P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

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STOCK MARKET

PSEi

OPEN:	6,291.09
HIGH:	6,307.51
LOW:	6,281.67
CLOSE:	6,299.05
VOL.:	0.360 B
VAL(P):	4.192 B

▲ 26.59 PTS. 0.42 %
30 DAYS TO JUNE 25, 2024

ASIAN MARKETS

JUNE 25, 2024

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	39,173.15	▲	368.50	0.95
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	18,072.90	▲	45.19	0.25
Taiwan (Weighted)	22,875.97	▲	62.27	0.27
Thailand (SET Index)	1,318.71	▲	1.98	0.15
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	2,774.39	▲	9.66	0.35
Singapore (Straits Times)	3,322.16	▲	8.02	0.24
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	7,838.80	▲	105.10	1.36
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,585.38	▼	-4.28	-0.27

WORLD MARKETS

JUNE 24, 2024

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	39,411.210	▲	260.880
NASDAQ	17,496.817	▼	-192.544
S&P 500	5,447.870	▼	-25.300
FTSE 100	8,281.550	▲	43.830
Euro Stoxx50	4,541.920	▲	28.600

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX

OPEN	P58.730
HIGH	P58.700
LOW	P58.777
CLOSE	P58.770
W.AVE.	P58.741
VOL.	$814.10 M

SOURCE : BAP

▲ 3.00 CTVS
30 DAYS TO JUNE 25, 2024

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE

JUNE 25, 2024

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	159.500	▲	159.620
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.807	—	7.807
Taiwan (NT dollar)	32.463	▼	32.355
Thailand (baht)	36.640	▲	36.670
S. Korea (won)	1,389.950	▼	1,387.530
Singapore (dollar)	1.353	—	1.353
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,370	▲	16,390
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.700	▲	4.709

WORLD CURRENCIES

JUNE 25, 2024

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.2690	▲	1.2661
US$/Euro	1.0727	▲	1.0723
US$/Aust dollar	0.6657	▲	0.6652
Canada dollar/US$	1.3656	▼	1.3670
Swiss Franc/US$	0.8933	▲	0.8925

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY

$84.54/BBL

▼ $0.25
30 DAYS TO JUNE 24, 2024

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JUNE 25, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/6*; article on *S2/2*)

		Value			
ICT	P346.000	P500,524,426	P15.000	▲	4.532%
ALI	P28.750	P445,537,510	P1.050	▲	3.791%
BDO	P129.000	P414,308,412	P1.000	▲	0.781%
SM	P826.000	P193,854,495	-P12.500	▼	-1.491%
SMPH	P27.150	P189,764,545	P0.150	▲	0.556%
AEV	P37.400	P139,269,710	-P1.200	▼	-3.109%
TEL	P1,370.000	P121,212,770	P10.000	▲	0.735%
GTCAP	P566.000	P113,028,195	-P8.000	▼	-1.394%
SEVN	P131.700	P112,492,058	P0.100	▲	0.076%
GLO	P2,008.000	P112,026,650	P33.000	▲	1.671%

BSP rate cuts unlikely this year — ANZ

THERE IS NO ROOM for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to cut rates this year as inflation may still potentially breach the target, ANZ Research said.

"Rate cuts in Indonesia and the Philippines are also not on the table this year... In the Philippines, inflation though receding, is still running close to the upper bound of the official target range of 2-4%," it said in its quarterly report.

ANZ Research said inflation in developing Asia has "eased considerably" especially in the Philippines, where inflation "has remained in the official target range despite elevated food prices."

"The outturns are still not low enough to permit rate cuts, but even so they have allowed the BSP to dial down its hawkishness," it added.

Inflation quickened for the fourth straight month to 3.9% in May from 3.8% in April. It may potentially breach the 2-4% goal until July, the BSP earlier said.

