

# Malaysia charges Goldman in 1MDB probe

Charges filed against US firm as part of corruption and money-laundering inquiry

● Goldman Sachs is accused of helping 'dishonestly misappropriate' \$2.7bn from bonds issued by 1MDB

● The US bank underwrote bonds issued by 1MDB on three occasions totalling \$6.5bn

AFP | Kuala Lumpur



A view of the Goldman Sachs stall on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York, US

Malaysia filed criminal charges yesterday against Goldman Sachs and two of its former employees over the alleged theft of billions of dollars, heaping fresh pressure on the Wall Street titan over the 1MDB scandal.

Goldman subsidiaries and ex-bankers Tim Leissner and Ng Chong Hwa are accused of misappropriating \$2.7 billion, bribing officials and giving false statements in relation to bond issues they arranged for state fund 1MDB.

Allegations that huge sums

were looted from the investment vehicle and used to buy everything from yachts to artwork, in a fraud that involved former Malaysian leader Najib Razak, contributed to the last government's shock defeat at May elections.

Both former Goldman employees had already been charged over the scandal in the US last month, with Leissner pleading guilty while Ng was arrested in Malaysia. Low Taek Jho, a fugitive Malaysian financier accused of masterminding the fraud, was also hit with new

charges.

The news represented a fresh blow to Goldman, whose corporate culture has come under scrutiny as a steady stream of accusations surrounding its involvement in the controversy have emerged.

"The highest standards are expected of Goldman Sachs," said Malaysian attorney-general Tommy Thomas, as he announced the charges. "They have fallen far short of any standard. In consequence, they have to be held accountable."

Goldman said in a statement the charges were "misdirected", adding: "We will vigorously defend them."

## 'Bribing officials'

The bank has come under fire for its role in underwriting bonds totalling \$6.5 billion on three occasions for 1MDB, for which they earned an eye-watering \$600 million in fees.

Thomas said Goldman and its former employees were accused of making false and misleading statements to misappropriate \$2.7 billion from the bond issuances, which took place in 2012 and 2013.

Leissner, who worked as Southeast Asia chairman and managing director at Goldman, and Ng, a managing director at the bank, conspired with Jho and others to bribe Malaysian officials to ensure that Goldman was selected to work on the bonds, Thomas said in a statement.

The money earned by Goldman for the work on the bonds was "several times higher than the prevailing market rates and industry norms", the statement said.

## Hitachi to buy majority stake in ABB's power grid arm for \$6.4 billion



The planned buyout of ABB's power grid unit would reportedly make Hitachi the world's biggest player in the sector

AFP | Tokyo

Japan's Hitachi yesterday announced plans to buy a majority stake in the power grid business of Swiss-Swedish engineering giant ABB for \$6.4 billion, in what would be its biggest ever buyout.

The deal would make Hitachi the world's largest power grid company, local media said.

Under the plan, ABB will spin off its power grid unit, for which Hitachi will buy an 80.1 percent stake for 704 billion yen in early 2020, the Japanese company said in a statement.

"We plan to buy the remaining shares so that Hitachi can make the unit its wholly owned company," a spokesman said without disclosing, how much that would cost.

ABB's power grid unit makes and operates infrastructure

including power transmission equipment and control systems in numerous countries.

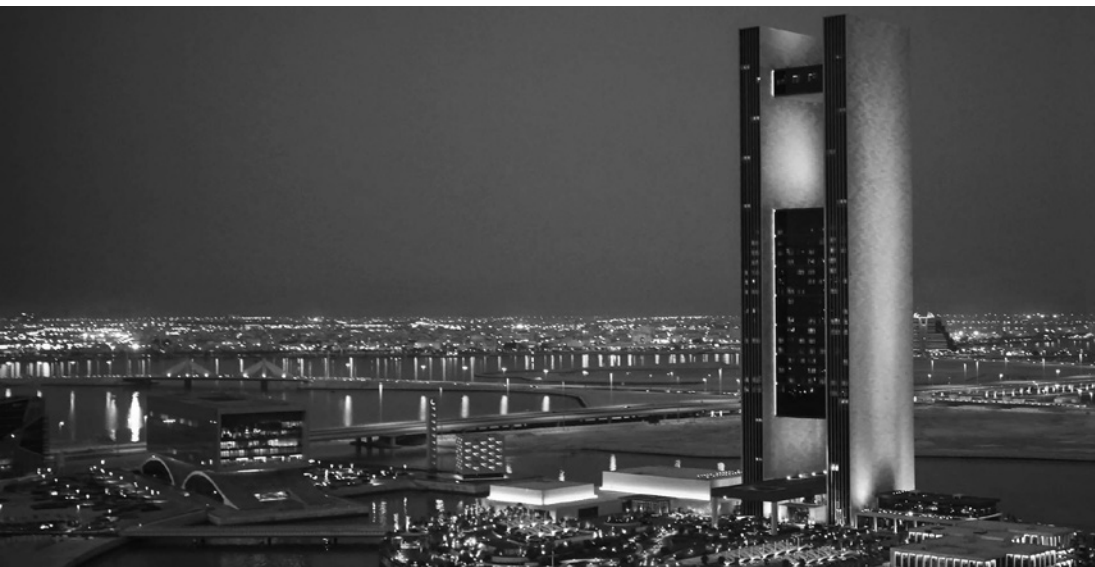
The deal would also make Hitachi the world's second-largest heavy electrical equipment maker by revenue, behind only General Electric, according to local media.

