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Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

Italy

Europe Italy finance police search Juventus offices in player trading probe

ROME, Nov 27 (Reuters) - Italian finance police have searched the offices of Serie A club Juventus in Turin and Milan, seeking documents relating to player trading between 2019 and 2021, a prosecutor said.

Juventus (JUVE.MI), which is Italy's most successful club with 36 league titles, is listed on Milan's stock exchange and its largest shareholder is Exor (EXOR.MI).

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"Several transfer operations of professional players and the services rendered by some agents involved in the related intermediation are under consideration," Loreto said.

Juventus said on Saturday the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Court of Turin had started investigations against it.

"The company is cooperating with the investigators and with (Italian securities watchdog) CONSOB and trusts that it will clarify any aspect of interest to it as it believes to have acted in compliance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial reports..." Juve said in a statement.

Exor had no immediate comment when asked by Reuters about the investigation.

In September, Juventus said that Italian market regulator CONSOB was looking into revenue received from player trading.

Italy's Federal Prosecutor last month opened an investigation into a number of soccer player transfers in Serie A.

Source: 27 November 2021, Reuters

Football

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italy-finance-police-search-juventus-offices-player-trading-probe-2021-11-27/>



Italy

Fabio Paratici: Tottenham director under investigation as part of probe into alleged financial corruption at Juventus

Transfer of Tottenham's Cristian Romero from Juventus to previous club Atalanta is part of probe, according to Sky in Italy; Paratici negotiated Romero's two-year loan to Atalanta in 2020 while at Juve.

Tottenham managing director of football Fabio Paratici is among six people under investigation as part of a probe into alleged financial corruption at Juventus.

The transfer of Tottenham's Cristian Romero from Juventus to previous club Atalanta is part of the probe, according to Sky in Italy.

Paratici negotiated Romero's two-year loan to Atalanta in 2020 while in a similar role at Juve.

The deal included a £13.6m (€16m) option to buy, which was triggered by Atalanta this past summer ahead of a one-year loan move to Spurs, which also includes an option to buy for an eventual £47m (€55m) and was overseen by Paratici in his new role at Spurs.

Paratici could be called to give evidence to the public prosecutor's office in early December, Sky in Italy are reporting, after Juventus' offices in Turin were raided by Italy's financial police (Guardia di Finanza) last week.

Paratici's successor Federico Cherubini was interviewed by magistrates for nine hours on Saturday, while current CEO Maurizio Arrivabene gave three hours of evidence on Monday.

The other Juve officials under investigation are current president Andrea Agnelli, vice-president Pavel Nedved, former chief corporate and financial officers Stefano Cerrato and Stefano Bertola, and former financial manager Marco Re.

The Guardia di Finanza are investigating allegations of false corporate communications and invoices for non-existent operations over many player transfers conducted in Italy over the past few years.

Juventus said last week they are co-operating with the probe and believe they have acted in accordance with the law. Tottenham were not commenting on the investigation when contacted by Sky Sports News.

Source: 30 November 2021, Sky Sports



Kenya

Kenya's football supremo Nick Mwendwa charged with corruption

Nairobi, Kenya: Kenya's suspended football chief was charged with corruption on Tuesday and accused of embezzling millions of shillings, less than a week after the state dropped a graft case against him.

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) boss Nick Mwendwa was arrested a second time on Friday for allegedly embezzling 38 million shillings (\$337,000) received from the government and other sponsors.

At a hearing before a Nairobi high court, the 42-year-old denied all charges against him including fraudulently acquiring public funds and conspiracy to commit corruption.

Mwendwa, who has been head of the FKF since 2016, was first arrested on November 12 after the government disbanded FKF and set up a caretaker committee to run football over alleged financial impropriety during his tenure.

However, a court last Thursday declared the case against Mwendwa closed after the state failed to provide any evidence against him.

Judge Eunice Nyutu, who oversaw Tuesday's hearing, ordered him released on bail until his next court appearance on 20 December.

The embattled football chief, who is also owner of the top-flight league club Kariobangi Sharks, was ordered to deposit his passport with the court and barred from accessing the FKF offices or interfering with prosecution witnesses.

Kenyan football has long been beset by financial woes often stemming from poor management and corruption, while Kenya's national team the Harambee Stars have failed to shine on the pitch.

Chinese media and electronics company StarTimes last week announced it was cancelling a major sponsorship deal to broadcast Kenyan premier league matches.

"The persistent acrimony between the governing body and its key stakeholders among them media and top tier clubs has negatively affected the league's brand affinity," the company said in a statement.

