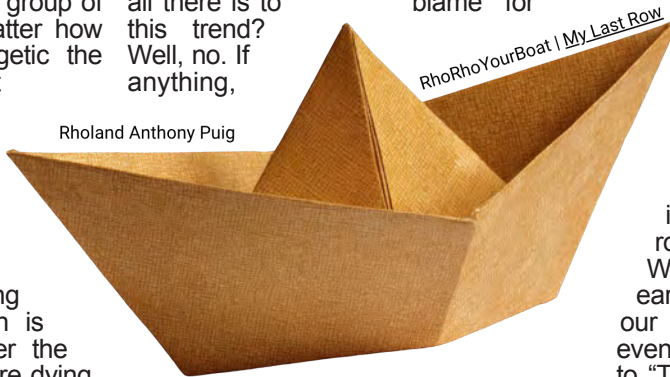
For the past few months—if not for the past year—a trend has been growing wherein the goal of a person is to remain indifferent no matter the circumstance. In situations where dying of laughter and smiles are welcomed, you are encouraged to just—not. Are you hanging out with a group of people? Stay nonchalant and mysterious and you'll gain the most "aura" out of all of them. With common scenarios like this, the act of being nonchalant has become the new key to entering the "cool kids club" and fitting in, and to a lot of people who yearn for a place of belonging and validation, being nonchalant has become a go-to solution to easily acquiring them.

Similarly, the act of indifference

and pure stoicism has also affected the way people open up, practice genuineness, and become vulnerable. From TikToks to Instagram Reels, it doesn't take long for us to see captions such as "Not shedding a tear because I'm nonchalant," or "Nonchalance to Chalance," and if I can be brutally honest, this mindset has been ruining the views and emotions of masses of people.

In hindsight, some people may really be naturally stoic no matter the situation. The real dilemma comes when nonchalance and indifference become a mask that people perform with—an alias that everyone learns to be comfortable showing. So are the masses all there is to this trend? Well, no. If anything,

Rholand Anthony Puig



the digitalization of society has played a big factor in this drastic change. Filming strangers going through their life only to be laughed at on platforms has been a lead to the nonchalant epidemic. With videos like this spreading all over the internet, people start to act more reserved, fearing that they may be the new laughingstock of millions or billions of people.

Another reason is the forced correlation of weakness and authenticity.

Have you ever heard of double texting? How about the idea that you should never—and I mean NEVER—double text a person you're interested in? Views like this are what hurt the genuine nature of a person. They reinforce the thought that the one who cares less holds more power, saves face, and does not have to experience the drawbacks of rejection—which is ironic because life is full of it. It's funny to think that we can try to shun away what we are actively living in, that by giving just a little care to another person, we are "protecting" our emotions and feelings from getting hurt when in reality it doesn't even come from the people we like or pour most of our energy in.

As a perceptive and outgoing person, I never really understood the idea of performatively hiding away how you really feel. We are so caught up in belonging to society and fitting in that we go out of our way to accept roles that we often don't want to play. We fail to realize that despite living on earth, we have our own world too—our life. No one should dictate how or even if you should dance your heart out to "The Dress" by Dijon; an "influencer" should not convince you that one word is enough to tell someone how you feel; a video should not scare you to not live life the way you want to live it.

Dance until your feet fall off. Love loudly and write thine essays as if Shakespeare possessed thy hands. Bawl your eyes at "The Notebook" despite watching it for the 6th or 7th time. Be grown enough to say cheese at a camera. Don't hide—live your life the way you intend to and show the world how you really feel.#

IN BETWEEN LIGHT AND SHADOW

by Jorilyn F. Buenaventura

When we consider light and shadow, we often think of them as opposites, but in reality, they coexist. The answer to life's biggest questions is not found in extremes of light but in the space between light and shadow.

A candle glowing in the dark or sunlight streaming through the street shows how light and shadow reveal stories words often cannot.

Light represents what is in plain sight, while shadow represents depth and texture. Light allows us to see, while shadow helps us perceive what is meaningful. Together, they reveal things we might not notice at first.

