

## Business

# No internet and cameras at the door: Ghosn's bail conditions

## Globe-trotting exec will be restricted to Japan as part of bail conditions

**TOKYO:** To obtain his freedom, former auto tycoon Carlos Ghosn had to stump up more than just a cool one billion yen (\$9 million) in cash. He had to submit to various conditions that even his lawyer admitted might be "inconvenient" for the former jet-setting executive.

Nevertheless, the conditions proposed by lead defense lawyer Junichiro Hironaka did the trick after two failed bail bids by a previous attorney. Those were rejected by the court on the grounds that Ghosn was a flight risk who could destroy evidence. Prosecutors had strongly opposed his release, arguing that he could seek to contact others involved in the case. If he breaks any of the conditions he could lose some or all of the \$9-million bail, or even find himself back at the Tokyo Detention Centre before his trial—which could still take months to organize.

Here are some of the major conditions of Ghosn's bail:

### Residence

Ghosn may have walked free from the Tokyo Detention Centre that was his unwanted home for more than 100 days but there will still be significant restrictions on his movement while he is on bail.

He must stay in a residence in Tokyo designated by the court. A surveillance camera will be installed at the door. Footage from this camera must be submitted to the court periodically. He is not under house arrest, however, and is free to go outside to do his

shopping. He can even take short overnight domestic trips but needs the court's permission if he wishes to be absent for three days or longer.

### Stuck in Japan

The globe-trotting executive with residences all over the world will be restricted to Japan as part of the bail conditions. According to the Japanese media, his lawyers will take possession of his passport, preventing him from overseas travel.

### No web

As the head of three massive car companies, Ghosn was always on the move and in constant contact with his office. That will certainly change under his bail conditions. He will be allowed access to a computer, but only at his lawyer's office and the machine will not be hooked up to the internet, Hironaka confirmed to reporters. He is allowed to make phone calls but his lawyers will submit to the court the list of all the outgoing numbers dialled—to prevent him making contact with a person of interest in his case. He will not be able to use emails or the internet on any phone he uses.

### No contact

Ghosn has on several occasions denounced what he sees as a "plot" within Nissan to bring him down and part of his bail requirements is that he should not meet with anyone involved in the case.



**TOKYO:** This photo illustration taken in Tokyo yesterday shows Japanese daily newspapers with front page coverage of the March 6 release of former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn. —AFP

This includes his former right-hand man Greg Kelly, who was released on bail on Christmas Day but faces charges of conspiring to under-report Ghosn's salary over a period of eight years.

However, according to local media, he could in

theory attend a Nissan board meeting if he secures the court's approval. He remains technically a member of the board until an Exceptional General Meeting expected April 8 where shareholders will vote on ousting him. —AFP

## 'Tired' Ghosn recovers, as lawyers ready 'thorough' defense

**TOKYO:** Former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn's top lawyer vowed yesterday to mount a "thorough" defence to restore his client's reputation, as the "tired" businessman spent his first day out of a Tokyo detention center recovering. "Of course he is tired," Junichiro Hironaka told reporters camped outside his office. "He was taken into custody unexpectedly at the airport, put in that place for more than 100 days. Wouldn't he be tired after all that?"

Hironaka kept tight-lipped on details about Ghosn, who was freed Wednesday afternoon after his shock arrest on November 19 when Japanese prosecutors stormed into his corporate jet.

He was later slapped with multiple charges of financial misconduct. In keeping with conditions for his bail worth roughly \$9 million, Ghosn has promised to live at a residence with surveillance cameras, to stay in Japan, and to use only designated computers with no internet access. Ghosn's bail should help the lawyers prepare better for his trial, Hironaka said.

Japan's judicial tradition allows authorities to keep suspects in custody for a long time to encourage confessions.

The high-profile case has shone a light on the practice often referred to as "hostage justice", sparking criticism from abroad. "I think it's good that the court granted bail even with various conditions attached, as I've been thinking it's unfair to detain the accused over a long period of time before trial in so-called 'hostage justice'," Hironaka said. "I hope 'hostage justice' will be a thing of the past. From now on, I hope we'll be able to conduct more elaborate, more thorough preparations" for the trial, he said. —AFP

## UK targets surge in offshore wind power

**LONDON:** Britain wants offshore wind farms to provide one third of the country's electricity by 2030, the government announced yesterday, at a time when its nuclear energy ambitions are stumbling. Working with the private sector to take advantage of the island nation's surrounding waters to power homes and businesses with increasing amounts of renewable energy, the government said the Offshore Wind Sector Deal will slash the UK's reliance on fossil fuels.

Offshore wind currently provides about seven percent of British electricity. The new initiative "will drive a surge in the clean, green offshore wind revolution... bringing investment into coastal communities and ensuring we maintain our position as global leaders in this growing sector", Claire Perry, Britain's energy and clean growth minister, said in a statement.

"By 2030 a third of our electricity will come from offshore wind, generating thousands of high-quality jobs across the UK," she added. The government said that the deal "will mean for the first time in UK history there will be more electricity from renewables than fossil fuels, with 70 percent of British electricity predicted to be from low carbon sources by 2030".

Additionally, it "will look to seize on the opportunities presented by the UK's 7,000 miles of coastline, as the industry continues to be a coastal catalyst for many of the UK's former fishing villages and ports", the government statement said. Yesterday's announcement came after Japanese giant Hitachi in January froze construction of a nuclear power station in Wales owing to financing difficulties, dealing a major blow to Britain's low-carbon energy strategy. Britain has put nuclear power also at the heart of its low-carbon energy policy, in contrast to Europe's biggest economy Germany, which is phasing it out in the wake of Japan's 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. —AFP

## UK insurer Aviva warns outlook weaker

**LONDON:** British insurer Aviva yesterday warned that its outlook would be weakened by economic uncertainty surrounding Brexit, but added it was well positioned to "minimize" adverse impact.

Aviva, which appointed new chief executive Maurice Tulloch at the start of the week, issued the gloomy warning in its mixed 2018 results statement. "Given current uncertainties, including the unknown future impacts of Brexit on the economies of the United Kingdom and Europe, our near-term outlook entering 2019 is more muted than our outlook a year ago," said chief financial officer Thomas Stoddard.

He added that "it will be difficult" to sustain underlying earnings of seven percent this year—a level enjoyed by the group in 2017 and 2018. Aviva said net profit rose 4.7 percent to almost £1.6 billion (\$2.1 billion, 1.8 billion euros) in 2018 from a year earlier, helped by lower tax charges.

Chairman Adrian Montague admitted however that it had experienced a "difficult" year, with Britain set to leave the European Union at the end of this month.

"Uncertainty in the political and economic backdrop intensified during the year and this was reflected in a difficult year for investment market performance across most asset classes," Montague said.

"In our home market, the UK, the prolonged and fraught process of negotiating Britain's exit from the European Union has weighed down on growth in the economy.

"But Aviva is well placed to deal with this: our locally incorporated and locally regulated businesses in Europe have prepared to minimize the potential operational impact."

Tulloch meanwhile was appointed on Monday with immediate effect, leaving his job as head of the group's international division. He took over from Mark Wilson who stepped down late last year. —AFP