A Nigerian sports betting firm cancelled its sponsorship of Kenya's main football league in August, days after two of the country's top teams complained of non-payments.

The league faced a financial crisis after the exit of another title sponsor, online gaming firm SportPesa, in September 2019 following a protracted tax row with the government.

Football's world governing body FIFA has warned Kenya it risked a ban if the government did not reconsider reinstating Mwendwa's team.

Source: 30 November 2021, Firstpost.

Football

<https://www.firstpost.com/sports/kenyas-football-supremo-nick-mwendwa-charged-with-corruption-10176701.html>

Kenya

Kenya drops corruption charges against head of the national football body

A Kenyan court on Thursday dropped corruption charges against the suspended head of the national football body and declared the case closed after the state failed to provide any evidence against him.

Nick Mwendwa was arrested on 12 November, a day after Sports Minister Amina Mohamed set up a caretaker committee to run the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) after an investigation uncovered alleged financial irregularities during his tenure.

But Nairobi magistrate Wandia Nyamu dismissed the case after prosecutors, who had applied for seven days to enable them to conduct investigations, sought to close the file against the 42-year-old.

"I therefore order this matter closed," Nyamu said, also ordering that Mwendwa be refunded his four-million -shilling (\$35,500) bail payment.

The prosecution however said it planned to continue with investigations into the finances of the FKF after Mohamed accused the body of failing to account for funds received from the government and other sponsors.

The FKF caretaker committee met with Kenya's top-tier clubs on Wednesday and announced the resumption of the domestic league on 4 December after being postponed for two weeks because of the federation's suspension.

Source: 25 November 2021, Firstpost.

Football

<https://www.firstpost.com/sports/kenya-drops-corruption-charges-against-head-of-the-national-football-body-10165291.html>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Brazil

Former Brazil Olympic boss sentenced to jail for corruption

SAO PAULO — Carlos Arthur Nuzman, the head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee for more than two decades, was sentenced to 30 years and 11 months in jail for allegedly buying votes for Rio de Janeiro to host the 2016 Olympics.

The ruling by Judge Marcelo Bretas became public Thursday.

Nuzman, who also headed the Rio 2016 organizing committee, was found guilty of corruption, criminal organization, money laundering and tax evasion. The 79-year-old executive won't be jailed until all his appeals are heard.

He and his lawyer did not comment on the decision.

Bretas also sentenced to jail former Rio Gov. Sergio Cabral, businessman Arthur Soares and Leonardo Gryner, who was the Rio 2016 committee director-general of operations. Investigators say all three and Nuzman coordinated to bribe the former president of the International Association of Athletics Federations, Lamine Diack, and his son Papa Diack for votes.

Cabral, who has been in jail since 2016 and faces a series of other convictions and investigations, told Bretas two years ago he had paid about \$2 million in exchange for up to six votes in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting that awarded Rio the Olympic and Paralympic Games. He said the money had come from a debt owed to him by Soares.

Source: 25 November 2021, NBC Sports

<https://olympics.nbcsports.com/2021/11/25/carlos-nuzman-jail-brazil-rio-olympics-corruption/>

China

Steve Simon announces WTA's decision to suspend tournaments in China

Statement by Steve Simon, WTA Chairman & CEO

"When on November 2, 2021, Peng Shuai posted an allegation of sexual assault against a top Chinese government official, the Women's Tennis Association recognized that Peng Shuai's message had to be listened to and taken seriously. The players of the WTA, not to mention women around the world, deserve nothing less.

From that moment forward, Peng Shuai demonstrated the importance of speaking out, particularly when it comes to sexual assault, and especially when powerful people are involved. As Peng said in her post, "Even if it is like an egg hitting a rock, or if I am like a moth drawn to the flame, inviting self-destruction, I will tell the truth about you." She knew the dangers she would face, yet she went public anyway. I admire her strength and courage.

Since then, Peng's message has been removed from the internet and discussion of this serious issue has been censored in China. Chinese officials have been provided the opportunity to cease this censorship, verifiably prove that Peng is free and able to speak without interference or intimidation, and investigate the allegation of sexual assault in a full, fair and transparent manner. Unfortunately, the leadership in China has not addressed this very serious issue in any credible way. While we now know where Peng is, I have serious doubts that she is free, safe and not subject to censorship, coercion and intimidation. The WTA has been clear on what is needed here, and we repeat our call for a full and transparent investigation – without censorship – into Peng Shuai's sexual assault accusation.

None of this is acceptable nor can it become acceptable. If powerful people can suppress the voices of women and sweep allegations of sexual assault under the rug, then the basis on which the WTA was founded – equality for women – would suffer an immense setback. I will not and cannot let that happen to the WTA and its players.

