

## Pound hits all-time low against euro

AP, London

The British pound hit record lows against the euro on Monday for the second straight day, weighed down by falling home prices and expectations that the Bank of England will keep cutting interest rates.

The euro rose to 72.710 British pence, compared with the earlier record of 72.350 pence from May 27, 2003, according to the daily reference rate of the European Central Bank. That was the lowest since the euro began trading on financial markets in 1999.

Traders seized on data showing that house prices fell 0.3 percent in December from the month before, with the average property staying on the market for more than eight weeks, the longest since the Hometrack survey began in 2001.

The Bank of England cut its key interest rate a quarter-point to 5.5 percent earlier this month amid fears the fallout from the U.S. subprime crisis would hurt economic growth by making it harder for companies and consumers to borrow money. Lower interest rates mean lower yields on some pound-denominated investments and can weigh on its exchange rate.

The pound also drifted lower against the dollar, to \$1.9760 from \$1.9828.

## Vietnam adopts new regulation on stock investors

XINHUA, Hanoi

Beginning March 2008, stock investors in Vietnam must deposit their cash at commercial banks, instead of securities companies as currently, according to local newspaper Vietnam News on Tuesday.

The new regulation passed by Vietnam's Finance Ministry and State Securities Commission aims at ensuring that transactions are transparent and secure.

A number of banks, including Vietcombank, Asia Commercial Bank, Techcombank and Eximbank, have already offered new services for new customers, including a reduction of maintenance fees and better linkage with securities companies.

## Dollar stays firm in Asia after Merrill infusion

AFP, Tokyo

The dollar stayed firm in Asian trade Tuesday as investors welcomed a large cash infusion into Merrill Lynch amid the subprime mortgage woes, dealers said.

The US unit stood at 114.00 yen in afternoon trade, easing slightly from 114.40 yen in New York Monday afternoon, but sharply up from 113.07 yen on Friday in Tokyo before Japanese players went into a three-day weekend.

The Tokyo market was off Monday for a national holiday.

The euro stood at 1.4391 dollars and 164.06 yen, compared with 1.4401 dollars and 164.50 yen in New York.

Investors were heartened by the announcement that Merrill Lynch had won large cash infusions of up to 6.2 billion dollars from various investors, including 4.4 billion dollars by a Singapore state-owned investment group.

Financial markets have seen turbulence for months over concerns about the US "subprime" sector, in which high-risk customers extended loans at the height of the housing boom are struggling to make mortgage payments.

The subprime trouble has raised worries about a credit crunch as financial institutions rush to cover their losses.

"With the news about Merrill, there is a sense that we are seeing

the last of all the bad news," said Mitsuru Sahara, senior vice president at Mitsubishi UFJ Bank.

"It appears that participants are willing to take more risks. We saw American brokerages being hit hard, but either they are receiving some sort of help or the impact of the damages is now ending."

He said the market was also returning "to the situation where people are again wanting to place their funds in nations with high-interest currencies."

Japan has the lowest interest rates of any major economy. Dealers looking for higher returns often place cash in high-interest rate economies such as Australia and New Zealand.

## Russia to hike oil export duty by 21pc

AFP, Moscow

Russia will raise duties on oil exports to around 333 dollars per tonne from February 1, a 21 percent hike, a finance ministry official was quoted as saying Tuesday.

"The tax will probably be around 332-33 dollars a tonne," said Alexander Sakovitch, cited by the Ria Novosti news agency.

The current duty is 275.4 dollars (191.11 euros) a tonne, set on December 1. Russia revises its oil export duty every two months.

Japan's leading mobile phone operator NTT DoCoMo Inc., trying to fight off resurgent competitors, will tie up with US search-engine giant Google Inc. to upgrade its services, a report said Tuesday.

DoCoMo will incorporate Google's search and e-mail features into its popular "i-mode" Internet service as part of a broader alliance that may lead to the development of new functions and handsets, the Nikkei business daily said.

The mobile phone giant decided on the deal as its subscribers are demanding ever-more sophisticated Internet functions on their mobile phones, said the newspaper, which did not identify its sources.