Life is similar. We move between moments of clarity and confusion. The question is not which is better, but how each shapes our lives. It is easy to miss the changes around us, but even a shift in light can change everything. At the same time, shadows often invite us to reflect, find meaning, and understand what is not immediately clear.

Being caught between light and shadow reminds us that balance is not perfection but contrast, allowing us to glimpse something greater than ourselves.



SUNSET OVER MANAMA | Zae Rai E. Canlas

The sun with over Manama, casting warm hues across the skyline as the city transitions into evening.



WAVES | Justine Pierre B. Arroyo

The warm sun reflects against the water, as the boat slowly drifts away.



CANDLE GLOW | Jorilyn F. Buenaventura

In the quiet darkness, small flames burn steadily, reminding us that even the faintest light can break through the shadows.



OLD MEETS NEW MANAMA | Migs Miguel C. Casare

Building spires of Old Manama continue their daily rhythm as the construction of New Manama takes in the foreground, reflecting the city's ongoing transformation.

A Valentine's Thought

by Lejane L. Enayem

On Valentine's Day, hearts cutely glow,
Not just in roses or gifts we show.
But in quiet care and words so kind,
The gentle love we give and find.

Love is more than chocolate sweets,
Or fancy cards we often greet.
It lives in moments, small yet true,
In loyal hearts that see us through.

It's in the laughter that we share,
In knowing someone's always there.
A steady light when days feel gray,
A warmth that never fades away.

So Valentine's is not just one day,
Where love is wrapped in a bright display.
It's every act, both big and small,
Reminding us that love shapes all.



PSB scholars bag 9 trophies, over 190 medals at WSC Bahrain

By Marie Aliyah E. Ante and Neo M. Siazon

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) once again demonstrated academic excellence after earning an impressive haul of awards at the World Scholar's Cup (WSC) Bahrain Regional Round, held from January 23 to 25 under the theme "Are We There Yet?"

The three-day regional competition was hosted at the American School Bahrain (ASB) for the first two days, with the final day held at Sheik Abdul Aziz Hall at the University of Bahrain.

Competing in both the Junior and Senior Division, PSB delegates brought home a total of 9 trophies, 101 gold medals, and 96 silver medals.

The delegation faced several schools from across Bahrain. Competing in the Scholar's Bowl, Collaborative Writing, Scholar's Challenge, and Team Debate, participants competed in all major academic events. Not only did students excel within their teams, but they also achieved individual results.

The team of Marie Aliyah E.

Ante, Layla Hassan Jasim Algillidary, and Kyle Edrian M. Perez placed 3rd in the Senior Division. The team of Kelsy Ann P. Leyson, Nathaniela Vera C. Garcia, and Judy L. Banat ranked 6th, while Joerily F. Buenaventura, Samuel C. Aguilar, and Doniel Amintiziel L. Chavez ranked 9th. All three teams secured spots in the Global Rounds, earning trophies and gold medals.

A significant number of PSBian scholars also qualified for the Global Rounds. From the Senior Division, Yousif Abdulla Abdulaal and Steeve Curl G. Almoguera earned 11th place, Zhara Mae L. Barruga, Nick Laurence R. Pabot, and Embher Cyprian B. Gumabay placed 15th, while Xyrin Analeigh E. Domantay, Ruben Jr. II N. Laguidao, and Genesis Mateo A. Basa placed 23rd. The teams received gold medals, further contributing to the school's achievement in the competition.

In the Junior Division, the team of Neo M. Siazon, Lee Añel A. Manalo, and Ruben Jaiden N. Laguidao ranked in 12th place among the top qualifiers, earning gold

medals for their performance. Several other PSBian teams have also qualified for the Global Rounds, further demonstrating the school's commitment and competitiveness in the competition. Their achievements contributed to the school's overall medal tally and highlighted the academic performance of PSBians.

Adding to PSB's achievements, Herose Faith N. Salayo was selected as one of the panelists for the prestigious Debate Showdown during the Bahrain round, a recognition given to scholars who demonstrated exceptional critical thinking and articulation skills.