As a result, and with the full support of the WTA Board of Directors, I am announcing the immediate suspension of all WTA tournaments in China, including Hong Kong. In good conscience, I don't see how I can ask our athletes to compete there when Peng Shuai is not allowed to communicate freely and has seemingly been pressured to contradict her allegation of sexual assault. Given the current state of affairs, I am also greatly concerned about the risks that all of our players and staff could face if we were to hold events in China in 2022.

I have been gratified by the massive amount of international support the WTA has received for its position on this matter. To further protect Peng and many other women throughout the world, it is more urgent than ever for people to speak out. The WTA will do everything possible to protect its players. As we do so, I hope leaders around the world will continue to speak out so justice can be done for Peng, and all women, no matter the financial ramifications.

I very much regret it has come to this point. The tennis communities in China and Hong Kong are full of great people with whom we have worked for many years. They should be proud of their achievements, hospitality and success. However, unless China takes the steps we have asked for, we cannot put our players and staff at risk by holding events in China. China's leaders have left the WTA with no choice. I remain hopeful that our pleas will be heard and the Chinese authorities will take steps to legitimately address this issue."

Source: 1 December 2021, WTA Tour

Tennis

<https://www.wtatennis.com/news/2384758/steve-simon-announces-wta-s-decision-to-suspend-tournaments-in-china>

Ghana

Four of Ghana's top referees suspended

After multiple complaints were lodged against four match officials, the Match Review Panel of the Ghana Football Association has decided to recommend the suspension of all four referees, according to Football surgery.

The Ghana Premier League refereeing quartet of Mahama Ewuntoma, Eso Doh Morrison, Gabriel Opoku Arhin and Andrew Awurisa have all been handed suspensions by the review panel.

Ewuntoma will face a six-game ban after his "error" changed the result in a tie between Ashanti Gold and Karela United. The official is believed to have given Karela a penalty despite their player kicking the ball against his own hand.

Morrison has received the harshest punishment of the quartet after he made multiple mistakes during a clash between Hearts of Oak and Aduana Stars. The referee is suspended for eight matchdays, effective from the date of the communication.

Arhin and Awurisa both received suspensions after their handling of a controversial incident in a match between Asante Kotoko and Bechem United.

Despite the referee and fourth official consulting at the time, they failed to give a red card to Kotoko player Ismail Abdul-Ganiyu for a "career-threatening" tackle on United star Emmanuel Avornyo.

Source: 26 November 2021, Kickoff

Football

<https://www.kickoff.com/news/articles/world-news/categories/news/world-news/four-top-referees-suspended-in-ghana/709229>

Philippines

Omega Esports banned from all Valve-sponsored events due to match-fixing

Before the first tour of the 2021-2022 DPC even has time to begin, Filipino organization Omega Esports is already in hot water.

Omega has been banned from all Valve-sponsored events due to match-fixing, thus losing its Division One slot in the Southeast Asia Regional League, tournament organizer Beyond the Summit announced today.

Ramzi "Ramz" Bayhaki, Lee "Forev" Sang-don, and Liew "Eren" Jun Jie, members of Omega's current Dota 2 roster that were confirmed less than a week ago, were not implicated.

Six members of Omega's previous roster—players Dave Hioro Miyata, Prince Daculan, Patt "Piolz" Piolo Dela Cruz, Van Jerico Manalaysay, Ryniel "Zenki" Keit Calvez, and coach Chris "CTY" Ian Francis Maldo—were implicated in the scandal. Two of them, Prince and Zenki, as well as the team's coach, CTY, were set to compete with Omega in the upcoming DPC tour. Team Excretion, who recruited Van to be its new off laner, will be allowed to fill in its open player spot and continue competing.

Omega's slot will be filled by Indonesian team BOOM Esports, who were relegated to Division Two last season after finishing seventh in Division One. The slot vacated by BOOM will be filled through an additional closed qualifier held on Nov. 26.

Update Nov. 23 7:24am CT: BTS announced that the closed qualifier is a two-match, single-elimination bracket between three teams. The first will take place between the semifinal losers of the second open qualifier and the winner will take on the runner-up of the qualifier. The second open qualifier is still in progress.

Source: 23 November 2021, Dot Esports

eSports

<https://dotesports.com/dota-2/news/omega-esports-banned-from-all-valve-sponsored-events-due-to-match-fixing>

Russia**Badminton: Russian Khakimov's match-fixing ban overturned**

LAUSANNE - Russian Nikita Khakimov's five-year ban from all badminton-related activities on charges of betting and match-fixing has been overturned following a successful appeal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said on Monday (Nov 22).

