

The Daily Dispatch

February 21, 2020

TODAY'S TOP NEWS

RCBC nets P5.4B

Yuchengco-led Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. grew its 2019 net profit by 25 percent to P5.4 billion as the expansion in core business was complemented by strong treasury gains.

DM Wenceslao nets P2.37B

Integrated construction and property developer D.M. Wenceslao & Associates Inc. (DMW) booked a net profit of P2.37 billion in 2019, up by 24 percent on higher earnings unlocked from lot sales, residential developments and property leasing.

Metrobank's 2019 profit up 27% to P28.1B

Ty family-led Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. chalked up a net profit of P28.1 billion in 2019, up by 27 percent from the previous year, on the back of higher interest and fee-based earnings alongside strong treasury gains.

Metro Pacific takes over Los Baños hospital

The country's leading hospital operator Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings Inc. (MPHHI) has signed a deal to take over 80-bed Los Baños Doctors Hospital and Medical Center Inc. (LBDH), the first hospital in Los Baños, Laguna.

Grab expands from just food to kitchen, too

There are problems you keep to yourself, and problems that you can brag about. The company behind the popular bubble tea drink CoCo grappled with the latter when it partnered with Grab Philippines back in 2018.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

7,413.00

1 Yr Return:

-4.98%

Open:

7,430.57

YTD Return:

-5.12%

52-Week Range:

7,129.19-8,419.59

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Feb 20, 2020

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.92

BVAL

As of Feb 20, 2020

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.8690
3Y	4.0950
5Y	4.2120
7Y	4.3010
10Y	4.3780
20Y	4.8810

Daily Quote

“You must have chaos within you
to give birth to a dancing star.”

—Friedrich Nietzsche

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Dito draws initial \$500mn from Bank of China

DITO has drawn an initial \$500mn from the Bank of China to fund the first phase of its network development program with a commercial launch set for March 2021. Adel Tamano, the CAO of Dito, said his group's initial funding from the foreign bank will be used for land acquisition, tower construction, and the purchase radio equipment.

Value of goods impounded by BOC hits P821.15 mn

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) said it has impounded in 2019 prohibited commodities with an estimated value of P821.15 million, of which about P430 million represents the value of two seized aircraft while P308 million representing illegal drugs seized.

SMC unit payments hit P314.6 B

The subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation (SMC) has already paid P314.6 billion for the capacity that it has been trading for the 1,200-megawatt Ilijan gas-fired power plant – as anchored on the independent power producer administrator (IPPA) deal that has been sealed with state-run firm Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management

Foreign investment pledges hit record P390B

Foreign investment pledges approved by the country's main investment promotion agencies surged to an all-time high of P390.11 billion in 2019, more than double from P179 billion in 2018, data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed.

Hot money flows out of PH for 3rd straight month

For the third straight month, more speculative funds exited the Philippines as net outflow amounted to \$486.1 million in January. The BSP traced the net outflow of foreign portfolio investments last month to the continuing geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran and China.

NGCP warns of looming power shortage

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) is urging government agencies to address the looming power shortage in Luzon in the summer months. In a statement, NGCP said thin electricity supply is projected between April and June, even with an expected incoming 700 megawatt (MW) capacity from new power plants.

AyalaLand Logistics posts 15% rise in income

AYALALAND Logistics Holdings Corp. increased its net income 15% in 2019, driven by higher revenues from its industrial lots, warehouse and commercial leasing operations. The listed logistics subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) said its net income last year grew 15% to P641 million, as revenues rose to reach P5.3 billion.

Sofitel counts losses from virus

Sofitel Philippine Plaza has lost around P20 million after the decline in tourist arrivals caused by the coronavirus outbreak. "Even though we do not concentrate in the Chinese tourist market still there are some people who have been refraining from coming to parties — and some gatherings were cancelled" Sofitel President said.

SSS released over P3.5 bn in loans for retirees

The state-run Social Security System (SSS) announced it has released over P3.5 bn in loans for retiree pensioners under a program on pension loan that it said was "enhanced." Qualified pensioners can borrow up to 12 times their pension or a maximum of P200,000. This is payable in a maximum of 24 months with a one month grace period.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Cracks in Hong Kong's retail industry widen

Cracks in Hong Kong's retail industry are widening as the coronavirus fallout heaped pressure on more players while some of the city's biggest landlords continue to lower rents for their tenants.

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MORE ASIAN NEWS

Ping An Insurance eyes more technology investment

Ping An Insurance (Group), China's largest insurer by market value, plans to increase its investment in technology this year to mitigate the impact of coronavirus outbreak after posting a lower-than-expected earnings in 2019.

APAC airlines could lose US\$27.8b to coronavirus

Airlines operating in the Asia-Pacific region stand to lose a combined US\$27.8 billion of revenue this year in the ongoing coronavirus crisis, the International Air Transport Association said on Thursday. The estimate is based on projections of a 13-per cent full-year decline in passenger demand, mostly in China, the trade body said.

Fintech investment in SG more than doubled in 2019

FINTECH investments in Singapore more than doubled to US\$861 million in 2019 from the year before, led by big gains in funding to payments and insurtech startups. The number of deals in Singapore rose 52 per cent to 108, according to Accenture, which analysed data from CB Insights, a global venture-finance data and analytics firm.

Car-sharing startup SOCAR raises \$18m

Car-sharing platform SOCAR announced that it has raised \$18 million in a Series A funding round from South Korean investors Eugene Private Equity and KH Energy. The company is expected to use the fresh funding to expand its operation in other countries by the end of this year.

MUFG's \$700m investment in SoftBank-backed Grab

Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc. is investing more than \$700 million in Southeast Asian ride-hailing giant Grab. It's a three-way deal in which everyone gets what they currently lack. The Japanese megabank and the Singapore-headquartered "superapp," a one-stop online shop spanning food to finance, get to plug gaps in their businesses.

Unacademy gets \$110m from Facebook, GA, others

Bengaluru-based edtech startup Unacademy on Wednesday announced that it has raised \$110 million in a Series E funding round led by social networking giant Facebook and global private equity firm General Atlantic. The round also saw the participation of existing investors Sequoia India, Nexus Venture Partners, Steadview Capital, and Blume

Traveloka launches credit card with Bank Mandiri

Traveloka, Southeast Asia's largest online travel firm, has launched a second credit card in Indonesia, this time in partnership with state-owned Bank Mandiri, it said on Tuesday. The seven-year-old company, which is valued at more than \$4 billion, already issues a credit card in cooperation with Bank Rakyat Indonesia.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

ISS Group to sell Thai unit for up to \$150m

Denmark-headquartered facility services company International Service System (ISS) Group is seeking to raise \$100-150 million by selling its Thailand operations, multiple sources aware of the development told DealStreetAsia.

Sears snags financial lifeline as losses continue

U.S. department store operator Sears has reached a deal for a fresh financial lifeline totaling roughly \$100 million from hedge fund Brigade Capital Management LP, as it tries to stabilize after bankruptcy, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

L Brands sells majority stake in Victoria's Secret

L Brands Inc (LB.N) said on Thursday it will sell a controlling stake in its Victoria's Secret unit to investment firm Sycamore Partners, valuing the lingerie brand at \$1.1 billion, as it focuses on its core Bath & Body Works brand.