The Monetary Board is set to meet on Thursday for its policy review. All 15 analysts surveyed in a *BusinessWorld* poll last week expect the central bank to keep rates unchanged at a 17-year high of 6.5% for a sixth straight meeting.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. has signaled that policy easing could begin as early as August.

However, ANZ said it expects the BSP to begin easing with a 50-basis-point (bp) rate cut in March next year.

For the rest of 2025, it sees rate cuts worth 50 bps in June, 25 bps in September and another 25 bps in December to end the year with the benchmark rate at 5%.

ANZ also expects the policy rate to stay at 5% through June 2026.

Meanwhile, DBS Bank Ltd. said in a separate report that it expects the BSP to "keep the rate on an extended pause" this year.

"We expect the Philippine central bank to keep the benchmark rate at a 17-year high of 6.5% this week, with restrictive plans to keep inflation in check as well as support the currency," it said.

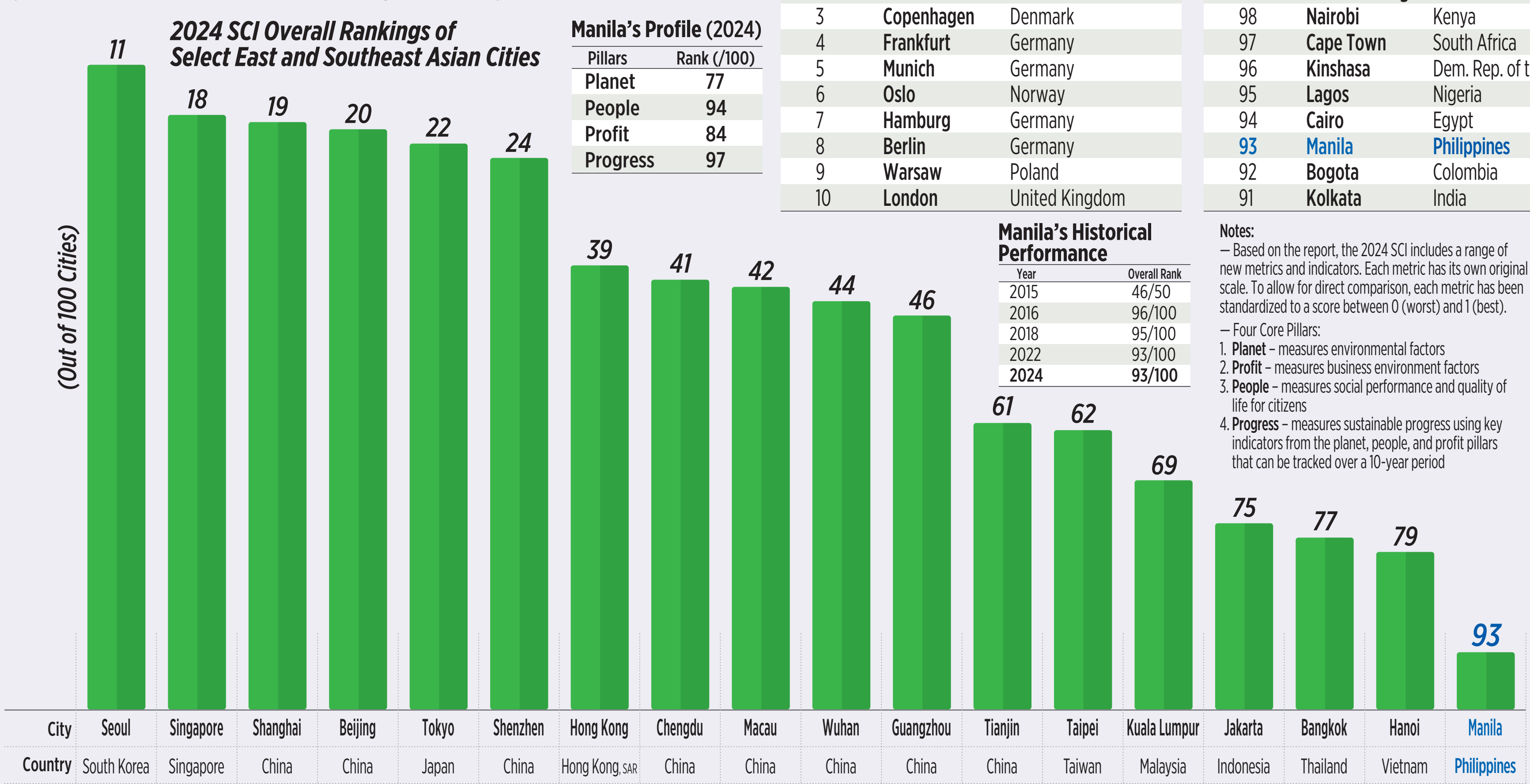
Rate cuts, S1/4

2024 ARCADIS SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDEX

MANILA REMAINS THE LEAST SUSTAINABLE CITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Philippine capital placed 93rd out of 100 cities in the 2024 edition of the Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index (SCI) by consultancy firm Arcadis. The index measures the sustainability efforts of cities and their performance across its core pillars of planet, people, profit, and — its newest addition — progress. Among its peers in the East and Southeast Asian region, Manila placed the lowest.

2024 SCI Overall Rankings of Select East and Southeast Asian Cities



Manila's Profile (2024)

Pillars	Rank (/100)
Planet	77
People	94
Profit	84
Progress	97

Top 10

2024 Overall Rank (Out of 100)	City	Country
1	Amsterdam	The Netherlands
2	Rotterdam	The Netherlands
3	Copenhagen	Denmark
4	Frankfurt	Germany
5	Munich	Germany
6	Oslo	Norway
7	Hamburg	Germany
8	Berlin	Germany
9	Warsaw	Poland
10	London	United Kingdom

Bottom 10

2024 Overall Rank (Out of 100)	City	Country
100	Karachi	Pakistan
99	Johannesburg	South Africa
98	Nairobi	Kenya
97	Cape Town	South Africa
96	Kinshasa	Dem. Rep. of the Congo
95	Lagos	Nigeria