The Nikkei business daily first reported the planned deal last Thursday, but Hitachi shares have since dropped 2.5 percent.

Ratings agency Standard & Poor's said the power transmission and distribution business is growing globally, with service solutions a particularly promising field.

But "the business' profitability can be volatile, depending on how well a company manages projects related to equipment delivery", it added.

## Make the holidays unforgettable at Four Seasons



Four Seasons Hotel



A chef arranges dishes in Four Seasons Hotel

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's island resort destination welcomes families and friends with a curated selection of dining and entertainment created with legendary Four Seasons finesse. This festive season, Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay offers something merry for everyone.

### It's Festive Tea Time

Throughout the festive season, guests are invited to indulge in a perfectly festive afternoon by spoiling themselves with freshly prepared minced pies, caramel chocolate macarons, cinnamon star cookies, praline Yule log, red velvet cupcake, and gingerbread scones.

Festive Afternoon Tea is served from December 5 to 28, every afternoon from 12:00 to 9:00 pm at Bay View Lounge and is priced at BHD 12/ BHD 22 for 2 people\*

A Little Christmas Spirit for the Little Ones:

The Kids For All Seasons complimentary kids camp has an array of organized activities planned for Hotel guests throughout the festive season. From candy hunts to balloon art, face painting, writing letters to Santa or gingerbread house building, the KFAS team has a thoughtfully orchestrated schedule to provide fun for all ages. As 'icing on the festive cake', little guests can meet Santa on December 21, 24 and 25 for gift distribution during brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen.

Extend the Indulgence for Less in The Spa

Guests are invited to enjoy a personalized spa experience like no other. When purchasing a gift card for BHD 65 they receive a complimentary 30-minute back, neck and shoulder massage. When purchasing two gift cards of the same value, they receive

a 90-minute de-stress massage. The complimentary use of lockers, jacuzzi, steam and salt inhalation rooms adds to this festive spa experience.

Offer is valid through December 1 - 31. Savings can only be applied to one promotion at a time.

For reservations: 00973 1711 5000

Holiday Dining on Bahrain's Exclusive Island:

In the spirit of the season, the Hotel's restaurants and lounges will be offering special dinners.

Christmas at Bahrain Bay Kitchen - Unwrap a Christmas feast this season at the Hotel's exquisite buffet restaurant.

- Christmas Eve Dinner - December 24, 7:00 to 12:00 pm, BHD 37 (with soft beverages included), BHD 47 (with full beverage package)\*

- Christmas Day Musical Brunch - December 25, 1:00 to 4:30 pm, BHD 37 (with soft beverages included), BHD 47 (with

full beverage package)\*

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5500

Christmas at CUT by Wolfgang Puck - Guests are invited to delight family and friends with a lavish Christmas dining at celebrity chef Wolfgang Puck's steak restaurant.

- Christmas Eve Four Course Dinner - December 24 and 25, 7:00 to 11:30 pm, BHD 45\*

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5044

A Magnificent New Year's Eve

For those preferring to ring in the New Year in Four Seasons style, the Hotel has created the following dinners and parties.

- New Year's Eve 'Circus' Buffet at Bahrain Bay Kitchen

- December 31, 8:00 pm to 1:00 am, BHD 40 (with soft beverages), BHD 50 (including full beverage package) (prices include complimentary entrance into AZURE's exclusive New Year's Eve Circus Party with

entertainment)\*

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5500

New Year's Day Jazz Brunch at Bahrain Bay Kitchen

- January 1, 2019, 1:00 to 4:30 pm, BHD 28 (with soft beverages), BHD 38 (including full beverage package)\*

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5500

New Year's Eve Circus Party at AZURE

- December 31, 8:00 pm to 2:00 am, BHD 60 for non-hotel guests (price includes two drinks of choice and canapes), BHD 300 for table of 4 people including drinks and canapes

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5500

New Year's Eve Four Course Dinner at re/Asian Cuisine by Wolfgang Puck

- December 31, 7:00 pm to 1:00 am, BHD 45\*, window tables minimum spend BHD 60

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5046

New Year's Eve at CUT by Wolfgang Puck - Celebrate like a Hollywood celebrity at CUT this New Year's Eve with an exquisite four course menu.

- December 31, 7:00 pm to 1:00 am, BHD 45\*

- Reservations: 00973 1711 5044

Get Away to Bahrain This Festive Season:

For guests' convenience, Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay now offers the Bahrain Getaway - 20% Off Package, including:

- 20 per cent savings on the room rate for two-night minimum and maximum stays

- Luxurious accommodations

- Complimentary use of Kids for All Seasons

- Complimentary use of the brand-new beach, pools and Spa facilities

- For reservations: 00973 1711 5000

\*All prices are subject to 10pc government levy and 10pc service charge.