All PSB delegates successfully qualified for the World Scholars Cup Global Rounds, which will be held in Izmir from June 11 to 16, Kuala Lumpur from June 26 to July 1, Prague

from July 10 to 15, Seoul from July 24 to 29, Shanghai from August 7 to 12, and Da Nang from September 11 to 16.

The World Scholar's Cup is an academic competition that emphasizes collaboration and interdisciplinary knowledge. The program integrates team events and subjects spanning history, science, arts, literature, social sciences, and special areas. It also serves as a platform for students to demonstrate their debate prowess during the Debate Showcase and their unique talents in the Scholar's Show.

Ms. Melanie S. Cruz, Program Head of the Senior High School Department, led this year's PSB delegation, alongside Mr. Michael J. Faller, Acting Coordinator of Student Activities. #

"Participating in the World Scholars Cup was a unique experience that pushed me really far out of my comfort zone. It wasn't only fun, but it was also a great opportunity to grow intellectually and socially," said Herose Faith N. Salayo.



CELEBRATING ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE - From left to right, Isiah Gabriel D. Capiral, Mica Ziarra Khadija G. Alonto, and Julia D. Valdez proudly display their certificates of appreciation and winning trophies for securing top spots in the painting competition during the International Mother Language Day celebration. Photos by Mr. Rogie C. Garza

Valdez, Capiral lead PSB wins at Int'l Mother Language Day tilt

By Axl John C. Arillaga

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) representatives Julia D. Valdez and Isiah Gabriel D. Capiral led the school's winning finish at the International Mother Language Day celebration, securing top spots in a painting competition held on February 24, 2026, at the Open Arab University.

Organized by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Bahrain, the event gathered 71 student participants from various schools across the country. Also representing PSB was Mica Ziarra Khadija G. Alonto (Grade 11).

Capiral placed 3rd in the Senior Category, while Valdez clinched 2nd place in the Junior Category, marking a proud achievement for the PSB community.

The top 50 artworks were showcased during the event, with many entries reflecting

the significance of International Mother Language Day. Several pieces highlighted the history of the Bengali Language Movement, when protesters opposed the imposition of Urdu as the sole language. The movement led to the deaths of several individuals, now honored as Language Martyrs.

The program also featured ambassadors reciting poems in their respective languages, emphasizing the role of language in shaping identity, preserving heritage, and fostering cultural understanding.

Through the achievements of its student representatives, PSB reaffirmed its commitment to promoting creativity, cultural awareness, and global unity. The school community extended its congratulations to all participants for representing the school with excellence and pride. #

Hala Bira Festival celebrates Filipino culture in Bahrain

By Zane A De. Asis

Hala Bira Festival 2026 was held at Oasis Mall in Juffair, Kingdom of Bahrain from January 29 to February 1, featuring cultural presentations, business stalls, and community services for Filipinos in Bahrain.

The event was held in celebration of the Dinagyang Festival of Iloilo. It included live performances, community activities, and more than 30 food and retail bazaar stalls offering Filipino food, products, and services.

Services from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) were also provided, including e-Card registration and distribution, and a Serbisyo Caravan that delivered on-site assistance

programs for Overseas Filipino Workers.

Local Filipino groups performed during the event, including bands and dance groups. The Philippine School Bahrain Elementary and High School Dance Troupes performed and promoted the block screening of the movie "Song of the Fireflies" scheduled on February 14.

According to Joerily F. Buenaventura of Grade 11-Mapaghinuha, the event provided an opportunity for members of the Filipino community to gather and participate in cultural activities.

The festival was organized by BrandME Events, a Bahrain-based events and marketing group. #



FESTIVAL MOVES ON STAGE - The Elementary Dance Troupe (left picture) performs the Ali-Alihan Dance, while the High School Dance Troupe (right picture) shows off a hip-hop routine during the Hala Bira Festival at Oasis Mall, also promoting the movie The Song of the Fireflies. Photos by BrandME Events

PSB studes showcase career aspirations in Dress for Success Day

By Anna Sofia R. Erazo

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) held its Dress for Success Career Day on January 21-22, 2026, as part of its career guidance initiatives. The activity allowed students across grade levels to explore their career interests through professional attire.

