By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PHILIPPINES should THE PHILIPPINES should face facts squarely and not make trouble' over Panatag (Searborough) Shool, China said after successfully blocking Manila's attempt fast stock to win regional sup-port in its territorial dis-pute with Beijing in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea). A Chinese newspaper

A Chinese newspaper also chided the Philip-pines for "disgracing" at self with its "high-pitched verbal provoca-tions" for which it had no matching "military or



FISHING INTROUBLED WATERS In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, a Chinese fishery administration ship (background) guards a Chinese fishing vessel near Yongshu Reef in the Spratly Islands, in the West Philippine Sea, on Sunday, Affect of 30 Ishing vessels arrived at the reef where China has an ocean observatory and will spend 10 days of fishing, according to Xinhua.

China fishing fleet arrives in Spratlys

Manila: Don't cross Philippine waters

BEIJING-A big fleet of Chinese fishing vessels arrived at the disputed Spratly Islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) on Sunday, state media said, amid tensions with China's neighbors over rival claims to the area.

The Philippines, locked in a territorial row with China over Pametag Shaal (Samborough Shoal) in the West Philippine Sea, yesterday said the Chinese fishing fleet should not cross in to Philippine territory in the Sprailys.

But the Chinese fishing expe-dition is apparently not a show

dition is appearently not a show of force directed at the Philip-pines but at Vietnam, which claims the Paracel Islands and parts of the Spratlys where the fleet arrived on Sunday.

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Jourched the IPP and and spammed mail tablets from Samsung Electronics Co., Amazon.com

The fleet of 30 fishing vessels

The ficet of 30 fishing vessels arrived near the Youghtu Reef in the affermon after setting off on Thursday from the Chinese province of Itainan, the official Minhua news agency reported. Youghtu Reef is the Johnson South Reef in the Spratlyr that both China and Wettum claim. Their competing claims eruped into a navel skimish on March. 14, 1988. Wettum lost the firefight. It lost one vessel and took home another heavily demaged. home another heavily damaged.



PALACE VISITOR President Aquino greets Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, chief of the US Pacific Command, who visited Malacatang on Monday. Locklear arrived in Manila on Sunday for a three-day visit. SECURITY ISSUES

Spratlys on US admiral's agenda

ADM. SAMUEL J. Locklean ADM. SAMLEL J. Locklear III, the command, dosered himself with top Philippine defense and rulinary officials yesterchy shoutly after his ar-rival in Manila for talks

aimed at reaffirming US comaimed at reaffirming US com-mitment to upgrade the Philippines' defense capabili-ty amid a territorial dispute with China, Malacariang offi-cials said.

Before the meetings at Camp Againaldo, Lockleur met with President Aquino for about 30 to 40 minutes in

the morning, acroscharg to the officials. Among those in the meeting were Foreign Secre-tary Albert del Rosanto, Exoc-urbe Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., US Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr. and Philippine defense and mili-tary officials.

GMA charged with plunder in misuse of PCSO funds

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER President and now Rumpanga Rep, Gloria Macapegal Arroyo was charged yesterday with plunder in the alleged rutsuse of F956 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) funds that went to "fictious" expenses in the last two and a half years of her term.

It was the first plunder case filled against Arroyo, who is detained in a government hospital in Quezon City for electronal subotrage, a nonhallable offense like plunder.

Arroyo is also facing two counts of graft and mar count of herach of ethics in the Sandigambayan in connection

graft and one count of breach of errors in the Sandiganbayan in connection with her approval of the overprised National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Curp. The deal omachastois; as

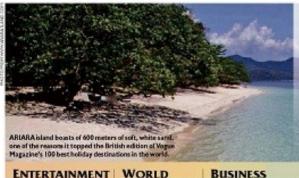
PH business execs more upbeat, says int'l report

By Doris C. Dumlao

FILPINO business leaders have turned more uplear in the second quarter de-spite lingering global economic wors and local political concerns, bearing most places in the world in the opti-mism barometer, according to the quarterly Grant Thomton Internation-al Business Report.

quarterly Grant Uncommon all Business Report. The Intest results, released by studit, tax and advisory services firm Punoug-bayon & Araullo (F&A) on Monday, PREDISTRESS/AT

Palawan island No. 1 getaway spot in the world



By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE FUN in the Philippines is defi-

THE FUN in the Philippines is defi-nitely starting to pick up with a pri-wate getaway inland in Pularuan province taking the top spot in the British edition of Wogne Maga-zine's 100 best holiday destina-tions in the world.

