

The Daily Dispatch

July 14, 2021
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Remittances up for 4th straight month

MONEY sent home by Filipinos working abroad rose by 13% in May, the fastest in nearly five years, as the global economy's recovery picked up steam amid the pandemic. Cash remittances from overseas Filipinos reached \$2.382 billion in May, up 13% from the \$2.106 billion in the same month last year.

SMC unit plans 300-MW hydro plant in Aklan

A UNIT of SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. is planning to build a 300-megawatt (MW) pumped-storage hydro power plant in Malay, Aklan to provide the Visayas with reserve power, according to documents from the Environment department.

TCS, Converge partner for customer services

GLOBAL information technology services provider Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. to enhance the local internet service provider's customer experience.

Vehicle sales up 45% in June

VEHICLE SALES in June jumped 45% compared with the same month last year as the auto industry continues to grapple with the impact of the pandemic. Sales increased by 44.8% to 22,550 units in June compared with 15,578 units sold a year ago.

PSE to 'clearly define' corporate suitability rule

THE Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) is planning to revise the suitability rule involving directors, officers, promoters, and control persons of its listing rules to include a new rule and to update some clauses.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,795.13

Open:

6,811.59

52-Week Range:

5,691.74 - 7,432.40

1 Yr Return:

11.89%

YTD Return:

-4.59%

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of July 13, 2021

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.14

BVAL Reference Rates

As of July 13, 2021

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.613
3Y	2.345
5Y	2.989
7Y	3.481
10Y	3.890
20Y	4.965

Daily Quote

“If indeed you must be candid, be candid beautifully.”

-- *Kahlil Gibran*

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Banks face revenue headwinds, higher NPLs

Philippine banks are facing revenue headwinds and higher non-performing loan (NPL) ratios on the back of sluggish economic recovery from the pandemic-induced recession, according to New York-based Fitch Ratings.

Megawide gets P1.24 billion contracts

Megawide Construction Corp. has secured P1.24 billion worth of new contracts in the first quarter of the year despite the challenging environment brought about by COVID-19. These projects include residential, commercial and infrastructure developments.

Forex buffer drops to \$106 billion in June

The country's foreign exchange buffer declined for the third straight month to \$106.08 billion in end-June from \$107.25 billion a month earlier as the national government spent more to bankroll its COVID-19 response measures and paid more foreign loans, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said yesterday.

NCR retail prices climb fastest in 13 months

Retail prices of consumer goods in Metro Manila continued its upward trend in May, the highest reported since the start of the pandemic, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said. The General Retail Price Index (GRPI) in the National Capital Region (NCR) in May grew at 2.1 percent, faster than the two percent rate in April.

SquidPay founder hypes app July 15 launch

Marvin Dela Cruz, the founder and owner of SquidPay, and the headline investor as part of the "SquidPay Shareholder Group" that has contractually agreed to use Premiere Horizon Alliance (PHA) as a backdoor listing vehicle for SquidPay holdings, took to Twitter at midnight to hype the launch of the SquidPay app on July 15th.

Economist sees Fitch cutting PH credit rating

ING Bank Manila senior economist Nicholas Mapa said the latest move by Fitch Ratings revising the rating's outlook from "stable" to "negative," while keeping the "BBB" rating reflected the growing attention ratings agencies were giving to the protracted rise in Philippine debt and the slowing momentum of the economic engines.

POGOs' return expected to lift local real estate

Offshore gaming companies are slowly renewing their interest in the Philippine office market after a massive exit last year, Leechiu Property Consultants said. LPC chief executive David Leechiu said the company is receiving several inquiries from online gaming operators for possible office lease by 2Q of this year.

GIR slides to 3-month low at end-June

FALLING gold prices, debt payment and other government expenses, and foreign exchange operations by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) dragged the country's gross international reserves (GIR) to a three-month low of \$106.08 billion at the end of June.

T-bonds fetch coupon rate higher than BVAL's

INVESTORS continue to swamp the securities market with bids for the new 20-year Treasury bonds (T-bonds) nearly twice oversubscribed during its auction last Tuesday. The security fetched a coupon rate of 5.125 percent, higher than the Bloomberg Valuation Service (BVAL) rate at 4.968 percent.

Transco open to remitting all 2020 income to BTr

State-run National Transmission Corp. (Transco) announced it is "open" to remitting all its 2020 net income to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) to help fund the government's program against the Covid-19 pandemic.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Acromec, Tako Ventures enter JV for lab spaces

CATALIST-LISTED specialist engineering services provider Acromec has entered into a joint venture (JV) with Tako Ventures to launch co-working laboratory spaces, the group said on Wednesday in a bourse filing.

Ezion to sell subsidiary and tug vessels for \$113.4m

Ezion Holdings is divesting two towing tugs along with its entire stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary Teras Sunrise for a total of US\$83.7 million (S\$113.4 million) to ZhongXie Industrial, a marine logistic services provider based in Hong Kong.

Lalamove weighs moving IPO from US to Hong Kong

Chinese on-demand logistics and delivery firm Lalamove is considering shifting its planned US\$1 billion (S\$1.36 billion) United States initial public offering (IPO) to Hong Kong, sources familiar with the matter said, as regulators in its home country crack down on the wave of firms chasing overseas listings.

Support for cos depends on indiv outlook: Temasek

Temasek's participation in its portfolio companies' capital raises is decided on a "situation-by-situation" basis, depending on the outlook for each firm. "It's not a fixed plan, where we say, 'this is how much we're going to deploy, support our companies', because, unfortunately, things don't come out this way," said Mr Nagi Hamiyeh

Alibaba, others weigh bids for Unisplendour stake

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding and Chinese state-backed firms are exploring bids for a stake in Unisplendour Corp, a cloud computing infrastructure firm, that could fetch as much as US\$7.7 billion (S\$10.4 billion), people familiar with the matter said.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Biggest green energy hub proposed for W Australia

THE world's largest renewables project has been proposed in Western Australia, covering an area half the size of Belgium. The Western Green Energy Hub would include as much as 50 gigawatts of wind and solar over more than 15,000 sq km, according to the international group that's planning the project.

Shell sees opportunity in carbon capture market

CAPTURING greenhouse gas emissions and burying them underground is one way the world is hoping to slow global warming. It also could be a money-maker for the oil and gas firms developing the technology.

Netflix extends deal for films w/ Universal Pictures

[BENGALURU] Netflix and Comcast's Universal Pictures are extending a multi-year exclusive rights deal in the United States for animated film franchises such as Minions and Puss in Boots, the streaming giant said on Tuesday.

France fines Google €500m in news copyright row

[PARIS] France's competition watchdog on Tuesday slapped Google with a 500-million-euro (S\$803.7 million) fine for failing to negotiate "in good faith" with media companies over the use of their content under EU copyright rules.

ECB to launch digital euro project

The European Central Bank is set to give the green light on Wednesday (July 14) to a multi-year project to create a digital version of the euro. An electronic equivalent of banknotes and coins, the digital euro will likely be a digital wallet that euro zone citizens can keep at the ECB.