

Probe into bribery allegation

India's tax dept raids Xerox offices across country

AFP, New Delhi

India's income tax department on Wednesday raided the offices of US-based Xerox Corp's Indian subsidiary, Xerox Modicorp, company officials said.

"The taxmen arrived early this morning (Wednesday) and have been sifting through the documents and files kept by our accounts and finance departments," said an employee, who did not want to be identified, in Xerox Modicorp's Gurgaon headquarters on the outskirts of Delhi.

"It is business as usual for the rest of the departments at Xerox Modicorp."

Tax officials simultaneously raided 23 offices belonging to the US firm's Indian subsidiary in Delhi, Gurgaon, Uttar Pradesh

and Calcutta, the employee said.

Indian Finance Minister Jaswant Singh had declared on July 4 that the government would launch an investigation into Xerox Modicorp after the company disclosed its local arm had paid bribes to government officials.

Xerox, which is embroiled in the latest accounting scandal to hit corporate America, had made the disclosure in its annual report in July which restated equipment sales from 1997 to 2001 by 6.4 billion dollars, more than twice as much as the company had acknowledged in April.

"In India, we have learned of certain improper payments made over a period of years in connection with sales to government customers by employees of our

majority-owned subsidiary in that country," the company said in the report.

"We estimate the amount of such payments in 2000, the year the activity was stopped, to be approximately 600,000 to 700,000 dollars (28.8 million to 33.6 million rupees)."

According to the Connecticut-based company's annual report, 100 to 200 dollars at a time were paid to Indian government officials to clinch orders.

The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act prohibits US companies from bribing foreign officials. At the same time, the law allows small payments that are necessary to do business in other countries.

Foreign investors have ranked India among countries with the

highest levels of corruption and red-tape.

Xerox, which does business in more than 130 countries, has a reputation of technological innovation that it has been unable to transform into profits.

In April, US Securities and Exchange Commission regulators alleged Xerox had flouted accounting rules in the United States when booking revenues from bundled contracts, which include equipment, service, supplies and financing.

News of Xerox's accounting scam follows the accounting scandals of telecoms giant WorldCom and energy trader Enron, which have roiled the financial markets and prompted congressional investigations.

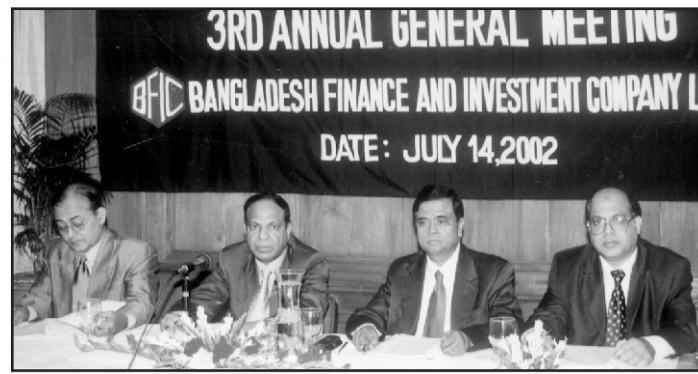


PHOTO: BFC

Anwar Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Co. Ltd (BFC), presides over the company's third annual general meeting in the city recently. Hafizur Rahman, managing director, Mohammad Faiz, vice-chairman, and Hossain Akhtar, director of the company, are also seen in the picture.



PHOTO: THE LOYEDS INS

The Loyeds Insurance Company Limited opened its Malibagh branch recently. Picture shows G F M Shawkat Ali, managing director of the company, inaugurating the branch. Among others, Gour Hari Saha, deputy general manager and incharge of the branch, General Manager (F&A) Md Abul Hashim and Company Secretary Salim Ahmed are seen in the picture.

US economy to emerge from scandals: Fed chief

AFP, Washington

Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said Tuesday the US economy was set to emerge from a welter of corporate crimes with better-than-anticipated growth.

As the business world was released from the grip of an "infectious greed" fed by the speculative drive of the late 1990s, new misdeeds were likely to taper off, the powerful Federal Reserve boss said.

The economy, meanwhile, was beating back the blows of plunging stock prices, a retrenchment in business investment, and the September 11 attacks, he said.

