

The Daily Dispatch

July 06, 2020
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

No more Bayanihan grants to LGUs, low usage rate

Local government units (LGUs) have used only P5.5 billion of their one-time grants to support their coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) containment efforts, a Budget official said, adding that no more additional funding will be provided.

Converge's listing success backed by digital shift

Brokers anticipate a high demand for Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.'s planned P35.92-billion initial public offering (IPO) due to positive prospects for the telecommunications sector. The offering is targeted to begin on Oct. 13 until Oct. 19, with listing on the main board of the Philippine Stock Exchange on Oct. 26.

Inflation uptick seen in June

Inflation may have slightly picked up in June with upward pressure mainly from rising prices of oil and rice, according to analysts. A BusinessWorld poll of 16 economists last week yielded a median estimate of 2.2% for headline inflation in June, still slower than the 2.7% a year ago but a tad faster than the 2.1% in May.

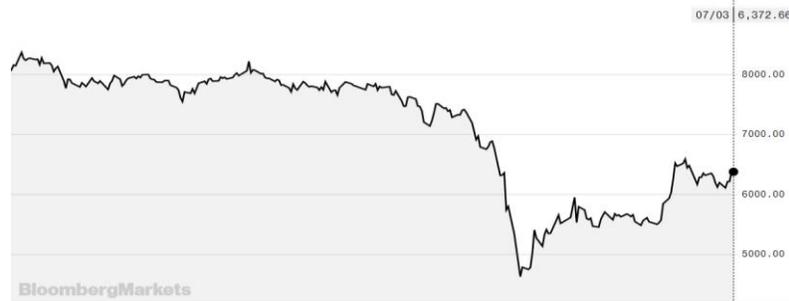
Lawmakers cite urgency of Bayanihan 2's passage

LAWMAKERS on Sunday reiterated willingness to tackle measures to help businesses and workers recover from Covid-related disruptions, as they await Palace's final confirmation of the date for a special session for the purpose.

New twist in Wirecard mess: fake BI record

JUSTICE Secretary Menardo Guevarra on Sunday promised a full investigation following the relief of two Bureau of Immigration (BI) officers who allegedly tampered with official records to make it appear that German payments company Wirecard AG's Chief Operating Officer Jan Marsalek entered the country on June 23 and left a day after.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,372.66

1 Yr Return:

-20.58%

Open:

6,378.29

YTD Return:

-18.82%

52-Week Range:

4,039.15 - 8,419.59

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of July 3, 2020

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	49.400

PDST-R2 Rates

As of July 3, 2020

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.9480
3Y	2.2050
5Y	2.4230
7Y	2.6410
10Y	2.8140
20Y	3.5880

Daily Quote

"Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The Daily Dispatch

MORE LOCAL NEWS

Nearly 70K OFWs back home, says DFA

THE Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) facilitated the return of almost 10,000 overseas Filipinos (OFs) last week, bringing the total number of repatriated OFs to 68,440 since it began bringing home Covid-19-displaced migrant workers in February 2020.

Sky Cable to continue cable, Internet services

Sky Cable will continue to operate its cable and Internet businesses, as they are not covered by the cease and desist order issued by the National Telecommunications Commission. “We wish to reiterate our assurance to our cable and broadband subscribers that they will continue to enjoy our services,” Sky Cable said.

AirAsia working with gov't to update schedules

Following AirAsia’s resumption in the Philippines on June 5, the airline said commercial flight schedules are being updated based on new developments and in coordination with its partners in government, including local government units (LGUs).

DOF mulls ban on online sale of cigarettes, alcohol

In a text message to reporters, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said the DOF may ban the sale of cigarettes and alcohol in online spaces where it is hard to ensure that they are not being sold to minors. “We will move to ban online sales of cigarettes and liquor,” Dominguez said.

BSP sets guidelines for digital banks

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is set to issue the guidelines for the establishment of digital banks as digital platforms play a pivotal role in promoting efficient delivery of financial products and services and in reaching the unserved and underserved market.

WESM prices up in June

Wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) prices rose last month as demand picked up after nearly three months of lockdown coupled with forced outages of power plants, according to the Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines Inc. (IEMOP).

China Bank steps up expansion

China Banking Corp. is further enhancing its digital channels to complement the expansion of its branch network as part of the new normal amid the COVID-19 pandemic. William Whang, president of China Bank, said they have organized a digital banking office in support of financial inclusion program of the BSP.

JG Summit’s return to global bond market raises \$600M

Gokongwei group-led JG Summit Holdings has raised \$600 million from a warmly-received offshore bond offering, marking the largest 10-year bond deal carved out of the Philippines in recent years.

Century Property’s contactless shift boosts sales

Antonio family-led Century Properties Group (CPG) reported its residential property sales picked up in the second quarter—the period during which the brunt of pandemic-related lockdown protocols was mostly felt—coming from a sluggish start in the first quarter.

BDO raises P36B from bond offer

The country’s largest lender, BDO Unibank, has raised P36 billion from another big local bond offering that was warmly received by the cash-awash local financial market.

The Daily Dispatch

MORE LOCAL NEWS

Landbank exec named OIC of UCPB

A career official at state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines has been appointed officer-in-charge (OIC) of United Coconut Planters Bank. Veteran banker Liduvino Geron assumed the position of UCPB OIC effective July 2.

PT&T, US partner amp up data protection arsenal

Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Co. (PT&T) is partnering with United States-based Maxava to widen its disaster recovery products offered to customers.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

SMIC to raise 46.3b yuan in Shanghai share sale

China's Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC) will raise 46.29 billion yuan (\$9.13 billion) in a Shanghai share sale, more than double its initial target, pricing its offering following a surge in its Hong Kong-listed stock.

Q&M buys Covid-19 test kits, related business

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Q&M Dental Group has completed its acquisition of Covid-19 test kits and related business from biotech company Acumen Research Laboratories (ARL), Q&M said in a bourse filing late on Sunday (July 5).

Temasek 'in talks' to fund Tokopedia

Google and Singapore's Temasek are in negotiations to join a round of funding of between US\$500 million (\$697 million) and US\$1 billion for Indonesia's largest online marketplace, Tokopedia, according to people familiar with the matter.

Banks to tighten commodity financing practices

Commodity trade financiers in Singapore are teaming up to improve lending practices and transparency after a spate of defaults. Hin Leong Trading, one of Asia's biggest oil traders, and 3 other Sg-based commodity traders, ran into financial difficulties this year as oil prices crashed and the coronavirus crisis hit fuel demand.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Berkshire to buy Dominion Energy assets for \$4 bn

Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) said its energy unit will buy Dominion Energy Inc's (D.N) natural gas transmission and storage network for \$4 billion, helping billionaire Chairman Warren Buffett reduce his conglomerate's cash pile while letting Dominion focus on utilities operations.

Masmovil buyers secure first leveraged loan

The private equity consortium behind the mooted acquisition of Spanish telecoms firm Masmovil (MASM.MC) has secured a 2B euro (\$2.3B) loan towards that deal, helping revive a leveraged loan market that has taken a beating this year. It is the first such deal to be completed after COVID-19 wrought havoc on the market in March.

Largest pension fund loses \$229.7b in worst qtr

The world's biggest pension fund posted a record loss in the first three months of 2020 after the coronavirus pandemic sparked a global equity rout in the period. Japan's Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) lost 11%, or 17.7 trillion yen (\$229.7 billion), in the three months ended March.

German gov't committed to Commerzbank

The German government is fully committed to its engagement with Commerzbank (CBKG.DE), the Finance Ministry said after the lender's chief executive and the head of its supervisory board offered to resign after a difficult year for the bank.