94	Cairo	Egypt
93	Manila	Philippines
92	Bogota	Colombia
91	Kolkata	India

Manila's Historical Performance

Year	Overall Rank
2015	46/50
2016	96/100
2018	95/100
2022	93/100
2024	**93/100**

Notes:
— Based on the report, the 2024 SCI includes a range of new metrics and indicators. Each metric has its own original scale. To allow for direct comparison, each metric has been standardized to a score between 0 (worst) and 1 (best).
— Four Core Pillars:
1. **Planet** – measures environmental factors
2. **Profit** – measures business environment factors
3. **People** – measures social performance and quality of life for citizens
4. **Progress** – measures sustainable progress using key indicators from the planet, people, and profit pillars that can be tracked over a 10-year period

Source: The Arcadis Sustainable Cities Index 2024 (*https://www.arcadis.com/en/knowledge-hub/perspectives/global/sustainable-cities-index-2024*) ***BusinessWorld* Research**: Abigail Marie P. Yraola ***BusinessWorld* Graphics**: Bong R. Fortin

DoTr defends planned hike in NAIA charges

By Ashley Erika O. Jose
Reporter

THE PLANNED HIKE in passenger service fees at the soon-to-be privatized Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) would help improve its operational efficiency, the Transportation department said, but analysts said the move is ill-timed and unjustified.

"Certain revenues at the airport will be shared with the government, the Passenger Service Charge (PSC) is excluded from the revenue share. The PSC is one of the largest components of overall airport revenue streams," Transportation Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto C.O. Lim said in a Viber message.

The Department of Transportation (DoTr) said the Manila International Airport Authority's (MIAA) plan to hike fees and charges at the NAIA is based on inflation and the required capital expenditure for the airport's rehabilitation and capacity expansion.

"The airport needs very significant capital investment to bring it up to an acceptable service standard for passengers, to improve safety and to increase the number of landing and takeoff slots available for airlines," Mr. Lim said, adding that fees and charges at the airport have not increased for the past 24 years.

