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Top 3 chipmakers could face fines

The top antitrust agency might slap fines on three dominant chipmakers including Samsung because of possible monopolistic behavior in the past one or two years, but further action has nothing to do with protecting domestic companies or Sino-US friction on intellectual property rights, according to people taking part in the ongoing investigation.

The investigation conducted by the State Administration for Market Regulation focuses on possible price fixing behavior by South Korea's Samsung, SK Hynix, and US-based Micron in the past one to two years, according to a source who declined to be named as they lacked authority to speak to the media.

The source played down earlier market speculation that the regulator was either protecting domestic companies or putting pressure on foreign companies to conduct some tech transfer as a bargaining chip in the ongoing Sino-US trade talks.

Drop in premiums hurts life insurers

Chinese insurance companies saw their premium income drop in the first four months of 2018 year-on-year, dragged down by the decline of the life insurance business due to stricter regulations, official data showed on June 1.

But life insurers have started to see a turnaround, with premium declines slowing during the period, an indication that the industry is beginning to absorb the negative effect of tighter regulatory scrutiny.

The insurance sector reported total premium income of 1.66 trillion yuan (\$259.5 billion) in the first four months of the year, down 7.84 percent year-on-year, according to China's banking and insurance regulator.

Life insurers' premiums declined 13.6 percent year-on-year during the period to 1.25 trillion yuan. But month-on-month data showed that their premium income has moved out of negative territory and back toward growth.

BOCOM sets up unit to bolster risk control

Bank of Communications (BOCOM) became the nation's first large State-owned commercial bank to establish a wholly owned asset management subsidiary to strengthen risk control and improve its asset management capability.

The bank announced on May 31 the plan to establish BOCOM Asset Management Co in Shanghai with a registered capital of no more than 8 billion yuan (\$1.25 billion), to be



Visitors take pictures of a 110-kilogram grouper at the 2018 Fuzhou Marine Economy Expo held in Fuzhou, East China's Fujian province, from June 1 to 3. WANG HU / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

funded by the bank's own capital. The subsidiary's business scope will include investment and asset management, subject to regulatory approval.

"The investment meets the bank's needs of adapting to changes in the internal and external economic and financial environment, and striving to enhance its market competitiveness," BOCOM said in an announcement posted on the websites of the Shanghai and Hong Kong stock exchanges.

Female gamers splash money online: Report

More and more female gamers in China are splashing their cash online, increasingly becoming a key driving force behind the world's largest gaming market, according to a recent report.

The number of female gamers active in the Chinese market grew 6 percent year-on-year to hit 264 million in 2017, accounting for 45 percent of the total number in the country, according to a report by industry database Gamma Data. The company predicted that number will grow steadily in the coming months, reaching 281 million this year.

The report said female gamers' passion is set to create a market worth 56.84 billion yuan (\$8.9 billion) by 2020, buoyed by mobile internet expansion, booming social media usage and major online game companies' shift toward creating more games targeted at women.

Chinese firms plan to invest heavily in Peru

Chinese companies are expected to invest up to \$10 billion in Peru in sectors including energy and mines, telecommunications, construction and financing over the next three years, an official said.

Jia Guide, China's ambassador to Peru, said even though China is Peru's top trade partner and imports most of the minerals the South American country produces, Chinese companies are keen on investing in the country's other sectors.

His comments came during a signing ceremony with Peru's president earlier this month, when Aluminum Corp of China started work on the \$1.3 billion expansion of its Toromocho copper mine in central Peru.

The investment will increase the mine's copper output by 45 percent by 2020, with the value of production exceeding \$2 billion annually.

Prevention of risks to underpin regulations

The People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank, will focus on steps to forestall and defuse risks as part of its ongoing efforts to forge a healthy payment services market in the country amid rising concerns over potential oligopoly and data security.

Fast expansion of some large institutions' payment services could lead to the formation of an oligop-

oly in the market and constrain the development of small-sized businesses, which in turn could lead to personal privacy and data security risks and destroy fair completion, said Fan Shuangwen, deputy director of the payment and settlement department of the PBOC.

"The kind of role that the financial regulator needs to play for the healthy development of the payment and settlement industry needs to be studied further," he said.

Creative ads cash in on streamed series

Creative advertisements online are being increasingly used in streamed Chinese serials, and are expected to surpass 2 billion yuan (\$312 million) in sales revenue this year, up from 800 million yuan in 2016.

Product manufacturers and service providers are tapping this relatively new form of advertising for branding opportunities. They partner with web serials' production teams to create sponsored content closely related to the original storyline.

According to data from Ent-Group, a consultancy that specializes in China's media and entertainment industry, creative ads usually follow original content and feature the same actors in their on-screen costumes, making the ad almost indistinguishable from the original content for the first few seconds — long enough to hold the audience's attention and pique their interest.

Quotable

"The market for truckers is huge — so huge it'll be worth more than 1 trillion yuan (\$156 billion) in the near future."

LUO PENG, co-president of Chinese truck-hailing firm Manbang, on the industry's prospects.

"The first step in AI collaboration between the two economies is combining the wealth of data that exist in China with the software technology in the US."

SAID JAHANMIR, president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, noting that the United States has advanced software technology, while China owns extensive data.

"China's push to boost higher-quality global exports and domestic consumer spending will continue to fuel global trade."



STEVE HUANG, CEO of DHL Global Forwarding China, an international provider of air, sea and road freight services, on the positive impact of the Made in China 2025 strategy, launched in 2015.