

The Daily Dispatch

January 12, 2023
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Govt rakes in P35b after BTr awards T-bonds bids

The national government was able to raise P35 bn from the auction of Treasury bonds for the second consecutive week, according to the BTr. In its latest auction, the Treasury's auction committee fully awarded the P35 bn reissued 13-year T-bonds as investors' average asking rates were in line with secondary market benchmark.

BankCom trade finance biz grew more than 6 times

Bank of Commerce, an affiliate of conglomerate San Miguel Corp., on Tuesday said its trade finance business grew more than six times in the last three years given its accelerated support to both small and medium enterprises and larger businesses throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

FILRT to broaden portfolio by 64% in 3 years

Filinvest REIT Corp. (PSE: FILRT), the real estate investment trust of the Gotianun's Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI), is set to expand its asset portfolio by 64 percent over the next three years. This translates to about 164,417 square meters in additional gross leasable area for FILRT.

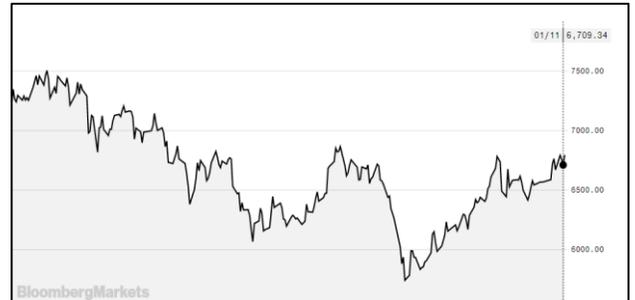
DOE approves plan to ensure sufficient power

The DOE approved a gas-swapping arrangement to address the projected electricity supply shortage especially during the dry months this year. The agreement focuses on using Malampaya gas intended for First Gas power plants to run the 1,200-megawatt Ilijan natural gas plant in Batangas owned by South Premiere Power Corp.

LandBank starts release of P10.3-M fuel subsidy

A statement issued last Wednesday said the LandBank and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) started distributing fuel subsidies worth P1,000 each to qualified tricycle drivers in the National Capital Region, Regions 1 and 3. The distribution started last January 10.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,709.34

1 Yr Return:

-3.96%

Open:

6,723.53

YTD Return:

3.11%

52-Week Range:

5,699.30 - 7,552.20

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of January 11, 2023

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	54.80

BVAL Reference Rates

As of January 11, 2023

Tenor	Rate
1Y	5.388
3Y	6.187
5Y	6.485
7Y	6.674
10Y	6.890
20Y	7.081

Daily Quote

“Death is nothing, but to live defeated and inglorious is to die daily.”

- Napoleon Bonaparte

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Car sales up 31% in 2022, exceed industry target

Automotive sales jumped past 352,000 last year, with units sold breaching the industry's target on the back of surging demand. The CAMPI and TMA said that January-to-December 2022 vehicle sales reached 352,596 units, equivalent to a 31.3% improvement compared with 268,488 units in 2021.

Megawide aims to raise P1.5B via PS offering

Listed construction company Megawide Construction Corp. announced that it plans to raise P1.5B through a preferred share offering in March this year. The net proceeds from the offer will be used for the redemption of the outstanding Series 2A perpetual preferred shares of the company which will be due for step-up on May 27.

Maynilad customers set to receive rebate

Customers of Maynilad who were affected by the recurring service interruptions in areas served by the concessionaire's Putatan water treatment plants are set to receive a rebate. The MWSS said Maynilad was found to have violated its service obligations of ensuring the availability of an uninterrupted water supply to customers.

Citicore Energy REIT eyes green bonds

Citicore Energy REIT Corp. said it is looking to issue green bonds in 2023 to fund the acquisition of AFAB Solar Rooftop System and parcels of land spanning 475.3 has. in Batangas. The company said that once it has acquired AFAB, it will be leased out to an affiliate solar power business, Sunny Side Up Power Corp., for 20 years.

FDI net inflows soar to 6-month high in October

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows rose to a six-month high in October, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said on Wednesday. Data from the BSP showed FDI net inflows jumped by 6.3% to \$923 million in October, from \$868 million a year earlier. This was also 47.4% higher than the \$626-million net inflows in September.

World Bank sees moderate growth for PH

The Philippine economy is projected to post slower growth this year as global demand weakens, but the expected growth will be among the fastest in the region, according to the World Bank. The World Bank expects the country to have the 2nd fastest gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Southeast Asia (at 5.4%) after Vietnam.

