

# The Daily Dispatch

September 25, 2017  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## ICTSI buys Petron's stake in Manila North Harbor

ICTSI of port magnate Enrique Razon Jr is buying Petron Corporation's 34.83% stake in the biggest domestic port, the Manila North Harbor, for P1.75 billion. ICTSI and Petron on Thursday, September 21, signed a share purchase agreement for the acquisition of 10.45 million Manila North Harbor shares.

## Banks' real estate, PF exposure under tight watch

The real estate and project finance exposures of Philippine banks have been placed under tight watch by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) as debt watchers and multilateral lending agencies have raised the red flag over possible overheating in the economy.

## 2GO developing e-commerce platform

Uy said that while 2GO serves external customers, it also wants to develop its own e-commerce business, which has been booming significantly in recent years and has been eating a chunk of the traditional retail market in the Philippines.

## China gamblers fuel growth of Philippine casinos

Chinese gamblers are fueling the growth of the casino market in the Philippines and there is still much room to grow given the rosy prospects of visa-free access for Chinese visitors and junket-based proxy betting, Morgan Stanley said in a recent report.

## Alsons to raise P2.5 B from commercial papers

Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. of the Alcantara Group is looking to raise up to P2.5 billion from the sale of commercial papers to refinance existing debts. The company has filed an application with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which has approved the P2.5-billion fund-raising activity.

## Philippine Stock Market Update



**Previous Close:**

8,018.05

**1 Yr Return:**

-0.34%

**Open:**

8,015.68

**YTD Return:**

15.58%

**52-Week Range:**

6,499.00 - 8,106.74

**Source:**

Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of Sept 22, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.668

## PDST-R2 Rates

As of Sept 22, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	2.8935
3Y	3.6429
5Y	4.5239
7Y	4.3174
10Y	4.6200
20Y	5.4121

## Daily Quote

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." --Joseph Campbell

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### Gov't to end UCPB support by 2019

The national government will no longer provide financial support to state-controlled United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) by 2019 to pave the way for the long-delayed sale of the bank, which was originally intended for the country's coconut farmers.

### DOF to further boost tax collection

The Department of Finance (DOF) has committed to further improve collection of the government's two main revenue-generating agencies, which reported promising 8.8 percent growth figures in tax takes in the first semester of the year.

### Alsons tapping debt market to raise P2.5 billion

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved a plan by the Alcantara group's holding firm Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. to raise as much as P2.5 billion from an offering of commercial papers over a three-year period.

### PLDT, Globe tap Facebook on payment scheme

Social media giant Facebook has partnered with the country's major mobile wallet platforms, led by rivals PLDT Inc. and Globe Telecom, to provide payment solutions targeting the broad segment of society without bank accounts.

### Gov't revives plan to sell UCPB

The government is pushing through with the sale of its majority share in United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) after the Supreme Court lifted the temporary restraining order issued two years ago against the implementation of a presidential directive allowing the disbursement of coco levy funds.

### Biz Buzz: Wanted: New DICT head

Rodolfo Salalima, the former lead lawyer of Globe Telecom who went on to become the first secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, has earned a lot of new fans because of his bombshell revelation in announcing his resignation to DICT employees.

### Megawide seeks P800m from FLI

The rift between construction company Megawide Construction Corp. and client Filinvest Land Inc. has become more intense, with Megawide considering a legal action to demand payment for roughly P800 million in receivables from various projects it delivered to the property developer controlled by the Gotianun family.

### NGCP: Negros-Panay submarine cable ready

Grid operator NGCP is set to energize the Negros-Panay submarine cable at its full capacity of 300 megawatts by the first quarter next year to address excess supply in Negros island. NGCP said the energization of the submarine cable would also provide a more reliable connection between two of the major Visayas islands.

## TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

### Cryptomania looks for life beyond banks

In the mid-1990s, Johnson Leung embarked on a career in shipping. In the early 2000s, he moved to finance. And now, he runs a Hong Kong startup that aims to improve how container ships are booked using blockchain technology. Many in Hong Kong hope the city can make a similar leap.

### CH travel growth to outpace US in next decade

China's travel industry is projected to grow at an average rate of 8 percent annually from 2017 to 2027, outpacing other major economies like India and the U.S., according to the World Travel and Tourism Council. The upcoming Oct. 1-8 national holidays will be a barometer on the booming industry.

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## MORE ASIAN NEWS

### IND finance minister: don't panic over slowdown

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said India needs to find a balance between fiscal prudence and spending -- and there's no need to panic -- as he tries to dig the economy out of its deepest slump in three years. Speculation had been swirling about a stimulus to revive Asia's No. 3 economy.

### Singapore dividends to drop: study

Singapore dividends are in for another tough year to the dismay of the legions of retiree investors; they also take some shine off the bull run in which the Straits Times Index has risen some 12 per cent since January. Aggregate dividends (ordinary plus special) in 2017 will fall 3.6 per cent year on year, according to data.

### China downgrade may deter forex liberalisation

The decision by prominent US financial agency S&P Global Ratings to downgrade China's sovereign rating is likely to deter some financial liberalisation plans under consideration in Beijing, particularly as the decision was made at a sensitive time, analysts said.

### Ping An to take 10pc stake in Japan's Tsumura

Ping An Insurance, China's second largest life insurer, has agreed to take a 10 per cent stake in Japanese pharmaceutical company Tsumura for 1.6 billion yuan (US\$243 million) -- the largest investment made by a Chinese company in Japan's herbal medicine industry.

### Asia Square is year's biggest office RE deal

CapitaLand Commercial Trust has scooped this year's biggest office real estate transaction by sale price after it announced a deal yesterday for Marina Bay's prime Asia Square Tower 2. It will fork out \$2.09 billion to take the 46-floor office block off the hands of asset management firm BlackRock.

## TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

### Shandong Weigao to buy Argon in latest US deal

Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Co. agreed to buy closely held Argon Medical Devices Inc. for \$850 million, continuing a string of deals by Chinese companies seeking to gain a foothold in the U.S. health-care market. Shandong Weigao made the acquisition through a joint venture with a private equity-backed firm that will control

### New Trump ban restricts travel from 8 countries

President Donald Trump ordered restrictions or suspensions on travel to the U.S. from eight countries, replacing his ban on travelers from six Muslim-majority nations that had been limited by court challenges. "I must act to protect the security and interests of the United States and its people," Trump wrote in Sunday's proclamation.

### ABB buys GE business for \$2.6 billion

Power grids maker ABB is buying General Electric's Industrial Solutions business for \$2.6 billion on a bet that it can improve lackluster margins at the unit over the next five years, the Swiss engineering company said on Monday.

### Oil holds gain as producers say market rebalancing

Oil prices stood little changed on Monday, keeping most of their gains from the previous session to hold near their highest levels in months, as major producers meeting in Vienna said the market was well on its way towards rebalancing.

## Economic Calendar

Date	Release
09.15.2017	PH: Overseas Remittances YoY
09.18.2017	PH: BoP Overall
09.21.2017	PH: BSP Overnight Borrowing Rate
09.28.2017	PH: Money Supply M3 SRF YoY
09.28.2017	PH: Bank lending YoY

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar