

WorldCom faces fraud charges, hurtles towards collapse

Bush terms the scandal 'outrageous', vows full investigation

AFP, Washington
Telecom giant WorldCom, caught in a web of deceit and accounting fraud, faced federal fraud charges Wednesday as it hurtled toward collapse under the watchful eyes of a public already reeling from the Enron affair.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission filed the fraud charges in a federal court in New York a day after the company announced officials had misrepresented 3.8 billions of dollars in expenses over the last five quarters.

"We've charged WorldCom with securities fraud and reporting violations" related to filings made in 2001 and the first quarter of 2002, said Bill Baker, the SEC's assistant director of enforcement.

The agency will also seek wide-ranging court permission to prevent destruction of documents and to bar any payouts to past or present executives of WorldCom pending a probe.

The WorldCom scandal illustrated "the need for comprehensive market regulatory reforms that the administration, the Congress, and the SEC have been advocating and implementing," the SEC earlier said in a statement.

WorldCom had no immediate response to the filing.

The once high-flying firm's restatement of its profits was the largest in US corporate history and could eclipse the scandal of US energy giant Enron, bringing another corporate disaster to the steps of auditors Arthur Andersen -- already convicted on federal charges of criminal wrongdoing.

At the Group of Eight Summit in Canada, President George W. Bush termed the WorldCom scandal "outrageous" and vowed a full investigation into the firm's apparent accounting irregularities.

"Those who are entrusted with shareholders' money must -- must -- strive for the highest of high standards," he said.

A US Justice Department spokesman said the case was "under review" but declined to

elaborate. Standard and Poor's lowered its long-term corporate credit rating on WorldCom Inc to "CCC-" from "B+", citing "the high degree of uncertainty surrounding WorldCom's ability to ultimately pay its outstanding debt" of some 30 billion dollars.

"These events increase the likelihood of a debt restructuring or

Chapter 11 filing near term," said the credit rating firm. Other analysts also were skeptical the firm would survive. "WorldCom's shareholders' long-term hope depends largely on the faith of the firm's creditors, which is now probably nonexistent," said Michael Hodel of Morningstar. "With executives like WorldCom's, who

needs a crumbling industry?" According to a statement released by the Clinton, Mississippi-based WorldCom, monies that were actually expenses were booked as capital. This was accomplished outside of generally accepted accounting rules, the company stated.

G8 to battle corporate misdeeds

AFP, Kananaskis, Canada

Group of Eight leaders grappled Wednesday with turmoil on world markets sparked by a massive accounting scandal at US telecom giant WorldCom, agreeing to tackle corporate misdeeds on a united front.

"We are very concerned," Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien said after WorldCom revealed a 3.8 billion dollar black hole in its accounts, threatening to trump even the collapse of energy giant Enron in December.

G8 leaders fretted that the WorldCom scandal may further erode wary investors' waning confidence in the markets, said Chretien.

Market investments were critical to the health of the G8 economies and played an important role in consumer sentiment, said the Canadian host.

"So it is a preoccupation," he said. "Everybody agrees that we have to

work on it collectively because it is not only a problem in the United States but it is a problem that affects the economy of all the Western world and probably of all the countries in the world."

The dollar's slide towards parity with the euro took up less time. Asked how largely it had featured, Catherine Colonna, spokeswoman for French president Jacques Chirac, said: "Very little. Some people managed to mention it but only in passing and briefly. I would not say there was an exchange of views on the matter."

Leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States -- a grouping that includes Russia in the financial deliberations for the first time in G8 history -- were optimistic about the economic outlook, Chretien said. "I can tell you that people all agreed that the situation is better in 2002 than it was in 2001 and it will be better in 2003," he said.

There were still problems in Japan he said, but even Tokyo saw improved economic prospects for next year.

Most experts said a spurt of Japanese economic growth in the first quarter of this year -- equal to an annualized growth rate of 5.7 per cent -- was likely to be short-lived as the world's second-richest economy returned to its decade-long trudge.

The world leaders also sought to put a lid on trade disputes raging between the United States and its major partners in areas as diverse as steel, lumber and agriculture. The disputes have raised concerns for the prospects of World Trade Organization talks to dismantle trade barriers, agreed to in Doha, Qatar, last year.

