

The Daily Dispatch

October 06, 2017
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

MPIC acquires majority stake in GenSan hospital

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), the tollways and infrastructure conglomerate led by tycoon MVP, is expanding its hospital portfolio. In a disclosure yesterday, MPIC said its healthcare holding company, Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc., has acquired a stake in St. Elizabeth Hospital Inc. in General Santos City.

Only 1 out of 3 graduates employable, study shows

Only one out of three Filipino college graduates is “employable,” which means about 65 percent of graduates in the country do not have the right skills and training to qualify for the jobs they are applying for, a study by India-based employment solutions firm Aspiring Minds showed.

Competition climate improving, says PCC chief

PCC chair Arsenio Balisacan said the country’s improving competition landscape bodes well for the investment climate, prompting more investors to enter the local market. Balisacan said the perception of competition in the Philippines is now at an all-time high, citing the country’s score in the WEF Global Competitiveness Report.

MRC Allied seals Sepalco purchase

MRC Allied Inc. sealed its acquisition of a 15 percent stake in Sulu Electric Power and Light Philippines Inc. (Sepalco). The move is in line with its “buy and build” strategy to become a major renewable energy player in the country.

Inflation quickens further to 3.4% in Sept.

The increase in consumer prices quickened to its fastest pace in five months in September owing to higher adjustments in food costs, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed yesterday. Based on the report of the PSA, headline inflation was at 3.4% last month, higher compared with 3.1% the previous month.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:
8,294.01

1 Yr Return:
11.71%

Open:
8,332.56

YTD Return:
22.42%

52-Week Range:
6,499.00 - 8,406.34

Source:
Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Oct. 3, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.987

PDST-R2 Rates

As of Oct. 3, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	2.8648
3Y	3.7048
5Y	4.5975
7Y	4.3101
10Y	4.6254
20Y	5.1466

Daily Quote

“Diligence is the mother of good luck.”

--Benjamin Franklin

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

PH fights for call centers as automation looms

Since the early 2000s, the Philippines added more than a million jobs as foreign companies outsourced customer support and sales tasks to the Southeast Asian nation. Now a looming wave of automation is threatening employment at call centers and forcing the industry to retrain workers to meet the demand for higher skilled jobs.

Phinma eyes three gas-fired facilities

Phinma Energy Corp. is studying the feasibility of putting up three gas-fired power plants with a combined capacity of 904 MW. The three projects include the 383-MW combined cycle gas turbine plant in Cagayan; the 383-MW floating CCGT plant in Pangasinan; and the 138-MW Argao floating CCGT plant in Cebu.

Filinvest breaks ground on new Alabang condo

PROPERTY developer Filinvest has started construction of Studio City Tower 5, an addition to a condominium complex that it is developing in Filinvest City, Alabang. The 450-unit condominium targets the working millennial market, as its location is also home to several BPO offices, leisure and education centers.

Cirtek seeks to raise \$200M via share offer

BIÑAN, Laguna: CIRTEK Holdings Philippines Corp. is planning to issue dollar-denominated preferred shares amounting to \$200 million as part of its strategy to raise capital. Cirtek will issue \$120 million worth of preferred shares with an overallotment option of up to \$80 million.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

India a priority for \$2b TPG Growth

The Rise Fund, founded by TPG Growth founder and managing partner Bill McGlashan, U2 lead singer and activist Bono, and Jeff Skoll, an entrepreneur and film producer, has closed the largest impact investment fund raised so far with a total corpus of \$2 billion.

Modi must 'take blame' for IND's job crisis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is running out of time to turn around India's \$2.3 trillion economy before impending elections, leaving the party reliant on "good marketing" to win over voters, a former Indian finance minister and member of the ruling party said.

CH's answer to Airbnb sets sights on Japan

Tujia.com, China's largest vacation rental platform, seeks to boost Japan listings by 10 times in two years as it vies with Airbnb Inc. to capitalize on the nation's tourism boom. The Beijing-based startup aims to increase the number of properties available for holiday rental to about 100,000 by 2019 from 10,000 now.

SG hotel market draws investors

There seems to be more buzz in the Singapore hotel investment market lately, as potential buyers - mostly foreigners - scout for properties in a sector where assets are tightly held. No major hotel transactions have been sealed since 2015, but investment sentiment seems to be waking up, consultants say.

SG, THA, mull e-payment alliance in digital push

Singapore and Thailand are in discussions about connecting their national digital payment systems to forge an unprecedented regional alliance, as officials step up efforts to curb the use of cash. The link would bring together Southeast Asia's first national digital-payment platforms, Singapore's PayNow and Thailand's PromptPay.

Sequoia Capital raises \$50m for China-focused fund

Sequoia Capital has raised nearly \$50.2 million for its China-focused fund, the global venture capital firm said in a stock exchange filing. About 86 investors have so far backed the Sequoia Capital China Venture VI Principals Fund, which was incorporated and started fundraising in 2016.

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TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Republicans move on tax reform

Congressional Republicans moved to hasten an overhaul of the U.S. tax code on Thursday, while Federal Reserve officials warned in rare public remarks that President Donald Trump's tax plan could lead to inflation and unsustainable federal debt.

Catalonia's banks prepare to move amid fears

Catalonia's biggest banks are getting closer to leaving the politically volatile region as customers signaled that a declaration of independence would prompt them to pull their deposits. Banco Sabadell SA confirmed late Thursday it will move its headquarters to the Spanish city of Alicante.

House prices are driving Australians north

Sydneysiders are cashing out of their million-dollar homes in favor of cheaper houses in the tropical north, says Macquarie Bank Ltd. The emerging exodus is part of Australia's latest wave of interstate migration to Queensland, where house prices are half Sydney's and job creation is on the rise.

Banks missed out on Bitcoin's rise, but now want in

At first, bitcoin was a way to make payments without banks. Now, with more than \$100 billion stashed in digital currencies, banks are debating whether and how to get in on the action. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Blankfein tweeted Tuesday that his firm is examining the cryptocurrency.

Puerto Rico is running out of money

Puerto Rico faces a government shutdown on Oct. 31, including halting its hurricane recovery, if Congress doesn't provide billions in emergency funds, said Treasury Secretary Raul Maldonado. The U.S. commonwealth's bankrupt government is burning through the \$1.6 billion it had on hand before Hurricane Maria ravaged the island

The rich are driving up the rent

Following the Great Recession, the cost of rental housing took a growing bite out of U.S. household budgets, as increasing demand for rental units pushed up prices. Now the share of households considered burdened by high rents is falling, according to a report from New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate & Urban Policy.

Global growth picking up despite social tensions

The world economy is gaining strength and extending the broadest recovery since the start of the decade even as issues such as inequality threaten to fray the fabric of society, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said.

Yahoo's corpse keeps festering at Verizon

Yahoo is like a zombie feasting on Verizon's brains. Marni Walden, a top executive, is leaving just a day after the internet firm she helped to acquire tripled its tally of customer accounts exposed to a 2013 hack. While the company suggests the timing is a coincidence, it's clear that Yahoo is a problem that continues to fester.

Switch Inc's IPO prices at \$17 per share

Switch Inc raised about US\$531.3 million from its initial public offering which was priced at US\$17 per share, making the data-centre operator the second-largest US technology listing this year. The 31.3 million Class A share offering was priced above the proposed US\$14 to US\$16 per share range.

Economic Calendar

Date	Release
10.01.2017	Nikkei Philippines PMI Manufacturing
10.04.2017	PH: CPI YoY
10.05.2017	PH: Foreign Reserves
10.09.2017	PH: Exports and Imports YoY
10.09.2017	PH: Trade Balance

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar