

The Daily Dispatch

May 10, 2019
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

SMC shares spike on Holcim news

Shares of San Miguel Corp. (SMC) reached a new 52-week high as market investors gobbled up the stock on talks that the conglomerate had won the bidding for the Philippine assets of Lafarge Holcim Ltd. Switzerland-based Lafarge, Europe's biggest cement maker, was supposed to announce the results of the bidding last May 9.

San Miguel Corp. bags Holcim Philippines for \$2.2B

San Miguel Corp. has bagged a deal to acquire 85.7 percent stake of Holcim Philippines, the country's largest cement-maker, for around \$2.2 billion. SMC won an auction that pitted it against Anhui Conch, the largest cement manufacturer in mainland China, in the final round, said industry sources privy to the deal.

MB cuts rates, adjusts inflation forecasts

THE CENTRAL BANK's Monetary Board (MB) on Thursday cut benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) in its third policy review for the year, hours after the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that the economy grew at the slowest clip in four years last quarter.

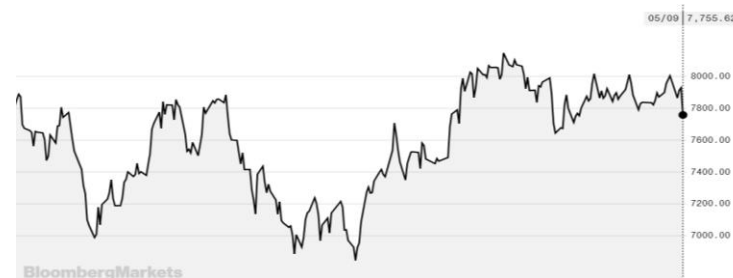
Max's future-proofs with Cavite manufacturing hub

The country's leading casual dining chain Max's Group Inc. (MGI) is investing P1 billion to complete by 2020 a new food manufacturing and distribution hub in Carmona, Cavite, that will support its growing store network.

Cafe fuels Thailand's PTT expansion in PH

PTT Philippines Corp. is shelling out P500 million in capital expenditures this year as it seeks to ramp up its nonfuel business while maintaining growth momentum in fuel retailing.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

7,755.62

1 Yr Return:

5.14%

Open:

7,755.94

YTD Return:

4.50%

52-Week Range:

6,790.58 - 8,213.71

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of May 9, 2019

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	52.225

PDST-R2 Rates

As of May 9, 2019

Tenor	Rate
1Y	6.0530
3Y	5.7190
5Y	5.6840
7Y	5.7140
10Y	5.7260
20Y	5.9420

Daily Quote

"When deeds speak, words are nothing."

--Pierre-Joseph Proudhon

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Max's Group to spend P600-million capex in 2019

MAX'S Group Inc., operator of one of the country's chain of casual-dining restaurants, said it will spend P600 million in capital expenditures this year, mainly to expand its commissaries as it shifts towards franchising.

TRAIN collections exceed revised 2018 target – DOF

In a statement, the finance department said the tax reform for acceleration and inclusion (TRAIN) act yielded P68.4 billion in net revenues in January to December last year, higher by 8.1 percent against the government's downward-revised-target of P63.3 billion.

Stocks plunge as GDP growth disappoints

The Philippine stock market nosedived yesterday after the first quarter economic growth posted the slowest pace in four years. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) plunged by 171.07 points, or 2.15 percent, to finish at 7,755.62.

NAIA rehab plan up for NEDA submission

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) will endorse to the National Economic and Development Authority Investment Coordination Committee (NEDA-ICC) next week the unsolicited proposal of the seven conglomerates to rehabilitate and expand the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

Metrobank redeeming P16 B notes early

The Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) has received the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to redeem P16 billion in debt notes ahead of scheduled maturity to avoid paying a step-up interest rate.

Foreign tourists grow 7.6% to 2.2m

International visitor arrivals increased 7.6% in the first quarter to a record 2.2 million from 2.05 million in the same period in 2018, data from the Tourism Department show. The Tourism Department said the record-high international visitor arrivals this year provided an encouraging sign that Philippine tourism was on the right track.

