

# Global banking alliance launched

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eleven of the world's leading sustainable banks have forged a new alliance to build a positive alternative to a global financial system, now in crisis, says a press statement.

The banks, which have assets of over \$10 billion and serve over seven million customers in 20 countries, came together for the first time at a special meeting in the Netherlands on March 2-4.

Founded by BRAC Bank in Bangladesh, ShoreBank in the US, and Triodos Bank in the Netherlands, the alliance members, are senior bankers, seven of whom are founders of the institutions themselves.

The "Global Alliance for Banking on Values" was launched at an event which included speeches from Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, a former banker and former member of the United Nations Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors, and Achim Steiner, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme. The banks in the alliance range from BRAC Bank part of the BRAC Group, the world's largest microfinance institution to ShoreBank, a community bank based in Chicago, and Triodos Bank, Europe's leading sustainable bank.

The new partnership plans to develop new ways of working, build organisations better suited to long-



Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, poses for photographs with senior international bankers, who forged a new alliance to build a positive alternative to the global financial system, in the Netherlands recently.

term sustainable thinking, and new forms of ownership and economic cooperation. And, given the financial crisis, and its profound and lasting influence, the new alliance believes its timing is crucial.

According to Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, "We are increasingly dependent on each other economically, wherever we live in the world. If we are to tackle the global problems we face, we are going to need international action to do it. We believe these banks have the potential to change the architecture of the financial world, and start delivering lasting solutions for unserved and underserved communities and sectors."

Brac Bank in Bangladesh has pioneered and created access to finance for the small businesses. This sector, which has been one of the largest in terms of employment generation, has been largely ignored by the mainstream financial institutions and comprises of 62 percent of BRAC Bank's lending book.

In order to qualify for alliance membership, each institution has to meet three criteria, they have to be independent and licensed with a focus on retail customers, possess a minimum balance sheet of \$100 million, and, most significantly, they should be committed to responsible financing and the triple bottom line of people, planet and profit.

## Investment awareness programme in Sylhet

STAR BUSINESS DESK

IDLC Finance Ltd (IDLC) and IDLC Securities Ltd jointly organised an 'Investors' Awareness Programme' in Sylhet on Tuesday, said a statement.

IDLC is a joint venture multi-product financial institution and IDLC Securities Ltd is its fully owned brokerage subsidiary.

Mansur Alam, acting chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Fakhor Uddin Ali Ahmed, senior vice president of South Asia Federation of Exchanges and vice president of Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd, were present as chief guest and guest of honour respectively.

Alam urged the investors to learn from the awareness programmes and take rational investment decisions. He also appreciated the initiative of IDLC and underpinned the necessity of continuing such programmes to achieve long-term market stability.

Anis A Khan, chief executive officer and managing director of IDLC, unveiled IDLC's plan to hold a series of similar awareness programmes in the months to come.

# Tourism can help ride out global crisis

## Parjatan chief says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Tourism can be a great way to battle the effects of the global financial meltdown in Bangladesh, said the chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation yesterday.

"We can minimise the negative impacts of the global recession that has started affecting Bangladesh economy by emphasising tourism development," said Shafique Alam Mehedi.

"Development of the tourism industry is essential because the sector employs nearly one lakh people. This will help eradicate poverty from the country," he added.

He was speaking at a ceremony to unveil a documentary film "The Face of

Bengal", featuring the country's natural beauty and treasures, organised by the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) at its auditorium in Dhaka.

Alam hoped that the documentary would attract more domestic and foreign tourists here.

MA Mohaimen Saleh, president of ATAB, said the tourism sector has great potential and the arrivals of domestic and foreign tourists have increased in recent years.

"We have several natural beauty spots like the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, and the longest unbroken sea beach Cox's Bazar. These places need massive campaigning to lure tourists," he said.

"If the documentary is sent to different Bangladeshi embassies abroad, it would help create awareness about the beauty of the country and attract more tourists," he said.

He also suggested the government develop infrastructure, including better communication links and international standard hotels and motels, to popularise the tourist spots.

"If the government takes the necessary steps to develop tourism, foreign tourists will flock to the country in large numbers," he added.

Chalermpol Thanchitt, Thai ambassador to Dhaka, and Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, were also present at the ceremony.



AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank Ltd, inaugurates a branch of the bank in Bogra on Monday.

## HSBC tops brand ranking

STAR BUSINESS DESK

HSBC has retained its top rank on Global Banking 500, a review of the top financial services brands in the world measured by both brand strength and brand value, said a statement.

Brand Finance, a UK-based agency, in association with The Banker Magazine, conducted the brand value survey.

The world's top 500 banks lost brand value worth \$218.1 billion over the past year, while HSBC's brand value fell to \$25.4 billion, although the bank benefited from a global reach that helped offset its exposure to credit crisis, said the global survey.

