

The Daily Dispatch

March 13, 2020
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Economic growth may fall below 5% this year

Moody's Analytics has lowered its 2020 growth outlook for the Philippines to below five percent on expectations the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) will affect exports and tourism. "We are expecting COVID-19 will shave one percentage point off Philippines' GDP (gross domestic product) growth in 2020, bringing it to 4.9%."

Grab suspends carpooling services

TRANSPORT network vehicle service Grab Philippines announced on Thursday that its GrabShare carpooling services in Metro Manila and Cebu will be suspended beginning Friday, March 13, as confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the country continue to rise.

Boracay tourist arrivals plunge 80%

Boracay average daily tourist arrivals fell by more than 80% year-on-year to around 1,000 people in early March the wake of the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, Tourism Undersecretary Boncato, Jr. said. Last year, average arrival per day 5,600.

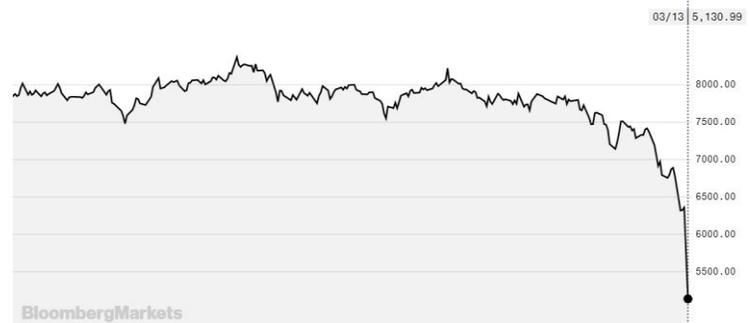
Tax relief not on government tool kit

"I never mentioned tax relief," Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III said. "We have asked DOT/Tieza [Department of Tourism and Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority] to creatively use their available funds [+14B] to support the tourism industry."

D.O.F. hopes CITIRA can make it in May

CONCEDING that the bill on rationalizing incentives would not be passed before the legislative break, Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III is hoping that the measure would have a better chance of being passed once Congress resumes its session.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

5,736.27

1 Yr Return:

-24.12%

Open:

5,362.92

YTD Return:

-25.86%

52-Week Range:

5,097.90-8,419.59

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Mar 12, 2020

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	51.05

BVAL

As of Mar 12, 2020

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.6450
3Y	4.0850
5Y	4.2300
7Y	4.3010
10Y	4.3740
20Y	4.6200

Daily Quote

"But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars."

—Martin Luther King, Jr

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

ADB opens loan for medicines supply chain

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that it will make available \$200 million loan for companies engaged in manufacturing and distributing medicines and other items needed to combat the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Max's Group posts ₱740-M net income

MGI noted that, "a significant accelerator in the Company's performance is due to partnerships with food aggregators. Combined with MGI's in-house delivery operations, systemwide delivery sales grew by 20.4 percent to ₱1.87 billion from ₱1.55 billion for 2018."

Nationwide price freeze in effect

Price freeze on goods are in effect nationwide following the declaration of state of public health emergency as government moves to fight the spread of COVID-19. Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez said DTI is intensifying monitoring and enforcement efforts to ensure the reasonableness of prices and sufficiency of supply of

Port operator's net profit up 29% to P3.7B in 2019

Port operator Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) saw a 28.9-percent increase in net profit to P3.7 billion last year as it expanded its facilities in Luzon, helping drive up volumes to a new record.

Ayala group 2019 profit up 11%

Conglomerate Ayala Corp. grew its net profit last year by 11 percent to P35.3 billion as robust property, banking and telecom businesses plus large divestment gains made up for the sharp devaluation of its water business and losses from its industrial business.

San Miguel Corp. nets P48.6B

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) reported a net income of P48.6 billion in 2019, flat from the level eked out in the previous year, as the slump in the oil and food businesses was offset by higher earnings from power generation and beer brewery.

