

# The Daily Dispatch

October 28, 2019  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## 2nd NLEx-SLEx link set for construction

A second elevated expressway that will bridge the northern and southern parts of Metro Manila, the country's congested capital district, is set to begin construction by November this year, according to its project proponent.

## Airlines' on-time performance hit 83% in Sept

Local flight delays in Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport were minimized in September, resulting in an industry-wide on-time performance of 83 percent, a record so far this year.

## US aid agency: Meralco losing Ghana deal a downer

Washington had wanted to keep a Manila Electric Co. (Meralco)-initiated consortium to take over Ghana's biggest power distribution business, but the West African government disagreed and accepted the loss of \$190 million in aid by terminating the concession agreement.

## Orix Metro sets P10-B bond offering

Leasing and finance firm Orix Metro Leasing and Finance Corp., a unit of the Metrobank group, plans to raise up to P10 billion from a bond offering. The proposed offering obtained an issuer rating of "PRS Aa plus" with a stable outlook from local credit watchdog Philippine Rating Services Corp. (PhilRatings).

## 60 PPP projects up for rollout

Public-private partnerships (PPP) in the local level remained booming with 60 projects for rollout, according to state planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).

## Philippine Stock Market Update



**Previous Close:**  
7,922.50

**1 Yr Return:**  
14.29%

**Open:**  
7,935.01

**YTD Return:**  
6.35%

**52-Week Range:**  
6,820.22 - 8,419.59

**Source:**  
Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of Oct. 25, 2019

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	51.177

## PDST-R2 Rates

As of Oct. 25, 2019

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.6080
3Y	4.0260
5Y	4.3030
7Y	4.5280
10Y	4.7050
20Y	5.0390

## Daily Quote

"Success is achieved and maintained by those who try and keep trying."

-- W. Clement Stone

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### Manila ranks lowest in Asia in 'Smart City' index

The race to become a "smart city" is on and in Asia, Manila is the worst performer. Out of 102 cities worldwide, the Philippine capital ranked 94th in the 2019 Smart City Index published Thursday by Switzerland-based IMD Business School and Singapore University of Technology and Design.

### Private economists slash inflation forecasts

Economists of private banks lowered anew their inflation forecasts for this year and next year due to stable global oil prices and lower electricity rates, base effects, easing domestic rice and other food prices, as well as weaker global economic prospects.

### Accommodative policy desirable in PH — IMF

An accommodative monetary policy is desirable in the Philippines due to the continued downtrend in inflation as well as slower economic growth, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has so far slashed interest rates three times this year for a cumulative reduction of 75 basis points.

### Corporatization needed to boost PH agriculture

In a recent television interview, economist Emmanuel De Dios said the protracted agrarian reform of government and lack of support for extensions and service have resulted in the fragmentation of production in agriculture and very low productivity.

### PH plans to allow banks to set up Islamic units

The BSP is leaning toward allowing local lenders to set up Islamic banking subsidiaries, as it steps up efforts to promote Shariah-compliant finance in the country. "The BSP is pushing for an open approach where conventional banks can operate Islamic banking windows or to establish subsidiary Islamic banks," they said.

### 4 firms keen on joining 2nd-round bidding for Malaya

THE Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) has identified four firms interested to participate in the second round of bidding for the privatization of the 650-megawatt Malaya Thermal Power Plant and its underlying land. MTPP is located in Pililla, Rizal.

### Holcim income picks up in 3rd qtr

CEMENT manufacturer Holcim Philippines Inc. said turnaround operations during the third quarter of the year lifted its income for the first three quarters of the year as demand rose with the government resuming its infrastructure spending.

### Belle Corp income down 18% for Q1-Q3

BELLE Corp., the company that owns the land and buildings where City of Dreams Manila sits, said its net income fell 18 percent during the three quarters of the year to P2.18 billion, from last year's P2.66 billion, mainly dragged by its unit that leases out equipment to the state-owned lottery operator.

### Ice cream, pasta boost RFM income

FOOD and beverage company RFM Corp. said its income for nine months of the year grew 9 percent to P836 million, from last year's P757 million as sales of its core products churned out by its bread and flour units surged.

### German auto electronics firm weighs future in PH

Continental Temic, world's leading automotive electronics manufacturer based in Germany, will be weighing the future of its Philippine operation depending on the final outcome of the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act (CITIRA) bill, which seeks to overhaul the country's incentive system to exporters.

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## TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

### PE firm J-STAR acquires internet media businesses

Tokyo-headquartered alternative asset manager J-STAR Co Ltd has announced its acquisition of three internet media companies with plans of combining into one platform. J-STAR, a mid-market player in the Japanese PE market, said it acquired content creation firm Kurashino, lifestyle media publisher 1k, and user behaviour analyst CRAFTA

### HESTA commits \$136m to healthcare real estate fund

Australian fund HESTA has committed \$136.2 million to a new healthcare fund that will be managed by ISPT, one of the country's largest unlisted fund managers. HESTA said it has established the HESTA Healthcare Property Trust that will focus on identifying investment opportunities in Australia's fast-growing healthcare sector.

### Goldman Sachs leads funding in Fountain Medical

Goldman Sachs has led a \$62 million Series D round of financing in Fountain Medical Development Limited, a Chinese clinical-stage contract research organization (CRO) offering one-stop services to pharmaceutical and medical device companies.

### Binny Bansal leads \$12.5m funding in Mobikon

Singapore and India-based Mobikon, a cloud-based smart data platform for restaurants and F&B firms, has raised \$12.5 million in its Series B funding round led by Flipkart co-founder Binny Bansal. In a statement, the seven-year-old startup said the fresh capital will be used to transform its offering into a data exchange platform

### India's online grocery set to touch \$10.5b by 2023

Online food and grocery retail, which currently accounts for just 0.2% of the overall market, is expected to touch \$10.5 billion or 1.2% of the overall market by 2023, driven by an increased assortment of products and efforts like express delivery operations, according to a report released by consulting firm Redseer

## TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

### Islamic State leader dead, Trump says

Fugitive Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi died "whimpering and crying" in a raid by U.S. special forces in northwest Syria, President Donald Trump announced on Sunday, fulfilling what he called his top national security goal.

### French group LVMH offers to buy jeweler Tiffany

Louis Vuitton owner LVMH (LVMH.PA) has approached Tiffany & Co (TIF.N) with a \$14.5 billion acquisition offer, people familiar with the matter said, at a time when the U.S. luxury jeweler grapples with the impact of tariffs on its exports to China.

### China's WeWork equivalent Ucommune files U.S. IPO

China's biggest shared workspace provider Ucommune has filed a confidential prospectus with the U.S. securities regulator as it seeks an initial public offering (IPO) before the end of the year, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

### EU hopes to endorse Brexit delay to January 31

The 27 European Union countries that will remain after Brexit hope to agree on Monday to delay Britain's divorce until Jan.31 with an earlier departure possible should the factious UK parliament ratify their separation deal, sources said.

### U.S., China close to finalizing part of trade deal

U.S. and Chinese officials are "close to finalizing" some parts of a trade agreement after high-level telephone discussions on Friday, the U.S. Trade Representative's office and China's Commerce Ministry said, with talks to continue.