

5 US corporate chiefs sued for alleged profiteering

WorldCom, Qwest bosses on the list

AFP, New York

New York's attorney general Monday sued five top corporate telecom executives for allegedly profiteering from share offerings and phony stock ratings to the tune of more than 1.5 billion dollars.

Among those named in the civil suit filed by attorney general Eliot Spitzer was former WorldCom chief executive Bernie Ebbers -- believed to be a target of criminal investigations into the multi-billion dollar accounting scandal that brought about the telecom giant's collapse.

According to the complaint, the five defendants steered their companies' underwriting business to investment bank Salomon Smith Barney, in return for access to lucrative initial public offerings of stocks.

Once the share prices soared in active trading, the stocks were often sold, netting the executives

around 28.2 million dollars in profits, it said.

"This case exposes further conflicts of interest on Wall Street," Spitzer said.

"The spinning of hot IPO shares was not a harmless corporate perk. Instead it was an integral part of a fraudulent scheme to win new investment banking business."

As well as Ebbers, the suit names Qwest Communications chairman Philip Anschutz, Qwest chief executive Joseph Nacchio, Metromedia Fiber Networks chairman Stephen Garofalo and McLeod USA chief executive Clark McLeod.

The suit also demands repayment of 1.5 billion dollars obtained through the sale of stock in the five executives' own companies after the values were hyped by Salomon's top telecom analyst Jack Grubman.

Anschutz alone is accused of earning 1.4 billion dollars from

sales of Qwest Communications stock.

"The executives received huge perks from a vendor who sought their business," Spitzer said.

"This clearly was unjust enrichment, and it violated the disclosure requirements of state law. Uninformed shareholders, meanwhile, lost millions of dollars when the stocks in the defendants' companies crashed," he said.

Asked whether criminal charges had been considered, Spitzer said the civil suit had been deemed the more "appropriate remedy for this particular issue," but added that investigations were ongoing.

Spitzer's complaint cites statements by Salomon Smith Barney employees indicating that the company's research was "basically worthless." Other documents suggest analysts were pressured to issue ratings that helped generate and retain investment banking clients.

Although nobody at the brokerage was named as a defendant in Spitzer's suit, the attorney general stressed that investigation of analyst conflict of interests at Salomon Smith Barney was continuing.

Grubman's lawyer, Lee Richards, issued a statement denying that his client had any responsibility for, or tried to influence, IPO allocations to telecommunications executives.

"The suggestion in the complaint that Mr. Grubman's research was somehow altered to help enrich executives who received IPO allocations or to obtain their investment banking business is categorically false," Richard's said.

"Mr. Grubman's analysis was diligently researched, was based upon what he knew about the companies at the time, and contained his honestly held views about those companies," he added.

CURRENCY

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

Selling	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
58.5800	58.6100	USD	57.8050	57.6352	57.5662
58.5449	58.6748	EUR	56.3252	56.1597	56.0925
92.6326	92.6800	GBP	89.9735	89.7092	89.6018
32.3479	32.3644	AUD	30.7349	30.6446	30.6080
0.4832	0.4835	JPY	0.4692	0.4678	0.4673
39.9891	40.0096	CHF	38.9364	38.8220	38.7756
6.3200	6.3232	SEK	6.2216	6.2033	6.1959
37.1583	37.1773	CAD	36.2300	36.1236	36.0804
7.5179	7.5217	HKD	7.4042	7.3824	7.3736
32.9842	33.0011	SGD	32.2753	32.1805	32.1419
16.0793	16.0875	AED	15.6107	15.5649	15.5463
15.7456	15.7537	SAR	15.2923	15.2474	15.2292

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	AUD
48.365	58.975	96.24	43.410	7.4034	0.4690	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading:
The local interbank foreign exchange market was active Tuesday. Market experienced high demand for dollar due to import demand for foodgrains and edible oil before Ramadan.

Local Money Market:
Demand for overnight borrowing was moderate in the market today. Call money rate ranged between 6.75 and 7.25 per cent for the day. Moved in tight ranges throughout the day. At 1500 hours on Monday, euro was quoted at 0.9832/37, GBP at 1.5628/33, yen at 121.69/74 against the dollar.

BDT was quoted at 58.52/55 yesterday.

QUARTERLY CURRENCY ROUNDUP

July 1-September 30, 2002

Foreign Exchange Market:

Local foreign exchange market was active during the 3rd quarter of 2002. US dollar remained the most traded currency for cross border transactions. There was some interest for the European Single Currency "Euro" particularly for payments against import of capital machinery. A positive development was that some of the garment exporters were also quoting price of their merchandise in Euro taking advantage of the strength of euro against dollar. Demand for foreign currency particularly the US dollar gradually picked up during the end of the quarter. The inward remittances from the wage earners through the official channel also showed significant improvement during the period due to positive measures taken by the authorized dealers.

