

The Daily Dispatch

April 08, 2019
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

March inflation: case for cut in policy rates

THE slower-than-expected March inflation rate bolsters the case for cuts in policy interest rates this year, bank economists said in separate analyses, with the adjustments expected as early as next month.

WESM in Mindanao targeted by 4th quarter

Department of Energy (DoE) Assistant Secretary Redentor E. Delola said in an interview here that the Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines, Inc. (IEMOP), which took over WESM operations last year, has hired a third-party consultant to evaluate Mindanao's readiness to transition to the spot market.

PCC files case vs dev. over 'exclusive' internet

THE Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) recently filed a case against a property company for "abuse of dominance" over its exclusive deal with an internet service provider (ISP) covering a low-cost residential condominium project in Manila.

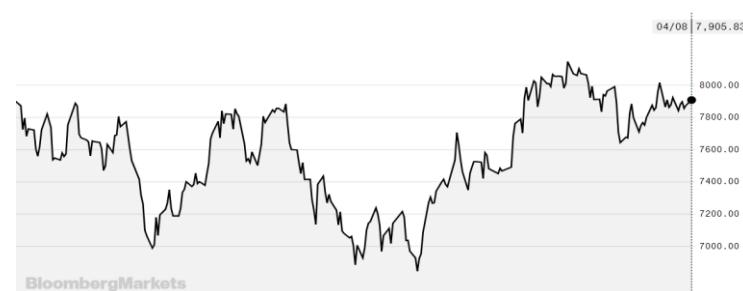
Rice prices fall after signing of new law IRR

THE average farmgate price of palay, or unmilled rice, fell 0.47% week-on-week to P18.87 per kilogram in the fourth week of March, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), continuing to decline as the Rice Tariffication Law moved forward to full implementation.

Meralco, Japan partners investing P6.3B in Clark

Manila Electric Co. and its Japanese partners expect to invest a total of P6.3 billion over the next 25 years in the power distribution system of New Clark City in Pampanga.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:	1 Yr Return:
7,973.18	1.20%
Open:	YTD Return:
7,879.47	5.54%
52-Week Range:	Source:
6,790.58-8,213.71	Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of April 5, 2019

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	52.15

BVAL

As of April 5, 2019

Tenor	Rate
1Y	6.0770
3Y	5.8160
5Y	5.7310
7Y	5.7660
10Y	5.8700
20Y	5.9600

Daily Quote

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

-Colin Powell

The Daily Dispatch

MORE LOCAL NEWS

Gov't fails to sell stake in NLEX operator

The National Government (NG) failed to unload its stake in Pangilinan-led Tollways Management Corp. (TMC) last week, the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) announced late Friday. Gerard L. Chan, PMO chief, said they declared a failed bidding for the 76,000 TMC common shares being sold by the NG for at least P2.58 billion.

Commuter chopper service launched

Tech startup Ascent, in partnership with the Lopezes' INAEC Aviation Corp. (INAEC), has launched the country's first helicopter ride-sharing service enabling workers and tourists to commute by chopper within the metropolis.

Dominguez wants SSS to go digital

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, who is also the Social Security Commission (SSC) ex-officio chairman, said the pension fund needs to use its digital tools to make it easier for members to access its services.

Market to trade sideways as investors are cautious

"Investors may continue to sit on the sidelines as we go into the holiday season and maybe wait as long as after the election in May. Because of this, we may continue to see the index go lower," said Eagle Equities Head of Research Christopher Mangun.

PH conglomerates ramp up expansion in Asia

Philippine conglomerates are seen accelerating their expansion in the Asian region to diversify their income sources amid growing competition and regulatory challenges in the country. Investment bankers said many local conglomerates have set their sights on the region for expansion and are working on more deals in the future.

Inflation seen falling below 3% in April

Inflation may fall below three percent in April and remain within this level for the rest of the year, increasing the probability that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may cut interest rates soon, according to London-based Capital Economics.

BSP likely to reverse tightening cycle in May

Economists said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may reverse its tightening cycle as early as next month amid the continued downturn in inflation. ANZ Research chief economist Sanjay Mathur said headline inflation is now close to the mid-point of the two to four percent target range of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

IIF sees flows to emerging markets recovering

The flow of fresh funds to emerging markets should recover this year and next after a flood of money over the past decade, fuelled by loose monetary policy in the United States, Europe and Japan, the Institute of International Finance (IIF) said on Friday.

Indonesia blocks EU spirits

European spirits makers say they are facing difficulties exporting drinks to Indonesia amid tension after Jakarta said it was unhappy with an EU decision that palm oil should not be considered a green fuel.

LG Chem sets up JV with VinFast

South Korea's LG Chem said on Sunday that it has set up a joint venture with Vietnam's VinFast Trading and Production to produce lithium-ion batteries for the Vietnamese carmaker's electric scooters and electric vehicles.

The Daily Dispatch

MORE ASIAN NEWS

Bharat Serums in talks to sell controlling stake

Promoters of Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd are in initial talks with private equity (PE) firms to sell a controlling stake for around \$500 million, two people aware of the development said.

HK IPO market delivering best returns in years

Buoyed by growing risk appetite, the city's initial public offerings are delivering the best returns in years. Companies that raised at least \$100 million jumped an average 15 percent in their first month of trading, weighted by deal size, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Alibaba-backed Babytree to branch out globally

Babytree, China's largest parenting website, wants to expand globally within three years, targeting markets with growing internet use and infrastructure, while at the same time capitalising on the growing number of second child births domestically.

HK regulators urged to keep open mind on fintech

Financial companies are urging the Hong Kong Monetary Authority to be more open-minded in giving new virtual bank licences as it would become difficult to attract international players to set up in the city.

China's \$10 phone maker pursues Belt and Road

While China's largest smartphone makers are making a big push to compete against Apple and Samsung Electronics in the industry's premium market segment, a little-known company in Shenzhen is gunning for millions of consumers around the world with mobile phones priced from US\$10.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Saudi Aramco set for mega debt deal pitched by JPM

In a bond sale closely watched by investors globally, Saudi Aramco and its bankers are preparing to kick off what could be at least a US\$10 billion offering this week. Early indications suggest investors are already crowding in.

Oil prices hit five-month highs on Opec supply cuts

Oil prices rose to their highest levels since November 2018 on Monday, driven up by Opec's ongoing supply cuts and US sanctions against Iran and Venezuela. International benchmark Brent futures were at US\$70.67 per barrel at 0022 GMT on Monday, up 33 cents, or 0.5 per cent from their last close.

White House defends Trump's Fed choices

A top White House adviser on Sunday defended President Donald Trump's controversial choices to fill two empty seats on the Federal Reserve, rejecting criticism that he is politicising the central bank. "President Trump has every right to put people on the Federal Reserve Board with a different point of view," Larry Kudlow said.

KPMG plans overhaul of British business

KPMG is planning an overhaul of its British business to create an independent audit firm, regardless of any decision by the competition regulator to force a break-up of the Big Four accounting firms, The Times reported on Monday. KPMG's audit practice has 200 partners and about 5,000 staff.

Carlyle agrees to buy 30% stake in Spain's Cepsa

Private equity firm Carlyle Group LP has agreed to buy a 30 percent stake in Spanish oil and gas company Cepsa from an Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund in a \$3.6 billion deal including debt, the Financial Times reported on Sunday, citing people with knowledge of the transaction.