

The Daily Dispatch

February 18, 2021
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

FIST law to bring down banks' bad loan ratio

The banking industry's nonperforming loan (NPL) ratio is expected to be reduced, with the implementation of the Financial Institution Strategic Transfer (FIST) law. The banking industry's NPL ratio stood at 3.61% as of end-December, much higher than the 2.08% a year earlier but still better than BSP's 4.6% projection for end-2020.

SEC greenlights DoubleDragon REIT offering

DoubleDragon Properties Corp. has secured the corporate regulator's approval to bring public its real estate investment trust (REIT) that aims to raise nearly P15 billion. DDMP, formerly DD-Meridian Park Development Corp., plans to conduct the public offering from March 5 to 11.

MPIC leaves Bangkok's AIF Toll Roads

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) on Wednesday said its tollways unit Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) sold 100% of its stake in Thailand's AIF Toll Roads Holdings Co., Ltd. for \$149.25 million. The move was to "take advantage of the increased interest from third parties to acquire MPTC's entire shareholdings".

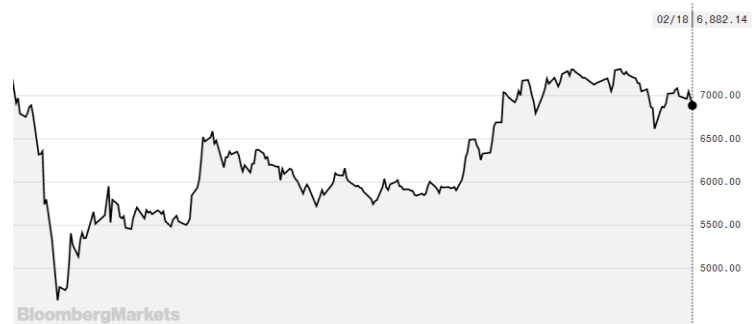
Eastern Communications sets P2.8B for 2021 expansion

Telecommunications service provider Eastern Communications said it is allotting P2.8 billion for its expansion plans this year. The company intends to support the government's "digital cities" program aimed at boosting rural development.

Telco firm sets P2.8-B upgrade budget for 2021

Eastern Communications, a company jointly owned by PLDT Inc. and Globe Telecom, announced a nationwide upgrade program with a capital spending budget of P2.8 billion this year.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,966.43

Open:

6,954.37

52-Week Range:

4,039.15 - 7,472.99

1 Yr Return:

-4.21%

YTD Return:

-4.06%

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Feb. 17, 2021

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	48.386

PDST-R2 Rates

As of Feb. 17, 2021

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.428
3Y	2.291
5Y	2.786
7Y	3.005
10Y	3.168
20Y	4.027

Daily Quote

"Good business leaders create a vision, articulate the vision, passionately own the vision, and relentlessly drive it to completion."

--Jack Welch

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Globe sees return to revenue growth in 2021

Globe Telecom expects service revenue to grow in 2021, reversing the slowdown seen last year due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Globe chief finance officer Rizza Maniego-Eala said revenue growth would likely end in the “low-to-mid single digit” area.

Gov't gets 13 bids for geothermal, hydro projects

The Department of Energy (DOE) on Wednesday touted 13 applications received for geothermal and hydro service contracts covering 11 out of 22 areas that the DOE made available to developers of renewable energy (RE) projects.

Poll uncertainty adds to risks to recovery

The forthcoming 2022 presidential election would add to risks slowing the Philippines' recovery from the COVID-19-induced recession such that it will be among the last in the region to revert to its pre-pandemic growth path.

Metrobank nets P13.8 billion in 2020

Metrobank earned P13.8b last year despite booking huge provisions for bad loans as a strategy to better prepare for the risks associated with the pandemic. Metrobank said income before provisions increased by 26% to P61.8b in 2020. The bank booked provisions of P40.8b, resulting in a full year net income of P13.8b.

DoubleDragon gets OK for P14.7b REIT listing

The SEC has given the green light to tycoon Injap Sia II's real estate investment trust offering amounting to P14.71b. On Feb. 16, the commission en banc approved the registration statement of DoubleDragon Properties Corp.'s DDMP REIT which covers 17.8b common shares for listing on the main board of the PSE.

