

Abu Dhabi court rejects pleas for BCCI officials' release

ABU DHABI, Feb 7: An Abu Dhabi criminal court on yesterday rejected pleas by defence lawyers to release former BCCI officials who have been held in the emirate since 1991 when the failed bank was shut down, reports Reuters.

The court trying 13 former Bank of Credit and Commerce International officials adjourned until February 19 the hearing in the biggest court case to stem from the bank's collapse.

It held its session behind closed doors for the second time since it formally charged the 13 executives in October.

A court spokesman reading judge Shehab Abdul-Rahman Al-Humadi's decision after the hearing said the judge rejected a request by defence lawyers for the release of the defendants.

He said the judge ordered "the continued detention of the defendants."

Eleven defendants in court have pleaded not guilty to criminal charges including dissipating funds, forging documents, concealing deficits and losses and approving false loans. Ten have been held in the Abu Dhabi Police Club while one has been free on bail.

BCCI founder Agha Hassan Abedi and Ziauddin Ali Akbar, sentenced in London to six years imprisonment for his part in the misuse of more than 1.2 billion dollar, are being tried in their absence.

"It (the court) will also inform... Ziauddin Ali Akbar, through diplomatic channels, of the civil claims facing him," the court spokesman said.

The Abu Dhabi ruling family.

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and Abu Dhabi Finance Department have filed two civil claims worth about 10.3 billion dollar against the 13 defendants based on the criminal charges.

ADIA and the Abu Dhabi ruling family owned 77.4 per cent of BCCI before it was closed.

The bank's former Chief Executive Mohammed Swaleh Naqvi faces nine charges in Abu Dhabi. Along with Abedi, he is charged with "using funds entrusted to them by the shareholders and depositors... in the settlement of fictitious loans."

Abu Dhabi has agreed to send Naqvi to the United States by May 8 to face BCCI related criminal charges there. Lawyers representing Naqvi in the US case have been meeting him this week in Abu Dhabi.

His surrender was part of an agreement that the United States reached on Sunday with the Abu Dhabi ruling family that also calls for a major financial settlement and access to key documents and witnesses.

Abedi and Naqvi are accused of 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.

The court said the adjournment was necessary to allow the defence to study auditing reports by the firm Ernst and Young to prepare the defence. Lawyers have also been seeking access to full texts of interviews by the accounting firm Arthur Andersen with defendants.

Japan to cut plutonium output from spent-fuel

TOKYO, Feb 7: Japan is to scale down its production of plutonium from spent nuclear fuel, a key pillar of its energy policy, as a result of international disapproval, Kyodo News Agency reported on Sunday, reports Reuters.

The decision was part of a long-term plan for nuclear energy use being prepared by the Atomic Energy Commission, Kyodo said.

Under the new plan, the spent nuclear fuel would be held in indefinite storage on-site at nuclear power plants, instead of being recycled to produce plutonium.

Power industry sources were unavailable for comment. Japan, almost entirely dependent on imports for its energy needs, now gets almost ten per cent of its energy from nuclear reactors.

Most are conventional light water reactors fuelled by uranium, which produce plutonium as a by-product of their reactions.

But Japan has pinned its hopes for future energy independence on the development of fast breeder reactors powered by plutonium, which must be extracted from spent fuel in special recycling plants.

One of these plants, under construction in northern Japan, has caused widespread protests by fearful local residents.

Adoption of the new plan would not affect construction of this plant, though the commissioning of a second plant at the same site would be delayed by thirty years, Kyodo said.

Spent fuel from the nation's nuclear power plants exceeds 800 tons annually and is expected to reach about 1,600 tonnes by 2010.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 7, 1994

Ambee Pharma leads gainers

Star Report

Ambee Pharmaceutical Limited trading 9600 shares led the gainers on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange on Monday.