On January 21, elementary pupils came to school dressed as their dream professionals. Parents participated by giving talks on perseverance, goal-setting, and the value of education, encouraging students to consider their future aspirations at an early age.

High school students continued the celebration on January 22, wearing professional attire representing their chosen career paths. The activity aimed to help learners understand the importance of setting clear goals and making informed academic and career decisions as they prepare for life after high school.

Through the Dress for Success Day, PSB provided students—from elementary to senior high school—with opportunities to reflect on their career goals and envision their future paths. #



RCSI holds Career Talk for SHS

By Jazlylle Bheldandy F. Maribbay

Senior high school students of Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) attended a career talk on healthcare profession during Career Day, facilitated by Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) last January 22 at Audio-Visual Room.

The session, intended for Grade 11 and 12 students interested in pursuing careers in medicine and nursing, featured Samuel Nazareth, Student Recruitment Specialist of RCSI.

He discussed various career paths in the medical field and outlined the academic requirements needed to pursue them.

Nazareth also provided an overview of RCSI's programs and admission requirements, giving students a clearer understanding of what to expect when studying medicine related subjects.

The talk included an open forum where students asked questions

about the demands, preparation, and opportunities in healthcare careers. Participants were primarily STEM students who are beginning to consider their college options and future professions.

The career talk encouraged students to reflect on their goals and the steps needed to pursue a career in the medical field. The activity formed part of the school's Career Month initiatives, which aim to guide students in exploring career paths. #



SNAPCHAT WITH SUCCESS - Grade 11 and 12 students pose with Samuel Nazareth, Student Recruitment Specialist of RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland), in the Audio Visual Room. Photo by Mr. Glenn D. Raz

Grade 12 takes USTET; Grade 11 attends UST Career Talk

By Mr. Kristian B. Lego

Nineteen Grade 12 students of Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) took the University of Santo Tomas Entrance Test (USTET) on January 15, 2026, while Grade 11 students attended a UST Career Talk at the school. The activities provided students with opportunities to plan their higher education and

explore potential career pathways.

The USTET was administered by UST Admissions Representatives Mr. Jasper Ryan A. Balisi and Mr. Daryl Bryan D. Arceta, who facilitated the testing process for the participating students.

During the career talk, Grade 11 learners learned about

UST's academic programs, career opportunities, and possible pathways for further studies. The sessions aimed to help students make informed decisions about their academic and professional futures.

PSB had announced the USTET on August 2025, inviting Filipino students in the Kingdom to register and

take part in the test. Interested applicants were given contact details and registration instructions.

Both activities form part of PSB's ongoing initiatives to guide students in their academic and career planning, ensuring they are prepared for the next stages of their educational journey.#



FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE- Grade 11 students listen to the UST representative during the career talk held in the RCA Building Grade 11 room. Photo by Mr. Glenn D. Raz

News Bit

Advincula advises SH studes on career planning

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) invited alumnus Mr. Bernard Errol Advincula, a policy professional specializing in industry-government relations, to speak to Grades 11 and 12 during a Career Awareness Session on January 6, 2026.

Advincula shared practical advice on preparing for college, navigating career transitions, and understanding professional life. He also discussed goal-setting and planning for future careers, helping students reflect on their academic and professional options.

The session provided senior high school students with guidance from a professional and alumnus perspective, complementing PSB's career guidance initiatives.

Through career talks with its alumni, PSB continues to support students in exploring career paths and making informed academic and professional decisions.#



TRIANGULAR RHYTHM- The Elementary Dance Troupe performs in a triangular formation during their Ati-Atihan Festival presentation at the Sto. Niño Festival in Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Photo by Ms. Christine Pascasio

Elementary Dance Troupe wins first runner-up in Sto. Niño Festival

By Elaine T. Francisco

Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) Elementary Dance Troupe, choreographed by Christine M. Pascasio, earned First Runner-Up at the Ati-Atihan, Dinagyang, and Sinulog Street Dance Competition on January 23, 2026, held at Sacred Heart Church, Manama.