Khakimov, 33, was suspended by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) in December last year after being found guilty of offences relating to "betting, wagering and irregular match results".

The BWF opened an investigation against Khakimov after obtaining a statement from a whistleblower, who claimed the shuttler had approached him to manipulate match results at the European Teams Championships held in February 2018.

"The Challenged Decision has been set aside and Nikita Khakimov is eligible to participate in badminton related-activities with immediate effect," CAS said in a statement.

"After having carefully considered all of the evidence produced and the submissions made by the parties, the CAS Panel found, in contrast to the Challenged Decision, that there was insufficient evidence to prove that the alleged misconduct had occurred, and therefore, due to the lack of concrete evidence, Nikita Khakimov should not be sanctioned."

Khakimov was part of the Russia men's team that won bronze at the 2020 European Team Championships.

Source: 23 November 2021, The Straits Times

Badminton

<https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/badminton-russian-khakimovs-match-fixing-ban-overturned>



South Africa

2022 World Cup: Fifa dismisses appeals from South Africa and Benin over qualifying incidents

Fifa has ruled an appeal from South Africa relating to a decisive 2022 World Cup qualifying match against Ghana is inadmissible.

Bafana Bafana had claimed they were "robbed" after their 1-0 defeat last month, with the only goal in the game scored from a first-half penalty.

The South Africa Football Association (Safa) included allegations of "match fixing, match manipulation including corruption and bribery" when it lodged a complaint with football's world governing body.

South Africa had needed a draw to reach Africa's World Cup play-offs, but the result meant Ghana progressed at their expense on goals scored.

Safa president Danny Jordaan later claimed there was a betting spike during the qualifier, which took place in Cape Coast on 14 November.

Meanwhile, an appeal by Benin about substitutions made by DR Congo in another crunch qualifier on the same day has also been thrown out.

Fifa's disciplinary committee declared both protests inadmissible as they did not meet relevant requirements - but also added the decisions are subject to appeal.

While Fifa referred to its Disciplinary Code and the regulations for the World Cup qualifiers, it did not offer the exact reasons for the rulings.

It means, as it stands, that Ghana and DR Congo will be in January's draw for the African World Cup play-offs, with two-legged ties to decide the continent's five representatives in Qatar set to be played in March.

"We have received the decision without details and will request the reasons [from Fifa] and consider our options," Safa chief executive Tebogo Motlanthe said in a statement on Friday.

Benin's protest concerned their 2-0 defeat by DR Congo - a result which saw the Leopards qualify ahead of Benin, who had needed a win to advance.

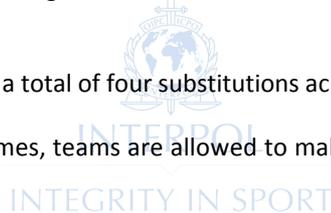
The appeal was about the fact that DR Congo made a total of four substitutions across four windows during the match.

Under current Fifa regulations for international games, teams are allowed to make up to five substitutes but only during three windows in the game.

Source: 3 December 2021, BBC

Football

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/africa/59523429>



BETTING

Italy

Cosa Nostra's Malta bypass to the lucrative world of online gambling

Two Italians based in Malta provided Sicilian criminal gangs with usernames and passwords to Maltese-registered gaming websites as part of a multi-million-euro illegal undertaking.

Angelo Repoli, 45, from Sant'Agata di Militello, and Sergio Moltisanti, 50, from Ragusa, were among several criminals arrested last week in Palermo. The two were placed under house arrest as part of the police operation, codenamed Operation Game Over II.

The operation was a continuation of a similar operation carried out three years ago by the same name, which uncovered how the Sicilian mafia Cosa Nostra was using online gambling to launder money.

Companies in B'kara and Gzira

Repoli and Moltisanti have Maltese companies registered under their names, which they used between 2016 and 2018 to acquire online gaming licences in Malta. The betting companies have long been shut down and the Malta Gaming Authority had withdrawn the licence to Moltisanti's LB Group back in 2018 when the first arrests were made.

However, the names of the Malta-based contacts only came out last week as Italian police and prosecutors arrested seven people, a couple with links to mafia organisation Cosa Nostra.

Repoli, who gives his residential address in Lugano Switzerland (although investigators say he lives permanently in Militello), is sole owner of Pinpoint Ltd, set up in December 2016 and registered at a Birkirkara office.

Moltisanti gives his residential address at a Sliema flat and is director of Quantum Leap Ltd, set up in May 2011 with an office in Gzira.

Quantum's shareholding is held by financial services consultancy firm Finaserv Consultancy Ltd that provides fiduciary services.