Greenspan presented the Federal Reserve's monetary policy report, which forecast economic growth of 3.5 to 3.75 per cent this year from the fourth quarter of 2001, to a Senate banking committee.

Just five months earlier, the Federal Reserve had forecast 2.5 to

3.0 per cent expected earlier.

But final demand -- consumer spending, business investment and exports, would be critical, Greenspan cautioned.

"While final demand has been increasing, the pace of forward momentum remains uncertain," he said.

Wall Street's blue-chip Dow Jones index, which had plunged more than 230 points earlier, recovered sharply during his testimony. The Dow was down 44.31 points, or 0.51 per cent, at 8,594.88 mid-morning.

"The effects of the recent difficulties will linger for a bit longer but, as they wear off, and absent significant further shocks, the US economy is poised to resume a pattern of sustainable growth," Greenspan said.

The number of new corporate misdeeds is likely to diminish sharply, he forecast.

"With profitable opportunities for malleasance markedly diminished,

far fewer questionable practices are likely to be initiated in the immediate future," Greenspan said.

Corporate checks and balances, which once had worked reasonably well, broke down during the rapid expansion in stock market values in the late 1990s, which had arguably fed avarice, he said.

"An infectious greed seemed to grip much of our business community. Our historical guardians of financial information were overwhelmed."

Too many company chief executives had sought to harvest the stock market boom, the Federal Reserve chairman said.

The "highly desirable" spread of shareholding and of stock options -- a security allowing the holder to buying a stock at a set price in the future -- had lured them into boosting share prices, Greenspan said.

3rd AGM of Bangladesh Finance held

The third annual general meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Co Ltd was held in the city recently, says a press release.

Anwar Hossain, chairman of the company, presided over the meeting.

Directors M A Taher, Manwar Hossain, Hazi Yousuf, Hossain Akhtar, Geasuddin Ahmed, S M Didarul Alam, Hossain Mehmud, Hazi Imtiaz, Hossain Khaled, Managing Director M Hafizur Rahman and sponsor shareholders of the company were also present in the meeting.

The shareholders reviewed the annual accounts and have expressed their satisfaction over performance of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Co Ltd in the year 2001.

At the AGM, Anwar Hossain was unanimously re-elected chairman and Hossain Khaled elected vice-chairman of Bangladesh Finance and Investment Co Ltd.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Selling	Currency	Buying	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
TT/OD	BC				
58.5500	58.5800	USD	57.4000	57.2314	57.1629
60.0840	60.1148	EUR	57.1245	56.9567	56.8885
93.0652	93.1129	GBP	89.4866	89.2238	89.1170
33.0808	33.0977	AUD	31.4839	31.3914	31.3539
0.5081	0.5083	JPY	0.4914	0.4900	0.4894
40.7531	40.7740	CHF	39.1588	39.0418	38.9951
6.3914	6.3946	SEK	6.1646	6.1465	6.1392
38.2680	38.2876	CAD	37.1041	36.9951	36.9508
7.5140	7.5179	HKD	7.3516	7.3300	7.3213
33.8420	33.8593	SGD	32.8921	32.7955	32.7562
16.0724	16.0806	AED	15.5026	15.4571	15.4385
15.7354	15.7435	SAR	15.1852	15.1406	15.1225

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	AUD
48.785	60.15	96.045	40.380	7.2929	0.4848	0.5575

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active Wednesday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 3.50 and 4.50 per cent for the day.

