

Ex-manager of RCBC to face charges in Philippines for BB cyber heist

REUTERS, Manila

Philippine prosecutors have recommended the filing of charges against a former bank manager for her part in laundering of tens of millions of dollars stolen from Bangladesh's central bank last year but cleared two casino agents and a remittance firm.

A Department of Justice (DOJ) resolution said it had dropped charges filed by the government's Anti-Money Laundering Council against Philrem Service Corp, which had called the remittance firm a "cleaning house" last year in the movement of funds from one of the world's biggest cyber-heists.

The DOJ resolution was dated Aug 24 but was distributed on Thursday.

Hackers broke into Bangladesh Bank's account at the New York Federal Reserve in February last year and sought to move nearly \$1 billion, mostly to accounts in the Manila-based Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC).

Many of the transfer orders were blocked or reversed by intermediary banks, but \$81 million made it to accounts in fake names at RCBC. Most of the funds then disappeared into Manila's loosely regulated casino industry.

The DOJ recommended that Maia Deguito, a former branch manager at RCBC, and four unknown people who opened accounts in fake names be charged with "eight counts of violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act".

Deguito's lawyer Ferdinand Topacio described the recommendation as "a travesty of justice of the worst kind".

"The DOJ has, in effect, come to the laughable conclusion that a mere bank manager stole \$81 million from the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Bangladesh, and laundered it through the



REUTERS/FILE

Maia Santos Deguito, a branch manager of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp, whispers to her lawyer as she testifies during a Senate hearing on the money laundering involving \$81 million stolen from Bangladesh's central bank, at the Philippine Senate in Manila in 2016.

Philippine banking system and the casino complex, all by her lonesome self," he said in a mobile text message to reporters.

The DOJ also cleared casino boss Kim Wong and junket operator Weikang Xu of any liability, but the resolution did not explain why, only saying the dismissal of the cases against them stands. Wong has returned nearly \$15 million of the stolen funds.

Philrem has denied charges that it was used to launder the money. The DOJ said the company

escaped criminal charges after its owners showed proof that they had alerted authorities about the suspicious transactions.

RCBC was fined a record one billion Philippine pesos (\$19.64 million) by the Philippine central bank for its failure to prevent the movement of the stolen money through its bank, while a top Bangladeshi investigator has said he suspected some IT technicians from the Dhaka-based bank helped the hackers carry out the heist.

Eicher set to make \$1.8b-\$2b binding bid for Ducati

REUTERS

India's Eicher Motors is set to make a \$1.8 billion-\$2 billion bid for Italian motorcycle manufacturer Ducati, the Economic Times daily reported on Thursday, sending the shares in the maker of Royal Enfield motorbikes to a record high.

Eicher is believed to be the only Asian company left in the auction and is currently finalising terms with advisers ahead of the scheduled bid deadline of end September, the newspaper said, quoting unnamed sources.

German carmaker Volkswagen is considering options for Ducati, including a sale of the brand, wholly controlled by VW's Audi division.

But sources familiar with the matter told Reuters earlier this week that Volkswagen had put the sale on hold after resistance from German trade unions and internal rifts on strategy.

The sources said VW had told five bidders to hold off making binding bids for the motorbike brand, which it put up for sale in April to help fund a strategic overhaul.

Eicher, Audi and VW did not immediately respond to calls seeking comments.

Eicher shares were up 3.4 percent at around 0900 GMT after earlier rising as much as 3.9 pct on the bid report, as investors bet a deal could boost the Indian brand.

The stock was among the top percentage gainers in the main index.

"Ducati being a well-renowned brand will help Eicher in terms of design and technology, which in turn will help expand the Royal Enfield product portfolio in the years to come," said Basudeb Banerjee, analyst at Mumbai's Antique Stockbroking.

Sources had earlier told Reuters that US motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson and India's Bajaj Auto Ltd were among companies preparing bids for Ducati.

UK Brexit minister says good prospect of agreeing transitional deal with EU

REUTERS, London

There is a good prospect Britain will negotiate a transitional arrangement with the European Union before it leaves the bloc in March 2019, Britain's Brexit minister David Davis said on Thursday.