Peso seen weakening to P57-P59 to dollar

Despite its recent gains, the peso is expected to weaken again this year, trading between P57 to P59 this year as the country's huge trade deficit will weaken the peso, according to economists from First Metro Investments Corp (FMIC) and the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P). The peso strengthened to P54.87 on Tuesday.

Prices of construction materials slow in Nov.

Growth in retail and wholesale prices of building materials in Metro Manila slowed in November from the previous month, the Philippine Statistics Authority said. The annual growth of the Construction Materials Retail Price Index (CMRPI) in the National Capital Region (NCR) eased to 6.2% in Nov. 2022 from 6.6% in October 2022.

High interest rates seen prevailing next year

British banking giant HSBC sees the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) maintaining higher interest rates until the first half of next year after raising rates by a total of 75 basis points this year. Aris Dacanay, economist for ASEAN at HSBC, said the BSP may deliver three 25-basis-point rate increases within 1H2023.

China OKs import of durian from PH, says envoy

China has allowed the importation of durian from the Philippines, its ambassador to Manila said Wednesday. In a Facebook post, Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian said "Philippine durians meeting the import requirements can now have the same market access as Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam."

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Hanwha Qcells invests \$2.5b in US solar supply chain

South Korean solar energy company Qcells on Wednesday (Jan 11) said it would invest US\$2.5 billion to expand its manufacturing capacity in the United States, creating as many as 2,500 jobs in Georgia. Qcells said it would expand its existing solar panel factory in Dalton, Georgia, and open a second facility in Cartersville.

China clean energy giants unveil largest turbines

Ming Yang Smart Energy Group unveiled the world's largest wind turbine, an offshore behemoth whose more than 140-metre-long blades will sweep across an area larger than 9 soccer pitches. The turbine will be able to generate 18 megawatts at peak capacity and produce enough electricity annually to provide power for 96,000 people.

China's BYD plans push into India's EV market

Chinese carmaker BYD is planning a bold push into India's electric vehicle (EV) market, joining a rush of foreign carmakers jockeying for a bigger share of the world's fourth-biggest auto market. The Warren Buffett-backed BYD is seeking to capture 40 per cent of India's EV market by 2030.

GIC to invest S\$641m in SKor's Kakao Entertainment

South Korean tech conglomerate Kakao Corp said on Thursday that its unit Kakao Entertainment had secured a 1.2 trillion won investment from leading sovereign wealth funds. Singapore's GIC and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) decided to each invest 600 billion won (S\$641 million) in the entertainment firm.

SingPost raises stake in AUS logistics firm to 88%

Singapore Post is looking to acquire an additional 37% stake in Freight Management Holdings (FMH), a fourth-party logistics service company incorporated in Victoria, Australia, for A\$175.4 million in cash. This will bring SingPost's total stake in FMH from 51% currently to 88% upon completion of the transaction.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Alphabet's Verily to cut 15% of staff

Verily, Alphabet's life sciences unit, is cutting 15 per cent of jobs as it eliminates some programmes and streamlines operations. More than 200 jobs will be eliminated, Verily said after announcing the layoffs in a blog post on Wednesday (Jan 11).

Biden urges US Congress to rein in Big Tech

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday urged Republican and Democratic lawmakers to break years of political gridlock and pass laws that would rein in the power of Big Tech. The United States - home to global tech giants - has trailed governments in Europe and Asia in drawing up more modern rules to curb their power.

FTX advisers found \$5b cash or sellable crypto

FTX Group advisers have found more than US\$5 billion in cash or crypto assets that it may be able to sell to help repay creditors, a lawyer for the company told the judge overseeing the biggest crypto bankruptcy.

Subway to weigh sale that could value it at ~\$10b

Subway is exploring a potential sale that could value the American sandwich chain at more than US\$10b, according to a source familiar with the matter. The process is in its early stages and Subway could still decide against pursuing a sale, said the source, asking not to be identified because the information is not public.

US stocks rise on hopes of cooling inflation

Wall Street stocks rallied on Wednesday as markets await key US inflation data, with hopes that the figures will show a further slowing of price increases. The consumer price index (CPI), a key gauge of inflation due for release on Thursday, will be closely-watched for its implications on Federal Reserve policy.