

The Daily Dispatch

April 05, 2021
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Telemedicine hampered by lack of doctors

Poor broadband internet access and the doctor shortage are major obstacles to telemedicine adoption in rural areas. In the Philippines, 80% of telemedicine, or the use of electronic communications and information technologies to provide health services, happens “asynchronously,”

GOCC subsidies fall nearly 28% in February

Subsidies granted to government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) fell 27.7% from a year earlier in February to P7.581 billion. The National Irrigation Administration received 65.9% of the total with P4.994 billion, down 15% from a year earlier.

Bank lending shrinks for third straight month in Feb

Credit extended by big lenders continued to shrink for a third straight month in February despite faster liquidity growth, reflecting that risk aversion and dampened demand amid the pandemic. Outstanding loans by universal and commercial banks dropped 2.7% to P8.936 trillion in February from a year earlier.

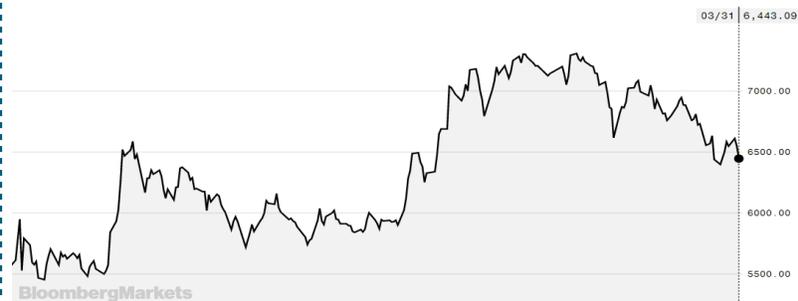
Hotels turning to local tourist market to survive

Hotel operators in the Philippines are looking to take in additional bookings from domestic tourists this year to make up for the lack of foreign guests due to travel restrictions set by the government.

Sugar output seen to fall below target

The country's sugar output for this crop year is likely to reach two million metric tons (MT), slightly below the 2.1 million MT target due to the prolonged effects of La Niña, according to sugar stakeholders.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:
6,443.09

1 Yr Return:
22.80%

Open:
6,447.40

YTD Return:
-9.55%

52-Week Range:
5,247.57 - 7,432.40

Source:
Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of April 4, 2021

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	48.550

PDST-R2 Rates

As of April 4, 2021

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.9078
3Y	2.7887
5Y	3.3947
7Y	4.0138
10Y	4.4085
20Y	4.9389

Daily Quote

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Auto firms struggle to meet CARS targets

Automotive firms Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) need to produce over 120,000 units of their respective entry model to meet the volume requirement under the government's incentive program for motor vehicle manufacturing, the Board of Investments (BOI) said.

Inflation seen higher in March

Inflation likely accelerated further in March after quickening to a fresh two-year high of 4.7 percent in February, top bank economists said. Union Bank chief economist Ruben Carlo Asuncion said inflation likely hit five percent in March and may peak in May before declining for the rest of the year.

Meralco Powergen eyes more solar plants

Meralco Powergen Corp. (MGen), the power generating arm of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), plans to develop more floating solar plants in Laguna Lake. MGen is awaiting regulations from the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

AboitizPower projects higher revenues

Aboitiz Power Corp. expects a better topline performance this year with higher availability of its existing power plants and the additional capacity from its new power plant in Bataan.

Factory prices on steady drop

Factory gate prices declined at a steady pace in February as decrements have been recorded in the majority of industry groups, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said. Latest data from PSA showed that the Producer Price Index (PPI) declined by 5.3 percent in February, the same contraction level in January.

PPA remits P3.54 billion to Treasury in 2020

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) remitted a total P3.54 billion to the Bureau of the Treasury last year, six percent more than what is required by the law despite reduction in business volume, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

Vivant switches on solar power in 2 Cebu schools

The Vivant group has powered on a 21-kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system in two schools in Cebu as high school students were being trained to do the maintenance of the system, which was put up with support from the European Union.

EDC gives electrification funds to Negros Oriental

Lopez-led Energy Development Corp. (EDC) has turned over to Negros Oriental 1 Electric Cooperative a total of P4.16 million for electrification funds, which is part of the province's share in power generation income for hosting geothermal power plants.

Gov't starts swine repopulation program

As the number of African swine fever (ASF) cases in the country begins to decline, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced that it would start its swine repopulation program in strategic areas to fast-track the livestock industry's recovery.

Goldman Sachs cuts 2021 GDP growth forecast for PH

Amid prolonged quarantine for over a year now and the reimposition of tighter restrictions before the first quarter ended in areas accounting for half of the economy, the Philippines' gross domestic product (GDP) likely contracted faster year-on-year in the first quarter.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Samsung first-quarter profit likely surged 45%

Samsung Electronics Co Ltd likely saw a 45% jump in profit for January-March on robust sales of smartphones, TVs and home appliances, though chip division earnings are seen tumbling after a storm suspended production at its U.S. plant.

LG says it will end its loss-making smartphone div

South Korea's LG Electronics Inc said on Monday it will end production and sales of its loss-making smartphone division. LG had announced in January it was considering all options for the business after logging nearly six years of losses totalling some \$4.5 billion.

Record-setting \$49b Asia IPO boom likely to taper off

As in the US, initial public offering activity out of Asia has had its strongest-ever start to a year. That frenzy for new shares is likely to taper off as demand falls back to earth in the next few months.

Trendlines to seek dual listing on Israel's TASE

The Trendlines Group announced on Monday (April 5) its proposal to seek a dual primary listing on Israel's Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE). The medical and agrifood technology investment company also said it plans to raise more capital with a public offering of new securities in conjunction with the listing.

China asked banks to rein in credit on bubble fears

China's central bank asked lenders to rein in credit supply on concern the surge in loans is fueling asset bubbles, the Financial Times reported.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Biden to push through infrastructure plan

U.S. President Joe Biden would be willing to push through his \$2 trillion infrastructure plan without the support of Republican lawmakers if he cannot reach a bipartisan deal.

France, Brussels agree on Air France-KLM refinancing

The French government has reached the outline of a deal with the European Commission on a state-backed refinancing package to help strengthen Air France-KLM's balance sheet, Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Sunday.

Hertz selects Chapter 11 exit plan

Hertz Global Holdings Inc said on Saturday it has selected an enhanced proposal from Centerbridge Partners, Warburg Pincus, and Dundon Capital Partners to provide the equity capital required to fund the car rental company's exit from Chapter 11.

Pinterest in talks to acquire VSCO photo app maker

Pinterest has held talks to buy Visual Supply, maker of the VSCO photo-editing app, according to a New York Times report citing two people with knowledge of the matter.

Wall Street's \$100b SPAC boom upends league tables

THE blank-cheque listings craze is shifting fortunes on Wall Street, knocking some of the world's biggest banks off their perches and bringing unexpected bragging rights for others unaccustomed to competing for league-table glory.