Circumventing Italian law

The head of Palermo's mobile police force that was involved in the investigation and arrests, Rodolfo Ruperti, told MaltaToday on Thursday the criminal gangs had acquired usernames and passwords from the Malta-based contacts to circumvent Italian gaming laws.

It is illegal in Italy to bet and play casino games on websites with .com and .net domains since gambling outlets registered with the Italian gaming authority have to have a .it domain.

The gangs operated several internet cafes and news agents across Sicily, particularly in Palermo, from where users were provided with illicit access to various gaming sites operated by Repoli and Moltisanti.

€14 million per month

Investigators believe the whole operation generated some €14 million per month and was used to launder illicit funds. Some of the cash generated was reinvested in legitimate businesses and investigators also seized an agricultural undertaking funded by the illegal operation.

The criminal organisation used to pay a monthly fee to the providers in Malta ranging between 1.8% and 1.3% of the total sum played that month. Thousands of euros in cash were passed on to Repoli and Moltisanti.

Judicial documentation seen by MaltaToday shows how phone and conversation intercepts led investigators to establish how the network operated.

The ring leaders were Salvatore Cinà, Rosario Calascibetta and Giacomo Dolce, who each set up a network of agents that provided access to gamblers.

Password: Ita12345!

Gamblers had no direct relationship with the website operators, an illegality in its own right, since they could only create personal accounts through the respective agents. Some of the betting sites listed in the official documents are Betqueen365.com, Italbet365.com, Betday24.net, Globalbet360.com and Colmabet.com.

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Passwords were provided by the ring leaders to their agents. In one of the conversations recorded secretly by investigators, one of the agents was told that the password was 'Ita12345!'.

Phone intercepts also show that the ring leaders were wary of gamblers who played large sums of money and emphasised with their respective agents the need to cap bets. Investigators believe this was done to limit the amount of cash that would have to be disbursed for winnings.

'I'll turn his blood into water'

Agents were expected to hand over €1,500 per month to their masters and several phone intercepts highlight problems with some of the agents, who fell back on payments.

"I'll turn his blood into water," one of the ring leaders was heard saying of an agent who had racked up a debt of several thousand euros.

Last month, a Sicilian court imprisoned Benedetto Bacchi, known as the 'Gambling King', for 18 years after finding him guilty of running a network of 700 outlets where illicit gambling was taking place on gaming sites based in Malta.

Bacchi was accused of helping the Cosa Nostra launder its money through this illicit network. He had been arrested in 2018 during the first operation codenamed Game Over. Bacchi has always claimed he was a victim of Cosa Nostra.

Bacchi's gaming licences in Malta were terminated three years ago when he was arrested.

Source: 24 November 2021, Malta Today

https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/113386/cosa_nostras_malta_bypass_to_the_lucrative_world_of_online_gambling#.YaqejLrjKUm



Macao (China)

Macau police take Alvin Chau in for questioning after mainland Chinese authorities issue arrest warrant over cross-border gambling allegations

Macau detectives took Suncity Group CEO Alvin Chau Cheok-wa and others to a police station for questioning on Saturday, after mainland Chinese authorities issued an arrest warrant over his alleged involvement in running illegal cross-border gambling activities.

“The Macau Special Administrative Region reiterates that all employees of the gambling industry in Macau must strictly abide by the national and Macau’s related laws,” the city’s government said. “Any behaviour breaching the city’s laws will be held accountable.”

Prosecutors in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province, said Chau – the boss of Macau’s biggest organiser of junkets for high rollers – was in charge of a gambling syndicate that “causes severe damage to the social order of the country”.

Wenzhou’s public security department announced the issuing of the arrest warrant against Chau on its Weibo account on Friday, saying it had been investigating allegations since July last year.

Hong Kong police have not received any requests from mainland authorities to help with the case, the Post has learned.

The Post has approached Macau police for comment on whether they will work together with mainland authorities on the case, and if Chau could be extradited over the border.

Word of Chau being taken in by Macau police quickly attracted attention on the mainland, with the development becoming a hot search topic on China’s Twitter-like Weibo.

The Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China also reported the news on its Weibo account.

Chau, 47, is the founder and CEO of Macau’s biggest junket operator Suncity Group, and also the chairman of Hong Kong-listed Suncity Group Holdings Ltd, the listed arm of the group and a developer of resorts in Asia.

Together with a person named Zhang Ningning, Chau was suspected of leading members of a cross-border gambling group and setting up casinos in China.

The alleged crime syndicate, comprising 199 shareholder-level representatives and more than 12,000 agents tasked with promoting gambling, had developed a network of more than 80,000 Chinese punters, the Wenzhou authorities said.