Davis said Britain had only raised the issue of transition briefly with the EU so far in negotiations as it is not among the first four issues due to be discussed.

Asked by a lawmaker what prospects there were for bespoke transitional arrangements being agreed and implemented by

March 2019, Davis told parliament: "We are finding that the (European) Commission is open to discussion of transition ... I think there is a very good prospect."

Parliament is on Thursday due to begin debating legislation to sever political, financial and legal ties with the EU, and the opposition Labour Party has said it cannot support the bill without it being amended to better protect workers' rights.

Junior Brexit minister Steve Baker told lawmakers the government would not accept any amendments to the bill that compromised its purpose.

Nokia announces nearly 600 job cuts in France

AFP, Paris

Finnish telecoms giant Nokia said Thursday it planned to cut around 600 jobs in France as it seeks to make cost-savings and refocus its loss-making businesses.

The group said it planned to reduce its headcount in France by 597, a little over 10 percent of its total workforce in the country, with French trade unions calling the move "unacceptable."

Nokia, which no longer makes handsets having sold that business to Microsoft, bought French-American telecoms equipment maker Alcatel-Lucent in 2015 in a deal that was expected to lead to savings.

The cuts in France will be focused on administrative and support services and will not effect research and development as it refocuses on high-speed 5G telecom networks, cybersecurity and internet-linked appliances, the group said.

Nokia is aiming to make 1.2 billion euros (1.4 billion dollars) in total cost savings by the end of 2018 following net losses of 766 million euros last year.

France begins privatisation drive to fund innovation

AFP, Paris

France has begun selling off shares it still holds in companies as it seeks to raise 10 billion euros (\$12 billion) to fund a programme to promote innovation in the country's sclerotic economy.

The sale of a 4.5 percent stake in the energy company Engie conducted late Tuesday, which raised a little over 1.5 billion euros, was the first to raise money for the innovation fund promoted by President Emmanuel Macron during his election campaign.

"This sale of shares took place at a good moment for the state as an owner," Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said in a statement.

"This is the first stage in the plan to sell assets worth 10 billion euros," he added.

Not all analysts were convinced the French state got a good price, which was below Engie's closing share price of 13.98 euros on Tuesday.

"Engie shares are worth a lot more, it wasn't necessarily the best time to sell," said Christian Saint-Etienne at Paris-Dauphine University. "We're seeing a fire sale of the family jewels."

The sale reduced the state's holding to 24.1 percent of Engie's capital. With the double voting rights that long-term investors enjoy, the French state still holds more than the minimum 33 percent of voting rights it had agreed to keep and remains the largest investor.

The government has not publicly specified the names of the other companies in which it also plans to sell shares, although Macron has indicated the French state doesn't necessarily need to remain an investor in Orange, the former telecommunications monopoly.

Analysts see as possible sales of shares in Renault, airports operator ADP and lottery operator FDJ and other companies.

Shell to invest \$1b in Mexico

AFP, Mexico City

Royal Dutch Shell said Wednesday it would invest \$1 billion in Mexico over the next decade, after the oil giant opened its first retail gas station in the country.

The investment in the world's fifth-biggest consumer of gasoline depends on market conditions continuing to develop at their current rates, said Shell executive Istvan Kapitany.

The money is earmarked for "expanding and improving the retail network, improving fuel logistics infrastructure and developing partnerships" with Mexican consumers, said Kapitany, Shell's Vice President of Retail.

Shell opened its first service station in the country on Tuesday, in the Mexico City suburb of Tlalnepantla.

Rajshahi City Corporation
Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi

Memo No. 46.12.5081.006.14.2026.17-1495

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Date: 06.09.2017

e-Tender Notice

(IFT-06/2017-18)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

Sl No.	ID, Reference No.	Name of works	Tender/proposal document last selling time and date
01	119086 46.12.5081.006.14.2026.17-1495	Construction of New, Overlay, Widening & Improvement of Roads and RCC Drain at Different neighborhoods from Ward No. 01-15 & 27 of Rajshahi City Corporation.	12.00 noon on 09.10.2017

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Kh. Khairul Bashar
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Rajshahi City Corporation
Rajshahi