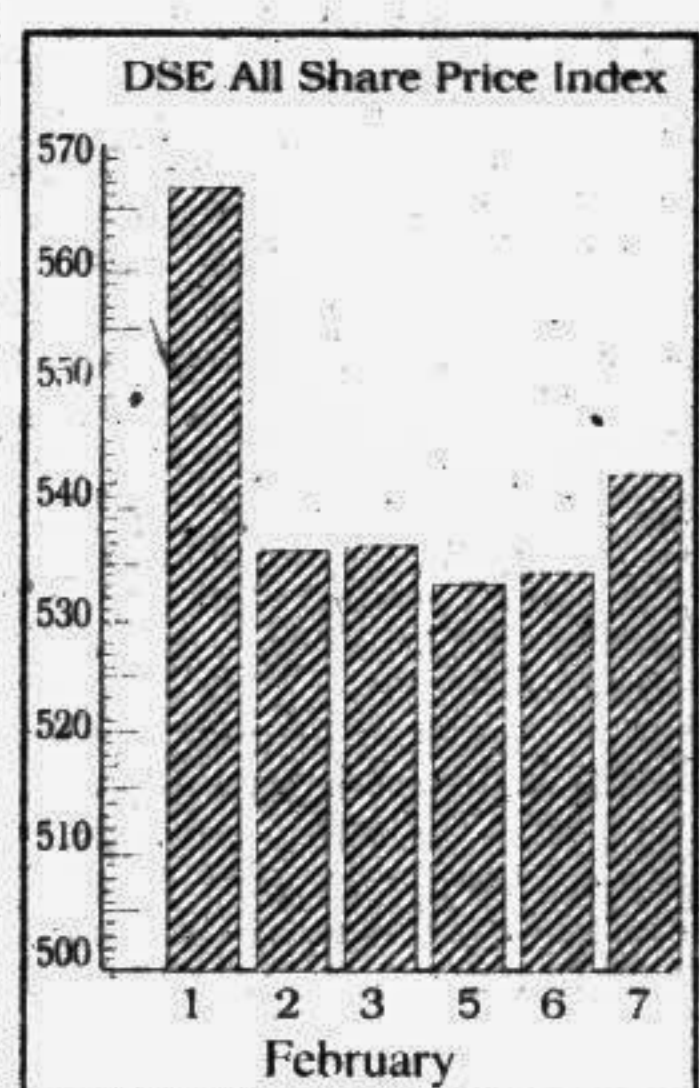
Gainers with 29 out of 49 issues traded dominated the DSE floor. Sixteen issues lost and four others remained unchanged.

Beximco Limited led the losers on the floor. With 13,000 shares it also became the highest contributor to the total volume of the day.

A total of 6209 shares valued at Tk 7984152.00 were traded on Monday. Turnover in volume term rose by 0.075 per cent while turnover in value term decreased by 8.893 per cent.

6th ICB Mutual Fund (4220), Quasem Drycells (6000), Eagle Star (4050) and Beximco Synthetic (4300) were also major volume leaders of the day.

The DSE All Share Price Index gained. It reached 542.73923 from 534.31707, an increase of 1.576 per cent.



Trading at a glance

DSE All Share Price Index	542.73923
Market Capitalisation Tk	24690771890.08
Turnover in Volume Tk	62091.00
Turnover in Value Tk	7984152.00

Company's name	Change (No. of shares traded)
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Gains (29)	
5th ICB M Fund	1.48 540
6th ICB M Fund	3.48 240
Eastern Pipes	4.12 4220
Eastern Cables	6.67 60
Singer BD	17.01 30
Quasem Drycells	0.38 6000
Thal Aluminium	0.55 320
Tobacco Company	8.09 94
Dhaka Vegetables	0.74 580
Zeal Bangla	0.50 2300
BD Oxygen	2.00 574
Quasem Silk	0.20 1500
Eagle Star	0.80 4050
Padma Textile	2.72 400
Ambee Pharma	1.51 9600
Beximco Pharma	18.81 337
Petro Synthetic	0.57 100
Kohinoor Chemical	0.67 45
Ibn Sina	1.25 100
Beximco Synthetic	3.39 4300
Monro Ceramic	0.05 935
Apex Tannery	0.02 695
Usmania Glass	12.85 240
Modern Industries	5.00 10
Ctg Cement	24.56 2410
Apex Footwear	21.55 2440
Beximco Pharma	1.00 74
BD Chemical (Deb)	23.58 3

Losses (16)	
National Bank	1.00 583
1st ICB M Fund	50.00 5
2nd ICB M Fund	10.00 149
3rd ICB M Fund	3.48 165
4th ICB M Fund	4.40 250
Atlas BD	1.75 100
Howlader PVC	1.00 20
Benghal Food	2.63 1895
Ashraf Textile	0.50 550
Dulania Cotton	0.56 90
Beximco Infusion	30.52 150
Savar Refractories	0.08 10
Beximco Ltd	2.18 13000
BCIC	0.70 670
Green Delta	7.17 370
United Insurance	3.00 20

Issues (4) unchanged	
Aftab Automobiles (70)	
Therapeutics (55)	
Bata Shoe (40)	
Beximco Deb (2)	

Stock prices fall in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 7: Tokyo stock prices fell moderately Monday, but political uncertainty kept investors from selling heavily in the wake of last Friday's plunge on Wall Street. The US dollar edged higher against the Japanese yen, reports AP.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 287.03 points, or 1.41 per cent, closing at 20,014.40. On Friday, the index rose 126.61 points or 0.63 per cent.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section slipped 13.36 points, or 0.83 per cent, ending at 1,601.44. The TOPIX gained 2.07 points, or 0.13 per cent, on Friday.

