

## business

## US Dept of Justice investigates Deutsche Bank over IMDB

● The department is looking into whether Deutsche Bank broke foreign corruption or anti-money laundering laws

● Billions of dollars were looted from the investment vehicle between 2009 and 2014

Washington, United States

The US Department of Justice opened an investigation into whether Deutsche Bank, Germany's embattled biggest lender, violated foreign financial laws in its work for IMDB, American media reported Wednesday.

The department is looking into whether Deutsche Bank broke foreign corruption or anti-money laundering laws through its work for IMDB, which included helping the Malaysian fund raise \$1.2 billion in 2014 as concern's about its management and financials had begun to circulate, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Billions of dollars were looted from the investment vehicle between 2009 and 2014 and spent on everything from yachts to expensive artwork, in a fraud allegedly involving disgraced Malaysian ex-premier Najib Razak and his cronies.

The investigation into Deutsche Bank has been helped by former Goldman Sachs banker Tim Leissner,

who pled guilty to his involvement in the IMDB scandal, the Journal reported.

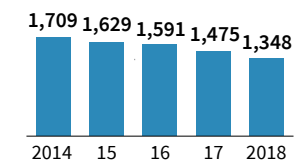
Prosecutors are looking into the role of Leissner's former colleague Tan Boon-Kee, who also worked as Deutsche Bank's Asia Pacific head of banking for financial institution clients, the newspaper said.

Tan left Deutsche Bank last year after it was discovered she had been in contact with Jho Low, the Malaysian financier who allegedly played a central role in the fraud, according to the Journal.

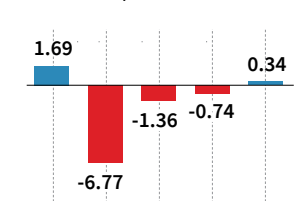
Deutsche Bank has "cooperated fully" with the investigation, it said in a statement, and claims it was misled by IMDB.

## Deutsche Bank

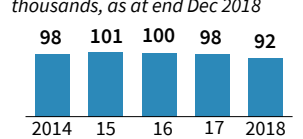
Total assets Billion euros



Net income/loss Billion euros



Employees thousands, as at end Dec 2018



Source: Deutsche Bank © AFP

## Nintendo announces smaller, cheaper new Switch console



Picture courtesy of TechCrunch

Tokyo, Japan

Game giant Nintendo has announced the release of a scaled back, cheaper version of its runaway success "Switch" game console, expected out in September ahead of the key holiday shopping season.

Switch Lite, which will sell for \$199.99, will be a strictly handheld device that can't be used with television sets.

It will hit shelves on September 20, the Japan-based company said in a statement released overnight.

Unlike the existing console -- a hybrid that can be used for handheld play or hooked up to a screen at home -- the new edition's controllers will be permanently fixed on either side of the screen.

It will be small enough to

fit in the pocket of an adult's jacket.

"Adding Nintendo Switch Lite to the lineup gives gamers more colour and price point options," said Nintendo of America President Doug Bowser in a statement.

"Now consumers can choose the system that best suits how they like to play their favourite Nintendo Switch games."

The new device will be able to play many Switch games but with fewer features, Nintendo added.

The original Switch has enjoyed huge popularity, helped by innovative, family-friendly software titles.

Nintendo, the creator of Super Mario and Pokemon, is aiming to roll out the flagship model to China via Tencent to further boost its global reach.

## India-US restart talks



Donald Trump attends a bilateral meeting with Narendra Modi during the G20 leaders summit in Osaka Japan

## ● Trump and Modi met in Osaka on the sidelines of a G20 summit

Reuters | New Delhi

Indian and US trade negotiators will meet today, with little sign of a compromise on a series of protectionist measures taken by the two governments in recent months.

US President Donald Trump has been putting pressure on India to do more to open its markets, saying this week again on Twitter its high tariffs were "unacceptable".

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, re-elected in May, has been pushing nationalist policies with higher tariffs on everything from electronic goods to tighter controls on foreign firms in the fast grow-

ing e-commerce market to help foster domestic companies and create jobs for millions of youth.

A delegation led by Assistant US Trade Representative (AUSTR) for South and Central Asia, Christopher Wilson, will meet Indian officials to try to re-start negotiations on tit-for-tat tariffs that were put on hold because of India's election.

"Since India's election period has now passed, USTR officials are visiting India for relationship-building with Indian government counterparts," a USTR spokesperson said.

The USTR delegation is likely to meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal along with key trade officials today. The delegation is also likely to meet top officials at the IT ministry.

Trump and Modi met in Osaka on the sidelines of a G20 summit in June where they agreed to build ties and sort out thorny trade issues.



Trade between and India and United States was worth \$142.1 billion in 2018, with India having a surplus of \$24.2 billion.

At today's meeting, New Delhi expects US officials to push against India's efforts to mandate foreign firms to store more of their data locally, an Indian government official said.

Washington is also expected to seek revisions to foreign investment rules for the e-commerce sector that have forced

companies such as Walmart Inc's Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc to rework their business strategies in the country.

"The meeting with USTR was meant to set the tone for further talks after a positive G20 discussion. But Trump's tweet has shown their intention is to continue with a tough stance," another official said.

Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Raveesh Kumar said during a briefing that India was looking to resolve trade issues, many of which were discussed in Osaka.

"We are looking forward to a constructive engagement," Kumar said.

One concern among Indian policymakers is that the Trump administration may push for a free trade agreement with India that could dent India's competitiveness, lead to a flurry of imports and hurt Modi's "Make in India" plan.

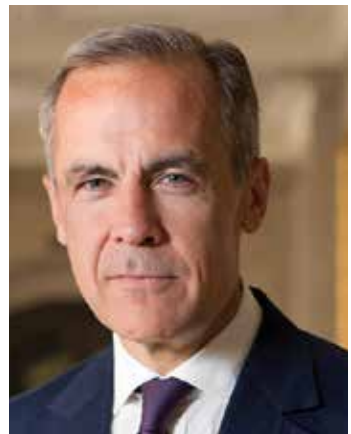
## BoE boss dodges IMF speculation

London, United Kingdom

Bank of England governor Mark Carney yesterday gave outgoing IMF chief Christine Lagarde his warm support as she heads to the European Central Bank, but evaded questions about whether he wants to succeed her.

The Canadian is due to end his posting in London at the end of January, and has been judged by bookmakers as an early favourite to take over at the International Monetary Fund once Lagarde is confirmed at the Frankfurt-based ECB.

"I do want to take the opportunity to praise the role that Christine Lagarde has played and the leadership she's played



Mark Carney

at the IMF," Carney told a news conference marking the publication of the BoE's latest Finan-

cial Stability Report.

He said it had been an "absolute privilege" to serve as head of Britain's central bank, but declined to go further on what the future might hold.

The process to pick a new IMF managing director "should be open, transparent and merit-based, so there'll come a time when that process launches, and that's probably the right time to answer that question."

Carney also holds British and Irish passports, so would qualify to replace Lagarde under an arrangement whereby a European leads the IMF and an American the World Bank.

That convention has come under strain in recent years

from developing economies demanding a greater say at the Washington-based institutions, although the American David Malpass was elected unopposed in April to head the World Bank.

Lagarde is leaving the IMF two years ahead of schedule after European Union leaders, at a summit this month, nominated her to succeed Mario Draghi as ECB president.

Draghi himself has been mentioned as a possible pick at the IMF. Other names in the mix include Bank of France governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau, EU finance commissioner Pierre Moscovici of France, and former British finance minister George Osborne.