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**Or are you?
An investing dilemma**

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Asia

● China ordered local governments to crack down on bitcoin miners, urging them to make an “orderly exit” from the cryptocurrency craze.



● Iranian security forces arrested almost 4,000 protesters and blocked access to social networks, as demonstrations over the country's economy and human rights record reached a head. At least 21 people have been killed in clashes with police.

● “It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that inter-Korean relations have been frozen more than the natural weather.”

North Korean negotiator Ri Son Gwon opened talks with South Korean officials with a joke about the freezing temperatures outside. In the course of the daylong meeting, North Korea said it would send a delegation to the Olympics in Pyeongchang, and the two nations issued a joint statement promising further high-level communications.

● A heat wave in Australia pushed temperatures in Sydney up to 117F on Jan. 7, the highest recorded since 1939.

● Senior officials in Beijing suggested China should slow or halt its decades-long campaign of buying U.S. Treasuries, spooking the bond market. Analysts say the shift could be a warning shot against U.S. diplomats' tough talk on trade.

Americas

● Steve Bannon resigned as executive chairman of Breitbart News.

Abandoned by allies, including former patron and Trump backer Rebekah Mercer, the onetime White House chief strategist has been under siege from the far right since his disparaging remarks about the Trump family appeared in excerpts from the book *Fire and Fury* by Michael Wolff.

● GoPro said it would lay off 1 in 5 workers and stop production on its fledgling drone as the company struggles to compete with smartphone makers—and its own older products.



● A U.S. district judge ruled on Jan. 9 that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) must stay in place, pending the result of a suit challenging the president's decision to end the program. Earlier that day, Trump appeared to endorse a path to citizenship in a bipartisan meeting with legislators.

● The Trump administration withdrew immigration protections from about 200,000 Salvadorans.

The move is part of a larger review of the Temporary Protected Status program, which has already resulted in the planned expulsion of migrants from Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan.

● Inflation in Mexico hit a 17-year high in December, with consumer prices up almost 7 percent from the year-earlier period.

Mexico consumer price index, year-over-year change



● Microsoft announced that software updates to protect against the security vulnerabilities known as Meltdown and Spectre, present in all Intel processors, will significantly slow operating speeds. Apple has said that, while its products are also affected, the fixes won't affect users.

Europe

● Switzerland's central bank posted a record **\$55b** in profit last year. Most of its assets are in foreign currencies, which rose in value vs. the Swiss franc.

● German auto supplier Continental is exploring a breakup of its \$60 billion empire.

● Aston Martin hopes to raise as much as **\$6.8b** in an IPO, according to people familiar with the matter. The sports car maker, which sold more than 5,000 vehicles last year for the first time since 2008, will base its value in part on that of its rival Ferrari.

● In what prime minister Alexis Tsipras called an "historic step," Greece's parliament voted to limit the power of Sharia, or Islamic law, which has applied to Muslim citizens in matters of marriage, divorce, child custody, and inheritance since the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire. Greek Muslims can now choose to seek justice in secular courts.


● U.K. Northern Ireland Secretary **James Brokenshire** resigned for health reasons on Jan. 8, the beginning of what turned into an awkward reorganizing of Prime Minister Theresa May's cabinet. Health Secretary **Jeremy Hunt** resisted moving to Business and was eventually allowed to keep his post, while Education Secretary **Justine Greening** quit after refusing to take over Work and Pensions. Justice Secretary **David Lidington** was elevated to Cabinet Office minister, replacing Damien Green, who left in December after a pornography scandal.

May's Cabinet Reshuffle



Africa

● Two giant diamonds, each bigger than 100 carats, were discovered by Gem Diamonds in its Lesotho mine on Jan. 8. The find pushed the company's stock price up 8 percent.

● In a move widely seen as an attempt to quell calls for his resignation,  South African President Jacob Zuma agreed to a probe of his government's dealings with the powerful Gupta family.



● Parts of the Sahara in Algeria were buried in as much as 15 inches of snow.