In the same celebration, Ms. Wendy Recto was crowned Festival Queen First Runner-Up. The championship in all street

dance categories was won by Lumad Bisdakon, followed closely by PSB and the All Guardian Bahrain Dance Group.

The event, organized by the Filipino Catholic Community in Bahrain, showcased Filipino cultural heritage and provided participants with an opportunity to perform as a form of prayer and celebration of the Sto. Niño Festival.#



Ms. Wendy N. Recto
1st Runner-Up Festival Queen 2026

Thank you to all Home-School Support Council (HSSC) representatives for your unwavering support throughout School Year 2025-2026.

Blue Falcons clinches overall title in PSB Elementary Sports Day 2026

By Mr. Johniel A. Seño, Ms. Desarie Ann Mercado, and Ms. Jasmin Junio

Blue Falcons emerged as overall champions during the Elementary Sports Day 2026 of the Philippine School Bahrain held on January 29 at the school grounds.

With the theme "Learn to Move, Move to Learn: Fostering Health and Wellness through Sports," the event gathered Kindergarten to Grade 6 pupils in a day of athletic competitions aimed at promoting physical fitness, holistic development, and student wellness.

The program opened with a parade of teams, followed by a formal ceremony that included a prayer, the national anthem, opening messages, and the ceremonial lighting of the torch. The presentation of muses and escorts,

team yells, and warm-up exercises energized both participants and spectators.

A variety of age-appropriate games and competitions were conducted across grade levels. Kindergarten and primary pupils participated in coordination and relay activities, while Grades 3 to 6 competed in basketball, volleyball, chess, patintero, tug of war, sack race, and other team challenges.

Beyond athletic performance, the event also highlighted values formation, as pupils demonstrated discipline, teamwork, cooperation, and sportsmanship. Team colors and identities further fostered unity and camaraderie among participants.

The event was smoothly implemented through proper

planning, clear guidelines, and coordination among organizers, facilitators, and support personnel, with safety measures such as first aid support in place.

In the final results, the Black Panthers secured the first runner-up position, followed by the Green Pythons as second runner-up. Special awards were presented to Blue Falcons, who won the title of Best Muse, while Black Panthers representative was named the Best Escort. In the Yell Competition, Black Panthers were declared champions.

The Elementary Sports Day 2026 showcased not only athletic excellence but also the importance of teamwork, creativity, and sportsmanship among young learners.#



MOVE TO LEARN, LEARN TO MOVE- (Upper) Ms. Wendy N. Recto and representatives from different teams performed a symbolic unified ball throw to begin the Sportsfest. (Lower) The Blue Falcons prepared their props and formation before beginning their yell performance. - Photo by Mr. Johniel A. Seño.

News Bit

Red Phoenix win Bench Cheer

Red Phoenix won the Bench Cheer Competition during Sportsfest 2026 held at the A'ali Cultural and Sports Center on January 29.

Blue Direwolves placed first runner-up, while Purple Pumas finished

second runner-up in the competition.

The event marked the first time the Philippine School Bahrain organized a bench cheer competition as part of its Sportsfest activities.

Participating teams performed synchronized

chants and routines, demonstrating coordination, teamwork, and school spirit.

The competition added a new event to the Sportsfest program, highlighting students' creativity alongside athletic activities.#

CHAMPION CHANTS - Red Phoenix delivers synchronized cheers during the first Bench Cheer Competition and emerged as the winner at Sportsfest 2026, held at the A'ali Cultural and Sports Center on January 29. - Photo by Joerily F. Buenaventura



Manalo wins close bouts in 9th WSKF Bahrain Nat'l Karate Championship

By Kathleen Audrie N. Alzate and Lee Añel A. Manalo

Lee-Ann A. Manalo won two close kumite matches in the 9th WSKF Bahrain National Karate Championship on February 13, 2026, at Al Ettihad Sports Club in Bilad Al Qadeem.

