

The Daily Dispatch

March 21, 2019
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Weaker peso seen as imports flood in

The peso moved sideways yesterday ahead of the rate setting meeting of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) wherein interest rates are expected to remain unchanged amid easing inflation. The local currency shed two centavos to close of 52.81 to \$1 from Tuesday's 52.83 to \$1.

China funding eyed for 2 Visayas, Mindanao bridges

During a meeting with Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan in Beijing, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said the Davao-Samal Bridge Project and the Panay-Guimaras-Negros Inter-island Bridge Projects were some of the projects in the pipeline for possible funding assistance from Beijing.

Megaworld hikes Cavite township capex to P15B

Megaworld, the Andrew Tan-led property giant, is increasing its 10-year capital expenditure for its sprawling Cavite township by P5 billion. From an original program of P10 billion for its Maple Grove Township in General Trias, Cavite, Megaworld has now allotted P15 billion for the project.

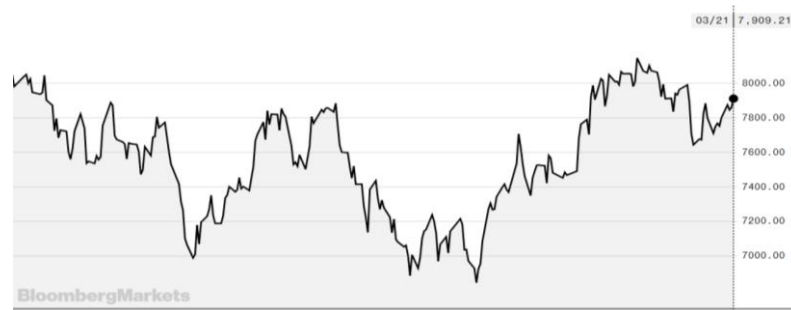
Stocks slightly recover ahead of BSP, Fed moves

The stock market was mostly sluggish during the day but managed to recover albeit only slightly as trading winds down. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index gained 14.79 points, or 0.18 percent, to end at 7,858.20. Likewise, the broader All Shares index rose 14.20 points, or 0.29 percent, to finish at 4,847.49.

ERC dismisses petition on system loss rules

THE Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has dismissed for being moot and academic a joint petition seeking incentives for companies that manage to bring systems losses below a set level, which was filed by power operators and distribution utilities.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

7,858.20

1 Yr Return:

1.97%

Open:

7,875.78

YTD Return:

6.46%

52-Week Range:

6,790.58-8,213.71

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Mar. 20, 2019

| US Dollar | Philippine Peso |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1 | 52.77 |

PDST-R2 Rates

As of Mar. 20, 2019

| Tenor | Rate |
|-------|--------|
| 1Y | 6.0710 |
| 3Y | 6.0450 |
| 5Y | 6.0530 |
| 7Y | 6.0760 |
| 10Y | 6.0680 |
| 20Y | 6.1890 |

Daily Quote

"A man who gives you less than what he has to give is telling you what he thinks of you, and telling you what he thinks of himself."

--Pete Carill

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Economic delegation begin key meetings in Beijing

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. has arrived in Beijing for a four-day visit to China, accompanying a Philippine economic delegation seeking to firm up financing for infrastructure projects.

Davao City in the midst of a property boom

A growing appetite for residential, commercial and hotel projects as well as a booming local economy are expected to further boost the robust real estate scene in the City of Davao.

Domestic trade volume grows 12%

Domestic trade grew both in terms of volume and value in the fourth quarter of 2018, driven by higher shipments of food and live animals as well as machinery and transport equipment, the Philippine Statistics Authority said.

WB to co-fund Agus power complex rehab

THE World Bank is the latest multilateral organizations to finance the rehabilitation of the Agus hydroelectric power complex in Mindanao, state-run National Power Corp. (Napocor) said. Napocor President and CEO Pio Benavidez said the WB would be joining other funding institutions in funding the facility's improvement.

Philippine Business Bank sets P10-B bond issuance

PHILIPPINE Business Bank (PBB) said on Wednesday it planned to issue bonds amounting to P10 billion. In a disclosure, the listed lender reported that its board of directors had "authorized the management to arrange a bond program of up to P10 billion" during a meeting.

