

The Daily Dispatch

July 18, 2019
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Subic expressway expansion to be finished in Oct

NLEx Corp. said it expects to complete the first phase of the P1.6-billion Subic Freeport Expressway Capacity Expansion project by October 2019. The company said the project would be done in two phases, with the first phase expected to be completed by October in time for Subic's hosting of 16 sports in the 2019 SEA Games in November.

Lucio Tan taking over as temporary PAL president

Billionaire Lucio Tan will take over as the interim president of Philippine Airlines effective immediately. PAL EVP, treasurer and CAO Vivienne Tan said her father, concurrently the chairman of the flag carrier, decided to assume the company's top post pending the approval by the board of directors of the candidates for president.

Home furnishing chain files for up to \$404M IPO

Philippines' AllHome Corp, owned by the country's richest man, said late on Wednesday it plans to raise up to \$404 million in the country's largest initial public offering (IPO) this year, as the bourse trades near multi-month highs. The retailer of home furnishing and construction supplies will sell as many as 1.29 billion shares.

Electronics imports hit \$11.64B in Jan-May

Electronic imports rose by 2.37% in the first five months on the back of increasing demand for consumer and automotive electronics, among others, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation Inc. said. In a report, the industry group said electronic imports reached \$11.64 billion in January to May.

Business groups urge veto of SOT bill

A broad coalition of business groups yesterday urged President Duterte to veto the Security of Tenure (SOT) bill and instead modernize labor regulations to suit the needs of labor-intensive industries. In a joint statement, the groups argued anew that the bill is already made redundant by existing laws.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

8,233.48

Open:

8,241.59

52-Week Range:

6,790.58 - 8,419.59

1 Yr Return:

12.72%

YTD Return:

10.60%

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of July 17, 2019

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	51.085

PDST-R2 Rates

As of July 17, 2019

Tenor	Rate
1Y	4.7880
3Y	4.8250
5Y	4.9010
7Y	4.9440
10Y	4.9640
20Y	5.0650

Daily Quote

"We generate fears while we sit. We overcome them by action. Fear is nature's way of warning us to get busy."

--Dr. Henry Link

The Daily Dispatch

MORE LOCAL NEWS

Metropolitan Insurance conservatorship lifted

The IC has lifted its conservatorship order against Metropolitan Insurance Co. Inc. after a Hong Kong-based firm agreed to infuse additional capital in the local insurer. Insurance Commissioner Dennis Funa ordered the lifting of the conservatorship order issued to Metropolitan Insurance and the renewal of its Certificate of Authority.

Cebu Landmasters eyes Xavier-Ateneo property

Cebu Landmasters Inc. (CLI) is eyeing to develop a 63.5-hectare property of Xavier University – Ateneo de Cagayan in Cagayan de Oro City into a premier university town. The property, known as Manresa, is located in an emerging commercial district in uptown CDO.

Fiscal perks seen to offset risks in hotel dev't

The granting of incentives to tourism enterprise zones (TEZs) will offset the risks hotel developers incur in building projects across the country, a property consultancy said. “The hardest sector and the least profitable sector of the property market is the hotel sector,” Leechiu Property Consultants (LPC) CEO David Leechiu said.

Trump's new tariff threat sends stocks tumbling

The stock market continued to retreat yesterday, two days after Monday's rally. The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index tumbled by another 30.09 points, or 0.36 percent, to end at 8,233.48. Likewise, the broader All Shares lost 11.45 points or 0.22 percent, to end at 5,001.54.

Logistics firm J&T Express, Shopee team up

“Shopee is so famous. I'm very proud to partner with one of the best players in the e-commerce industry,” J&T Express Philippines Sales and Marketing Director Tommy Li told reporters in an interview following the ceremonial contract signing at the office of Shopee at the Net Park Building in BGC, Taguig, on Tuesday.

Israeli company targets Palawan, Panay for oil

Israeli firm Ratio Petroleum Ltd. is targeting oil and gas exploration blocks along Palawan and Panay basins, according to sources from Department of Energy. An energy official indicated that the company bought data package for the pre-determined areas being offered by the DOE; and is likewise looking at separate areas for nomination.