In mid July authorized dealers raised their US dollar buying rates by around 40 paisa under the directive of Bangladesh Bank to boost inflows of foreign currency and provide incentive to the exporters. The quarter closing US dollar buying rate for export proceeds and US dollar selling rate against import payments was BDT 57.5120 and BDT 58.5567 respectively. On the other hand, quarter closing US dollar buying and selling rates for other remittances was BDT 57.7153 and BDT 58.5147 respectively.

From year-to-date September 30, 2002 the Central Bank's reference rate was adjusted in January 6th, 2002 by 90 paisa or 1.58 per cent from BDT 56.50/57.50 to 57.40/58.40. During the same period in 2001 the reference rate was adjusted in May by around BDT 3 or 5.56% from 53.85/54.15 to 56.50/57.50.

Higher demand for US dollar gradually pushed the inter-bank rate higher from BDT 58.25 to BDT 58.53.

Money Market:

The main event in money market was the introduction of Repo for the first time, which was welcomed, with lot of enthusiasm. Standard Chartered Bank struck the first repo deal.

Demand for overnight borrowing at call experienced steady rise through out the quarter. In the beginning the rate ranged between 2.0-4.0 per cent. The rate started to increase since the 3rd week of the month of July when it ranged between 4.25-5.0 per cent. On 29th July the call money rate shoot up to the highest level of 10 per cent as there was a huge mismatch of the amount of T-bill matured and accepted. Some banks participated in REPO auction to manage their liquidity. But the rate fell subsequently and ranged between 4-7.5 per cent for the rest of the quarter.

Market experienced major demand for 28-day and 5-year treasury bill. Of the total T-bill accepted by the central bank, 28 D and 5 Y T-bill constituted 84 per cent and 15 per cent respectively.

The weighted average yield for 28-day T-bill has been on the rise since the beginning of the quarter. The weighted average yield of 28-day T-bill rose from 4.98 per cent to 6.39 per cent and the yield of 5-year T-bill rose from 8.63 per cent to 10.44 per cent.

Standard Chartered Bank

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 1.10.2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disc.
J/1	Banglar Maya	GI	Ind	BSC	23/9	5/10	1548
J/4	Ocean Pride	GI	Yang	PSAL	16/9	5/10	1121
J/8	Spring Trader	GI	Yang	Everest	1/10	2/10	-
J/9	QC Teal	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	28/9	2/10	74/X
J/11	Jaami	Cont	Col	Everbest	27/9	2/10	7/X
J/12	Asimont	Cont	P.Kel	Seaborn	29/9	4/10	208/452
J/13	Jaya Mars	Cont	Sing	RSL	26/9	1/10	41/41
CCT/1	Banga Biraj	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	27/9	3/10	230/275
CCT/2	QC Honour	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	30/7	2/10	242/215
CCT/3	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	26/9	1/10	78/308
RM/14	Pacific Emerald	Idle	Sing	Alseas	24/7	7/10	-
CCJ	Hanei Sun	C.Clink	Tarj	BSL	29/9	5/10	-
TSP	Centaurus	R.Phos	Egyp	Seacom	15/9	2/10	-
DD	Fortune Hera	CPO	Birt	Rainbow	27/9	30/9	-
DDJ/2	Drestiger Gemini	Repair	Mong	BSC	20/9	10/10	-
RM/8	Andhika Adhistaya	Cpo	Bela	MTCL	30/9	3/10	-
RM/10	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	5/10	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Alpha Venture	6/10	-	OIL	-	-
Banga Bonik (Cont)19/9	1/9	P.kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya (Cont)19/9	2/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Orient Freedom (Cont)21/9	1/10	P.Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Birol (Cont)26/9	1/10	Hal	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Amali	1/10	Krabi	SSA	C.Clink	-
Gotze Delchev	2/10	Hanroom	Seacom	R.Phos	-
CEC Mayflower	2/10	Kol	OWSL	Equip	-
AA Venture	2/10	Yang	CLA	GI(Log)	-
Triumph Hongkong	2/10	Yang	RML	GI	-
Camerona	3/10	-	Pana	C.Clink	-
Eagle Strength (Cont)24/9	2/10	-	Nol	Cont	Sing
Tug Sanwa Maru No.8 (TUG)	2/10	Sing	OTBL	VIKH No.88	-
Kuo Hing No. 808	2/10	Sing	OTBL	Demolition	-
Banglar Robi (Cont)23/9	3/10	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Adonis	7/10	Ind	CCNL	Sugar(P)	-
QC Dignity (Cont)29/9	3/10	CBO	Everbest	Cont	Col
Banglar Moni (Cont)	5/10	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
QC Lark (Cont)24/9	4/10	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	P.Kel
The Beneficent	4/10	QINZ	Unique	TSP	-
Banga Lanka (Cont)25/9	6/10	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Asian Harvester	5/10	Indo	VML	Demolition	-
Han Star	5/10	Mala	VML	Demolition	-
Seletar Hope	5/10	-	Everett	GI	-
Consistence (Cont)22/9	6/10	Hal	PSSL	Cont	Mol
Kota Naga (Cont)15/9	6/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Asian Leainer (Roro)24/26/9	6/10	Sing	Pana	Vehi	-
Banga Baria (Cont)29/9	8/10	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Boxer Capt cook (Cont)26/9	7/10	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya (Cont)28/9	7/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu (Cont)28/9	7/10	P.kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Mardios(Cont)28/9	8/10	P.kel	RSL	Cont	Sing