Jollibee to open Guam store Apr. 6

Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC) is set to open the milestone store of its flagship brand, Jollibee, in Guam as part of the company's accelerated expansion plans around the globe. The milestone store opening comes as JFC continues to even the shares in the pie between its domestic and international sales.

MacroAsia expands its revenue streams

MacroAsia Corporation expects a boost in revenues from its catering and ground-handling businesses as their client portfolio, equipment and facilities continue to expand while the firm is set to open its pilot training school in Subic this March.

Meralco still battling for P49-B capex approval

With its rolling capital expenditures (capex) just securing partial regulatory approval for P24.2 billion, power utility giant Manila Electric Company (Meralco) said it will continually hope for go-signal on the P48.4 billion balance of the capital spending it applied for.

Energy clears 1,000-MW wind, solar plants in Rizal

The Energy Department approved the conduct of a grid impact study for two large wind projects with a combined capacity of 703-MW and a 300-MW solar facility in Rizal. The three projects, once completed, will augment the power supply in the Luzon grid. The study will determine the impact of the power plants on the Luzon grid.

BSP auction of term deposits oversubscribed

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said it sold P50 billion worth of term deposits under its interest rate corridor system Wednesday amid strong demand from investors. It said the auction was oversubscribed by more than P15 billion amid the good appetite for seven-day, 14-day and 28-day instruments.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Indonesia's Medco offers \$539m bid for Ophir Energy

London-listed Ophir Energy Plc said on Wednesday it agreed to be bought by Indonesian oil and gas group Medco for a sweetened cash bid of 408.4 million pounds (\$539 million) after previously agreeing to a lower offer. Under the terms, Ophir shareholders will receive 57.5 pence per share in cash, the companies said in a joint statement.

China Feihe plans to revive \$1b Hong Kong IPO

China Feihe Ltd., an infant formula producer, is restarting preparations for a Hong Kong initial public offering that could raise as much as \$1 billion. The Heilongjiang-based company plans to sell shares as soon as this year. Feihe is working with China Merchants Securities Co. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. on the deal.

CapitaLand to pursue \$1.1b Duo office and retail

CapitaLand Commercial Trust, Singapore's biggest office landlord, is among suitors in talks about a potential acquisition of the Duo office and retail development in the city. The real estate investment trust has been negotiating the purchase of a 39-story office building called Duo Tower, along with the connected Duo Galleria mall.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Pfizer buys stake in gene therapy firm Vivet

Pfizer Inc said on Wednesday it acquired a 15 per cent stake in Vivet Therapeutics, as well as an exclusive option to fully acquire it, a deal that will give it access to the French company's experimental gene therapy for a rare genetic disorder called Wilson disease.

FB to mull investment in Indian content startups

After tapping into online payments through WhatsApp and e-commerce through its marketplace, Facebook is now eyeing the regional content space in India. The social media giant is in early-stage talks with several content startups, including PopXo, a digital community for women, for potential investments.

Elliott battles odds in showdown with Hyundai

The showdown between U.S. activist hedge fund Elliott Management and Hyundai Motor Group is set to come to a head on Friday when shareholders gather to vote on the fund's demands for a hefty special dividend and a board shake-up.

Levi Strauss above-target value of \$6.6 bn

Levi Strauss & Co fetched a higher price than expected in its initial public offering (IPO) on Wednesday, selling \$623.3 million in shares as the U.S. jeans maker looks to return to the stock market after 34 years as a family-owned company.

US negotiators to return to Beijing next week

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will return to Beijing next week as the United States and China inch toward resolving their trade war, a senior administration official told AFP on Tuesday.

EU fines Google for anti-trust breach

In its third major decision against the search engine behemoth, Brussels sanctioned Google's once-popular AdSense advertising service, saying it illegally restricted client websites from displaying ads from ad service rivals.

BLOCKCHAIN CORNER

Bitcoin Struggles to Pass Price Resistance Over \$4K

Bitcoin could rise to recent highs near \$4,200 in the short-term if prices validate the bullish outside reversal or "engulfing" candle created in the three days to March 16 with a convincing break above \$4,040 (high of the engulfing candle).