Manalo recorded narrow victories with scores of 1-0 and 3-2.

She trained for the competition since November 2025, focusing on physical conditioning and mental preparation under the guidance of her coaches.

Manalo said she did not expect to win, citing the tight matches and a knee injury

she experienced a week before the event.

"I felt relieved and happy because I achieved one of my goals," she said.

She identified preparation as the most challenging part of the competition, requiring discipline, effort, and focus.

Manalo plans to join more competitions, including the World Karate Federation (WKF) Japan Open 2026.

She also thanked her family, friends, and coaches for their support.

The win marks a milestone in her karate career.#



VICTORY IN ACTION - Lee-Ann A. Manalo delivers her final kick to win her match in the kumite at the 9th WSKF Bahrain National Karate Championship on February 13, 2026, at Al Ettihad Sports Club in Bilad Al Qadeem. - Photo by Lee Añel A. Manalo

Science News

Artemis II splashes down after return mission to Earth

By Sophia Roxanne D. Valencia

NASA's Artemis II splashes down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of San Diego, California after a successful, nearly 700,000 mile, round trip around the moon last Friday, 8:07 p.m. EDT, April 10.

"Welcome home," the Navy recovery team sent to retrieve the astronauts said to the Artemis II crew, Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist 1 Christina Koch, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen, the first humans to fly around the moon since 1972.

The spacecraft Orion, dubbed Integrity by the crew, launched to space on April 1, Wednesday of the week before at 6:35 p.m. EDT, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The mission's goal was to test out the life support system and other key systems on the vehicle the astronauts will fly in, Orion. Along the way, they will make geological observations of the moon's surface, including parts of the far side that human eyes have never seen. In addition, experiments are tracking how deep space affects the astronauts' bodies.

During the

mission, the astronauts completed a historic lunar flyby, marking humanity's return to the vicinity of the Moon for the first time in more than half a century, the first crewed mission to the moon in 54 years. They went a bit farther as they went around the far side of the moon, a sight never seen before by human eyes and gathering data, ending up 252,756 miles from Earth at 7:02 p.m., before looping back toward the planet. Throughout the flight, the crew and teams on the ground have evaluated Orion's systems in the deep-space environment, including a series of tests in which astronauts directly operated and interacted with the spacecraft.

It is a follow-up to Artemis I, an uncrewed test flight that launched in November 2022.

The Artemis II mission lasted 10 days, the astronauts having set the record of humans to fly the farthest from Earth, a distance of 248,655 miles, set by the Apollo 13 mission in 1970.

That occurred at 1:56 p.m. EDT on Monday.#

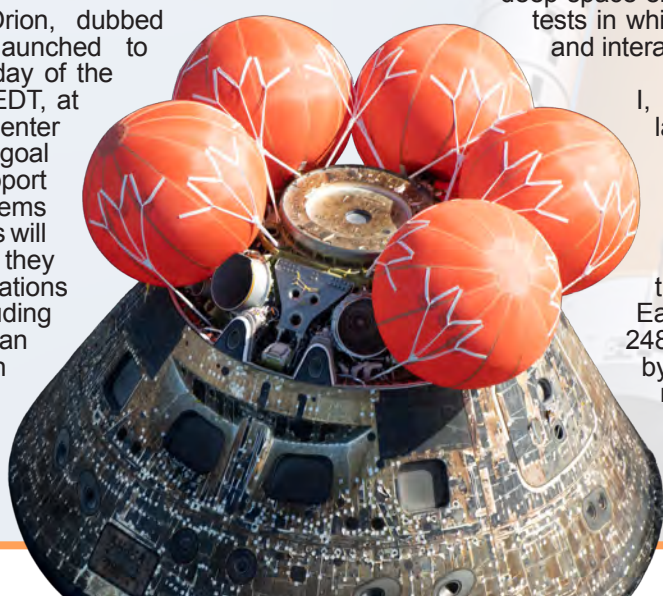


Photo Courtesy: NASA





AngTanglaw

SPORTS

The Official Student Publication of Philippine School Bahrain - A'ali, Kingdom of Bahrain • Volume XIX • Issue No. 2 - January - May 2026



PSB players compete in the 2026 Batang PBA Middle East Tournament

By Jana Marcela R. Nival

Student athletes from Philippine School Bahrain (PSB) competed in the Batang PBA Middle East tournament held in Doha, Qatar from February 6 to February 8, representing Bahrain in both the U14 and U19 divisions.

