Pinoy cue masters post more wins in World 9-Ball tourney

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Five more Filipino cue masters made their presence felt in the prestigious World 9 Ball Championships being held at the Al Sadd Sports Club in Doha, Qatar.

Former world champion Ronnie Alcano wasted no time in crushing Toh Lian Han of Singapore, 9-3, in Group 13 while 2006 Doha Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica outclassed Andrea Klasovic of Croatia, 9-4, in the same group.

Not to be outdone were veteran campaigners Lee Van Corteza, who humiliated Ivica Putnik of Croatia, 9-0, and Marlon Caneda, who defeated Francisco Diaz Pizarro of Spain, 9-6, in Group 14, so as 2010 World 8-Ball titlist Dennis Orcollo, who trounced Ali Saeed Alsuwaid of United Arab Emirates, 9-6, in Group 15.
Legendary cue masters Efren Reyes and Francisco Bustamante will be gunning for slots in the 64-man knockout stage. They will be facing Bader Al Awadi of Kuwait and Abdullah Al Yousuf also of Kuwait, respectively, late Monday.

Also scheduled to play were Jundel Mazon and Vincent Facquet of France, Carlo Biado and Roman Hybler of the Czech Republic, Ramill Gallego and Tony Drago of Malta, Vicente Loyme and John Morra of Canada, Roberto Gomez and Mohammed Saed Saed of Qatar, Alcano and hunter Lombardo of US, Gabica and Dennis Grabe of Estonia, Caneda and Corteza, and Orcollo and Andrew Kong of Hong Kong.

Oliver Medenilla was the first Filipino casualty after soaking up his second loss to Lo Li Wen of Taiwan, 9-3.

A total of $300,000 cash prize is up for grabs in the tournament sanctioned by the World Pool-Billiard Association with the champion getting $40,000 and the runner-up taking $20,000 consolation purse.