Typhoons bring down rice inventory by 13%

The country's rice inventory declined in January as an effect of the consecutive typhoons that hit Luzon at the tail end of 2020. Latest data from the PSA showed that total rice inventory reached 2.33 million metric tons (MT) in the first month of the year, 13% lower than the 2.68 million MT in the same period last year.

UnionBank, BPI boost MSME loan portfolios

Two of the country's largest banks are boosting their lending portfolios for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as default rates start to improve. Manuel Santiago said the default rate of the MSME sector has been improving over the past few months with the partial reopening of the

Cebu Air sets final price of stock rights at P38

Cebu Air Inc., the operator of budget carrier Cebu Pacific, has priced its convertible preferred shares rights offering at P38 a share. In a stock exchange filing, Cebu Air said it would offer more than 328.947 million shares to raise P12.5 billion.

Govt fast-tracks P30b irrigation projects

The government will accelerate close to P30-billion worth of big-ticket irrigation projects in the country. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said three major irrigation projects are being fasttracked. These include the P13.37-billion Tarlac Balog-Balog multipurpose project, P11.2-billion Jalaur

Price caps on pork not working

The enforcement of a 60-day price ceiling on pork in Metro Manila to rein in quickening inflation is not working, economists at the University of the Philippines - Los Baños said, adding a warning that the move is probably doing more harm than good.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

SG's EV charging providers plan expansion

Singapore is likely to see a boom in electric vehicle (EV) charging operators as efforts are made to expand the charging infrastructure for green cars amid moves by the government to phase out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles by 2040.

Lululemon bets on CH as revenue more than doubles

China will be among the main growth focus areas for yoga and fitness apparel maker Lululemon Athletica, with the market outpacing others in terms of sales. The coronavirus pandemic has led to a boom in yoga and other wellness activities in various parts of the world, but more so in China.

Indian retailer group calls for ban on Amazon

A leading group of Indian retailers urged the government to ban the local operations of Amazon.com Inc, after Reuters reported the U.S. e-commerce giant has for years given preferential treatment to a small group of sellers on its India platform and used them to circumvent the country's strict foreign investment regulations.

Baidu beats revenue estimates on strong cloud, AI

China's Baidu Inc reported quarterly revenue above Wall Street expectations on Wednesday, helped by a recovery in advertising and an uptick in demand for its cloud services and artificial intelligence platforms.

Sg, US reaffirm cooperation in defence, trade

Singapore and the United States have reaffirmed their wide-ranging cooperation on defence and security, trade and investment, as well as cyber security, said Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan after a phone conversation with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan on Tuesday.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Biden renews 'Quad' with allies

The United States announced talks for Thursday with Australia, India and Japan, with President Joe Biden renewing the alliance of the so-called "Quad" in defiance of warnings from China. China's state-run Global Times earlier this month warned Biden that renewing the Quad would be a "serious strategic blunder"

Additional fiscal stimulus powers U.S. retail sales

U.S. retail sales rebounded sharply in January after households received additional pandemic relief money from the government, suggesting a pick-up in economic activity after being restrained by a fresh wave of COVID-19 infections late last year.

Jaguar Land Rover to cut 2,000 jobs globally

Jaguar Land Rover on Wednesday (Feb 17) said that it planned to lay off around 2,000 staff in the next financial year. The largest car manufacturer in Britain, owned by India's Tata Motors, said in a statement: "We anticipate a net reduction of around 2,000 people from our global salaried workforce in the next financial year."

Athene expresses interest in AIG's retirement unit

Athene Holding Ltd has expressed interest in buying a 19.9% stake in American International Group Inc's life and retirement business, Athene's chief executive, Jim Belardi, told Reuters on Wednesday.

Robinhood to allow deposit, withdraw crypto

Online broker Robinhood said it intends to give customers the ability to deposit and withdraw cryptocurrencies, including the meme-based dogecoin. The trading app currently allows customers to buy, sell and hold cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin on its platform, but users cannot withdraw their assets to transfer to other wallets.