

GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS MAP (GECM)

Every Sunday



US closes troubled BankUnited; sells assets to equity firms
 WASHINGTON/NEW YORK: US bank regulators seized troubled Florida lender BankUnited FSB and sold it to some of the most powerful private equity firms in the world.

Recession weighs heavily on aid for poor countries
 PARIS: Poor countries, already hard hit by the global economic downturn, are now facing cutbacks in foreign assistance from traditional donors saddled with rapidly expanding deficits. The worldwide recession has driven 50 million people into extreme poverty, according to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which have exhorted rich countries to live up to promises to boost development aid.

UK economy shrinks at sharpest rate
 LONDON: Britain's economy shrank at its sharpest pace since 1979 in the first three months of the year with households slashing spending at the fastest rate since 1980 and firms using up stocks at a record pace.

Nikon to cut 1,000 jobs
 TOKYO: Japanese camera and precision equipment maker Nikon Corp said that it would cut about 1,000 jobs, mostly at its domestic plants, as it braces for a loss this year.

Jet Airways warns of challenging year ahead
 MUMBAI: India's largest private sector airline, Jet Airways, forecast that business conditions will remain "challenging" due to recession after reporting it had swung to a fourth-quarter profit.

Germany faces deepest slump as exports plunge 9.7pc
 FRANKFURT: German exports and company spending plunged in the first quarter, dragging Europe's largest economy into its deepest slump on record.

Thai economy to contract further: PM
 BANGKOK: Thailand's economy will probably contract more in the first quarter of this year than in the last quarter of 2008, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said. The figures for January through March are due out early this week, Abhisit said during his weekly television address. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 4.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008, compared with the same period in 2007.

Brazil worried about currency's rise
 SAO PAULO: The sharp rise of Brazil currency, the real, in recent weeks has sparked worry in the government which fears it could nip a recovery in export industries, Finance Minister Guido Mantega said.

Drop in remittances makes Mexican villagers pay for US economic crisis
 MEXICO: Continuing its global path of destruction, the economic crisis has sent remittances to Mexico down as much as 21.1 percent in some states. Remittances – the sums of money sent by immigrant workers back to their home countries – are the second biggest source of income in Mexico.

Turbulent Indian air sector hits a "storm"
 NEW DELHI: India's airlines are caught in a "perfect storm" of big losses, high debt and falling demand, and need urgent help from the new government to make them high-flyers again, says an industry report.

Credit card woes in UAE as thousands leave without paying
 DUBAI: Some UAE banks are seeing up to 2,500 customers leave the country every month without paying off their credit card bills, a number that could rise in June, a senior RAK Bank official said. RAK Bank business advisor David Martin said most of those leaving without settling their credit card bills were linked to the construction sector in Dubai, the hardest hit of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates federation.

Venezuela's Chavez taps Brazil for \$4bn in loans to finance projects
 SALVADOR, BRAZIL: Brazil plans to finance over \$4bn worth of investment projects in Venezuela as leftist President Hugo Chavez struggles to cope with low oil prices that have created a cash crunch for his Opec nation.

Slump in export demand puts S Africa in recession
 JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's economy has entered its first recession in 17 years after a slump in export demand forced manufacturers and miners to slash output.

Qantas scraps first class on select routes
 SYDNEY: Australia's Qantas Airways has scrapped the first class on some routes, as the global economic downturn grounds many travelers and makes others think twice about paying for a little in-flight luxury.