

The Daily Dispatch

April 27, 2017
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Duterte urged to name new BSP chief

Duterte should appoint a new BSP governor ahead of the retirement of Amando Tetangco Jr. in July, a top economist said. University of Asia and the Pacific president Padojinog said it is crucial to name the replacement early on to ensure smooth transition in the BSP and assure investors of stability of the country's economy.

SMIC reorganizes board

SM Investments Corp. announced key organization changes to support the company's next phase of growth. SMIC vice chairman Henry Sy Jr. announced the conferment of title of emeritus chair on his father, tycoon Henry Sy Sr. in recognition of latter's role as the founder of SM and all of its core businesses.

MGen eyes P100 B loan for Quezon power plant

Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGen), the power generating unit of power distribution giant Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), is eyeing to close a P100B loan from eight banks for its coal-fired power plant in Atimonan, Quezon. The total cost of the 2x600MW project under Atimonan One Energy Inc. (A1E) is estimated at P135B.

Vietnam commits rice supply to Philippines

Vietnam, the country's largest rice supplier, has renewed its commitment to aid the Phil. in its rice import requirements amid an ongoing order from President Duterte to defer all rice importation. Trade Undersecretary Rodolfo said the commitment was relayed by the Vietnamese Vice Minister for Trade and Industry early this week.

SMC-PNCC JV unveils P554B projects

San Miguel Holdings Corporation (SMHC), the infrastructure arm of San Miguel Corporation (SMC), and state-run Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) are jointly expanding toll roads under their existing joint venture (JV) to the tune of P554 billion.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

7,726.45

1 Yr Return:

9.22%

Open:

7,721.16

YTD Return:

12.30%

52-Week Range:

6,499.00 - 8,118.44

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of April 26, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	49.737

PDST-R2 Rates

As of April 26, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	2.9696
3Y	4.0768
5Y	4.2896
7Y	4.9179
10Y	5.1339
20Y	5.1690

Daily Quote

"Do not bring people in your life who weigh you down. And trust your instincts ... good relationships feel good. They feel right..."

--Michelle Obama

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Belle almost doubles first-quarter profit

Belle Corporation almost doubled its consolidated net income to P783 million in the first quarter of 2017 from the P413 million earned in the same period last year. Belle said in a disclosure to the PSE that its operating growth in 2017 was fueled primarily by growth in its revenues from City of Dreams Manila.

SM Prime, Ayala to defy China's slowdown

China's economic growth is slowing down, but the spirit of SM Prime and Ayala Corp. is not dampened at all. While SM Prime plans to increase its investments in China, the Philippines' oldest conglomerate, Ayala, is in talks with several Chinese firms that are interested in venturing into Philippine infrastructure.

IPC taps Singapore firm to boost services

Local cloud services and data center pioneer IP Converge Data Services Inc. said it formed a strategic partnership with 1-Net in Singapore to strengthen the data center services of both providers amid growing demand in Asia.

Market extends rally

Stocks rose for a fifth day, sending the benchmark index to a new six-month peak, following another record close on Wall Street, with investors optimistic before Donald Trump's promised announcement of much-vaunted tax reforms. The PSEi advanced 25 points, or 0.3 percent on Wednesday, bringing total gains this year to 12.9 percent.

MTB sees commercial loan growth on gov't infra

TY-LED Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) is bullish on the growth of its commercial loans for 2017, with its lending activities expected to get a boost from the government's aggressive infrastructure spending.

Phinma drops market intel business in US

Conglomerate Phinma Corp. is getting out of its strategic consulting business in the US under Fuld and Co. Inc. (Fuld US) to focus on opportunities in the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia.

Wilcon Depot hits P887-M profit in 9 months

Newly listed home improvement and construction supplier Wilcon Depot Inc. (WDI) chalked up a net profit of P887 million in the period April to December last year. "Our nine-month net sales reached P12.3 billion, 96.7 percent of which was generated by our depot format stores", says Mark Belo.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

China's Building a \$290B New City

China's plan to build a new city about two hours drive from Beijing has raised hopes it may catalyze better urban design across the nation, enhancing economic efficiency and cutting air pollution. The potential for gains is huge in a country where millions of rural residents will move into urban areas by the end of the decade.

\$51b SG fund to help IP-strong businesses go global

A new billion-dollar fund has sprung up in Singapore to give companies with strong IP a leg up so they can commercialise and compete globally. The Makara Innovation Fund (MIF), SEA's first private equity investment fund for this purpose, is the result of a partnership between IP ValueLab and PE firm Makara Capital.

Samsung reports biggest quarterly profit since 2013

South Korean tech giant Samsung posted Wednesday its biggest quarterly net profit for more than three years on strong demand for its memory chips. Net profit for the first quarter of the year amounted to 7.68 trillion won (\$9.35 billion), up 46 per cent from a year ago, the firm said in a statement.

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MORE ASIAN NEWS

Asian shares retreat from highs after Trump tax plan

Asian shares ticked down from a near two-year high on Thursday after a long-awaited U.S. tax plan failed to inspire investors, though sentiment remains supported by global growth prospects and receding worries about political risks in Europe.

Didi nearing status as Asia's most valuable startup

Ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing is near an agreement to raise at least \$5 billion in a deal that would make it the most valuable startup in China, according to people familiar with the matter. The round may close as soon as this week and would lift Didi's valuation to about \$50 billion.

REAPRA targets to invest \$46m in SEA

Active business builder REAPRA Pte Ltd targets to invest up to \$46.6 million more in Southeast Asia this year and plans to become a \$2-billion industry builder company in the next 10 years, said founder and CEO Shuhei Morofuji.

Fintech infra an immense opportunity

Tryb Capital, formed by the team of Magnus Bocker, Nels Friets, Markus Gnirck and Veiverne Yuen, sees an immense opportunity to invest in the businesses developing, maintaining and operating the financial infrastructure of Southeast Asia as the regional economy and its emerging markets grow.

Egat looks to ride renewable wave

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) plans to overhaul its long-term business strategy to tap into the rising renewable energy trend. The company, which is focused on generating power mostly from fossil resources, will start diversifying into other energy fields and businesses.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

Trump's Tax Plan Pitches Rate Cuts for All

The "phenomenal" tax plan that Trump promised almost 11 weeks ago appeared on Wednesday: It was a one-page list of bullet-points that amounted to fewer than 250 words. The document was largely devoid of detail - including on whether the proposed cuts for businesses and individuals would increase the federal deficit.

Twitter posts strong user growth, shares soar

Shares of Twitter Inc jumped on Wednesday after the microblogging service reported better-than-expected user growth in the first quarter. The surprising acceleration, which Twitter attributed to new features and heightened user interest in political news, followed several quarters of stalled user growth.

SCB almost doubles Q1 profit

SCB shares in London jumped sharply on Wednesday after the bank announced that its profits had almost doubled in the first quarter of the year, thanks to narrower losses on bad loans. The bank reported pre-tax profit of US\$1 billion for the first three months, up 94 per cent from US\$589 million in the same period a year earlier.

OPEC meeting Russia in the hope of extending cuts

The energy ministers of OPEC members Saudi Arabia and Venezuela plan to meet their Russian counterpart to discuss extending oil-output cuts amid a developing consensus that they should prolong their joint effort to curb supply.

Economic Calendar

Date	Release
04.16.2017	PH: Overseas Remittances YoY
04.18.2017	PH: BoP Overall
04.25.2017	PH: Budget Balance PHP
04.27.2017	PH: Bank Lending YoY
04.27.2017	PH: Money Supply M3 SRF YoY

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar