

# No solution to Kashmir dispute without plebiscite: Pak envoy

AFP, New Delhi

A stable solution to the vexed Kashmir dispute with India could not be found without a plebiscite in the region, Pakistan's envoy to India reiterated Monday.

"We believe that, ultimately, issues concerning the people must be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people," the Pakistan high commissioner to India, Qazi Ashraf Jehangir, said at a seminar in New Delhi.

Otherwise, the solution will not be a stable one, as we have seen for the past 50 years," Jehangir was repeating Paki-

stan's position to adopt a long-standing United Nations resolution seeking a plebiscite in the state.

After ending a six-month-long unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir, India last month invited Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, to hold talks about Kashmir and other issues.

Musharraf accepted the invitation and the dialogue with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee is expected to take place in early July.

The territorial dispute over the Himalayan state of Kashmir, which was divided between India and Pakistan after independence

from the British in 1947, but which remains claimed by both, will be the main theme of this dialogue.

Hailing Vajpayee's decision to invite Musharraf as a "good opportunity," Jehangir said the summit should not be approached with cynicism.

"We know that our views are mutually exclusive on most issues but don't push your cynicism to cynicism. It doesn't lead to anywhere," Jehangir said.

"Despite all the obstacles, we will be able to make some progress. There is no scope for cynicism, which is a barren attitude."

Analysts on both sides of the border have approached the proposed summit with guarded optimism, saying the risk of the talks derailing is very high.

## Taliban launch fresh attacks

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban launched fresh attacks against opposition forces in northeastern Afghanistan Monday, using heavy weapons including tanks and artillery, resistance sources said.

The Islamic militia again drove towards opposition lines around Chal district in Takhar province, which was left evenly divided between the warring parties at the end of last summer's fighting, they said.

A spokesman for opposition commander Ahmad Shah Massoud said Taliban soldiers struck in the early hours of the morning, backed by heavy artillery, rockets and tanks.

"The Taliban launched a three-pronged attack on our defensive strongholds in Chal district early in the morning at 4:00 am (2:30 GMT Sunday), but couldn't advance," spokesman Mohammad Habbab said.

A few hilltop posts had changed hands several times in the course of the battle, which was still raging, he told AFP by satellite phone.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press said some 300 Taliban soldiers were involved in the at-

# Megawati stands by sacked police chief against Wahid

AFP, Jakarta

In a further display of discord, Indonesian Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri on Monday stood by the national police chief who is resisting his sacking by embattled President Abdurrahman Wahid.

An official with Megawati's Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle dismissed Wahid's allegation that General Suroyo Binantoro had sown discord between the president and his estranged deputy.

"Mrs. Mega (Megawati) said that she did not feel that the police chief had tried to pit her against Gus Dur (Wahid's nickname)," said Pramono Anung, the deputy secretary general of Megawati's party.

Wahid, who is battling impeachment moves by parliament, on Friday sacked five cabinet members and "non-activated" Binantoro, relieving him of his duties.

But the police chief has refused to resign, and his defiant stance has won the public support of more than 100 fellow police generals.

Pramono said the vice president believed any changes in the leadership of the police or military should be made according to legal procedure, which stipulates the approval of parliament must be obtained.

Megawati herself, who stands to replace Wahid if he resigns or is ousted, has not commented in public over the sacking of Binantoro.

Wahid is to face a special session of the national assembly on August 1, during which he must account for his rule so far. A rejection of the account by lawmakers would spell the dramatic end of Wahid's term as Indonesia's first democratically elected president.

There has been speculation that Wahid tried to remove Binantoro for failing to support his plan to impose a state of emergency, which would allow him to dissolve parliament before it can impeach him.

In his reshuffle, Wahid also dismissed top security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Attorney General Marzuki Darusman, who had also resisted any declaration of a state of emergency.

# Child mortality jumps amid worst drought in Afghanistan

AFP, Islamabad

Child mortality rates have reached alarming levels in northern Afghanistan where a three-year drought has pushed many to the brink of famine, a relief group said yesterday.

People were at risk of starvation and were running out of ways to survive, a report released by the US-based Save the Children organisation said after a survey in the Kohistan district of Faryab province.

"People are running out of survival strategies," Save the Children field officer Andrew Wilder said.

"The ongoing drought has decimated the local economy, severely weakened the health and nutritional status and forced increasing numbers to join the huge numbers of Afghans displaced by conflict and war."

The assessment conducted in

April revealed that the "mortality rate had reached alarming levels in the four former months, with the crude mortality rate 2.6 per 10,000 a day and the under-five mortality rate 5.9 per 10,000 a day."

Acute respiratory infections, measles and diarrhoea were the common causes of deaths, it said. Half of the reported deaths during the survey period were of children under five.

