## Fed chair warns of 'significant uncertainty' around US recovery

AFP, Washington

Despite some recent positive "significant uncertainty" remains about the recovery of the US economy from the coronavirus pandemic, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday.

And unless consumers feel confident COVID-19 has been defeated, "a full recovery is unlikely," Powell warned in his semi-annual testimony before the Senate Banking Committee.

The pandemic has inflicted its worst consequences on lowincome and minority groups, and the contraction of GDP in the April-June quarter "is likely to be the most severe on record," said the central bank chief, who was testifying via video link.

Recent economic data have offered some promising signs that Wall Street investors. US markets closed higher again Tuesday, and

major indices have recouped much of the losses suffered since the pandemic struck in March.

Earlier in the day, the Commerce Department said retail sales posted a surprise spike of 17.7 percent in May, coming in nearly double the gain economists had expected.

And the Fed reported that industrial production rebounded by 1.4 percent, after two months of steep declines.

That adds to the data released earlier this month showing the economy adding 2.5 million positions in May as the unemployment rate ticked down to a still-high 13.3 percent, as well as various surveys showing consumers and businesses becoming more optimistic about their prospects.

President Donald Trump, who a recovery is underway, cheering has downplayed risks of the virus and instead focused on reviving the economy as he faces a tough



**Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell** 

re-election battle in November, cheered the good news.

"You'll see the third quarter numbers will be very good. You'll see fourth quarter will be really good and you'll see next year will be one of the best economic years

this country has ever had," Trump said at a White House event.

But Powell cautioned that despite the positive data, the economy has shed 20 million jobs and "the levels of output and employment remain far below

their pre-pandemic levels, and significant uncertainty remains about the timing and strength of the recovery.

He noted that the burden from the business shutdowns to contain the spread of the virus "has not fallen equally on all Americans."

"Instead, those least able to withstand the downturn have been affected most," with the heaviest job losses felt by Hispanics, African Americans and women, Powell said.

contained and "If not the downturn reversed, could further widen gaps in economic wellbeing that the long expansion had made some progress in closing," he said.

The Fed chief, who once again lamented racial injustice amid nationwide protests over the killings of African Americans, said racial gaps in employment are "not a healthy feature" of the US

### Qualcomm pushes 5G tech into chips for cheaper phones

Qualcomm Inc on Tuesday said it is putting 5G technology into chips for smartphones that will sell for as little as \$300 and that will come to market in the second half of this year.

San Diego-based Qualcomm is the biggest supplier of processors for smartphones and the modem chips that connect the phones to wireless data networks.

The company's chips featuring fifth-generation (5G) cellular telecommunications technology are currently in many premium-priced smartphones such as Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's Galaxy devices.

But Qualcomm has also been working to get the technology into cheaper devices. The new chip, called the Snapdragon 690, will go into devices that it expects to retail at \$300 to \$500, Qualcomm said. Phone makers such as HMD Global, the owner of the Nokia phone brand, LG Electronics Inc and Lenovo Group Ltd's Motorola plan to use the chips, Qualcomm said.

The push into lower price points means higher volumes for Qualcomm. According to data from Counterpoint Research, smartphones with wholesales prices of \$100 to \$400, which are somewhat lower than the prices consumers pay, made up about 50% of the overall smartphone market in the first quarter of 2020.

### Saudi Aramco completes purchase of 70pc stake in chemical giant SABIC

AFP, Rivadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Aramco said on Wednesday it has completed the acquisition of a 70 percent stake in chemical giant SABIC for \$69.1 billion, boosting it as one of the world's largest producers.

The stake was held by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund which has reportedly been on a spree to purchase stakes in international firms.

"The completion of the transaction enhances Aramco's presence in the global petrochemicals industry," Aramco said in a

"Combined, in 2019 Aramco and SABIC petrochemicals production volume of nearly 90 million tonnes," one of the world's largest, the company said.

Completion of the purchase comes six months after Aramco sealed the world's biggest initial public offering, selling 1.7 percent of its shares for a record \$29.4 billion. Last year, the energy giant raised \$12 billion in a bond sale to help pay for

the SABIC acquisition.

Aramco chairman Yasir al-Rumayyan, who also chairs the Saudi wealth fund, said the SABIC deal served both parties.

"It provides capital for PIF's longterm investment strategy as it drives the economic transformation and growth of Saudi Arabia, further benefiting the people of our country," Rumayyan said.

"It supports Aramco's continued growth in downstream and enhances its international footprint."

The government last month transferred \$40 billion to PIF from the foreign reserves managed by the Saudi central bank to support its liquidity.

In the first quarter of this year, it bought \$7.7 billion holdings in a host of companies -- from Boeing, Walt Disney and Starbucks to Marriott and Citigroup.

SABIC's share price has fallen by more than 27 percent since the deal was announced early last year. The company posted losses in both the fourth quarter of last year and first quarter of this year over low prices.

## UK opens formal trade talks with Australia, New Zealand

AFP, Sydney, Australia

Britain formally launched talks with Australia and New Zealand on post-Brexit free-trade agreements Wednesday, with Canberra's top trade official voicing hopes a deal could be reached this year.

"Later today, Australia and the United Kingdom will formally commence freetrade negotiations," Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said, in a speech highlighting Australia's drive to diversify trade as it is locked in disputes with China.

Britain's conservative government has heralded its departure from the European Union as an opportunity to deepen trade relations with global partners.

While talks have already taken place, formal negotiations had been delayed until Britain left the bloc in January.

Birmingham warned that even with an Australia-Britain deal, volumes were unlikely to return to those seen in the 1970s -- before Britain joined the European Economic Community and when its trade was last focused on its former



From left, British High Commissioner to New Zealand Laura Clarke, New Zealand's Trade Minister David Parker, and New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern talk to reporters in Wellington, New Zealand yesterday.

"Australia will be looking to secure better market access for goods exports, especially in agriculture, and high-standard rules on digital trade and investment," he said.

Talks on an Australia-EU trade deal are already

under way, and Birmingham said Canberra would also like to conclude them this year.

But he admitted that would be a tough task with negotiations on several trade agreements taking place simultaneously.

Separate negotiations commenced in Wellington, where British High Commissioner Laura Clarke said it made sense to deal with Australia and New Zealand at the same time, given their close economic ties.

While not mentioning China by name, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said New Zealand was also aiming to broaden its range of trading

"Our policy in the here and now is to strengthen New Zealand's economy and resilience through diversification," she said.

Birmingham refused to say whether Australia would prioritise a deal with the European Union or Britain.

"The EU is a much bigger market, and notwithstanding Brexit it remains a much bigger market. But that does not mean the UK is not a significant market," he said.

"I don't have favoured children in that regard, and I want to love them both equally."

# Sterling edges lower after UK inflation data, Brexit fears weigh

REUTERS, London

REUTERS

the pandemic.

Sterling was slightly weaker on Wednesday after data showed inflation fell to its lowest level since June 2016 last month as the coronavirus pandemic sucked demand from the global economy and caused oil prices to tumble.

Low inflation would give the Bank of England space to ramp up its stimulus programme again when its policymakers meet on Thursday. The British central bank is expected to

announce a fresh increase of at least the anticipation that the Bank 100 billion pounds (\$125.71 billion) in its bond-buying firepower.

Sterling was last trading down 0.1% versus the U.S. dollar and the euro, at \$1.2567 and 89.66 pence respectively.

"Sterling is struggling to join the G10 rally today as stalling Brexit negotiations keep the macroeconomic outlook uncertain and the upside for the currency limited. This morning's inflation data hasn't helped the pound's

prospects but instead adds to

of England will extend its Asset Purchase Facility tomorrow," said Simon Harvey, currency analyst at broker Monex Europe.

"The depth and duration of such extension are unknown at present, but given the recent run of data, the Bank could have a few tricks up its sleeve, Harvey said.

The pound has risen more than 4% against the greenback in the last three months, but is still far off levels seen before the new coronavirus sent global markets tumbling in March.

It is also much lower in tradeweighted terms than it was before the Brexit referendum in June 2016.

Brexit uncertainties are still weighing on the pound, but leaders from Britain and the European Union agreed on Monday that talks on their future relationship should be stepped British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suggested an agreement could be reached in July.

With a status-quo transition deal set to expire at the end of the year, Britain is seeking a free-trade agreement with the EU, which it left on Jan. 31, but negotiators have so far made little progress.

Talks on the future relationship will enter a hot phase from September, German government document reviewed by Reuters showed.

#### তারিখঃ ১৬,০৬,২০২০খ্রিঃ অর্থবছরঃ ২০২০-২০২১ মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ সমাজ কল্যাগ মন্ত্রগালয় এজেপি সমাজসেবা অধিনফতর সংগ্রাহক সন্তার নাম মহাপরিচালক, সমাজদেবা অধিদক্ষতর, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, নারায়ণগঞ্জ সংগ্ৰাহক সৱার জেলা ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেরা অধিনফতর পরিচালিত মুসলিমনগর বায়কুল আমান সরকারি শিগু পরিবার যে কাজের দরপত্র (বালক), ফতুল্লা, নারায়ণণঞ্জ ও সরকারি শিত পরিবার (বালিকা), রূপণঞ্জ, নারায়ণণঞ্জের নিবাসীদের জন্য থান্য, থাদ্যানুয়ন্ত্রিক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ। লং-৪১,০১,৬৭০০,০০০,১৬,০০১,২০,২৮৯ ভারিখঃ ১৬,০৬,২০২০খ্রি দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ

দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি উনুক্ত দরণর পছতি (ও.টি,এম.)। बाक्षण बाटकंग्रे कि.च.वि.। বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস দরপত্র পরকেজ নং ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থবছরে সমাজসেরা অবিদক্ষতর পরিচালিত মুসলিমনগর বায়তল আমান সরকারি শিক পরিবার দরপরের প্যাকেজের নাম (বালক), ফতুরা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, সরকারি আধায়কেন্দ্র, গোদনাইল, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, সরকারি শিশু পরিবার (বালিকা), রূপগঞ্জ, নারারণগঞ্জ ও সম্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, মুসলিমনগর, ফতুল্লা, নারায়ণগঞ্জের নিবাসীদের জন্য থান্য, থাদ্যানুষষ্ঠিক ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাৎশী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল (ক ঞ্চপ- থান্য ও থাদ্যানুষষ্ঠিক (গচনশীল ও অণ্যনশীল), স্বঞ্চপ-শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য স্বঞ্চপ-খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষাংগিক ও বিবিধ ব্যবহারিক, ৪ঞাপ-বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ। দৰপত্ৰ খোলাৰ শেষ ভাবিখ ও সময় দৰপতের সিভিউল বিক্রিনা শেষ তারিখ ও দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১৯,০৭,২০২০খ্রিঃ সময় বিকাল ৫,০০ ঘটিকা ২০,০৭,২০২০খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ০২,৩০ ২০,০৭,২০২০খ্রিঃ সময় দুপুর ১২,০০

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\$4b.		দরদাতার ঘোগ্যভা			<ol> <li>বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।</li> <li>সিভিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেজারী চালানের মূলকপি, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, হালনাগাদ ট্রভ লাইসেল, বাংক সঞ্চলতার সনদ, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভাটি প্রদান (২০১৯-২০২০) সনদের অধিকারী হতে হবে।</li> </ol>								
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#### to enforce social distancing Amazon's buildings to also help the technology behind its Distance Assistant system, is not the first company to turn to AI to track compliance with social distancing.

hiring for roles like social distancing guardians, and according to internal job postings reviewed by Reuters. Responsibilities of such hires range from frequent audits at warehouses to verifying that

while workers who are closer will be Amazon did not immediately comment on the memo and postings.

Several firms have told Reuters that AI camera-based software will be crucial to staying open, as it will allow them to show not only workers and customers, but also insurers and regulators, that they are monitoring and enforcing safe practices.

However, privacy activists have raised concerns about increasingly detailed tracking of people and have urged businesses to limit use of AI to

tracking system is live at a handful of buildings, adding that it has plans to deploy hundreds of such units over

দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগ নম্বর 02-98008951 শর্তাবলী: শিপিএ-২০০৬ এবং শিপিমার-২০০৮ (সংশোষিতসহ)-এ প্রদত্ত জন্ত সংক্রান্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।

গৃহীত লরণারদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেশ সিকিউরিটি মানি প্রান্তি সাপেক্ষে কর্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।

 ক্রণের ক্ষেত্রে বরাম প্রাপ্তি সাপেকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। কর্ত্পক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো বাভিরেকে যে কোন দরণার এহণ অথবা সকল দরণার বাভিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

লরপর ক্রয়ের কারিথ হতে দরপত্র দাখিলের কারিখের নির্ধারিক সময় পর্যন্ত লরপর দাখিল করা যাবে।

বিবিধ মালামাল

দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম

দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী

দরপত আজানকারী কর্মকর্তার টিকানা

বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিজ্ঞারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিভিউলে বর্ণিত আছে যোঃ আসামুজ্জামান সরদার

মোঃ আসাদুজ্জামান সরদার।

टक्का সমাজদেবা কার্যালয়, নারায়পগঞ্জ।

উপপরিচালক।

উপপরিচালক मातासभाक

The system, called Distance Assistant, uses camera footage in

Amazon.com Inc on Tuesday launched

an artificial intelligence-based tracking

system to enforce social distancing

at its offices and warehouses to help

reduce any risk of contracting the new

The unveiling comes as the

world's largest online retailer faces

intensifying scrutiny from U.S.

lawmakers and unions over whether it

is doing enough to protect staff from

Monitors set up in the company's

warehouses will highlight workers

keeping a safe distance in green circles,

highlighted in red circles, Amazon said.

coronavirus among its workers.

identify high-traffic areas.

Amazon to use AI tech in its warehouses

Amazon is also testing a wearable device that lights up and makes an audio alert when workers are too close to each other, according to an internal memo seen by Reuters. The device is to be piloted from Wednesday at a warehouse outside Seattle.

The company has also been ambassadors headcount does not exceed seating limits in break rooms.

Amazon, which will open source the next few weeks.

the pandemic. Amazon said on Tuesday that its