The group also established asset management firms to help gamblers with cross-border capital transfers, and to recover unsettled debts from punters and others.

Wenzhou authorities urged Chau to “surrender as soon as possible” to secure a lenient punishment.

All forms of gambling, except state-run lotteries, are banned in mainland China. Gambling is permitted in Macau but tourists must have a visa to enter.

Suncity Group told the Post it had contacted Chau but had not received a response, adding the Sun City Gaming Promotion Company was following up on the matter.

It stressed that all of its businesses were operating normally and in accordance with the law.

Regarded by many as Macau’s new “King of Gambling” after the death of Stanley Ho Hung-sun in May last year, Chau started out in the city’s gambling industry by loaning cash to punters in casinos.

He established the Suncity Group in 2007, with its business covering a wide range of sectors including gambling, finance, property, tourism, catering and entertainment.

The betting industry in Macau faces a potentially game-changing year in 2022 with the city due to introduce changes to gambling laws ahead of a rebidding process for its multibillion-dollar casinos.

Chau has also been active in other branches of the entertainment industry.

In 2011, he established Sun Entertainment Culture in Hong Kong, which produces films and concerts in the Greater China region and has artists such as Canto-pop singers Andy Hui Chi-on and Wilfred Lau Ho-lung along with kung fu star Wu Yue and award-winning film director Derek Tsang Kwok-cheung on its books.

Chau, who was born in Macau in 1974, is regularly featured by entertainment news outlets, with paparazzi photographers often snapping the married father of three when he is accompanied by a model.

Macau's casino stocks lose US\$17 billion on overhaul of gambling hub

Suncity Group in Macau is the city's largest junket operator, with 40 per cent of the market share, according to an industry insider. The company as a junket operator is believed to have 12,000 agents working in casinos by playing the role of middlemen in bringing in VIP gamblers from the mainland.

The insider said the crackdown on the Wenzhou syndicate was believed to be related to President Xi Jinping's decision to clean up the underground gaming industry, which involved trillions of yuan and illegal lending.

"Beijing has woken up to the financial security issue after seeing huge amounts of money, billions or trillions of dollars involved in underground gambling and also online gaming," the insider said.

"Alvin Chau's posture as a high-profile playboy has backfired."

In 2019, Chinese state media accused Suncity Group Holdings of helping Chinese gamblers to bet via online casinos based in the Philippines and Cambodia.

At that time, Chau was accused of encouraging online betting involving trillions of yuan, or equivalent to twice the amount of China's annual lottery income. His online gaming business was said to have made tens of billions of yuan in profit.

State media claimed the online gaming business threatened the country's social and financial stability.

Chau denied the allegations, but vowed to rein in the company's online gaming and proxy betting operations on the mainland.

Source: 26 November 2021, South China Morning Post

<https://amp-scmp-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/society/article/3157573/mainland-chinese-authorities-issue-arrest-warrant-macau>



Macao (China)

Shares in Macau's Suncity collapse after boss detained

Shares in Macau's largest junket operator Suncity plummeted more than 48 percent on Tuesday after boss Alvin Chau was detained for allegedly running illegal betting activities overseas.

Chau was placed in custody by a criminal court in the city on Monday following his arrest at the weekend over allegations he ran an illegal syndicate, a move that has sent fresh business jitters through the gambling enclave.

Chau is accused of leading a criminal group, money laundering and illegal gambling, the city's prosecution said Monday, charges that can carry between three and 12 years in jail.

Chau's Suncity Group halted trading in Hong Kong on Monday but as trading resumed Tuesday it plunged, losing nearly half their value to end at HK\$0.13.

Suncity told Hong Kong's stock exchange late Monday that Chau had resigned from the board and the investigation would impact operations.

Almost all gambling is forbidden in mainland China but it is permitted in Macau, a former Portuguese colony that boasts a casino industry bigger than Las Vegas.

Chau and 10 other senior executives were arrested in a midnight raid by Macau police and passed to the prosecution on Saturday.

Six were granted bail but banned from leaving the city.

Prosecutors have accused the group of setting up an illegal online betting platform in the Philippines and soliciting mainland Chinese customers with live broadcasts for large-sum online gambling.

They allege Macau bank accounts and underground banking tools were used to transfer revenues from the operation.

Chau's arrest in Macau came two days after authorities in the mainland city of Wenzhou announced they had issued their own warrant for his arrest for running an illegal gambling syndicate.

Macau police said their two-year investigation was separate from the mainland's.

It is the first time such a high-profile figure from Macau's gaming industry has been arrested in an ongoing crackdown against the sector, with plans announced in September to increase government regulation.

Macau's six major casino operators have seen millions wiped from their value this week.

The vast majority of punters in Macau are Chinese mainlanders, and junket operators such as Suncity arrange for high-rollers to come for legal gambling.

President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign has seen increased scrutiny of big-spending gamblers and corrupt officials who might travel to Macau to place bets and launder money.

In September Macau announced plans to put government representatives on licensed operators' boards to oversee their dealings, and to criminalise underground banking in the industry, a move that led to a plunge in casino operator share prices.

The six major casino operators are all required to rebid for their casino licences when they expire in June 2022.

Source: 30 November 2021, Yahoo! News

https://news.yahoo.com/shares-macaus-suncity-collapse-boss-090131689.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAN77ZAnLwBTCgxpjFrWrqwnEpOcWlhKkkEom65M_prIcEIPLU7Qax9UsIFiCyqFAYludpzi75kF3L1jV5JhEJYB2vki3hLBMCLJacYH3Sjn_u7hbhj1ChDDBKt3OdSQcu6FUgYEsLas8514ZoW0zxncWiusEetwuVzHAwHG8u

ODDS AND ENDS

Cameroon

Cameroonian club boss slams FIFA and Infantino for ignoring CAS rulings and preventing football development

November 19 – FIFA has again come under attack for its political maneuvering in Africa, this time from a leading club president in Cameroon who has criticised the world governing body and its president Gianni Infantino for manipulating federation politics, and ignoring rulings made at CAS.

Abdouraman Hamadou Babba, president of top flight club Etoile Filante de Garoua, in a letter to national associations and the FIFA Council titled 'Denouncing the actions of FIFA President', said: "In Africa in particular, the FIFA President, instead of working for FIFA, works for himself and for his re-election. All efforts made by FIFA staff in Africa are aimed primarily at establishing at the head of national associations persons who have pledged allegiance to Mr. Gianni Infantino, to ensure the vote of their respective federations during FIFA elections."

It is an incendiary criticism and one that is frequently heard behind closed doors but such is FIFA iron grip on Africa, seldom heard publicly. Abdouraman Babba is one of a number of voices in football in Africa who has frequently held FIFA to account.

He says "the behavior of the President and GS (Fatma Samoura) of FIFA, in co-action with Mr. Veron Mosengo-Omba, henceforth GS of CAF, may be seen in several African countries, notably in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Chad, Madagascar more recently in Kenya, to name but a few."

With African nations increasingly falling into public dispute with FIFA, the African powerbase that Infantino has built his leadership could be potentially crumbling ahead of Infantino's potential re-election.

"This obsession of the FIFA President to want, at all costs, to guarantee his re-election by choosing by himself the presidents of the African national associations, is the main reason for the state of underdevelopment in which African football is found," said Abdouraman Babba.

On 15 January 2021, the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) annulled the Cameroon FA electoral process that had been "fraudulently" organised by the FIFA Normalisation Committee in 2017. That happened after the cancellation of another fraudulent electoral process organised in 2015 by another Normalisation Committee appointed by FIFA in 2013.

"Curiously" says Abdouraman Babba, CAS suggested to FIFA to allow the Executive Committee whose election had been cancelled to remain in office to organise a new electoral process. Infantino, who at that same time was visiting Cameroon, announced on national TV that FIFA will continue in office, on an interim basis, with the Executive Committee which had just had its election annulled by CAS.

"This position of the FIFA President, which is contrary to the provisions of Article 19 of the FIFA Statutes, was confirmed on 16 January 2021 by a letter from the FIFA Secretary General, Mrs. Fatma Samoura," says Abdouraman Babba.

In response to FIFA's decision he says the "legitimate members of FECAFOOT's General Assembly convened an extraordinary session to appoint a Provisional Executive Committee to manage the current affairs and to organize a new electoral process.

"Despite this appointment and despite the clear position of the Cameroonian Minister of Sports, Mrs. Fatma Samoura and Mr. Véron Mosengo-Omba did what had hitherto never been seen – jointly signed a letter on a header carrying the logos of FIFA and CAF. This letter ordered the illegal Executive Committee to hold a general assembly session, composed of illegitimate members of FECAFOOT, to adopt false statutes for FECAFOOT and to proceed to organize on this basis a false electoral process."

Abdouraman Babba goes further, accusing the CAS Registrar's office of being complicit with FIFA in withholding decisions made at arbitration and "influence the fate of certain arbitral rulings and even modify them in certain cases, especially when the interests of the FIFA President are at stake".