After opening sharply lower, prices remained steady in thin trading as market players waited for the government's expected announcement of measures to help Japan break out of a prolonged recession.

Chief government spokesman Masayoshi Takemura said after markets closed that the government hoped to reach agreement on the economic package sometime later Monday.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is under heavy pressure to produce the package before a February 11 summit with President Clinton in Washington. But his seven-party coalition remains divided over how to pay for a massive tax cut to encourage consumer spending.

The uncertainty over the economic package may have helped prevent a more precipitous decline in the wake of the Dow Jones industrial average's 2.4 per cent plunge last Friday after the US Federal Reserve raised its federal funds rate, the interest banks charge each other for overnight loans, to 3.25 per cent.

Higher interest rates in the United States usually strengthen the dollar and hurt stock prices since investors can earn more on dollar deposits.

Some market analysts said the tumble in New York share prices could help the Tokyo market if money pulled out of the New York market heads toward Asian markets, including Japan's.

Volume on the market's first section was estimated at 300 million shares, down from Friday's 370 million.



Dr Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister of India, delivering his key-note speech on 'Law as a Catalyst for Foreign Investment' in New Delhi on the occasion of the Third SAARC Law Conference held there from January 28-30. Justice M H Rahman (2nd-R) of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh chaired the session.

Wall Street strategists expect more heavy selling

NEW YORK, Feb 7: Wall Street strategists didn't rule out more heavy selling Monday after the jolt that dampened enthusiasm for stocks and wrenched the Dow Jones industrial average down nearly 100 points, reports AP.

Although Friday's drop was small in percentage terms, it may have signaled the start of what some have expected for months: a "correction," or tempering of the ebullience that has produced record highs amid optimism about a revived economy.

The Dow average of 30 big-name US corporations, the best-known barometer of the stock market's health, had been flirting with the unprecedented 4,000-point level for about a week when the Federal Reserve unexpectedly announced Friday it was raising interest rates for the first time in five years.

The average tumbled 96.24 points, the biggest one-day point drop in more than two years, to 3,871.42. Broader market indicators also retreated in a selling deluge that left unsettled nerves in the nation's financial capital.

"I think this would be an over-powering reason for people to start looking for a correction," Robert Brusca, chief economist at the New York office of Nikko Securities International Inc., said on Sunday.

Others called the decline an understandable and temporary setback. Some said the American stock market still remains the best place for investors to place their money.

Researchers at the CS First Boston Inc. investment banking firm, for example, said Sunday in a weekly strategy bulletin to clients that a correction "does not appear imminent. We remain fully invested."

Although the Friday drop resurrected memories of market behaviour that led to the Black Monday crash of October 19, 1987, Wall Street professionals called the parallel a gross oversimplification. Friday's decline in the Dow amounted to 2.4 per cent, compared with 4.6 per cent the day before the crash.

In contrast to seven years ago, interest rates and inflation remain subdued, an underlying condition that has been a major contributor to the stock market's stamina.

Even with the Fed's move to nudge a key short-term interest rate known as the federal funds rate up to 3.25 per cent Friday from its previous three per cent, that's only considered a marginal increase.

In addition, the nation's financial markets have instituted several "circuit-breaker" anti-panic restraints since 1987 that provide for closer market coordination and less speculative selling when declines get particularly extreme.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen made these points in playing down the market's drop. Asked Sunday on NBC's "Meet the press" about Wall Street's reaction to the interest-rate hike, he said: "I think you have a much different situation than what you had in Black Monday."

Bentsen also characterized the Fed's move the same way Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan did: a pre-emptive strike against resurgent inflationary pressures in the increasingly healthy economy. "A quarter of a per cent increase in the short-term rate is not that big a deal," Bentsen said.

Others said it wasn't the size of the increase that mattered, but rather what the increase said about a change in thinking by the nation's central bank. In their view, future rate increases now are much more likely.

fixed prices and wages, which were suggested in a recent report drawn up by Soviet-era economists who called for stronger price and wage controls and payment of debts and overdue wages. But Chubais sought to ally such fears.

"Neither Chernomyrdin nor the government can accept these recommendations to freeze prices. This document is so weak that it hardly deserves any analysis," he said.

The central bank and its Chairman, Viktor Gerashchenko, advocate cheap credits to industries and ex-Soviet republics help their imports from Russia.

The central bank has a good tradition of preparing packages of anti-reform proposals," Chubais said. "Such proposals include a fixed exchange rate... those people behind such proposals should be fired."