In the international market, embattled US dollar gave up more ground to euro and yen in New York, barely staying off its lows even after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan delivered a relatively upbeat message on the US economic fundamentals. Greenspan's remarks for a while seemed to reassure Wall Street, but heavy selling reared Dow Jones Industrial Average again driving to its seventh straight decline. The dollar dragged itself up in Asian spot on Wednesday. Support also came from US operators who were seen shifting their funds from overseas instruments back into dollars, either to avoid currency risk or to take overseas profits to cover US equity losses. View for dollar still remains bearish.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 17.7.2002.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disc
J/1	Supreme	GI (Log)	Yang	Uniship	6/7	17/7	1093
J/2	Elmwood	GI/GL	Pipa	RML	11/7	19/7	3300
1/3	Jat Na Mu	Sugar(P)	Sing	USL	08/7	20/7	1761
J/4	Sara Star	GI (Coil)	Goa	Royal	07/07	20/7	1034
J/5	Le Tai	GI (Peas)	Rouen	Angelic	23/6	17/7	1910
J/7	Win Song	GI (Bit)	B Abb	Rkship	5/7	22/7	971
J/8	Nand Srishti	C Clink	Sikka	BSL	06/07	23/7	819
J/9	Suisen	C Clink	Krabi	OLM	3/7	20/7	2250
J/10	Mercs Kandy	Sugar (P)	Col	RSA	22/6	18/7	366
J/11	Phumy	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	12/7	20/7	306/14
J/12	Orient Freedom	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	14/7	18/7	188/X
J/13	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pli(BD)	14/7	19/7	(618/40)
CCT/1	Banglar Robi	Cont	sing	BSC	14/7	18/7	166/18
CCT/2	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pli(BD)	11/7	17/7	316/58
CCT/3	Qc Teal	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	13/7	18/7	100/X
RM/14	Khaleda	Idle	Sant	AMBL	18/6	22/7	-
CQJ	CS Vallant	C Clink	Tarj	BSL	6/7	20/7	-
TSP	Ja Gang	R Phos	Col	Limond	14/7	20/7	-
RM/3	Falcon	CPO	Mala	Rainbow	14/7	18/7	-
RM/5	Dallong	SkoJP-1	Sing	MSTPL	15/7	17/6	-
RM/6	Mikom Accord	Hsd/MS	Sing	ECSL	14/7	19/7	-
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	K Dia	BSC	R/A	17/7	-
DD	Banglar Kallol	Repair	Yang	BSC	13/6	25/7	-
DDJ/1	Banglar Mamata	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	20/7	-
RM/9	Banglar Gourab	C Clink	Krabi	OWSL	22/5	20/7	-
K(U)	Kyriakos-M	Urea	Sing	MBL	12/7	18/7	-
BB	Pai Hai Jun No. 2	Ballast	Taiw	Transglobal	6/7	-	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading por
Banga Biraj (Cont) 6/7	17/7	P Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Sea Lantern	17/7	-	NFT	Cont	P Kel
Jaya Mars (Cont) 11/7	19/7	-	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Qc Lark (Cont) 8/7	18/7	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	P Kel
Kota Cahaya(Cont) 7/7	18/7	Sing	Pli(BD)	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu (Cont) 7/7	19/7	P Kel	RSL	cont	Sing
Banga Bijoy (Cont) 9/7	18/7	COB	Barilhi	Cont	Col
Banga Biraj (Cont) 6/7	19/7	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Ilgan (72) 13/7	19/7	Yang	H&SL	GI (Hr Col)	-
Baltic Leader (Roro) 24/9/7	19/7	Sing	JF	Cont	Sing
Consistence (Cont) 6/7	20/7	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
An Shun Jiang	20/7	-	BdShip	GI	-
Orient Patriot (Cont) 13/6	20/7	P Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Alessia Prima	20/7	Sing	OTBL	-	-
Walter	20/7	Sing	OTBL	-	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading por
Dea Chancellor	-	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(2/7)
Danat Qatar	C Oil	-	Jebe	USS	14/07
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	-	BSC	R/A

Vessels at outer anchorage Ready on

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading por
Qc Pintail (Cont)	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	15/7
Qc Dignity (Cont)	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	16/7
Min Jiang (Liner)	GI	P Kel	Bdship	Cont	16/7

Vessels awaiting instruction

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading por
Hang Cheung	GI (Y Ma)	-	-	USL	R/A (15/7)
Taraman Bibi	-	-	-	Mutual	R/A(16/7)

Movement of vessels for 18.7.2002

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting		
J/5	Qc Pintail	J/12	Qc Dignity	CCT/T B.Robi To GSJ
J/10	M. Kandy	CCT/3	Qc Pintail	
J/12	O. Freedom	CCT/1	K. Cahaya	
CCT/3	Qc Teal	J/6	Bo Tong	
RM/3	Falcon	J/0	Xuang Cheng	
DOJ	B. Shourabh			

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

STOCK