"Nutrition is a serious problem, with acute malnutrition high among children under 30 months."

Due to non-availability of fruit and vegetables and even wild food, residents in a number of villages are afflicted by scurvy, or vitamin C deficiency, it said.

Most families in the remote mountain district of Kohistan had sold most of their livestock.



People gather outside the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini at the southern outskirts of Tehran yesterday to attend a ceremony marking the 12th anniversary of Khomeini's death.

# FAO warns of malnutrition among urban poor

AFP, Rome

The urban poor in most developing countries face an increasing threat of malnutrition and health risks linked to unsafe food, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned yesterday.

Improving urban food security is essential for attaining a safer and more stable social climate in developing countries," the agency said in a statement.

"Feeding cities means that more food needs to be produced, moved to cities and distributed within the expanding urban areas," it said.

"This in turn means more lorries, greater market congestion, higher piles of garbage, greater risks of food contamination and greater soil, water and air pollution," it added.

FAO official Olivia Argenti said that many cities were rapidly losing urban and suburban land suitable for food production and had insufficient and inefficient transport, markets and slaughterhouses.

"Urban planners and managers

rarely take these issues into consideration," he said. "Governments, mayors, urban planners and the private sector need to pay more attention to the problems of increasing food insecurity and malnutrition in cities."

FAO is to hold a seminar on "Food for the Cities. Urbanisation, Food Insecurity and Urban Management" jointly with the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in New York Wednesday.

The food agency said that food insecurity was becoming an extremely pressing social and political issue as the number of unemployed people, poor women, the elderly and children was growing fast.

"These people do not have their own homes, live in areas at risk where access to safe food becomes more and more difficult and costly," Argenti said.

Around 50 percent of the urban population in Africa live in poverty and in Latin America around 40 percent of all urban households are poor.

The population living below the poverty level in Sao Paulo, Brazil, is estimated to be between

60 and 70 percent of the total population.

In Calcutta, India, the proportion of urban poor is around 70 percent, and 45 percent in Karachi, Pakistan.

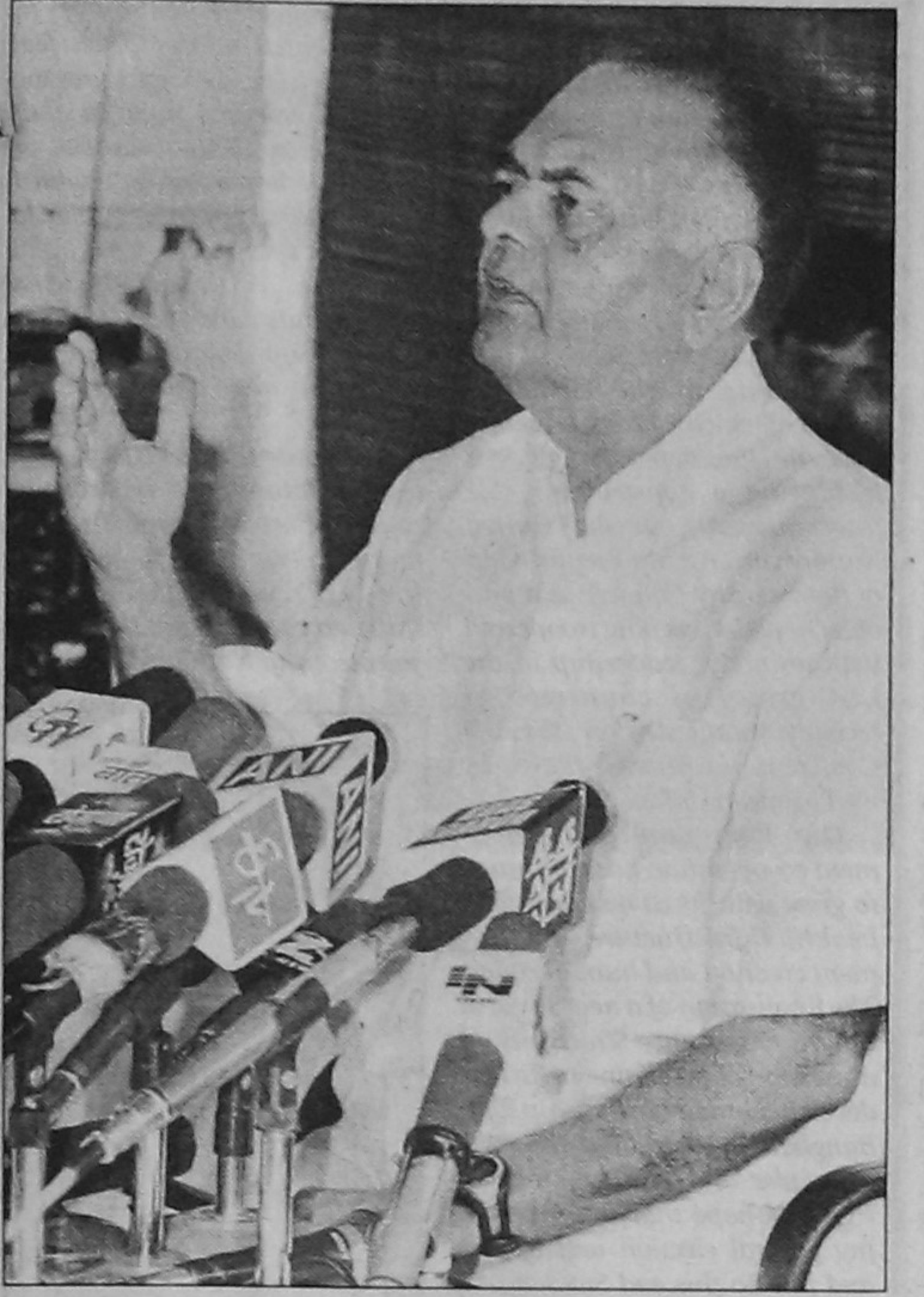
"Feeding the cities means estimating how much food will be consumed by people in the cities tomorrow and making it easier for food products to arrive in the city and be distributed where poor households live, at the lowest possible cost and in hygienic conditions," Argenti said.

