

Marcos wants to keep China ties

PH to continue protecting territory, maritime rights

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS, BETHEENA UNITE, JEL SANTOS, and MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

Malacañang said President Marcos wants to prevent a deterioration in Philippine-China relations, emphasizing his direction to address disagreements with Beijing through diplomacy, while maintaining the country's position on protecting its territory and maritime interests. Presidential Communications

Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro said this amid rising tensions in the disputed waters. In a press briefing on Friday, Oct. 16, Castro said the President recognizes the importance of maintaining bilateral ties, particularly in trade and investment, even as the two countries continue to disagree over the West Philippine Sea. "The government and the President do not want to see the relations between Chi- ►10

PBBM vows to strengthen Coast Guard capabilities

By ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS and MARTIN SADONGDONG

President Marcos vowed to strengthen the capabilities and operational readiness of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) as it faces increasingly complex maritime challenges, under- ►11



PH COAST GUARD @ 125 – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. troops the line as he attends the 125th founding anniversary of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at the Eva Macapagal Cruise Terminal in South Harbor, Manila, on Friday, Oct. 16, 2026. With the theme 'One Sea, One Mission, One Legacy', the milestone celebration highlighted the PCG's 125 years of service and its continuing mission to safeguard the country's maritime interests and promote safety in Philippine waters. (PCO)

VP Sara says corruption continues to weaken government institutions

By MERLINA HERNANDO-MALIPOT

Vice President Sara Duterte called for a government anchored on "order, integrity, and efficiency," identifying corruption, rising living costs, poverty, and shortcomings in public services as among the major challenges facing the Philippines. "Corruption continues to erode our institutions, drain resources from essential public services, and diminish our opportunities for national growth and development," Duterte said in a speech before the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Philippines National Convention 2026 in Zamboanga City on Oct. 15. She also outlined her vision of a country where public office is treated as a responsibility, government transactions are transparent, and public funds are spent for the benefit of Filipinos. "I stand before you not as a Vice President facing impeachment charges, and certainly not as a presumptive presidential ►12



NEW SSS HEAD TAKES OATH – Newly appointed Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer Victor Alfonso A. Limlingan (right) takes his oath of office before Finance Secretary Frederick Go (left). Limlingan, a Chartered Financial Analyst and former Development Bank of the Philippines board member, assumes leadership of the state pension fund to optimize assets and expand coverage under Republic Act No. 11199. He succeeds former pension chief Robert Joseph Montes de Claro, who was appointed to lead the Department of Information and Communications Technology. (SSS photo)

Finance veteran Victor Limlingan takes top SSS post

President Marcos named finance and investment veteran Victor Alfonso A. Limlingan as the new president and chief executive officer of the Social Security System (SSS), replacing Robert Joseph Montes de Claro following his appointment to the Cabinet.

Limlingan takes the helm of the state-run pension fund with immediate priorities centered on expanding member loan programs, boosting risk-adjusted returns across the institution's investment portfolio, and relaunching the Pension Booster Program, according to a SSS statement on Friday, Oct. 16. ►10

Gasoline set for rollback, diesel reverses course

By GABRIELL CHRISTEL GALANG

After weeks of sustained price hikes, gasoline prices are finally set to roll back next week, even as diesel prices reverse course and climb once more. Based on four-day trading averages from the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) and foreign exchange rates, gasoline prices are expected to drop by ₱4.00 to ₱4.20 per liter, while diesel prices are expected to increase by ₱0.20 to ₱0.40 per liter. An industry source explained that diesel prices remain elevated due to low global inventories, though G7 nations are expected to release stocks soon to temper potential supply deficits. "Doubts remain whether the US-Russia diesel deal will deliver meaningful additional supply," the source said. ►10



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