

The Daily Dispatch

April 20, 2017
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

PCC asks High Court to lift TRO

The Office of the Solicitor General has petitioned the Supreme Court to lift the injunction on the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC)'s review of the P69.1B sale of San Miguel Corporation (SMC)'s telco assets to the country's telecom duopoly, PLDT and Globe Telecom.

First Balfour tapped to repair LRT 1

Light Rail Manila Corp., a consortium led by Ayala Corp. and MPIC, said on Wednesday it signed a P980-million deal with First Balfour to restore the structure of LRT Line 1. The LRT-1 Structural Restoration Project includes the restoration of parapets, faulty concrete, and repair of river bridges of the system.

SEC exec faces graft case for anomalous share sale

An official of the Securities and Exchange Commission was charged before the Ombudsman with graft and corruption and grave misconduct for allowing the alleged "anomalous" sale of shares of the Manila North Harbor Port Inc. (MNHPI) to San Miguel Holdings Corp.

AGI eyes becoming PH's largest hotel owner by 2020

Alliance Global Group Inc. (AGI), the holding firm of businessman Andrew Tan, will become the country's largest hotel owner in the country by 2020 after its property development arm would have completed a significant portion of its mixed-use developments.

First Gen plants resume operations

First Gen Corp. said its power plants affected by the recent earthquake have resumed operations, augmenting Luzon grid's power supply this summer. First Gen said it has completed restoration work on the San Lorenzo Switchyard, which connects its three natural gas-fired power plants to the transmission lines of the NGCP.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

7,522.98

Open:

7,502.29

52-Week Range:

6,499.00 - 8,118.44

1 Yr Return:

6.29%

YTD Return:

9.75%

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of April 19, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	49.773

PDST-R2 Rates

As of April 19, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	2.8085
3Y	4.1220
5Y	4.3255
7Y	4.8054
10Y	5.3214
20Y	5.1535

Daily Quote

"Be the kind of person that you want people to think you are."

-Socrates

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Jakarta governor Ahok loses re-election bid

In most large rambling democracies, politics tend to be local. But in Indonesia and especially Jakarta, it's the reverse: all local politics are national. In a stinging rebuke to Indonesian president Joko Widodo, his one-time deputy and close political ally lost re-election as governor of Jakarta in a landslide defeat.

Online gaming grows to 2nd largest office seeker

The online gaming sector is projected to account for a large chunk of office space demand this year driven by the issuance of POGO licenses according to Leechiu Property Consultants (LPC). LPC said the online gaming industry has suddenly become the second largest demand driver for office spaces in Manila, next to the BPO sector.

Ayala unveils three new big townships

Ayala Land Inc. is set to launch three huge mixed-use developments this year. The three new estates are the 250-hectare Evo City in Kawit, Cavite; the 25-hectare Azuela Cove in Davao City in JV with the Alcantara group; and a 35-hectare property between Quezon City and Pasig City in JV with the LT Group.

SC junks petition on foreign ownership in PLDT

The Supreme Court (SC) junked with finality the second petition questioning the foreign ownership in PLDT. Voting 8-5, the justices denied the appeal filed by lawyer Jose Judd Roy III who questioned the SEC's implementation of the high court's June 2011 decision which imposed the 40% limit on foreign ownership in PLDT.

Globe to focus 2017 spending on LTE infra

Having spent north of a billion dollars last year to acquire the tools to boost its mobile data, Globe Telecom will spend around \$600 million this year further beefing up its network, particularly its LTE coverage.

Despite surges, wholesale power prices still low

Prices on the wholesale electricity spot market stayed low during the April 8-9 weekend despite surges in market prices at some intervals after earthquakes hit Batangas and caused outages at a number of power plants, the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC) said.

SBMA seeks go-ahead for P140-B projects

SBMA chair Martin B. Diño told reporters on the sidelines of a forum on Tuesday that he had been courting the approval of members of the Cabinet, including President Duterte, for a string of projects with a combined cost of around P140 billion.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Siam Commercial, FWD in talks: \$4B insurance sale

Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) has entered into exclusive talks with Hong Kong insurer FWD Group to sell its life insurance arm, which could raise US\$3 billion (\$4.19 billion) for Thailand's third-biggest lender, people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

ADB streamlines procurement process

The ADB is streamlining the procurement process for its funded projects to cut down on processing time and improve the quality of the projects. It has approved a new procurement framework that transitions from a standard procurement policy to a purpose-specific approach. The framework will be rolled out starting July 2017.

Student housing attracts Singaporean investors

GIC Pte and Mapletree Investments Pte are going back to school. Singapore's sovereign wealth fund and the city-state-based real estate investor helped fuel a record \$16.2 billion of student-housing acquisitions last year, and a further \$3.3 billion of deals were struck in the first quarter of 2017.

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MORE ASIAN NEWS

JPN exports surge to end 1st quarter on high note

Japanese exports grew at the fastest rate in more than two years in March, supporting a moderate economic recovery in the face of weak domestic demand. Izumi Devalier, head of Japan economics at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said on Bloomberg TV that export growth will be very solid for another six months or so.

CH gathers state-led consortium for Aramco float

China is creating a consortium, including state-owned oil giants and banks and its sovereign wealth fund, that will act as a cornerstone investor in the initial public offering of Saudi Aramco, people with knowledge of the discussions told Reuters.

Ant Fin targets brand boost in SEA with helloPay

Ant Financial, the payment affiliate of Alibaba Group Holding, has acquired Singapore-based payment service helloPay Group, part of the Chinese firm's drive to boost its Alipay brand and presence in Southeast Asia.

StanChart PE to occupy seat in Loc Troi board

Standard Chartered Private Equity will secure a seat on the board of Vietnam-based agribusiness firm Loc Troi Group, which was the PE investor's second investment in the Southeast Asian country. SCPE initially injected \$90 mn for a major minority stake in Loc Troi in 2014.

Food Capitals gobbles up two firms

Food Capitals Plc, the franchise operator of Domino's Pizza and Coffe Bean & Tea Leaf, has acquired two food companies for a combined 400M baht. The company spent 121 mn baht to buy out G Enterprise & Co, which runs a chain of restaurants. Another 289M baht was used to acquire food businesses from the Osha group in the US.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

JPM to sell \$6.9B of student loans to Navient

JPMorgan Chase & Co. agreed to sell a \$6.9b portfolio of student loans to Navient Corp. JPMorgan, which announced in 2013 that it would no longer make student loans, said April 13 that it booked a writedown on those debts as it explores options for their disposal.

Templeton builds Argentina stake in \$40B bond fund

Argentinian President Mauricio Macri's reform efforts have won approval from the world's biggest emerging-market bond investor. Franklin Templeton Chief Investment Officer Michael Hasenstab boosted holdings in Argentina in the \$40.4 billion Templeton Global Bond Fund that he runs to 4.5 percent in the first quarter.

MS bond traders top GS for 1st time since 2011

A year ago, Morgan Stanley had just taken an ax to its bond-trading business, scaling back as Goldman Sachs Group Inc. vowed to stay the course. Now, for the first time since 2011, Morgan Stanley topped its bigger rival in one of Wall Street's fiercest arenas.

Here's how global warming could fry the economy

Sometimes it's just too hot to do anything. Even if you're an economy. Climate researchers are reviewing myriad studies of heat and human behavior, adding them up, and looking for sound conclusions about the relationship between temperature and economic productivity.

Economic Calendar

Date	Release
04.16.2017	PH: Overseas Remittances YoY
04.18.2017	PH: BoP Overall
04.25.2017	PH: Budget Balance PHP
04.27.2017	PH: Bank Lending YoY
04.27.2017	PH: Money Supply M3 SRF YoY

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar