EX-NISSAN CHAIR IN A FIX

Lebanon gets Interpol arrest notice for Ghosn

REUTERS
Beirut/Tokyo, January 2

LEBANON RECEIVED AN Interpol arrest warrant on Thursday for former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, while Turkey launched an investigation into his daring escape from Japan via Istanbul.

Ghosn has become an international fugitive after he revealed on Tuesday he had fled to Lebanon to escape what he called a "rigged" justice system in Japan, where he faces charges relating to alleged financial crimes.

Sources close to Ghosn said a delay to a trial and a strict ban on communicating with his wife motivated him to go ahead with a plan to use a private security company to smuggle him out of Japan via private jet.

The Interpol red notice, which calls on authorities to arrest a wanted person, was received by Lebanon's internal security forces and has yet to be referred to the judiciary, a Lebanese judicial source told *Reuters*.

A senior Lebanese security official said it was not yet clear if Ghosn would be summoned for questioning over the warrant but said Lebanon does not extradite its citizens to foreign states.

In past cases, where Lebanon has received red notices for Lebanese citizens resident in the country, the suspects have not been detained but their passports have been confiscated and bail has been set, the judicial source said.

Ghosn, who holds French, Lebanese and Brazilian citizenship, has deep ties to Lebanon, the country of his childhood, where his investments include a stake in a bank, real estate and a vineyard.

Turkish police on Thursday detained seven people, including four pilots, as part of an investigation into Ghosn's passage through the country, a police spokeswoman said.

She said the other detainees were two airport ground staff and one cargo worker and all seven were expected to give statements in court on Thursday.

Flight tracking data suggests Ghosn used two different planes to fly to Istanbul and then to Lebanon.

The sources close to Ghosn said he was prompted to flee after he learned that the second of two trials would be delayed until April 2021.

"They said they needed another whole year to prepare for it ... He was distressed about not being able to see or speak to his wife," one of the sources close to Ghosn said.

A request to see or speak to his wife over Christmas was also denied, the sources added, part of strict conditions set on his bail.

The sources said Ghosn had grown distressed that authorities were pressuring his family to draw a confession from him after his daughter and son were questioned by Japanese prosecutors in the United States in early December.

In just his second public comment since landing in Beirut, Ghosn said in a statement his family played no role whatsoever in his exit from Japan. "I alone arranged for my departure," he said.

Ghosn was first arrested in Tokyo in November 2018 and faces four charges for alleged financial crimes including hiding income and enriching himself through payments to car dealerships in the Middle East. He denies the charges.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK said on Thursday Japanese authorities allowed Ghosn to carry a spare French passport in a locked case while out on bail, potentially shedding some light on how he managed to escape despite having passports held by Japanese lawyers.

No one was immediately available for comment at the office of Ghosn's lawyer, Junichiro Hironaka, or at the French embassy in Tokyo, or at the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office.

A woman believed to be Carole Ghosn, wife of former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn, leaves in a car, in Beirut, Lebanon on Thursday
REUTERS

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'Amazon threatened to fire climate activists'

BLOOMBERG
Seattle, January 2

A GROUP OF Amazon.com employees who pushed the company to combat climate change say Amazon has threatened to fire some of them if they continue to speak out about their employer's internal affairs.

Two were threatened with termination, a spokesperson for Amazon Employees for Climate Justice said, and a total of four were told in meetings that they were in violation of the company's policies on workers speaking to the press and on social media.

Maren Costa, a user experience designer, was threatened with termination after speaking to the Washington Post, according to a statement from the group. "This is not the time to speak out," Costa said in the release. "This is not the time to silence those who are speaking out."

Jaci Anderson, an Amazon spokesperson, said in an emailed statement that the company's external communications policy isn't new. Employees are "encouraged to work within their teams," and may suggest "improvements to how we operate through those internal channels."

The tech industry has been roiled by employee activism in the past couple of years. After Google workers raised concerns about bidding on military contracts, the Alphabet Inc. search giant backed out of a US Defence Department drone program and decided not to bid on a contract to build cloud services for the Pentagon. Employees at Microsoft and Salesforce.com pressured executives about their companies' dealings with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The Amazon Employees for Climate Justice in late 2018 began discussing ways to persuade their employer to curb its contributions to climate change. The e-commerce company to that point had committed to powering some of its infrastructure with renewable energy sources, but stopped short of the bigger commitments — and transparency — promised by some other large technology and logistics companies. The group put forward a shareholder resolution, backed by thousands of employees in an open letter, that called on Amazon to write a report detailing preparations for climate-related disruptions and plans to reduce use of the fossil fuels blamed for the Earth's warming.

Amazon made much of the employees' climate proposal a few months later, when CEO Jeff Bezos in September announced aims to power Amazon's operations entirely with renewable energy by 2030 and be carbon neutral by 2040.

Air crash deaths down by over half

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Frankfurt, January 2

THE NUMBER OF deaths in major air crashes around the globe fell by more than half in 2019, according to a report by an aviation consulting firm. The To70 consultancy said Wednesday that 257 people died in eight fatal accidents in 2019. That compares to 534 deaths in 13 fatal accidents in 2018.

The 2019 death toll rose in late December after a Bek Air Fokker 100 crashed Friday on takeoff in Kazakhstan, killing 12 people. The worst crash of 2019 involved an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX plane that crashed March 10, killing 157.

The report said fatal accidents in 2018 and 2019 that led to the grounding of Boeing's 737 MAX raised questions about how aviation authorities approve aviation designs derived from older ones, and about how much pilot training is needed on new systems.

The group said it expects the 737 MAX to eventually gain permission to fly again in 2020.

The report said the fatal accident rate for large planes in commercial air transport fell to 0.18 fatal accidents per million flights in 2019 from 0.30 accidents per million flights in 2018. That means there was one fatal accident for every 5.58 million flights.

The firm's annual compilation of accident statistics stressed that aviation needs to keep its focus on the basics of having well-designed and well-constructed aircraft flown by well-trained crews.

Last year may have seen fewer deaths but did not equal the historic low of 2017, which saw only two fatal accidents, involving regional turboprops, that resulted in the loss of 13 lives. This report is based on crashes involving larger aircraft used for most commercial passenger flights.

Flood death toll rises in Jakarta, tens of thousands evacuated

Women carry diapers as they cross an area flooded after heavy rains in Jakarta
REUTERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Jakarta, January 2

RESIDENTS OF INDONESIA'S capital who had been forced into shelters by widespread flooding began returning to their homes Thursday as the waters started to recede, though the death toll from the disaster jumped to 30.

Monsoon rains and rising rivers submerged at least 182 neighbourhoods in greater Jakarta starting Wednesday and caused landslides in the Bogor and Depok districts on the city's outskirts.

Jakarta Governor Anies Bawesdan said much of the water had receded by Thursday evening and the number of displaced people at temporary shelters had fallen to about 5,000 from 19,000.

Officials had earlier said 35,000 people were in shelters across the greater metropolitan area.

Those returning to their homes found streets covered in mud and debris. Cars that had been parked in driveways were swept away, landing upside down in parks or piled up in narrow alleys. Sidewalks were strewn with sandals, pots and pans and old photographs.

Authorities took advantage of the receding waters to clear away mud and remove piles of wet garbage from the streets.

Beijing keeps mum on phase 1 trade deal signing date

BLOOMBERG
Johannesburg, January 2

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump said he will sign the first phase of a trade deal with China on Jan. 15, sealing an agreement that sees the Asian nation raising purchases of American farm goods in exchange for lower tariffs on some of its products. The date has yet to be confirmed by the Chinese side.

"The ceremony will take place at the White House," Trump said on his Twitter account Tuesday, adding he will be going to Beijing, where talks will begin on the second phase of the deal.

Chinese ministry of foreign affairs spokesman Geng Shuang on Thursday referred a question on the signing to the Ministry of Commerce.

Despite the lack of clarity on the signing date, Beijing is still indicating it also wants the deal.

A commentary on the front page of People's Daily on Tuesday said, "it is every one's wish that China and the US will sign the phase one agreement."

The deal, announced December 13, sees the US suspending plans for new tariffs on $160 billion of Chinese imports including smartphones and toys and reducing some existing levies.

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