Starting as early as the spring, DoCoMo users will be able to access Google search, e-mail, scheduling and photo features through the i-mode service, the Nikkei said. Company officials did not have immediate comment.

DoCoMo, while remaining a dominant force in the domestic mobile market, has lost subscribers to rivals in the past year after a rule change allowed users to switch carriers without changing their phone numbers.

Meanwhile, Google has remained behind Yahoo Japan Corp. in the Japanese search engine market.

By teaming up with DoCoMo and gaining better access to mobile users, Google seeks to bolster its services and advertising operations in the cellular segment, the Nikkei said.

## NATIONAL BEST CORPORATE AWARD-2007

A.B. MIRZA MD. AZIZUL ISLAM, HONBLE MINISTER, MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, PLANNING, MERCE, POSTS &amp; TELECOMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

FALL, BANGLADESH CHINA FRIENDSHIP COUNTRY, DHAKA, DECEMBER 26, 2007

SHEIK BANGLA NAGAR, DHAKA, DECEMBER 26, 2007

PHOTO: COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON

Country Manager of Commercial Bank of Ceylon S Renganathan receives on behalf of the bank "ICMAB National Best Corporate Award-2007" from Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam at a function in Dhaka recently. The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) has given away the award.



PHOTO: COMMERCIAL BANK OF CEYLON

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PHOTO: DBBL

Md Yesin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL), inaugurates the bank's relocated Mohakhali branch on Gulshan Road in Dhaka recently. Senior officials of the bank, among others, were present.

## Last-minute buyers give US retailers relief

AP, New York

An extra full weekend before Christmas also caused shoppers to procrastinate. In fact, Christmas Eve is expected to be a bigger shopping day than in past years because many employers gave workers the day off, with the holiday falling on Tuesday.

"I'm trying to get some deals, seeing what they got out. The sales are better later on. And the stores aren't so packed right now," said Tim Fields, who was at the Circle Centre Mall in Indianapolis early last Monday morning. Her best bargain was a shirt from Aeropostale Inc. she bought for \$5. Others like Alex Allen of Boston had been shopping because of lack of time.

"I've been working a lot," said Allen, who took advantage of the 7 a.m. opening at a local Target Corp. AlixPartners.

store to get toys for his three grandchildren before the largest crowds came later in the day.

The spree defied fears that a deepening housing slump, escalating credit crisis and higher gas and food prices would turn shoppers into Grinches even in the end. Meanwhile, with the season plagued by a slew of Chinese-made toy recalls that began in the summer, there were concerns that shoppers would boycott those products. That didn't happen either.

Still, financial concerns clearly affected how consumers behaved throughout the season, forcing more to trade down to discounters such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc., according to Fred Crawford, managing director at restructuring firm AlixPartners.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer  
PWD E/M Division-4, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

### Invitation for Tender

Date: 17.12.07

#### Tender No: 67 (2007-2008)

Ministry of Housing & Public Works.  
Public Works Department.  
Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-4, Dhaka.

Supply & Installation of 200 KVA Generator at SSMCH, Dhaka.  
Tender Memo No: 1463  
17.12.07

KEY INFORMATION  
Procurement method

FUNDING INFORMATIONS  
Budget & source of fund

PARTICULAR INFORMATION  
Tender last selling date

Tender closing date and time

Name and address of the offices

Selling tender document (Principal)

13. A.2 Selling tender document (others)

13. B. Name and address of the offices

13. B.1 Receiving tender document (principal)

13. B.2 Receiving tender document (others)

13. B.3 Opening tender document

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER  
14. Eligibility of tenderer

This invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderers having the following qualification.

(a). Reputed bonafide firm/organization having trade license, TIN, VAT Registration Certificate, Bank Solvency Certificate, Valid ABC Category Electrical License & Supervisory License from Electrical Licensing Board.

(b). Having experience in successful completion of supply & installation of 150 KVA Generator in a single tender during the last 5 (five) years.

(c). All other qualification, terms & conditions as specified in Tender Data Sheet (TDS). Necessary supporting documents are to be submitted with the tender.