# World hotel prices slump

AFP, Washington

Hotel prices around the world fell in the fourth quarter of last year, with the steepest declines seen in the United States and Canada, a survey published Tuesday showed.

In North America, the average price paid for a hotel room was down by 12 percent between October and December last year compared with the same period in 2007, a survey by hotels.com of some 68,000 properties in more than 12,500 locations, showed.

In Europe, hotel prices fell by 10 percent, in the Caribbean and Latin America by seven percent, and in Asia by just two percent.

The slump in the hotel

market in the Americas was blamed on US domestic demand being sharply down and a drop in numbers of tourists from Europe, as they "tightened their travel budgets," the survey said.

In Europe, prices fell as hoteliers slashed rates to try to keep occupancy levels up in the final quarter of last year.

Asia saw a less brutal price drop, but it was the first time quarterly prices have gone south in the region since hotels.com started its index in January 2004.

Most cities around the world saw prices fall, and some saw them positively plummet, illustrating the hotel industry's sensitivity to geopolitical and economic events, the poll said.

Prices in Mumbai were down by more than 40 percent, following the terrorist attacks in the Indian city in November.

Reykjavik was a close second, with prices falling 36 percent as the economy of Iceland collapsed.

Cape Town, Las Vegas and Manila saw prices fall by nearly a third, London, New York, Sydney and Venice by nearly a quarter, Moscow by 17 percent, and Paris by 10 percent, reflecting the global economic slump.

But some cities bucked the trend and saw prices rise.

Sao Paulo had the steepest rise, with the price of a room increasing by nearly a quarter -- 23 percent -- to 151 dollars on average, the poll showed.

## German sees low business confidence

AFP, Frankfurt

German business confidence slipped to its lowest reading ever in March, the closely watched Ifo indicator revealed on Wednesday, falling slightly below market expectations.

The Ifo index edged down to 82.1 points from 82.6 points in February, the Munich-based Ifo institute said, while warning that it did not see Europe's biggest economy turning the corner yet.

Analysts polled by Dow Jones Newswires had expected the indicator to slip to 82.2 points from the February figure.

# Cut in China official spending

AFP, Beijing

China's premier has ordered officials to cut hospitality and transportation spending as an economic slowdown and stimulus measures squeeze government budgets, state media reported Wednesday.

Premier Wen Jiabao also banned the construction of any new government office compounds or other "glitzy" official projects through 2010, Xinhua news agency said.

The report said the orders were handed down by Wen

during a meeting of top officials on Tuesday.

Wen said the government should take the leading role in promoting frugality and should ensure government spending goes where it is most needed amid the economic crisis, the report said.

Wen ordered a 10 percent cut in spending on entertaining official guests, it said.

He also ordered that government car purchases be cut by 15 percent and fuel budgets by 20 percent and that spending on meetings,

ceremonies and overseas travel by officials should also be curbed.

China's public is regularly angered by reports of the extravagant lifestyles of corrupt Communist Party and government officials.

Beijing has stressed recently that the government would rein in unnecessary spending.

In January, state media reported the government planned a frugal military parade to make the 60th anniversary of communist rule in October.

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Civil Construction Division  
Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (9th Floor)  
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Memo No: TA-118/08-09/1063/CCD Date: 19/03/2009

### Invitation for Tender

01	Ministry/Division	Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.
02	Agency	Dhaka WASA
03	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, Civil Construction Division, Dhaka WASA.
04	Procuring entity code	N/A
05	Procuring entity district	N/A
06	Invitation for	Construction of 3 Nos. 15000 Gallons Capacity Under Ground Water Reservoir at Duarpara WASA Compound, Mirpur, Dhaka.
07	Invitation Ref No.	TA-118/08-09/1063/CCD.
08	Date	19/03/2009.

**KEY INFORMATION**

09	Procurement method	Open tender method.
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10	Budget and source of funds	Dhaka WASA revenue budget.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	N/A
14	Tender package No.	N/A
15	Tender package name	N/A
16	Tender publication date	
17	Tender last selling date	19/04/2009 (during office hours).
18	Tender closing date and time	20/04/2009, 12:00 noon.
19	Tender opening date and time	20/04/2009, 01:00 pm.
20	Name & address of the office(s)	
- Selling tender document (principal)		1. Janata Bank Ltd., Kawran Bazar Corporate Branch, Dhaka.
- Selling tender document (others)		2. Agrani Bank Ltd., WASA Branch, Dhaka.
- Receiving tender document		3. Office of the Chief Accounts Officer, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (4th Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- Opening tender document		Office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Construction Division, DWASA, WASA Bhaban (9th Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- Opening tender document		Office of the Executive Engineer, Civil Construction Division, DWASA, WASA Bhaban (9th Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

21 Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional) N/A

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per PPA-06, PPR-08 and tender document.
23	Brief description of works	Construction of 3 Nos. 15000 Gallons Capacity Under Ground Water Reservoir at Duarpara WASA Compound, Mirpur, Dhaka.
24	Brief description of related services	N/A
25	Price of tender document	Tk 3,000/- (three thousand) only.