Review of rice tariff law pushed

Industry stakeholders are appealing to President Duterte to order a review of the rice import liberalization law after palay prices reached its breakeven point, leaving local rice producers without any profit. At the same time, rice prices have remained “almost constant” despite the assurance that these would go down by P7/kilo.

PNB raises funds via shares sale

Tycoon Lucio Tan-led Philippine National Bank (PNB) has completed a P12-billion fundraising through the sale of new shares to existing stockholders. In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PNB said it had issued 276.62 million shares at a preemptive rights offering at the price of P43.38 per share.

Power supply situation still below normal

The power supply situation in the Luzon grid is expected to improve with the onset of the rainy season, but the scenario remains subnormal and more yellow and red alerts are still expected, according to National Grid Corporation of the Philippines. NGCP said that a new record peak demand in Luzon was recorded at 11,344MW last month

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Netflix to roll out mobile-only plan in India

Netflix Inc said it would roll out a lower-priced mobile-only plan in India, tapping into a price-sensitive market where data consumption on smartphones is surging. The video streaming pioneer said in March that it was testing a 250 rupee (\$3.63) monthly subscription for mobile devices in India, where data plans are among the cheapest in the world.

The Daily Dispatch

MORE ASIAN NEWS

Visa invests in Gojek's Series F round

Payments provider Visa on Wednesday said it has invested in ride-hailing player Gojek as part of its Series F fundraising round to support Gojek's payments services across South-east Asia. The investment amount and funds raised to date in the Series F round was not disclosed.

SE Asia's VCs are in the market to raise over \$4.2b

More than 35 venture capital funds with a complete or partial focus on Southeast Asia are currently in the market to raise over \$4.2 billion, VC announcements and DealStreetAsia data show.

iFlytek raises \$407m funding

Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) company iFlytek has raised \$407 million from a state-backed industry fund and several provincial government funds via a private placement, according to a filing on Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

ESR acquires two warehouses in maiden India deal

Warburg Pincus-backed logistics real estate developer ESR Cayman Limited is making its maiden investment in India with the acquisition of two warehousing projects from Future Market Networks. FMNL said it will first sell a 51% stake in two warehouses in Jhajjar, Haryana, and Nagpur, Maharashtra, spanning 1.3m sqft to ESR.

DouYu tumbles after raising \$775m in US IPO

Chinese video-game live-streaming platform DouYu International Holdings Ltd. fell in its trading debut after its \$775 million U.S. initial public offering. The company, which delayed its IPO amid market jitters in May, sold 44.9 million American depository shares for \$11.50 each on Tuesday, with its investors selling 22.5 million additional

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Property firm LendLease lands \$15B deal with Google

Australian construction firm LendLease Group on Thursday said it has secured a contract from Alphabet Inc's Google to jointly undertake development of properties worth \$15 billion in the U.S. state of California. LendLease said it will jointly take up the master planning, entitlement and development of three major areas in San Francisco.

US hopes China to undo backtracking on trade

US and Chinese officials held high-level discussions by telephone this week and last as they try to re-start negotiations. The talks collapsed in May after Washington accused Beijing of renegeing on core issues it had agreed to earlier this year.

Negotiators working hard on US-Japan trade deal

Asked about progress in the bilateral trade talks, Koji Tomita, Japan's sherpa to the Group of 20 industrialized countries (G20), said, "When President Trump came to Japan at the end of May, he was talking about doing a deal as soon as possible. Our team is now working pretty hard, so we are looking forward to some news in the near future."

GE sells solar business stake to BlackRock

General Electric Co agreed to sell a majority stake in a solar energy business to BlackRock Inc, giving the investment giant footing in a growing market as the ailing manufacturer shifts its focus elsewhere. A fund managed by BlackRock's Real Assets unit will own 80 per cent of Distributed Solar Development.

Ebix acquires India's Yatra for \$239m

Ebix Inc., a supplier of on-demand software and e-commerce services, said that it has acquired online travel portal Yatra Online Inc., for an enterprise value of \$337.8m, in an all stock transaction. We see the deal as a strategic fit for both companies, with Ebix's expertise in the B2B segment, where we are also leaders in corporate travel.