

UK finance firm crashes

LONDON, Feb 27: Baring Brothers and Co. one of the oldest and most prestigious British investment banks, went broke when a trader lost more than 500 million pounds (800 million dollars) gambling in Asian futures markets, it was announced Sunday, reports AP.

The Bank of England sought over the weekend to rescue Barings PLC, the holding company for the bank, but a consortium of the top banks in Britain gave up on the idea because there was no way to cap the potential losses at Barings.

They had a rogue trader who concealed what he was doing from the management, and he busted the bank," a source said last Sunday.

The Barings trader made huge bets on the direction of the Nikkei 225, a Japanese stock index, on the Singapore Mercantile Exchange, the source said, speaking to The Associated Press only on condition of anonymity. A number of Nikkei futures and options contracts taken out by the Barings trader are still open, meaning that if the Japanese stock market falls, the losses at Barings will be greater.

The losses have already outstripped the capital base of Barings PLC, estimated at around 350 million pounds (560 million dollars). The company's total assets were listed at six billion pounds (9.6 billion dollars) at the end of 1993.

Barings applied to be placed under administration, meaning its operations will be under the control of an outside source, the international accounting firm of Ernst and Young.

Some 4,000 people who work at Barings could see their jobs at risk, although the administrators could conceivably sell off parts of Barings as going concerns.

"We're in receivership. That's all I can say," said a Barings executive contacted late Sunday. The bank would issue a statement early Monday, the executive said, declining to identify himself.

The four biggest British banks, Barclays, NatWest, Midland and Lloyds, along with big London investment banks, SG Warburg, Kleinwort Benson, Hambros and others, met Sunday with the Bank of England to try to keep Barings afloat, the source said.

Another report adds: International accounting firm Ernst and Young said Monday three of its staff have been appointed joint administrators to the Barings investment bank and it detailed negotiations with the Bank of England.

The firm in a statement issued in London named the administrators as Nigel Hamilton, Alan Bloom and Maggie Mills.

"They have been appointed joint administrators of Barings, Baring Group Holdings Limited, Baring Brothers and Co. Ltd. ('Baring Brothers'), Baring Securities Ltd, Baring Securities (London) Ltd, Baring Securities Financial Services Ltd, Baring Services Ltd, Baring Asset Management Holdings Ltd and Baring Asset Management Ltd, it said.

The Times said Leeson managed to build up the portfolio of contracts over the previous two or three weeks despite strict ceilings and monitoring procedures.

Atab Ahmed of Everest Corp, a meat importer, said his company planned to bring from New Zealand beef and mutton prepared in conformity with Muslim rules.

The imported meat will reduce the domestic mutton prices from 95 rupees (about 3 dollars) per kilogram to 65 rupees (about 2 dollars) per kilo, he said, adding that imported mutton "is good quality stuff."

A senior executive of a five-star hotel said hotels here would import meat of animals slaughtered in the Islamic way. His hotel consumes 10,000 kilos per month as do many other four and five star hotels in Karachi.

Local caterers and managers of marriage halls in the city could become the largest consumers of the imported meat, traders said.

The majority of Pakistanis use beef in their diet. Unlike some other countries of the world, beef is cheaper there than mutton.

Traders said some 45 per cent of the local demand for beef used to be met from cattle smuggled from the Indian bordering state of Rajasthan, but the sealing of the border by Pakistani authorities cut this illegal supply.

The Bank of England's statement said: "The British banks were committed to supplying all the capital needed to recapitalize Barings, provided it was possible to cap the potential liability on the contracts. In the event, it did not prove possible to meet this essential precondition for the injection of new capital into the firm."

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The man behind

LONDON, Feb 27: The Barings trader behind the bank's huge losses was named in news reports Monday as Nick Leeson, a 28-year-old Briton who had worked in Singapore for about three years, reports AP.

The Times of London said he went missing Thursday and the Daily Mail said he is believed to have fled to Malaysia.

The Daily Mirror quoted an unnamed Barings spokeswoman as saying: "There is a very high suspicion of fraud."

The Daily Mirror said Leeson was reckoned to earn up to 200,000 pounds (316,000 dollars) a year including commission. It said he came from Watford, a blue-collar town 15 miles (24 km) northwest of central London.

