

The Daily Dispatch

September 17, 2020
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

SC upholds Razon takeover of Iloilo power firm

The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the provisions of the law allowing Razon-led MORE Electric and Power Corp. to take over the power distribution assets in Iloilo City. MORE, led by businessman Enrique K. Razon Jr., in February 2019 was granted a 25-year franchise to provide electricity to Iloilo City, replacing Panay Electric Co., Inc.

Ayala Land's AREIT buys office building in Cebu

AREIT, Inc., the real estate investment trust (REIT) of Ayala Land, Inc., has bought an office building in Cebu City using P1.45 billion from the proceeds of its recent public offering. AREIT said it signed a deed of sale with ALO Prime Realty Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, to buy Teleperformance Cebu.

Lucio Tan's bank plans \$1 billion prime asset sale

Philippine National Bank (PNB) is seeking to dispose of three prime properties that it values at about \$1 billion this year. The lender owned by Lucio C. Tan plans to realize the value of a 10-hectare property along Manila Bay, as well as an office building and a prime lot in the main financial district in Makati City.

UBX to boost e-commerce tools as online sellers grow

Unionbank of the Philippines, Inc.'s fintech arm is looking to boost e-commerce among small online sellers through its mobile-enabled marketplace application. The bank is looking to capitalize on its mobile app Sentro that builds online stores and uses Bux as its online payment tool as smaller businesses continue to grow.

Infrastructure spending down in 7 months

The government's spending on infrastructure declined by 9.4 percent from January to July compared to last year's level due to the suspension of construction activities during the lockdown, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) reported yesterday.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

5,946.62

Open:

5,946.05

52-Week Range:

4,039.15 - 8,216.92

1 Yr Return:

-24.01%

YTD Return:

-24.37%

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of Sept. 16, 2020

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	48.448

PDST-R2 Rates

As of Sept. 16, 2020

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.836
3Y	2.466
5Y	2.810
7Y	2.932
10Y	3.019
20Y	3.925

Daily Quote

"Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny."

--C.S. Lewis

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Jollibee opens new overseas branches

Jollibee Foods Corp. is taking a bite of the Liverpool and Texas markets in the United Kingdom and United States, respectively, despite the COVID-19 pandemic that has rampaged across the globe. Jollibee opened its first stores in Liverpool on Sept. 3 and in the Greater Dallas Area in West Plano, Texas on Aug. 20.

Peso soars to near 4-year high anew

There is no stopping the peso from gaining more strength despite a pandemic-induced recession. The local currency on Wednesday appreciated by one centavo from previous day to close at P48.39 to a dollar.

PH's richest see fortune smashed by pandemic

Wealth was wiped out from most of the Philippines' richest people this year as the pandemic left some businesses struggling while others benefitted from a change in consumer behavior brought by the health crisis.

DITO picks US cybersecurity provider

Telco startup Dito Telecommunity Corp. is tapping United States cybersecurity firm Fortinet as a crucial technology partner in a bid to ease spying worries due to a Chinese state firm's involvement in the telco.

30 infra projects to be built via PPP

Amid a COVID-19 pandemic-induced recession putting pressure on the government's meager resources, about 30 of the big-ticket infrastructure projects in the updated "Build, Build, Build" pipeline worth a combined P1.75 trillion will be rolled out by tycoons' deep pockets.

Recovery in power sector unlikely to happen in 2020

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic is dampening the expansion of power generation capacity in the Philippines as government response to the crisis draws away funds from projects that would boost electricity demand, according to Fitch Solutions.

San Miguel expands roast chicken business

Leading food producer San Miguel Foods Inc. has complemented its poultry business – which has seen robust demand during this coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic – with the rollout of stores selling ready-to-eat chicken.

Gov't may still borrow less in 2020—Dominguez

The Duterte administration may borrow less than programmed for the rest of the year should the government's two main tax agencies continue to exceed their downscaled collection targets, the Department of Finance (DOF) said.

LGUs push loan financing for tourist transport

Local government officials are pushing for the restructuring of loans and granting of concessional rates to tourist transport operators using the funds from the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2) to give them 2-3 years breathing space from high interest rates.

GIR hits new record high at \$99B

Gross international reserves (GIR) climbed to a new record high of \$98.954 billion as of end-August, up by \$350 million from the previous \$98.60 billion end-July, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Wednesday. The GIR increased from the BSP's foreign exchange operations and income from its investments overseas.

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SMEs urged to shift to digital payments

The small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are urged to shift to online payments amid the widespread digital transformation to thrive amid the coronavirus pandemic. Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) stated that now is the time for the SMEs to start using digital payments as lockdown measures minimize physical interaction with

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

VC firm Lightspeed sets up SEA headquarters in SG

American venture capital (VC) firm Lightspeed Venture Partners is basing its South-east Asia operations in Singapore, it announced on Thursday (Sept 17). This will allow the firm to capture the growth opportunities in the region and support budding enterprises here, Lightspeed partner Akshay Bhushan told The Straits Times.

Iskandar Waterfront plans IPO

Iskandar Waterfront Holdings (IWH) has hired banks to help prepare for an initial public offering in Kuala Lumpur to raise about RM5 billion (\$1.64 billion), in what would be the biggest first-time share sale in the country since 2012.

SLNG Corp and Total in deal for solar energy system

Singapore LNG Corp (SLNG) and France's Total have signed a deal for a rooftop solar power system at the Singapore LNG terminal, the companies said. Total Solar Distributed Generation will finance, build and operate the 600 kilowatt-peak system, which will be installed on the rooftops of several buildings in the terminal, they said.

KKR raises over US\$11b in Asia fund

Private equity powerhouse KKR & Co has raised over US\$11 billion after the first-close of its fourth Asia-focused fund, its Beijing-based managing director Chris Sun said Wednesday. KKR started marketing the new Asia fund towards the end of last year before the Covid-19 pandemic.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Novartis ties bond sale to malaria treatment access

Novartis raised 1.85 billion euros on Wednesday from the sale of a bond on which interest payments will rise if the drugmaker fails to expand access to medicines and programmes to combat malaria and leprosy in a number of developing countries.

Snowflake's value doubles in largest software debut

Snowflake Inc's SNOW.N shares more than doubled in their New York Stock Exchange debut on Wednesday, a day after the Warren Buffett-backed data warehouse company raised more than \$3 billion in the largest U.S. listing of the year thus far.

ChargePoint nears deal to go public

ChargePoint Inc, one of the world's oldest and largest electric vehicle charging networks, is nearing a deal to go public through a reverse merger with Switchback Energy Acquisition Corp, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

EQT bids for Chevron U.S. shale-gas assets

EQT Corp EQT.N, the largest U.S. natural gas producer by volume, has placed a bid on Chevron Corp's CVX.N Appalachia gas properties and a pipeline stake, people familiar with the matter said. EQT offered \$750 million for the properties, one of the people familiar with the matter said.

Walmart's Flipkart eyes overseas listing for 2021

Walmart Inc-controlled WMT.N Indian e-commerce firm Flipkart is preparing for an initial public offering overseas as early as 2021, which could value the firm up to \$50 billion. If achieved, that would mean Walmart would have more than doubled its investment.