"We asked our members to go back and make sure that the spirit of Doha is respected, freer trade, less protectionism. That was discussed, mentioned and agreed in principle," Chretien said.

World stock markets bounce back

AFP, London

Asian and European shares traded sharply higher on Thursday, buoyed by Wall Street where investors held their nerve the previous day in the face of a market-rolling accounting scandal at telecoms giant WorldCom.

Across the 12-nation euro zone, the Euro Stoxx 50 index traded 1.6 per cent higher at 2,995.4, as the index continued to climb away from the four-year low points reached Wednesday.

Britain's FTSE 100 index traded 0.6 per cent higher at 4,557.1 points, the German DAX 30 index rose 1.6 per cent to 4,164.0 points

while the French CAC 40 index gained 0.8 per cent to 3,731.5 points.

Earlier in Asia, Tokyo shares leapt 1.9 per cent, while the Hong Kong market rose 1.6 per cent.

The recovery was sparked by events across the Atlantic, where stocks clawed back deep from losses to end Wednesday's session virtually flat.

"The sell-off in the US which everyone had been expecting didn't come through and that's helped restore a bit of confidence," said Henk Potts, equity strategist at Barclays Stockbrokers.

In New York, the Dow Jones Industrials slipped 0.1 on

Wednesday, while the tech-rich Nasdaq edged 0.4 per cent higher.

Potts said markets in both the United States and Europe had been offered some support by hedge funds that appeared to have been buying back stocks sold previously.

He added that the US Federal Reserve's decision to leave interest rates at their 40-year low of 1.75 per cent, while largely anticipated by the markets, had helped encourage selective bargain hunting.

But Potts warned that investors remained highly cautious, fearful that the scandals at Enron and WorldCom may not be the last to emerge.



Managing Director of Remco Pvt Ltd Md Nazrul Islam and Chairman of Northern Foundation Sayeed M Akhter exchange the documents after signing a marketing agreement on behalf of their respective sides in the city on Sunday. Remco Chairman M.H.M. Shahjahan also was present. Under the agreement, Remco will market two apartment projects of Northern Foundation Ltd -- Tajdik's and Diti's located at Baridhara DOHS and Gulshan-2 respectively.



DCCI Director Fazle R M Hasan addresses the certificate awarding ceremony of a training course on 'Import & Indenting Procedures' at DCCI Business Institute (DBI) on Wednesday. DBI Executive Director Dr Ahmad Neaz, DCCI-GTZ Project Manager Md. Emdadul Haque and Deputy Secretary (Training) and Course Co-ordinator Hasanur Rahman Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

SHIPPING

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Selling	Currency	Buying
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean
58.5500	58.5800	USD 57.4000
58.5324	58.5624	EUR 55.6436
90.1963	90.2425	GBP 86.6740
33.6077	33.6249	AUD 32.0005
0.4902	0.4905	JPY 0.4744
39.6653	39.6857	CHF 38.1294
6.3961	6.3994	SEK 6.1693
38.8134	38.8333	CAD 37.6270
7.5140	7.5179	HKD 7.3518
33.2765	33.2935	SGD 32.3471
16.0724	16.0806	AED 15.5026
15.7367	15.7448	SAR 15.1844

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	AUD
48.82	60.065	96.17	41.690	7.5179	0.4908	0.56575

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active on Thursday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 3.25 and 3.75 per cent for the day.

Dollar pulled back moderately on Thursday. Slight gain in stock market in US, threat of Japanese intervention and White House's statement to pursue strong dollar policy helped the dollar to recover against most of the currencies. But analysts confirm that greenback is still very much susceptible. GBP, yen and euro got slightly weaker as a result of the strengthening of dollar.