"It also means improving the access of poor households to food."

In particular, FAO voiced concern over the alarming state of food wholesale and retail markets in many developing countries.

"They are poorly maintained and managed and are often too old and too small to meet the food needs of the growing population."

In many cities, markets are chaotic, congested and unhygienic. They are rarely well equipped with water, electricity or drainage.



India's pointman on Kashmir, K.C. Pant, gestures as he speaks to journalists at a press conference in New Delhi on Sunday. Pant returned to the Indian capital after a six-day long tour of Kashmir.

# STOCK

## TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES JUNE 04, 2001

DSE										CSE										Financial Performance									
Company	FV/M L (Tk.No.)	Price Closing	Chg (%)	Pre Day	Turnover Share	Price Closing	Chg (%)	Pre Day	Turnover Share	Last AGM (Tk.)	EPS	DPS	Company	FV/M L (Tk.No.)	Price Closing	Chg (%)	Pre Day	Turnover Share	Last AGM (Tk.)	EPS	DPS								
<b>BANK</b>																													
AB Bank Ltd.	1005	256.25	-2.19	262.00	10620	266.00	Not Traded	---	2610/00	21.6	12.5	Dynamic Textile	10020	83.00	3.11	80.50	245600	85.00	7.26	79.25	166000	1003/01	40.1	10.0					
IFC Bank Ltd.	1005	291.75	3.73	281.25	6665	290.00	-1.69	295.00	200	05/07/99	23.3	---	Milhan Knitting	10020	110.25	0.68	109.50	1280	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.	1005	12923.75	-1.42	2064.00	182	2002.00	-2.54	2475.00	9	24/06/00	181	21.0	BD Dyeing & Fins Ltd.	10020	136.00	-0.91	137.25	1200	140.25	---	---	---	---	---	---				
National Bank Ltd.	10020	295.75	-2.07	302.00	14815	294.00	-2.57	301.75	480	18/11/00	183	20.0	Delta Millers Ltd.	10020	66.00	0.38	65.75	8045	63.25	1.16	64.00	1300	26/12/00	0.59	5.0				
Pubali Bank Ltd.	1005	250.25	9.76	224.00	135	115.00	Not Traded	---	30/09/00	124	---	Apex Weaving & Fins.	10050	88.00	2.92	85.50	2900	87.00	2.65	84.75	1100	23/12/99	0.6	---					
Rupali Bank Ltd.	10010	85.50	-1.16	86.50	1220	---	Not Traded	---	12/05/01	24	---	Dandy Dyeing Ltd.	10050	63.00	1.61	62.00	200	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
UCLB	1005	173.50	3.27	166.00	1330	186.00	Not Traded	---	15/09/99	15.6	---	Sonargang Textiles Ltd.	10050	96.00	-3.76	99.75	50	82.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
Prime Bank Ltd.	10050	300.00	2.21	292.50	1220	---	Not Traded	---	19/12/99	19.0	---	Beximco Textiles Ltd.	10050	125.00	0.20	124.75	5350	126.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
ICB Mutual Fund	10010	399.00	1.45	1379.00	15	---	Not Traded	---	16/09/99	293	---	Beximco Denims Ltd.	10050	165.75	-1.34	168.00	3350	179.75	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
AI Baraka Bank Ltd.	10001	399.00	1.45	1379.00	15	---	Not Traded	---	16/09/99	293	---	M. Hossain Textile Ltd.	10050	117.00	3.31	113.25	54850	120.50	7.11	112.50	2050	21/03/00	-2.2	---					
IDLC Ltd.	10020	496.50	-0.70	500.00	140	500.00	Not Traded	---	22/05/01	46.7	30.0	P. Hossain Garments	10050	36.00	-3.36	37.25	1250	37.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	10020	640.00	6.70	600.00	60	---	Not Traded	---	18/05/00	11.7	27.0	Sajib Knitwear Ltd.	10050	52.50	0.96	52.00	750	50.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