In his letter he calls for a rewriting of the FIFA statutes around the imposition of Normalisation Committees as well as reform of CAS which he says is "only an instrument of domination and colonization in the hands of the FIFA President. It is urgent, in collaboration with the IOC, to put an end to the networks of influence peddling, which have captured CAS and are seriously hindering the development of football in the world."

Source: 3 December 2021, Inside World Football

Football

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/2021/11/19/cameroonian-club-boss-slams-fifa-infantino-ignoring-cas-rulings-preventing-football-development/>

Switzerland

Antidoping Switzerland Foundation to become the Swiss Sport Integrity Foundation

Antidoping Switzerland Foundation will become the Swiss Sport Integrity Foundation from January 1, with the organisation set to assume responsibility for dealing with ethics violations.

The change and acceptance of a required ethics statute has been approved by the Swiss Sport Parliament.

The Antidoping Switzerland Foundation says the changes will help to provide better protections for athletes in Switzerland.

The organisation will be known as Swiss Sport Integrity, with the body assuming responsibility for handling ethical violations and grievances as well as doping cases.

This will involve initial consultation, investigation and prosecution of suspected violations, doping controls and doping prevention.

Swiss Sport Integrity will replace the registration offices of Swiss Olympic and the national sports associations.

It is claimed the change will guarantee independence, confidential treatment and consistent processing of reports.

A new digital platform will also be launched from the start of January, allowing anonymous interaction with the reporting person.

The digital platform will meet the highest security standards, it has been claimed.

The portal will allow people to report possible violations or grievances.

Initial counselling will provide information about the possible course of action and, if necessary, forwarding it to a suitable counselling centre for more in-depth advice.

Reports will be checked and could be forwarded to law enforcement, if deemed appropriate

Should Swiss Sport Integrity have responsibility, it will carry out investigations and produce a final report for the Disciplinary Chamber of Swiss Sports, which will decide on possible sanctions.

The sanctions can be challenged at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

"We will use our forces and resources in a targeted manner to systematically deal with and prosecute ethics and doping violations," said Ueli Kurmann, Antidoping Switzerland Foundation President.

"For Swiss Sport Integrity, it is important to protect the health and well-being of Swiss athletes and the credibility of sport expected by the population."

Both the Federal Government and Swiss Olympic have pledged additional financial resources to meet the growing activities of Swiss Sport Integrity.

Kurmann and existing Board members Emanuela Felley-Bosco, Markus Feller, Urs Karrer, Walter Mengisen, Pascal Oswald and Marc Schneeberger have each been re-elected to the Swiss Sport Integrity Foundation.

The Swiss Sport Parliament has also elected Katharina Albertin, Barbara Lustenberger and Bernard Schumacher, after approving the expansion of the Board.

The officials will serve terms until the end of 2024.

Source: 27 November 2021, *Inside the Games*

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1116022/swiss-sport-integrity-foundation-change>

MATCH FIXING

University of Nicosia Research Foundation

Match-fixing prominent in friendly football matches due to lack of regulation

More than 250 friendly football matches involving European clubs showed signs of suspicious activity during 2016-2020, according to new research.

The findings are from a three-year study funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme and led by the University of Nicosia Research Foundation. It claims that, due to a lack of regulation, match-fixing is prominent in friendly football matches.

The survey involved 700 players in Cyprus, Greece and Malta, and found that 26.5% of players had played in a friendly match they suspected had been manipulated. A total of 26.3% of approaches to fix a match were made by club officials, with 15% made by other players.

Club officials meanwhile were instigators in 19% of approaches to manipulate matches, and were the main beneficiaries in 26.3% of approaches.

The study found that national and international football federations have been slow in establishing where responsibility lies for such matches, particularly when clubs from different countries play in a third country.

This lack of regulation, together with the availability of such games on global betting markets, with poorly or unregulated betting operators, leave the games at greater risk of potential match-fixing. Poorly and unregulated betting operators rarely report signs of suspicious activity, which is often a licensing requirement for regulated operators.

"The combination of a lack of regulation, oversight and information makes these matches easier to manipulate than competitive matches," said Lead investigator, Professor Nicos Kartakoullis, President of the Council, University of Nicosia.

"This research shows that in terms of governance, friendly matches need to be considered just like competitive matches.

"With the data for 4,000 friendly matches being offered for betting purposes around the world each year, it is also vital that the betting companies receiving that data are operating from well-regulated jurisdictions and report suspicious betting to protect the integrity of those events."

Source: 1 December 2021, *Gambling Insider*

<https://www.gamblinginsider.com/news/14060/match-fixing-prominent-in-friendly-football-matches-due-to-lack-of-regulation>

