

Tokyo Share Crisis

Fill in the gaps with prepositions

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

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

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

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

Brokers reported making vain attempts to explain the situation ____ 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 ____ 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 ____ by more than 700 points before staging a modest rally later.