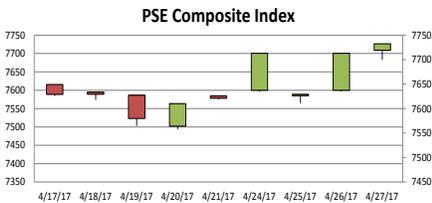




ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	6.6	3.40	
▶ Q4 2016 Gross Domestic Product		▶ March 2017 Inflation Rate	
	8.7	7.1	
▶ Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence		▶ Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention	
	49.78		
	▶ Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate		



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



U.S. moves to deploy THAAD in South Korea

The U.S. military began moving parts of its controversial THAAD anti-missile system to a deployment site in South Korea amid tension over the North's nuclear program. Reuters Ju-min Park explains why the sudden decision has sparked protests in the country.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Deficit narrows, but spending picks up

The government posted a fiscal deficit in March that was smaller than the year-ago gap, as spending picked up with revenues despite the past year's high expenditure base as the May elections then neared, according to data the Treasury bureau released yesterday.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



Philippines pins hopes on diaspora as US protectionism threatens

Strong demand for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Middle East should keep remittances flowing and help soften a possible blow from protectionist policies in the United States, a senior central bank official said.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



FINANCIAL TRENDS

Metrobank sees robust commercial loan growth on gov't infrastructure thrust

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.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INDUSTRY NEWS

The solution to jeepney modernization might be an Isuzu

Rommel Juan tells us that this prototype of the modern jeepney concept uses an Isuzu NHR chassis platform. The folks at Centro chose this chassis and engine combination because it is very familiar with it. It is the same one used in the Isuzu i-Van microbus conversion.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



INTERNATIONAL

South Korea's Kia invests in Indian factory after China troubles hit profit

South Korean carmaker Kia Motors Corp signed a deal on Thursday to invest about \$1.1 billion to build its first factory in India, aiming to tap a fast growing market at a time when its China sales are sagging.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