The Department of Tourism-(DOT) yesterday amounced that the magazine, which named visina Island—a 100-horizm "private paradise" snuggled among the un-touched Calantian Islands—as the world's No. 1 getaway spot, will his it

LIFESTYLE

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enty of hosels offer comfortable rooms with tolletner, towels, cible indicioning and all the usual amenists. At Records World Mahali, Riv Juli find one that offers a fine mouse holisty, RIVM's Remisignor, libed as the "Real Yalas" hosel with quality accommodations at 18th loss, gives guest some fair in the high seas with two fine cabbra on

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BUSINESS Okada, Tan deal/B1

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Palawan island No. 1 getaway spot in the world

By: Jocelyn R. Uy Philippine Daily Inquirer

3:25 am | Tuesday, July 17th, 2012

3:25 am | Tuesday, July 17th, 2012

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BEST HOLIDAY DESTINATION Ariara island boasts of 600 meters of soft, white sand, one of the reasons it topped the British edition of Vogue Magazine's 100 best holiday destinations in the world. PHOTO FROM WWW.ARIARAISLAND.COM

The fun in the Philippines is definitely starting to pick up with a private getaway island in Palawan province taking the top spot in the British edition of Vogue Magazine's 100 best holiday destinations in the world.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) on Monday announced that the magazine, which named Ariara Island-a 103-hectare "private paradise" snuggled among the untouched Calamian Islands-as the world's No. 1 getaway spot, will hit the stands in August.

In a statement, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. said Philippine tourism would surely benefit from the worldwide recognition.

"What is remarkable is that the entire resort is a testament to the unique artistry and skills of Filipino designers and artisans," Jimenez said.

"The use of local materials and traditional techniques serves as good advertising for Filipino craftsmanship and world-class products," he added.

"Tourism is not just about counting tourist arrivals ... more importantly, it is about building opportunities on the ground and improving lives, in communities, in very real places."

The resort is owned by British property developer Charles McCulloch and his wife, Carrie.

The United Kingdom remains to be one of the Philippines' biggest tourism markets, registering over 104,400 tourist arrivals last year, which the DOT noted was a record.

Ultimate destination

Ariara Island's eco-friendly structures, its luxurious and spacious villas and cottages, were designed by renowned Filipino architect Jorge Yulo.

Every piece of furniture that adorns these structures was handcrafted and upholstered by local carpenters. Some had also been outsourced to Filipino artisans.

The DOT said the resort's wooden baths employed traditional boat-building techniques, while marble baths were hand-carved from single blocks of Romblon marble.

Cushions were crafted from Mindanao's vivid tribal fabrics and its wall accents featured heliographs and ceramics created by Filipino artist Ugu Bigyan.

The tropical island resort has been described as "the ultimate off-the-beaten-track destination," which offers guests—a group of up to 18 people—an all-inclusive package of exclusivity, relaxation, 24-hour service, excellent cuisine and a wide array of amenities.

For \$295 (P12,000) a night per person, guests can relax in its posh villas and cottages and enjoy an unbroken view of the neighboring islands and the clear blue waters of Palawan.

Guests will be made to feel like royalty even in the bedroom, which is adorned with a private terrace and a garden, hanging chairs and hammocks, a four-poster bed, a walk-in closet, a large bathroom and an open-air shower.

Out in the sea, they can enjoy jet-skiing, windsurfing, canoeing, snorkeling or scuba diving to discover Calamian Islands' rich diversity of marine life.

Intensified promotions

Lucky visitors may even spot some of the world's endangered species of sea turtles such as Hawksbill, leatherback, Olive Ridley and green turtles crawling along Ariara's main beach to lay eggs.

Guests who are avid bird watchers may turn to the island's unspoiled forest for relaxation. It is home to