

## Tokyo Share Crisis

*Fill in the gaps with prepositions*

The Tokyo stock market was forced to shut down **for** the first time **in** 57 years today after fraud allegations that surround pioneering internet portal firm Livedoor panicked many investors and sent shares **into** a tailspin.

Just twenty minutes **before** the stock market was scheduled to close, the Tokyo Stock Exchange said it could not accept any new orders **for** listed shares or bonds as a surge in sell orders threatened to crash their computerized trading system.

Japanese stocks plunged **into** free-fall as this scandal surrounding the Livedoor group made investors panic **for** a second day.

The decision to shut the stock exchange, and to only open it **for** a limited time on Thursday – was yet another grim blow to investor confidence, as the TSE has been responsible **for** two days of system-related chaos in the past few months.

Brokers reported making vain attempts to explain the situation **to** clients as "nothing more than a three-day panic". Many decried the move as the panic of "gamblers who thought they had the grit play **at** a high-stakes table, but would actually be better-off playing the slot machines."

In one of the worst trading days for years the 'Livedoor Shock' sent the Nikkei 225 Index into a nosedive throughout the morning, crashing **down** by more than 700 points before staging a modest rally later.