The DoTr added that the planned rate increase was also included in the approved parameters, terms and conditions under the tender documents for the NAIA rehabilitation project.

The New NAIA Infrastructure Corp. (formerly SMC SAP & Co. Consortium) in March signed the P170.6-billion contract to operate, maintain and upgrade the country's main gateway for 25 years. It is set to take over the operations of the NAIA by September.

The government expects to earn P900 billion from the project, or P36 billion a year. This is 20 times bigger than the P1.17 billion remitted by the MIAA annually in the 13 years through 2023, according to the Transportation department.

The passenger service charge is P200 for domestic travelers, while foreign travelers pay P550.

The DoTr declined to reveal exactly how much the passenger service fees will increase, although it is expected to be implemented once the new concessionaire takes over.

NAIA, S1/4

LEDAC eyes approval of 28 priority bills by June 2025

By Kyle Aristopher T. Atienza *Reporter*

AT LEAST five new bills have been added to the Marcos administration's list of priority legislation expected to be approved by Congress before June 2025, including proposals to allow foreign investors to lease land for up to 99 years and amend a 2019 law that liberalized the rice sector.

In a statement, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) on Tuesday agreed to prioritize the passage of 28 bills before the end of the 19th Congress in June 2025.

Of the 28 bills, 18 are considered "top priority," while 10 are only "second priority."

"The timely passage of these bills is critical in strengthening the country's economic governance and ensuring that we are on track in implementing infrastructure flagship projects and maintaining fiscal sustainability," NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said in a statement.

One of the new additions to the "top priority" list is the proposed changes to the Foreign Investors' Long-Term Lease Act of 2018, which seeks to allow foreigners to lease private land (excluding agricultural land) for up to 99 years from 75 years.

Another top priority is the amendments to the Rice Tariffication Act of 2020.

The House of Representatives last month approved on final reading the bill amending the 2020 law that gave the private sector full control over rice imports amid rising prices of the staple.

Under the bill, legislators seek to empower the National Food Authority to use existing rice inventory to supply areas where shortages or price increases occur. It also allows the NFA on some occasions to buy local milled rice or directly import rice. The bill also seeks to increase the amount of the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund (RCEF) to P15 billion from P10 billion.

LEDAC, S1/4

NEDA Board OKs P16.1-B digital infrastructure project

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, chaired by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has approved a P16.1-billion digital infrastructure project that seeks to boost internet connectivity in poor areas and improve cybersecurity.

The Philippine Digital Infrastructure Project (PDIP), which will be undertaken by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), involves the construction of a public broadband infrastructure network. The P16.1-billion project will be financed through official development assistance from the World Bank.

"Broadband services have already opened numerous opportunities for Filipinos, from work-from-home arrangements to digital access to critical public and private services, including the latest technological tools such as artificial intelligence. This project will enable us to connect more Filipinos to markets and networks, spurring economic development," NEDA Secretary Arsenio S. Balisacan said in a statement.

The NEDA Board also approved adjustments to various parameters of nine infrastructure projects, seven of which are flagship programs.

"The changes pertain to project scope, cost and extension of the implementation period and loan validity," Mr. Balisacan said.

Changes were made to the Local Governance Reform project, the Infrastructure Preparation and Innovation Facility, the New Cebu International Container Port project, the Light Rail Transit Line 1 South Extension project, and the first tranche of the Malolos-Clark Railway project.

Adjustments were also made in the first phase of the Metro Manila Flood Management Project, the second stage of the reconstruction and development of Marawi, a Mindanao road sector project and the Panguil Bay Bridge project.

"The adjustments to these ongoing infrastructure projects were necessary to ensure their successful completion, advancing our national efforts to expand and upgrade our infrastructure, improve connectivity and create more jobs," Mr. Balisacan said. — **Kyle Aristopher T. Atienza**