

The Daily Dispatch

July 22, 2021
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Moody's lowers PH growth forecast

Credit rating firm Moody's Investors Service has lowered its 2021 growth forecast for the Philippines, citing the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic as a cause of uncertainty. Moody's expects the country's real gross domestic product to increase by 5.8 percent this year, down from its previous estimate of 7 percent in January.

BSP allows Union Bank to put up digital unit

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has allowed Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank) to put up its digital bank unit. The digital bank, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UnionBank, will be called as Union Digital Bank.

BIR defers VAT collection from export purchases

Philippine Economic Zone Authority director-general Charito Plaza said the BIR was advised to defer the implementation of Revenue Regulation 9-2021 that subjects all local purchases of economic zone locators to 12-percent VAT.

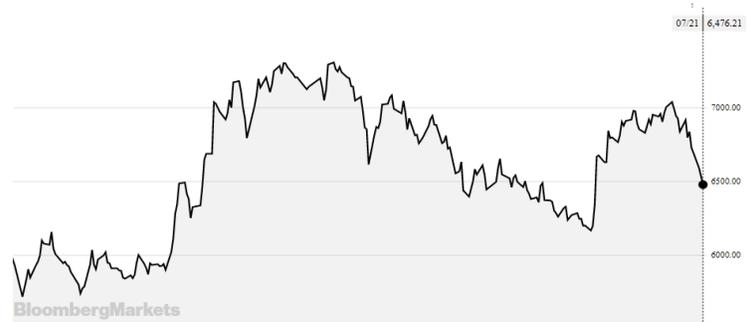
San Miguel drops more coal projects

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. decided to drop more coal projects from its portfolio, according to a report by the Department of Energy. SMC confirmed the report, following the earlier announcement of unit SMC Global Power Holdings Corp. that it would avoid building new coal power plants to focus on renewables.

RCBC says online financial app downloads hit 4.2M

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) said its online financial platform "DiskarTech" has hit 4.2 million downloads a year after its launch, with 4 out of 5 of them coming from provinces in the country.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,476.21

1 Yr Return:

10.03%

Open:

6,496.97

YTD Return:

-8.10%

52-Week Range:

5,691.74 - 7,432.40

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of July 21, 2021

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	50.280

PDST-R2 Rates

As of July 21, 2021

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.648
3Y	2.369
5Y	3.010
7Y	3.498
10Y	3.922
20Y	4.924

Daily Quote

"Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change."

--Stephen Hawking

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Fruitas opens more stores, nears target count

FRUITAS Holdings, Inc. has recently opened more community stores and is on course to reach its target openings by the end of the year. It now has 74 operating community stores as a result of the new openings and is nearing its goal of opening 100 community stores by the end of 2021.

Premiere Horizon enters P2.5-B financing deal

PREMIERE Horizon Alliance Corp.'s (PHA) board of directors inked a put option agreement with global investment firm LDA Capital Ltd. The funds to be generated from this agreement are expected to fund the working capital requirement of the parent company and finance the different projects of its subsidiaries.

A Brown files shelf registration of 50-M shares

A BROWN Co., Inc. has filed for the shelf registration of 50 million cumulative, nonvoting, non-participating, and nonconvertible peso-denominated perpetual preferred shares, along with an offer supplement for its initial P1.5-billion offering.

P300N agri-industrial hub to be built in Taguig

A SECOND business corridor for agricultural industry companies is set to be built in Taguig City, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said. Taguig City site will be the first agri-industrial corridor dedicated to freshwater aquaculture and urban farming.

Weak asset quality still a concern for banks

MORE THAN HALF of banks in the Philippines still expect nonperforming loans (NPLs) to continue to rise over the next two years due to the economic downturn. The industry-wide NPL ratio stood at a 13-year high of 4.49% in May as bad loans surged by 83% to P479.481 billion from a year earlier.

Filinvest REIT sets IPO price at P7 per share

The Gotianun Group's real estate investment trust company Filinvest REIT Corp. has set the final price of its upcoming initial public offering at P7/share. This followed a book building process with domestic qualified institutional buyers and pension funds, along with international institutional and private bank participation.

ADB pushes green financing for MSMEs

The Philippine's micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) need greater access to green financing to ensure their bounceback and help in the country's overall economic recovery, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Swelling debt to slow economic momentum

The FDC said the country's record-high P11T debt would make it difficult to revert the economy's momentum to its pre-pandemic levels. Former senator Wigberto Tañada said servicing the huge debt pile may restrict the next administration's spending for social services as policymakers increase the budget for debt payments.

DTI unveils testing lab for steel, ceramic tiles

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) yesterday launched a testing laboratory for steel and ceramic tiles as part of efforts to ensure those being sold in the market meet product standards and are safe.

Government upgrades exports targets

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) has upgraded its exports outlook for this year and next, pinning its hopes on a rebound in global trade as economies are lifting border restrictions. The DBCC said it hiked the 2021 merchandise exports growth projection to 10% from 8% due to the worldwide recovery in demand.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Honda gives up go-it-alone strategy for shift to EVs

HONDA Motor Co long eschewed big strategic alliances, preferring to go it alone even as many of its carmaking peers banded together to improve economies of scale. That's changing now that the Japanese automaker is shifting more aggressively to electric vehicles (EVs).

Volvo to take control of China ops from parent Geely

[BEIJING] Volvo Cars has agreed to take control of its China ventures from parent Geely Automobile Holdings, potentially boosting its valuation ahead of a planned share sale.

EMA, Shell renew partnership with S\$4m funding

THE Energy Market Authority (EMA) and energy company Shell have committed an additional S\$4 million with support from Enterprise Singapore (ESG) to grow local energy startups, as part of a renewed partnership.

Supermarket Sheng Siong to open 4th store in China

Supermarket operator Sheng Siong Group said on Wednesday (July 21) that its subsidiary has entered into a lease agreement to open a new store in China.

Vertex Venture Holdings raising \$450m in debt

Temasek-owned Vertex Venture Holdings, a private entity in the business of venture capital (VC), is issuing \$450 million of seven-year senior unsecured bonds with a 3.3 per cent coupon, The Business Times understands.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Sunseap inks deal to build largest floating solar

Energy firm Sunseap Group will build the world's largest floating solar farm and power storage system on the Indonesian island of Batam, it announced on Wednesday (July 21).

Netflix turning to games as streaming growth slows

[SAN FRANCISCO] Netflix is facing a formidable challenge as it expands into video games to keep the attention of customers in the increasingly competitive world of streaming television.

Daimler sees chip shortage extending into 2022

[LONDON] A global shortage of semiconductor chips will dent car sales in the second half of 2021 and will extend into 2022, Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler said on Wednesday, but left unchanged its profit margin outlook for this year.

Australian regulator to probe online markets

The Australian antitrust regulator on Thursday (July 22) kicked off an inquiry into the local units of Amazon.com, eBay and other online markets to ensure fairness in a sector where sales have soared through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tesla plans to open its charging network to other EV

Tesla plans to open its network of superchargers to other electric vehicles later this year, chief executive officer Elon Musk said on Twitter. The electric-car maker's fast-charging network, with over 25,000 superchargers globally, has given it a competitive edge.