The three-day tournament featured divisions: U12, U14, U16, and U19. Bahrain's U14 team played under the 'TNT Tropang 5G' roster, winning two of four games, while the U19 team competed as 'Baranggay Ginebra San Miguel',

winning two of five games.

The 'Barangay Ginebra San Miguel' roster of the U19 division featured Jayden Richmond L. Valenzuela, Prince Joriel S. Angeles, Lloyd Matthew B. Bermas, Don Charlez Gabrielle L. Chavez, Sebastian Andrei M. Abanilla, Julian Andrei K. Khalili, Dion Samuel A. Cruz, Efen T. Francisco III, Gareth Daughtry B. Deypalan, and Salman Hasan Abdulrasool Sheer Mohamed.

Meanwhile, the 'TNT Tropang 5G'

roster of the U14 division featured Aldhiya A. Magsuci, Joaquin R. Nival, Ethan Jaydee Niles T. Ilagan, Edward E. Tapales, Peter Johnros E. Butin, Christof Alden B. Gumabay, Mohamed Aldrich Soriano, Kiefer Cyrus C. Cortez, Mckhons Jehdeiah R. Engcot, Husain Hasan Abdulrasool Sheer Mohamed, Kevin T. Panizales, Don Carlos Adriel L. Chavez, Mcklein C. Cortez, and Jamir B. Deypalan.

"Playing in the Batang PBA was a great experience for me. It helped me

build confidence, and discipline. Overall, I learned a lot and it helped me grow both as a basketball player and as a person." Gareth Daughtry B. Deypalan expressed after being asked about his experience playing for Batang PBA.

The PSB athletes demonstrated teamwork, sportsmanship and skill, representing Bahrain while showcasing their basketball talents throughout the tournament. #



Photo courtesy: BatangPBA Middle East Facebook page and JonLiteral Photography

Batch '26 secures back-to-back PSB Sportsfest title

By Lloyd Lucas B. Bermas

Another year, another trophy - Batch '26 cements their legacy at PSB Sportsfest.

Purple Pumas won the PSB Sportsfest title on January 31 at the A'ali Cultural and Sports Center, winning the overall championship for the second consecutive year.

Purple Pumas secured seven first-place finishes across a variety of competitions, including Basketball, Tug of War, Chinese Garter, Scrabble, Pinoy Football, Luksong Tinik, and the Girls' 100-meter Dash. Their performance demonstrated versatility and competitiveness across both athletic and skill-based events.

A key moment came during the basketball finals, where the Purple Pumas narrowly defeated the Red Phoenix. Kyle T. Panizales, named Most Valuable Player and part of the Mythical 6, sank a decisive layup in the final seconds to secure the win and contribute crucial points to the team's overall lead.

Throughout the Sportsfest, the Purple Pumas consistently earned points

in both team and individual events, maintaining their top ranking from the start of the program through the final score tally. Their coordinated efforts, participation, and performance across multiple competitions allowed them to finish with the highest points among all teams.

When the final results were announced, the Purple Pumas were officially declared overall champions of PSB Sportsfest 2026, marking back-to-back victories for Batch '26.

"We faced many challenges, but we chose to be fearless. I saw our team's determination during practice, and we pushed ourselves to do our best. When things got tough, we supported each other—and that heart is what brought us this victory" Kelsy Anne P. Leyson, Team Captain of Purple Pumas said.#



Sportsfest 2026 Ranking

Purple Pumas
Champion

Red Phoenix
First Place

Blue Dire Wolves
Second Place