CURRENCY

Chittagong port
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 27-6-2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Imprt disc
J/1	Khaleda	Sugar	Sant	AMBL	18/6	30/6	1361
J/2	Banglar Kallol	Gl (Log)	Yang	BSC	13/6	28/6	1136
J/3	Hala	Gl	Dilli	Sunshine	20/6	27/6	355
J/4	Paragon Pescadores	Gl (St. C)	Pana	Everett	25/6	28/6	2143
J/6	APJ Sushma	C Clink	Krabi	OLM	20/6	30/6	1972
J/7	AVA	Rice (P) Gl	Yang	BNSShip	4/6	30/6	608
J/8	Oriental Glory	Gl (HR.C)	Sing	OTL	23/6	27/6	3827
J/9	Kariakos-M	C Clink	Birin	SSA	5/6	27/6	1443
J/10	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	23/6	29/6	298
J/11	Mercs Kandy	Sugar(P)	Col	RSA	22/6	30/6	326
J/12	Kola Singa	Cont	Sing	PIL(BD)	25/6	29/6	142
J/13	Phumy	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	22/6	29/6	262
CCT/1	QC Honour	Cont	P Kel	QCSSL	23/6	28/6	240
CCT/2	Asimont	Cont	P.Kel	Seabome	20/6	28/6	194
CCT/3	Jurong Dauhinia	Cont	Sing	Nol	21/6	27/6	-
RM/15	Baltimar Sirius	Rice(P)	Kaki	Seacom	25/6	30/6	3000
CCJ	Ailana Princess	C Clink	Trail	BSL	18/6	17/6	1564
GSJ	Issac Light	C Clink	Hond	PSAL	11/6	29/6	816
DD	Banglar Mamata	Repair	-	BSC	RIA	28/6	-
RM/9	Banglar Gourab	Idle	Krabi	OWSL	22/5	27/6	-
RM/10	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	RIA	5/7	-
Kafco(A)	Gaz Millennium	Ammonia	Ind	MBL	26/6	27/6	10000

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banga Barta (Cont) 12/6	27/6	Hald	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Banga Bonik (Cont) 17/6	27/6	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Gati-2	27/6	Kaki	Rainbow	Gl (WT.Cement)	-
Orient Freedom (Cont) 17/6	27/6	27/6	PSSL	Cont	Sing
QC Dignity (Cont) 17/6	28/6	P.Kel	QCSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Jaya Mars (Cont) 17/6	28/6	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Maritime Peace	28/6	Tarj	BSL	C. Clink	-
Banga Biral (Cont) 17/6	28/6	-	BD Ship	Cont	L/Sing
Wing Song	28/6	B.ABB	RK Ship	Gl	-
Tropical Star	20/6	Cebu	RSA	C Clink(Cemex)	-
Jaami (Cont) 23/6	1/7	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
Myrc	29/6	-	PSAL	C.Clink	-
Banga Bijoy (Cont) 17/6	1/7	HAL	Baridhi	Cont	L/Cont
Kota Cahaya (Cont) 19/6	30/6	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	L/Sing
Consistence	30/6	-	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
An Guang Jiang	30/6	-	Everett	Gl(St.C)	-
Banga Lanka (Cont) 9/6	1/7	PKL	Bdship	Cont	L/Hal
Banga Biraj (Cont) 22/6	1/7	-	BdShip	Cont	L/Sing
Xpress Makalu (Cont) 20/6	1/7	PKL	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 12/6	2/7	-	Everbest	Cont	L/Col
Alpha Venture	2/7	-	Oil	W/LD Urea	-
QC Lark (Cont) 22/6	1/7	P Kel	QCSSL	Cont	L/P.Kel
Mardios (Cont) 25/6	4/7	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	L/Sing.
Kota Berjaya (Cont) 25/6	7/7	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Sing.
Pioneer Runner (Roro) 24/ 23/6	6/7	P.Kel	JF	Cont	Sing
K. Berjaya (Cont) 25/6	7/7	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
Kuo Hsiung (Cont) 23/6	6/7	PKel	QCSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Deep Sea-02	10/7	-	SRL	Fishing	Trawlers
Hartford-10	10/7	-	SRL	-do-	-
Orient Patriot (Cont) 13/6	10/7	-	Pil (BD)	Cont	L/Sing

Tanker due

Global Uranus	27/6	Sand	Seacom	CPO(RM/4)
Dai Ling	27/6	Sing	ECSL	HSD/MS(RM/6)
Hellas Progress	28/6	Sing	MSTPL	SKO/JP-1(RM/6)
Pranedaya Dwitya	30/6	Sing	CTPL	E.Oil (RM/4)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on

Handy Humantty	RSeed	Sing	USL	14/6
Kiant Satu (Liner)	Gi (St. & P)	Sing	Prog	25/6
Banglar Robi (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BSC	25/6
Taramon Bibi	Rice (P)	Mumb	Mutual	21/6

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

STOCK