Gaidar and Fyodorov say the government does not have the political authority to make deflationary policies stick.

They warn that populist policies advocated by Chernomyrdin and fellow conservative ministers will lead to falling output.

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Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth	Position	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Sonne	Crew	I Mar	Ancient	5/2	7/2	
J/2	Vishva Vikram	GL	Mong	BRSA	3/2	9/2	
J/3	Bangla Sampad	GL	Mong	BSC	4/2	8/2	
J/4	Marine Three	Cement	Tuti	BML	21/1	9/2	
J/5	Island Sky	D Peas	Sing	MSA	1/2	10/2	
J/7	Samudra	GL	Kara	SSL	2/2	10/2	
J/10	Dolores	Idle	Seacom	R/A	15/2		
J/11	Smyrna	Wheat (P)	Sing	Litmond	18/1	8/2	
J/12	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDShip	6/2	9/2	
J/13	Hand Wan	Cement	S Hai	BDShip	31/1	12/2	
MPB/1	Infinity	Cont	Sing	CTS	4/2	8/2	
MPB/2	Bangla Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	5/2	7/2	
GSJ	Apj Angad	Wheat (G)	Rwen	OWSL	3/2	8/2	
TSP	Iloakati	Cement	Tuti	Litmond	1/1	15/2	
RM/4	Pu Aspiration	Cement	Sing	PSAL	3/2	14/2	
RM/5	Gemini	HSD	Sing	MSPL	4/2	8/2	
RM/9	Bangla Asha	Repair	Sing	BSC	R/A	10/2	
CUPLJ	Monoco		Sing	Anchor	3/2	7/2	

VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Moskovskiy	07/2	Tuti	ANCL	Cement	
Kosmosmet	09/2	Sing	MSA	SSP	
Saleen Nine	08/2	Sing	BSL		
Al Reza	08/2	Walt	Litmond	Dun Peas	
Calagan	07/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	
Kota Buana	08/2	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Cpl
Lanka Mahapala	08/2	Col	Nishat	Cement	
Hang Loy	09/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
NGS Ranger	09/2	Sing	AML	Cont	Cal
Ming Kat	09/2	Sing	EBPL	GI	Japa Fe
Shaplaeverett	10/2	Cal	Cross	Pulses	Yang
Blue Ocean	09/2	Cal	AML	Cont	Sing
Meng Lee	10/2	Sing	BSL	Wheat (G)	
Chestnut Hill	10/2	Hald	MBL	Wheat (P)	
Dorianne	11/2	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Andrian Gocharov	11/2	Sing	CTS	Cont	Baba
Eponyma	11/2	Sing	USFC	Cement	
Phila	12/2	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
Bangla Robi	13/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin	14/2	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
I Yamaburko	14/2	Col	BTSA	Cont	Cont
Ingenuty	17/2	Col	Karna	GI (Bash)	
Roberte-e-Lee	17/2	Rang	JF	Vehicles	
San Pablo (Roro)	17/2				

VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Bangla Jyoti	C Oil	Sing	BSC	R/A
Rang Jiang	GI	Sing	Prog	7/2
Altare	CPO	Pera	Royal	7/2

VESSLS READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Bangla Jyoti	C Oil	Sing	BSC	R/A
Rang Jiang	GI	Sing	Prog	7/2
Altare	CPO	Pera	Royal	7/2

VESSLS NOT READY

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Ronjay Victory	Cement	Via	USFC	7/1
Oun Chong Nyon Ho	Cement	Sing	Litmond	3/2
Gold Finch	MOP (P)	UKRA	USA	1/2
Mauo D'Alesio	HSD/SKO	Sing	MSPL	5/2
Hang Cheong	Cement	Sing	PSAL	5/2

VESSLS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Loyal Bird		Mong	Seacom	15/11
Bangla Shourabh		Mong	BSC	12/2
Al Tabith		Mong	BSL	6/2

VESSLS NOT ENTERING

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Lisa	Cement	Sing	USFC	1/2
Oranata		Sing	Seabird	1/2
Akademik Semenov	HSD(P)	Sing	QCSL	27/12

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 08-02-94

Outgoing	Incoming	Staying
J/3	B Sampad	MPB-1
J/11	Smyrna	RM-5
MPB-1	Infinity	J/5
RM-5	Gemini	J/6
		J/3

The above were the Monday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Russian Dy PM warns of catastrophe if inflation remains high

MOSCOW, Feb 7: Anatoly Chubais, the last radical reformer in Russia's government, yesterday challenged "more conservative ministers who want to cast aside monetarism and warned of catastrophe if inflation remained high, reports Reuters