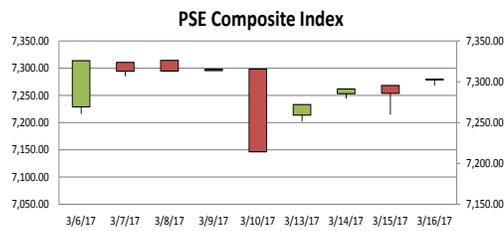


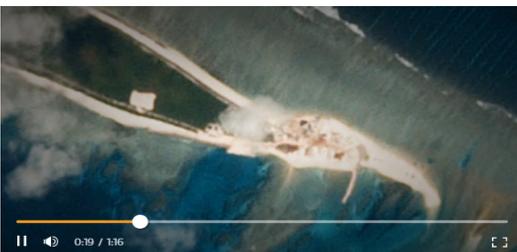


ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	6.6 ↓	3.30 ↑
▶ Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product		▶ February 2017 Inflation Rate
	9.2 ↑	6.6 ↓
▶ Q4 2016 Consumer Confidence		▶ Q4 2016 Auto-buying Intention
	50.12 ↑	
	▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate	



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



China begins new work on disputed South China Sea islands

New satellite images show that China has started fresh construction work in the disputed South China Sea, a sign that Beijing is continuing to strengthen its military reach across the vital trade area. Samantha Vadas reports.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

BSP to keep policy rates steady

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will unlikely change policy settings at its meeting next week even as the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates to sustain economic growth, Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said Thursday.



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ASEAN expects significant rise in investments

ASEAN has agreed to strengthen its focus on action agenda on investments as the 10-member states expect a significant increase in investments into the region, which seeks to become a production hub and single market.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

BSP posts record high net profit

The Central Bank posted a record high income in 2016 to end six years of losses, on the back of higher interest and trading gains coupled with lower operating costs.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

DTI rejects counterproposal to auto excise tax hike

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon M. Lopez said he would not support the call of the car industry to further water down the proposed hike on auto excise tax, noting enough compromise has already been made.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Toyota Commits to Big U.K. Investment Despite Brexit Concerns

Japanese carmaker Toyota said it plans to invest 240 million pounds (\$294 million) to upgrade its car plant in central England for future output, but retaining tariff-free access to EU markets after Brexit remained crucial.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)