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Pakistan imports meat from NZ, Australia

KARACHI, Feb 27: Pakistani traders and hotels have started importing meat from New Zealand and Australia after the withdrawal of duty on such imports by the government, importers here said Sunday, reports AFP.

Imported beef and mutton have been exempted from a 15 per cent sales tax, along with a 20 per cent to 70 per cent cut in customs duties following a domestic shortage that led to an increase in prices.

A meat importer said he had already imported about 70,000 kilograms of Australian mutton and another consignment of 20,000 kilograms from New Zealand would reach here soon.

Another has ordered 200 tonnes of mutton from Australia by opening a letter of credit (LC) for 10 containers, which are due here in the coming days.

He said the market in Karachi, a city of 10 million people, could take about 100 tonnes a month of imported meat.

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Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 27, 1995
Index up by 3 points

Share Report

The Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index rose significantly on Monday while the turnovers on the DSE fell.

The price index advanced to 823.02119 from Sunday's 820.14216, indicating an increase of 2.872 points, or 0.3510 per cent.

The turnover in volume fell by 14.42 per cent and the turnover in value showed a decline of 44.03 per cent.

A total of 46633 shares worth Taka 7565004.50 changed hands as against 54495 shares valued at Taka 13518173.00.

Total market capital rose to Taka 42.26 billion from Taka 42.11 billion.

The number of issues traded fell from 75 to 63, in which 22 gained, 32 incurred losses and the share prices of nine issues remained unchanged.

Singer Bangladesh enjoyed a gain of Taka 23.27 per share, leading the gainers. BCIL(Deb)* and Beximco Pharma suffered remarkable losses.

Volume leaders of the day were: Ashraf Textile (7200), Eagle Star Textile(4750) and Eastern Housing (3260).

Trading at a glance

DSE All Share Price Index	823.02119
Market capitalisation Tk	4227597263.42
Turnover in volume	46633
Turnover in value Tk	7565004.50
Total issues traded	63
Issues gained	22
Issues incurred losses	32
Issues unchanged	9

Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
Rupali Bank	0.00	200
IDLC	4.81(G)	220
United Leasing	0.00	60
3rd ICB M Fund	75(G)	20
4th ICB M Fund	2.00(L)	40
5th ICB M Fund	0.00	20
6th ICB M Fund	44(L)	750
AZZ Pipes	17.24(G)	20
Bengal Cables	0.00	10
Eastern Cables	97(L)	375
Karim Pipe	2.00(L)	5
Singer Bangladesh	23.27(G)	62
Quasem Drycells	0.00	800
Eastern Tubes	45(L)	200
Thalium Phosphum	1.00(L)	100
Alpha Tobacco	5.52(G)	50
BTC	1.77(G)	40
Dhaka Vegetable	1.00(L)	15
Beximco Fisheries	1.62(L)	320
Bengal Biscuits	38(G)	640
Meghna Shrimp	2.49(L)	1500
Beximco Synthetic	5.52(G)	800
Northern Jute	37(L)	800
Shue Pakur Jute	5.00(L)	25
Ashraf Textile	20(G)	7200
Saibam Textile	0.00	100
Modern Dyeing	5.00(G)	250
Gafoor Star Textile	5.52(G)	4750
Dulmisa Cotton	72(L)	100
Padma Textile	5.00(L)	120
Apex Spinning	13(G)	160
Beximco Knitting	3.74(L)	1780
Dynamic Textile	1.48(G)	760
Mithun Corporation	07(L)	420
B Dyeing	1.09(L)	40
Delta Millers	5.41(G)	2360
Ambec Pharma	60(L)	1200
Eastern Pharma	10.00(L)	115
Pharma Aids	0.00	40
Kohinoor Chemical	5.98(G)	490
Rahman Chemical	2.47(G)	470
Wata Chemical	4.17(L)	120
Beximco Infusions	10.00(L)	90
Beximco Synthetic	100/20	29700
Libra Pharma	5.00(G)	80
Orion Infusion	4.53(G)	1780
Quasem Pharma	18.57(G)	465
Maq Paper	16.98(G)	2587
Bata Shoes	69(L)	2400
GQ Ball Pen	1.11(L)	790
Phoenix Leather	5.00(G)	5
Beximco Ltd	11(G)	1400
Chittagong Cement	73(L)	500
Apex Footwear	1.84(L)	690
Eastern Housing	1.11(L)	3260
BGIC	1.01(L)	1060
Eastern Insurance	0.91(L)	640
Janata Insurance	75(L)	260
Phoenix Insurance	7.06(L)	38
B Kinning(Deb)	7.06(L)	38
BCIL(Deb)	30.00(L)	1
B Infusion(Deb)	1.00	36