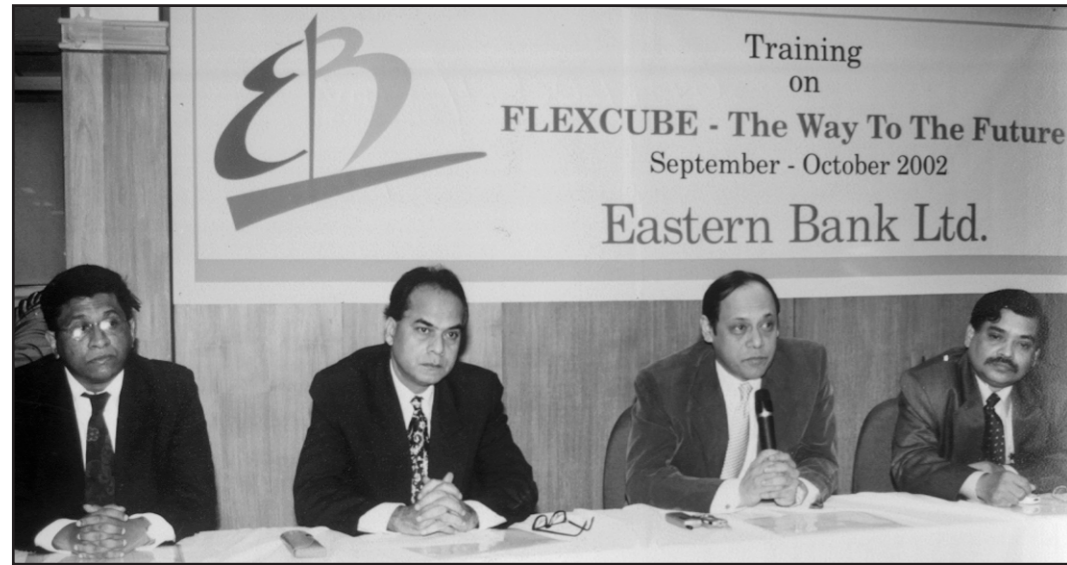
Tanker due

Tankoil	1/10	Dumai	MTCL	CPO	-
Jalapoot	3/10	Sing	ECSL	HSD	-
Gaz Master	5/9	Para	MBL	WLD	-
Sam Gin Sun	2/10	Korea	-	CPO	-

Movement of vessels for 2.10.2002

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/8 S.Trader	J/13 O.Freedom	
J/9 QC Pintail	J/11 K.Berjaya	
J/11 Jaami	RM/3 Tankoil	
CCT/2 QC Honour	J/6 T.Kongkong	
TSP Cenaurus	J/3 CEC Mayflower	
	J/7 A.A. Venture	

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



EBL course on banking software begins

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) began a training on "Flexcube," an industry leading integrated banking solutions software from 1-FLEX Solutions for its management members.

K Mahmood Sattar, managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the training programme at the bank's training academy at Shantigar in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

IT experts from abroad conducted the training.

Implementation of Flexcube will provide services like online real time banking, any branch banking, internet banking, faster trade financing and corporate solutions to the EBL customers.

PHOTO: EBL
K Mahmood Sattar, managing director and CEO of Eastern Bank Limited, addresses the inaugural ceremony of a training programme on "Flexcube", a new banking solutions software, at the bank's training academy in the city on Sunday.

STOCK