26	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (TK)	Completion time in weeks/months
1		Construction of 3 Nos. 15000 Gallons Capacity Under Ground Water Reservoir at Duarpara WASA Compound, Mirpur, Dhaka	Duarpara, WASA Compound, Mirpur, Dhaka	1,00,000/-	120 days

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

27	Name of official inviting tender	Mohd. Akhtaruzzaman.
28	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer.
29	Address of official inviting tender	Civil Construction Division, Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban (9th Floor), 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
30	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone No. 9132951
31	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Mohd Akhtaruzzaman  
Executive Engineer  
Civil Construction Division  
Dhaka WASA



Ehsanul Haque, managing director of Prime Bank Ltd, speaks at the inauguration ceremony of the bank's nationwide sales and marketing campaign in Dhaka recently. The bank's sales executives will visit different commercial and personal organisations to serve them directly.

## Dollar slips

AFP, London

The dollar dipped on Wednesday as investors weighed prospects for a US economic recovery in light of Washington's plan this week to cleanse banks of bad assets, analysts said.

In early London trade, the euro rose to 1.3506 dollars from the 1.3469 dollars late in New York on Tuesday.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar eased to 97.77 yen from 97.88 yen on Tuesday.

Despite the dollar falling, losses were limited by prospects of a turnaround in fortunes for the economy.

"The dollar continues to be supported as investors are finally seeing a glimmer of good news after being

mired in darkness for months," said Ryohei Muramatsu, manager of Commerzbank's Group Treasury Asia in Tokyo.

"While it's still too early to say that market sentiment is turning optimistic, there is mounting anticipation of a US economic recovery later this year, followed by the rest of the world," he said.

US President Barack Obama on Tuesday described the dollar as "extraordinarily strong" and rejected a call from China's top central banker for a new international reserve currency.

Obama said that although the United States was "going through a rough patch," it enjoyed a "great deal of confidence" from investors.



A partial view of shareholders at the extraordinary and annual general meetings of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL), held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka on Monday. The bank declared a 0.5 bonus share for one existing share of Tk 100 for shareholders for 2008. The bank also disclosed a 47.9 percent rise in operating profits in 2008 from Tk 1,326.24 million in 2007.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, মৌলভীবাজার  
(রাজশ শাখা)  
**দরপত্র আস্থান বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
০৩/২০০৮-০৯

উপজেলা ও ইউনিয়ন ভূমি অফিস নির্মাণ ও মেসামত (৫ম পর্যায়) কর্মসূচির আওতায় উপজেলা/ইউনিয়ন ভূমি অফিস নির্মাণ/মেসামত কাজের জন্য ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে আইটেমওয়ারী সিডিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত শর্তাবলীসহ "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৮" অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে আইটেমওয়ারী দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
২।	সংস্থ
৩।	সম্মতকারী সত্তা
৪।	সম্মতকারী সত্তার কোড
৫।	সম্মতকারী সত্তার জেলা
৬।	যে কাজের জন্য আহ্বান
৭।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র
৮।	তারিখ
মৌলিক তথ্য	
৯।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি
অন্যান্য তথ্য	
১০।	বাজেট ও অর্থবিশেষ উৎস
বিশেষ তথ্য	
১১।	প্রকল্পের নাম (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)
১২।	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৩।	দরপত্র দাখিল দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১৫।	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়/প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়
দরপত্র আহ্বানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	
-দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান (প্রধান)	
-দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান (অন্যান্য)	
-দরপত্র দাখিল দাখিলের স্থান	
-দরপত্র দাখিল খোলার স্থান	
দরপত্র আহ্বানের জন্য জ্ঞাতব্য	
১৬।	দরপত্র আহ্বানযোগ্যতা
১৭।	কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা
১৮।	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য
১৯।	নং
১. উপজেলা ভূমি অফিস, শ্রীমঙ্গল এর নির্মাণ কাজ	
২. ইউনিয়ন ভূমি অফিস, সাধুহাট-এর মেসামত কাজ	
৩. ইউনিয়ন ভূমি অফিস, মুন্সিবাজার-এর মেসামত কাজ	
দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর বিবরণঃ	
২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম
২১।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী
২২।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা
২৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগ মাধ্যম
২৪।	১) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সকল কিংবা যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
২) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সম্মতকারী সত্তার কার্যালয় থেকে জানা যাবে।	
৩) বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে ১২ লটারি কাজের বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে।	

মোঃ মফিজুল ইসলাম  
জেলা প্রশাসক  
মৌলভীবাজার