# Bloomberg Businessweek

December 11, 2017 O ASIA EDITION

# Weaponizing Facebook in the Philippines,

The local labs trying out Modi's Indian reforms.

One man's war against phony debt collectors...

POLITICS

Robert Mueller's latest moves<sub>044</sub>

TECH

Meet Felix, Napa Valley's AI winemaker

PURSUITS Put the world on your wrist<sub>p76</sub>

PLUS

 The gold trader who says he helped Iran evade sanctions ● Air France tries to make its bon voyage a bit more bon marché ○ The big investors behind bitcoin's rise Video gaming for food in Venezuela Butter's up

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a bankrupt island

devastated by a

Women's wear, the way

Getting a start in the sensory deprivation biz

hurricane

we wear it now

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■ Xiaomi's IPO could set records
 ● Trump's travel ban lives (for now)
 ● Lamborghini names its first SUV...after a cow

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Weinstein scandal

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Cover: A demonstrator in Manila pauses during a protest of Trump's Nov. 14 visit to the Philippines. Photograph by Aaron Favila/AP Photo

## **Americas**

 The Trump administration slashed the size of two national monuments in Utah, breaking up what remains into five smaller monuments.
 Together, the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante areas will lose about 2 million acres to potential development.



- □ Previous boundaries
- New boundaries

New monuments

- Grand Staircase
- Kaiparowits
- Secalante Canyons

Canada

fighter jets,

reports.

according to

scrapped a plan

to buy 18 Boeing

- Shásh Jaa'
- 6 Indian Creek
- Grand Staircase-Escalante
  ▼41%

Representative John

Conyers Jr., Democrat

of Michigan, resigned on

employees accused him

Dec. 5 after several former

of sexual harassment. The

next day, attention shifted

to Senator Al Franken,

Democrat of Minnesota.

after Democratic senators,

led by Kirsten Gillibrand of

New York, called on him to

resign over allegations of harassment and groping.



Venezuela said it would launch a digital currency backed by oil reserves, gold, and diamonds to circumvent U.S. sanctions. ▷ 38

# **Europe**

 Apple agreed to pay Ireland

\$15.4b

in taxes after the European Union determined it had gotten too sweet a deal. The money will go into an escrow account while Apple appeals the ruling.

 U.K.-based Cineworld solidified a deal to buy fellow theater chain Regal Entertainment for

\$3.6b

after a horrific summer for U.S. movie ticket sales. Cineworld shares dipped on the news.

The decision escalates a long-running trade dispute with the company. The country will buy older Boeing planes from Australia instead.



Wildfires in the Los
 Angeles area quickly covered
 tens of thousands of acres,
 destroying thousands of
 structures by the morning of
 Dec. 6.

In contrast to poor performance among retailers generally, Home Depot announced it would buy back \$15 billion in shares and raised its annual sales target to \$120 billion.

 CVS Health agreed to buy Aetna for

\$67.5b

combining the largest drugstore chain in the U.S. with the country's third-biggest health insurer. ▷ 21

Nestlé said it would pay \$2.3 billion for Atrium Innovations, a Canadian maker of nutritional supplements, furthering its push into health products.

## Asia

- Volkswagen's Lamborghini brand unveiled its longanticipated SUV, named the Urus, after an ancestor of the cow. Prices start at \$200,000.
- Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri officially rescinded his resignation on Dec. 5, after his cabinet affirmed the country's commitment to regional neutrality. The reversal intensified suspicion that Saudi Arabia was exerting influence over Lebanon's politics.
- Houthi rebels killed former
   Yemeni President
   Ali Abdullah Saleh
   on Dec. 4. Three

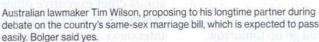
  days caption be seemed.

days earlier, he seemed to end an alliance with the rebels in their fight against a Saudi Arabia-led military intervention. Donald Trump said the U.S. would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a drastic change in policy that risks destabilizing the region.



- The International
  Olympic Committee barred
  Russia from this winter's
  games over alleged statesponsored doping during the
  2014 competitions in Sochi.
  Individual athletes will still be
  allowed to compete, but not
  under the Russian flag.
- "So there's only one thing left to do. Ryan Patrick Bolger, will you marry me?"

● The United Nations political affairs chief, Jeffrey Feltman, flew to North Korea on Dec. 5 to try to temper the country's nuclear provocations. He's the most senior UN official to visit the country in five years.



- - Xiaomi began shopping for an investment bank to handle what may be the largest tech IPO on record. The Chinese smartphone maker was last valued at \$46 billion.

# **Africa**

- Nigeria's police chief launched an investigation of its Special Anti-Robbery Squad after videos of alleged brutality surfaced. Twitter was flush with tales of mistreatment shared under the hashtag #ENDSARS.
- The U.S. Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration's travel ban to take effect while it's being challenged in court. The ban will restrict visitors from Chad, Libya, and Somalia, as well as Iran, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.