Certificate from the original manufacturer or supplier ensuring availability of spare of the equipment for the next 10 (ten) years are to be submitted with the tender.

(d). Turnover: Minimum average annual turnover in last 5 yrs. preceding the date of submission of the tender to be greater than Tk: 200 (two hundred) lakh.

Liquid Asset: Minimum required cash flow amount for the works Tk: 80 (eighty) lakh.

(e). Minimum tendering capacity: Not less than the tender value.

Supply & installation of 200 KVA Generator. Specification/Schedule attached with the tender document.

15. Brief description of works : Tk: 1,000,00 (one thousand) only (non- refundable).

16. Price of tender document : Sl. No ID No. Description of work Location Tender security Completion time

মানব সম্পদ বিকাশ কর্তৃপক্ষ এ মিটিংসার্ক হাসপাতালের পাল্ম ও লিপার এ অস্পতাল বিল্ডিং সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা ১২০৫  
মেটিংসার্ক অস্পতাল একটি অস্পতাল কেন্দ্র।

17. PROCUREMENT DETAILS  
Name of official inviting tender

Designation of official inviting tender

Address of official inviting tender

Contact details of official inviting tender

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Rate must be quoted both in figures & in word for each item of works in the attached schedule up to two digits beyond decimal point. The tenderer must fill-up Tender Submission Sheet (W-1) and submit with the tender.

The tender security shall at the tenderer's option, be either, in the form of a Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of the Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-4, Dhaka from a schedule bank of Bangladesh OR in the form of an Irrevocable Bank Guarantee issued by a schedule bank of Bangladesh in the format furnish in Section-5 (W-3 Forms) in favor of Executive Engineer, PWD E/M Division-4, Dhaka.

If the tenderers submit any false, incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited.

This tender notice is brief and the details of the tender may be seen from the office of the undersigned during the office hours.

Attested copy of receipt of purchasing tender document, TIN & VAT registration certificate, bank solvency certificate etc. must be submitted with the tender.

For any unavoidable reason if the office remain closed at the date of receiving & opening, the tender will be received and opened in the next office day at the same time.

Md Abdur Razzaque Khan  
Executive Engineer  
PWD E/M Division-4, Dhaka.

## Dhaka City Corporation

Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka

### Invitation for Lease Tender

No.UPD/1069/L

Dated: 24 December, 2007

1 Ministry/Division Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operative/Local Government Division.

2 Agency Dhaka City Corporation.

3 Procuring entity/project name Chief Town Planner's Office  
Lease Proposal for on street car parking on demarcated link roads from Gulshan-1 intersection to Gulshan-2 intersection, in front of Navana Tower, Gulshan Tower & Faisal Tower.

4 Invitation for Planned wise maintain on street car parking as described in TOR.

5 Invitation Ref. No. UPD/1069/L, dated: 24/12/2007.

6 Procurement method Lease tender.

7 Tender publication date On or before 27/12/2007.

8 Tender last selling date 16/01/2008.

9 Tender closing date & time 17/01/2008 at 12.00 hrs.

10 Tender opening date & time 17/01/2008 at 12.30 hrs.

11 Name & address of the office(s) selling tender documents Office of the (i) Chief Town Planner's Office, Nagar Bhaban, Level-11 (ii) Central Accounts Department, Nagar Bhaban, Eastwing.

12 Name & address of the office(s) - Receiving tender documents -Opening tender documents Chief Town Planner's Office, Nagar Bhaban, Level-11.

13 Eligibility tenderers Rate should be written in figure & in words without any overwriting.

Experiences of related works or manpower management over 50 nos. should be submitted.

Proposed manpower with CV of key persons.

Up-to-date trade licence, income tax certificate & bank solvency.

2.5% earnest money of bidding amount - Bank Draft/Pay-Order - addressing Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.

14 Brief description of the work Maintenance on street car parking and toll collection as described on schedule.

15 Price of the tender document = 500/- (five hundred) BDT.

16 Amount of earnest money 2.5% of the bidding amount.