2 more BSP rate cuts in first half seen

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may have to slash interest rates more aggressively this year to provide more economic cushion against the worsening coronavirus pandemic, an economist from British banking giant Standard Chartered Bank said.

RTB sale hikes gov't IOUs to P5.4T in Feb

As government securities such as the retail treasury bonds (RTB) offered last month appealed to investors amid uncertainties brought about by the COVID-19 outbreak, the amount of outstanding IOUs sold by the Bureau of the Treasury locally jumped to P5.4 trillion in February.

BSP orders banks to prepare virus response plans

BSP Deputy Governor Chuchi Fonacier said all BSP-supervised financial institutions and operators of payment systems are expected to adopt and implement appropriate response plans and mechanisms to primarily ensure the health and safety of their employees and customers.

Coronavirus outbreak delays power projects

NGCP said it is assessing the impact of coronavirus disease-2019 on the implementation of power projects across the country. The projects include the Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection, Western Luzon 500kV Backbone, Mindanao 230kV Backbone, San Jose-Quezon 230kV transmission line and various projects

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Apple says reopening all its branded stores in CH

Apple Inc is reopening all 42 of its branded stores in China on Friday, a company spokesman said, more than a month after they were shut in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. The iPhone maker's Chinese website listed the opening time for all stores, which varies from 10.00am to 11.00am local time.

Tokyo governor: cancelling Olympics 'unthinkable'

Cancelling the 2020 Olympics is "unthinkable" although the classification of the coronavirus as a pandemic will likely have some impact on the Games, the Tokyo city governor said on Thursday. "It can't be said that the announcement of a pandemic would have no impact... But I think cancellation is unthinkable," Yuriko Koike said.

SoftBank Corp to raise \$385m in first bond sale

SoftBank Corp, the Japanese telecom arm of tech investment company SoftBank Group, said on Thursday it is raising 40 billion yen (\$385 million) through its first bond offering since listing in 2018.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Italy and S.Korea outbreak reveal tactics disparity

In Italy, millions are locked down and more than 1,000 people have died from the coronavirus. In South Korea, hit by the disease at about the same time, only a few thousand are quarantined and 67 people have died. As the virus courses through the world, the story of two outbreaks illustrates a coming problem for countries now grappling

World markets rout deepens as virus panic worsens

Asia's stock markets were hammered as panic gripping world financial markets deepened and even safe-haven assets such as gold and bonds were ditched to cover losses. Australia's benchmark fell as much as 7% and is on track for its worst week on record. New Zealand's index was last down more than 8%, its biggest ever intraday drop.

Byron Allen makes US\$8.5b offer for Tegna

Comedian and TV producer Byron Allen has made a US\$20-a-share, all-cash offer for Tegna in a deal that values the TV station owner at US\$8.5 billion, including debt, according to a person familiar with the situation. The media mogul and on-air talent plans to merge his existing businesses.

Sterling slides as virus turmoil boosts dollar

Sterling tanked to five-month lows on Thursday, weighed down by worsening market turmoil after US President Donald Trump slapped restrictions on travel from Europe and European Central Bank stimulus measures fell short of expectations.

Blackstone asks companies to tap credit lines

Private equity firm Blackstone Group Inc is asking companies it controls to draw down their credit lines to avoid liquidity crunch, a Bloomberg reporter tweeted on Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter. The move comes amid mounting stress in markets due to the coronavirus outbreak and a drop in oil prices

Sg's SPH Ventures backs US-based influence.co

SPH Ventures, the corporate venture arm of Singapore Press Holdings (SPH), has joined a \$3-million investment in a seed funding round in influence.co, a US-based platform for the global influencer marketing community, according to an announcement.

Global banking giants grow wary of China IPOs in US

Global banking giants have grown more wary of underwriting initial public offerings by Chinese companies in the U.S., concerned about rising reputational risks after a string of disappointing deals.