DSE All Share Price Index

DSE Shares and Debentures

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
ALB Bank	100/1	1025.00
AB Bank	100/5	190.00
City Bank	100/5	500.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	100.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	595.00
UIC	100/20	41.00
LFIC	100/5	180.00
Islamic Bank	100/1	500.00
National Bank	100/5	410.91
Pahali Bank	100/5	90.00
U.C.B.I.	100/10	70.00
Uttara Bank	100/5	90.00

INVESTMENT (8)

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
1st ICB M Fund	100/5	140.00
2nd ICB M Fund	100/5	925.00
3rd ICB M Fund	100/5	320.00
4th ICB M Fund	100/5	259.50
5th ICB M Fund	100/10	348.00
6th ICB M Fund	100/10	242.00
7th ICB M Fund	100/10	183.79

INSURANCE (8)

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
BGIC	100/10	380.00
Eastern Insurance	100/20	228.00
Phoenix Insurance	100/10	385.00
Peoples Insurance	100/10	500.00
United Insurance	100/10	345.00
Janata Insurance	200/2	200.02
Phoenix Insurance	310/98	310.98
Eastern Insurance	214/58	214.58

ENGINEERING (19)

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
Alfa Automobiles	100/5	270.42
Alfa Bangladesh	10/50	72.91
Alfa Pipe	100/5	1425.00
Bangladesh Autocars	100/5	123.42
Bangladesh Lamps	100/5	1800.00
B Thai Aluminium	100/10	122.00
Bengal Carbide	100/5	960.00
Bengal Steel	10/50	20.00
Eastern Cables	100/5	180.43
Howader PVC	100/10	67.00
Karim Pipe	100/5	116.00
Metalex Corp	100/5	70.00
Minoro Staffers	100/5	580.00
Minoro Jute	100/5	1950.00
National Tubes	100/10	112.55
National Steel	10/60	8.00
Quasem Drycells	10/50	22.00
Renwick Jaineswar	100/5	70.00
Singer Bangladesh	100/5	4021.77

FOOD & ALLIED (26)

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
AB Biscuit	100/5	190.00
Bengal Biscuits	100/20	203.38
Alpha Tobacco	10/50	65.00
Anam Sea Food	100/5	784.29
Apex Food	100/5	1450.00
Aroma Tea	100/5	55.00
Isuags	100/5	270.00
R.D. Plantation	100/5	550.00
Bengal Food	100/5	327.80
B.L.T.C.	100/5	560.00
B.T.C.	10/50	157.50
Cig. Vegetables	100/10	115.00
Dhaka Vegetables	100/5	148.00
E.L. Cannelis	10/100	NT
Phlogia Export	100/50	3.28
Gemini Sea Food	100/5	51.00
Hill Plantation	100/5	550.00
Modern Industries	100/5	310.00
R.T.C.	100/52	279.86
Rabeya Flour	10/100	NT
Tulsi Dairly	100/10	61.00
Yousuf Flour	10/50	13.00
Zest Bangla Sugar	10/50	7.80
Beximco Fisheries	100/20	246.38
Meghna Shrimp Culture	100/20	187.37

MISCELLANEOUS (20)

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)
Apex Footwear	100/20	540.03
Apex Tannery	100/5	960.91
Armit	10/50	31.80
Bata Shoe	100/100	127.31
Beximco	100/100	64.08
B.S.C.	100/5	100.00
Cig. Cement	100/5	675.00
G. Q. Ball Pen	10/50	137.95
High Speed	100/5	55.75
Hindustan Ltd	100/100	6.00
Milton Tannery	100/5	8.00
Muano Ceramic	100/5	722.81
New Dhaka Refac	100/20	40.00
Phoenix Leather	100/5	310.10
Sawa Refractories	100/5	55.08
The Engineers	100/100	100.00
Traxpick Ind	100/10	85.00
Ustmania Glass	100/5	410.00
Mithun Corp	100/20	146.50
Eastern Housing	100/20	178.87
Delta Mill		