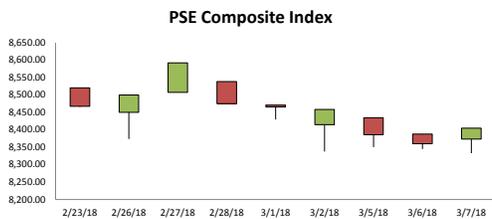




ECONOMIC INDICATORS

- 6.6** **Q4 2017 Gross Domestic Product**
- 4.5** **February 2018 Inflation Rate**
- 9.5** **Q4 2017 Consumer Confidence**
- 8.6** **Q4 2017 Auto-buying Intention**
- 51.98** **Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate**



GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Saudi women in the driving seat at last

Thousands of women are signing up to driving schools across Saudi Arabia as the driving ban is lifted in the conservative kingdom, Reuters Emily Wither spoke to women attending one of the first driving schools to open its doors in Jeddah.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

Jobless rate seen easing further due to 'BBB'

The country's unemployment rate could fall further as civil works on nine infrastructure projects under the "Build, Build, Build" (BBB) program would begin in the second half of 2018, according to the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda).



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

Gross international reserves slip in Feb.

Dollar reserves slipped anew in February due to lower gold valuations, and as the central bank used the funds to intervene during the daily foreign exchange trading.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Peso climbs on Trump comments

The peso strengthened slightly against the dollar on Wednesday as the foreign currency traded weaker overnight due to President Donald J. Trump's rhetoric on slapping trade tariffs.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

Amid traffic gloom, a shining moment for Pinoy drivers

Results of the Shell Global Driving Experiment revealed that Filipino drivers are the most efficient—and even enjoyed smoother journeys—compared to their counterparts in Malaysia, Germany, and the Netherlands.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Big switch: Electric cars put China on automobile map

The rise of electric cars heralds not only a major technology switch but also promises massive disruption to today's auto giants as Tesla and a group of powerful Chinese rivals take over the fast lane.



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