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রাসিক/জশা/৯৪(২০১৭-২০১৮)
তাং- ৭/৯/১৭
GD-1818

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Agriculture
Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
National Agricultural Technology Program-Phase II Project (NATP2)
Department of Agricultural Extension, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215

Memo No. 12.01.0000.000.11.069.17-684 Date: 07-09-2017

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for Hiring a Consulting Firm for Design, Drawing and Supervision of Construction, Renovation, Establishment and Repair Work

1	Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA).
2	Agency	: Department of Agricultural Extension.
3	Procuring entity name	: Director, PIU-NATP2-DAE.
4	Procuring entity code	: 5-4331-5001
5	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.
6	Expression of interest for selection of	: Hiring a consulting firm for design, drawing and supervision of construction, renovation, establishment and repair work.
7	EOI Ref No.	: 12.01.0000.000.11.069.17-684
8	Date	: 07-09-2017
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	: IDA/IFAD.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	: IDA and IFAD.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/program code (if applicable)	: 5-4331-5001
13	Project/program name (if applicable)	: National Agricultural Technology Program-Phase II Project (NATP2), DAE Component (Component-2).
14	EOI package No.	: Package No. SD/DAE-NATP2/10
15	EOI package name	: Hiring Consulting Firm for Works (Survey, Planning, Design & Supervision of construction works of District Ag Office cum-Training Centres, District & Upazila Training Facilities, Horticulture Centre related activities).
16	EOI publication date	: 08 September 2017.
Date Time		
17	EOI closing date and time	: 28 September 2017 2:00pm
18	EOI opening date and time	: 28 September 2017 3:00pm
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
19	Brief description of assignment	: Hiring of a consulting firm for preparation of survey, architectural, structural, electrical, mechanical, sanitary & plumbing design, drawings, cost estimate, tender documents and specification for - (A) Construction of District Agricultural Office-cum-Training Centers (B) Construction, repair, renovation, land development, establishment of sprinkler irrigation system, overhead tank with 4" PVC pipe (Buried pipe) of selected Horticulture Centers and (C) Repair and renovation of District & Upazila Training Facilities & Full time Supervision of the abovementioned works. Details is available in the ToR.
20	Qualification and experience	: Consulting firm should have the following qualification/experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consulting firm should have registration; ● minimum 7 (seven) years of working experiences as consulting firm related to design, management and supervision of construction works and physical services; ● experience in survey, design and supervision of repair/renovation/construction works; ● availability of appropriate skills/experts among staff demonstrated capacity to handle such assignment in terms of resources; ● audited Financial Reports of the proposers for the last three years; ● availability of other resources -- logistical and support services of the firm; ● updated trade license, VAT & IT certificates; ● Consulting firm having experience of working with World Bank funded project and well experienced in PPR 2008 and World Bank Procurement Guidelines will be treated as additional advantages; ● Firm convicted by the court or debarred by any Procuring Entity or by any World Bank funded project or blacklisted at home and abroad is not eligible for application; ● Only Bangladeshi firm having valid registration will be eligible for submission of application.
21	Others	: Short-listed Firms will be called for submitting technical and financial proposals.
22	Association with other firms	: Not applicable.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
23	Name of official inviting EOI	: Dr Ratan Chandra Dey.
24	Designation of official inviting EOI	: Director
25	Address of official inviting EOI	: PIU-NATP2-DAE, 1st Building, 5th Floor, Khamarbari, Dhaka.
26	Contact details of official inviting EOI	: Director, PIU-NATP2-DAE, 1st Building 5th Floor, Room # 618, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka. Tel No. 880 2 58155613 (Office), E-mail: ratanbtech@yahoo.co.uk
27	EOI submission place	: Office of the Director, PIU-NATP2-DAE, 1st Building, 5th Floor, Room No. 618, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka.
28	EOI should cover the following information	: Expression of Interest (EOI) shall be submitted two sets (1 original and 1 duplicate) in sealed envelope, all supporting documents and bio-data authenticated and signed by appropriate authority, delivered to the address above. Interested consultant firm may obtain further information at the address of undersigned during normal office hours.
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without showing any reason whatsoever.	

Dr Ratan Chandra Dey
Director

GD-1817