

# Abu Dhabi court rejects pleas for BCCI officials' release

ABU DHABI, Jan 23: An Abu Dhabi criminal court trying former BCCI officials held since 1991 when the failed bank was shut down rejected pleas yesterday for their release and adjourned its hearings until February 5, lawyers said. reports Reuter.

The lawyers spoke to reporters after a closed hearing on charges facing 13 former Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) officials in the biggest court case to stem from the bank's 1991 collapse.

For the first time since the UAE Ministry of Justice formally charged the officials in October, Judge Shehab Abdul-Rahman Al-Hamadi ordered the hearing to be closed to all but lawyers of the defendants, eleven of whom were in court.

BCCI founder Agha Hassan Abedi and Ziauddin Akbar, sen-

tenced in London to six years imprisonment for his part in the misuse of more than 1.2 billion dollars, are being tried in their absence.

Lawyer Chafiq Suweid told reporters lawyers requested that the defendants be released without bail because "reasons for their administrative detention were no longer valid." Ten have been held in Abu Dhabi since the bank was shut down while one has been out on bail.

The bank's former Chief Executive Mohammed Suleh Nagvi faces a total of nine charges, along with Abedi, he is charged with "using funds entrusted to them by the shareholders and depositors in the settlement of fictitious loans."

One lawyer, Fawzi Salahi,

told reporters that a group of lawyers submitted to the court a joint brief which asked or access to further documents to prepare their defence.

Abedi and Nagvi are charged with taking money from the personal portfolios of UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan and Abu Dhabi's crown prince Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zaid Al-Nahayan to cover losses made by the bank.

Lawyers at the hearing also said US Justice Department officials were in Abu Dhabi last week in connection with an agreement by Abu Dhabi to send Nagvi to the US within 120 days to stand trial for his role in the BCCI scandal.

Officials at the UAE Attorney General's office declined to comment on the hearing saying it was confidential.

TOKYO, Jan 23: Japan's trade surplus grew 15.5 per cent from a year earlier to 12.9 billion dollars in December, boosting the 1993 surplus by 13 per cent to a record 120 billion dollars, the Finance Ministry said yesterday, reports AFP.

The Ministry said exports grew almost twice as fast as imports last year, climbing 6.3 per cent from a year earlier to 311 billion dollars. Imports grew 3.2 per cent to 241 billion dollars in the same period.

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from the region advanced 8.9 per cent to 81 billion dollars.

Japan's politically sensitive trade imbalance with the United States was 50.2 billion dollars. Exports to the country's biggest single trading partner climbed 10 per cent to 105 billion dollars while imports were up 5.7 per cent at 55 billion dollars, the ministry said.

The surplus with the European Community was 26.3 billion dollars with exports to the 12 nations dropping 9.1 per cent from a year earlier to 56 billion dollars while imports fell 5.1 per cent to 30 billion dollars.

The December surplus of 12.9 billion dollars was up from 7.4 billion dollars in November. Exports were up 6.1 per cent from a year earlier at 32.7 billion dollars while imports edged up 0.7 per cent to 19.8 billion dollars.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Jan 23. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	TT	OD
US Dollar	40.1305	40.1605	39.9185	39.8335
Pound Sterling	59.9229	59.9677	59.1197	58.9937
DM	22.9977	23.0149	22.6358	22.5875
F Franc	6.7738	6.7788	6.6654	6.6512
C. Dollar	30.7589	30.7819	30.2804	30.2160
S Franc	27.4736	27.4941	27.0380	26.9805
Jap Yen	0.3634	0.3636	0.3539	0.3532
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2863	1.2722	1.2564
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3276	1.3316	1.3168	1.3005
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0231	0.0231	0.0229	0.0226

AI T. T. (DCO) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 39.8760  
B) Usance Rates:  
30 Days DA 60 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA  
39.5698 39.2870 39.0043 38.7215 38.1560  
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk 39.8335  
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk 40.5605

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	O. D. Transfer	TT	OD
S Riyal	10.7035		10.5903	
UAE Dirham	10.9267		10.8117	
Kuwaiti Dinar	134.6390		133.1885	
Singapore Dollar	24.9645		24.6732	
D Guilder	20.4674		20.2486	
S. Krone	4.9563		4.9016	

Note: AMU=Asian Monetary Union.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 23/01/94

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local	Date of Leaving
J/2	Banglar Baani	Cement	Rijk	KSL	17/01 24/01
J/6	Sea Nymph	P Iron	V Pat	PSAL	02/01 25/01
J/7	Marine ThreeGI/Cement		Tutti	BML	21/01 30/01
J/10	Dolores		—	Seacom	26/12 30/01
J/12	Infinity	Cont	Sing	RSL	22/01 25/01
M/PB/1	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDShip	22/01 26/01
M/PB/2	Banglar Monti	Cont	Mong	BSC	23/01 25/01
CCJ	Pavilina-1	C Clink	Visa	Seabird	03/01
TSP	Iokaati	Cement	Tutti	Littmond	01/01 29/01
RM/3	Global Ceres	CPO	Sing	TSL	20/01 25/04
DOJ	Banglar Shourab	C Oil	—	BSC	R/A 24/01
DD/2	Ourania	Repair	Mong	Seabird	09/01 24/01
RM/9	Banglar Asha	Repair	—	BSC	R/A 30/01
	Banglar Kiron	Repair	Yang	BSC	18/01 28/01

### Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local	Cargo	Loading Port
Kamaleverett	23/01	Sing	EBPL	GI	Japa.Fe.
Dooyang Brave	23/01	Vanc	Royal	M Seeds	—
Al Salma	24/01	ASLL	ASLL	GI	—
Salona	24/01	—	Sunbeam	Copra in Bulk	—
Andrian Goncharov	24/01	Mong	CT	Cong	Sing
Earfard Fishers	24/01	Phuk	SRL	R/LPhuk	Tha
NGS Ranger 15/1	25/01	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Kota Buana 15/1	25/01	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Meng Kiat 20/1	25/01	Cal	AML	Cont	Sing
Eastern Mars	25/01	—	Prog	GI	—
Samudra Raj (24) 18/1	26/01	Mong	SSL	GL	Karachi
Vishva Karuna	26/01	—	SSL	GL	Ilyich.
Gold Finch	26/01	Russ	MSA	MOPM	—
San Pablo (Bor) 22/12	26/01	Sing	JF	Vehicles	—
Tong Ah	26/01	—	Anchor	—	—
Lanka Mahapola 17/1	27/01	Mong	Bardhi	Cont	Col
Jiang Cheng	27/01	—	BDShip	GI	C Ports
Dorlannne	27/01	Yang	Cross	Pulses	—
Blue Ocean	27/01	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi 18/1	27/01	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Epomyna 19/1	27/01	S Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Hang Wan	28/01	S HAI	BDShip	Cement/GI	—
I Yambarenk 17/1	28/01	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin 18/1	28/01	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Litsa	28/01	Chin	USTC	Cement	—
Meng Lee 20/1	30/01	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Ingenuity 22/1	02/02	—	BTSA	Cont	Col
APJ Angad	03/02	—	OWSL	Wheat (GI)	—

### Tanker Due

Maritime Prudence	26/01	Sing	MSPL	HSD

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local	Date of Arrival
Mountain Sky	C Oil	Rasta	Archangel	(22/1)
Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	—	BSC	R/A

### Vessels not Ready

Ronjai Victory	Cement	Viza	USTC	07/01




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