DTI: US-China trade war drove Q1 exports drop

ONGOING trade tensions between the US and China took its toll on Philippine trading, with exports dipping by 3.1% in Q1 2019, the DTI said. Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said “negative sentiments brought [about] by the US-China trade war” were affecting the country, since both Washington and Beijing were its top trading partners.

PLDT revives plan to sell Makati assets

PLDT Inc. reactivated a plan to sell key property assets, including its HQ in Makati, to fuel capital spending and growth. Manuel V. Pangilinan said the sale of properties and the eventual divestment of its remaining shares in Rocket Internet, currently valued at about P3.4B, would help support a record P78.4B spending budget for 2019.

RCBC sees steady net profit in 2019

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) is expecting its net income to be steady this year after it saw its profit increase in the first quarter. “We [posted] P4.3 billion last year, so we should be doing the same this year,” RCBC Corporate Planning Group head Chrissy Alvarez told reporters in a roundtable on Wednesday.

Budget delay drags down Q1 GDP growth to 5.6%

The domestic economy grew at a slower-than-expected pace in the first quarter of 2019 as the delay in the passage of the national budget stalled government spending during the period, the PSA said yesterday. GDP went down to 5.6 percent, the weakest in 16 quarters or since hitting 5.1% in the first quarter of 2015.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Hong Kong issues four more virtual bank licences

Hong Kong's monetary authority has issued four virtual banking licences to applicants affiliated with a trio of China's largest technology companies as well as the city's stock exchange, in a move to speed up disruption and innovation in one of the world's best served financial centres.

China state-backed PE starts distressed debt fund

Citic Capital, one of the largest private equity firms backed by the Chinese state, is raising US\$500 million for its first buyout fund for distressed assets in China, placing a bet on the opportunities available in the country's campaign to shed debt.

SoftBank Vision Fund 2 to be announced soon: CEO

SoftBank Group founder and CEO Masayoshi Son said on Thursday he plans to announce a second Vision Fund soon, adding that initially SoftBank will likely be the only investor. The fund would be a similar size to the original Vision Fund, Mr Son said, adding that many investors around the world have expressed interest in participating.

India's McDonald's buys out Vikram Bakshi

Ending a six-year-long dispute between McDonald's Corp. and its estranged India partner Vikram Bakshi, the local unit of the US fast-food chain on Thursday said it has bought out Bakshi's 50% stake in their joint venture Connaught Plaza Restaurants Ltd (CPRL).

Ch's online tutor firm GSX Techedu files for US IPO

Beijing-based K-12 online tutoring services provider GSX Techedu has filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission for an IPO to raise capital for content development and talent recruitment. In a heavily redacted filing, GSX mentions a placeholder amount of \$220 million.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Uber shifts into lower gear, prices IPO at \$45

Uber is about to embark on a wild ride on Wall Street with the biggest and most hotly debated IPO in years. The world's leading ride-hailing service set the stage for its long-awaited arrival on the stock market by pricing its initial public offering at \$45 per share late Thursday.

New space race to bring global satellite Internet

Anxiety has set in across the space industry ever since the world's richest man, Jeff Bezos, revealed Project Kuiper: A plan to put 3,236 satellites in orbit to provide high-speed Internet across the globe.

Blackstone sets limit on buyout fund

Blackstone Group set a US\$25 billion cap on its latest flagship buyout fund as investors clamor to get into the offering, according to people familiar with the matter. New York-based Blackstone has attracted more interest from investors for its eighth private equity fund than it's willing to handle, said the people.

Uber raises \$8.1b in IPO

Uber Technologies Inc. raised \$8.1 billion in its initial public offering after pricing shares near the bottom of their marketed range. The ride-hailing company sold 180 million shares for \$45 each, according to a statement Thursday. It had marketed them for \$44 to \$50 apiece.

Reliance Industries buys toy retailer Hamleys

India's Reliance Industries has acquired British toy retailer Hamleys, the energy-to-telecoms conglomerate said on Thursday. Reliance Industries, which runs the world's biggest single-location crude oil refinery in western India, has been gradually transforming itself into a consumer-facing behemoth through its retail and telecoms ventures.