United Finance and Inv.	10050	249.00	-1.68	253.25	4600	280.00	Not Traded	---	20/06/00	23.4	15.0	Chic Tex Ltd.	10500	79.00	-1.25	80.00	16500	81.00	1.25	80.00	22500	14/12/00	5.45	---					
AI Arafa Islamic Bank	10005	648.25	-1.55	1674.25	270	1660.00	Not Traded	---	21/11/00	181	12.0	Mono Fabrics Ltd.	10050	76.50	0.66	76.00	1950	76.00	0.00	76.00	800	21/12/00	-1.6	---					
Prime Bank Ltd.	10050	400.25	-2.38	410.00	3550	400.00	0.00	400.00	200	07/04/01	72.0	30.0	Alcor Industries Ltd.	10050	109.00	1.63	107.25	156100	111.00	4.72	108.00	28650	21/12/00	14.1	10.0				
Shahab Bank Ltd.	10050	374.25	-0.86	377.50	7350	375.00	0.00	375.00	400	17/00/00	28.4	15.0	Anilima Yam & Dyeing	10050	120.75	-0.82	121.75	1100	120.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---			
Dubai Bank Ltd.	10050	348.25	-1.14	352.25	8700	353.00	Not Traded	---	21/06/00	31.1	25.0	H.R. Textile Ltd.	10050	99.00	4.49	94.75	7550	100.00	5.26	95.00	2250	30/07/00	4.01	10.0					
N.C.C. Bank Ltd.	10050	224.50	-0.88	226.50	61000	221.00	-3.07	228.00	19900	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---					
Special Investment Bank	10005	600.00	-2.74	1645.00	130	---	Not Traded	---	14.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---					
Dutch-Banque Bank Ltd.	10050	401.00	-0.25	402.00	2150	---	Not Traded	---	14.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---					
<b>INVESTMENT</b>																													
ICB	1005	105.00	0.00	105.00	20	150.00	Not Traded	---	02/11/00	12.7	5.00	Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	10020	175.50	5.61	197.25	2800	180.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
2nd ICB Mutual Fund	1005	410.00	3.40	395.25	25	378.00	Not Traded	---	02/11/00	11.3	35.0	Ambee Pharma	10500	52.30	-1.13	52.90	700	54.00	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
1st ICB Mutual Fund	1005	410.00	3.40	410.00	5	335.00	Not Traded	---	02/11/00	14.4	40.0	Beximco Pharma	10500	61.40	-1.60	62.20	217200	60.80	-1.94	62.00	77450	30/09/00	8.74	20.0					
6th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	159.50	-3.35	165.00	110	166.00	Not Traded	---	02/11/00	22.4	15.0	GLC (BD) Ltd.	10500	117.00	-3.31	121.00	150	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
7th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	158.00	-0.11	157.75	100	140.00	Not Traded	---	02/11/00	16.3	13.5	ACL Limited	10500	56.20	-0.53	56.40	8400	56.10	0.00	56.10	750	22/05/99	6.36	30.0					
8th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	147.50	5.17	140.25	400	132.00	Not Traded	---	02/11/00	15.9	12.5	Square Pharma	10500	40.00	0.00	40.00	200	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---				
LatBSMS Mutual Fund	10050	82.25	-1.20	83.25	50	85.00	Not Traded	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---					
AIMS Fint	12500	1.08	0.93	1.07325000	---	1.08	0.93	1.07325000	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---					
<b>ENGINEERING</b>																													
Arafat Automobiles Ltd.	10005	230.00	0.66	228.50	55	232.00	Not Traded	---	14/12/00	18.9	16.0	Onion Infusions Ltd.	10020	30.50	0.83	30.25	2980	30.00	3.45	29.00	100	27/07/00	4.6	---					
Ariz Pipes Ltd.	1005	299.50	-1.88	305.25	775	306.00	Not Traded	---	14/09/00	-3.1	---	Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	1002																