



Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, a lawmaker, and Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman, chairman of NRB Bank, cut a ribbon to open the bank's 34th branch at Ghonapara in Gopalganj yesterday. Md Mehmod Husain, CEO of the bank, was present.

## Could the 'curve' be warning of a US recession?

AFP, New York

The US economy may be basking in the warm glow of solid growth, but economists are nervously eyeing a trend in the bond market that could spell stormy weather ahead.

Even though President Donald Trump is touting unemployment at its lowest level in 17 years and Wall Street soaring to new heights, economists are worried about one indicator that is often a harbinger of recession: the yield curve.

"Since 1950, each recession has been preceded by a reversal of the yield curve," said Christopher Low, chief economist of FTN Financial.

This closely scrutinized graph maps the difference in yield, or return on investment, of short- and long-term US Treasury debt, usually comparing two-year notes to 10-year bonds.

Normally, the shorter the investment, the lower the yield, and conversely, the longer the investment, the higher the return, to offset the greater risks of losing access to funds for an extended period.

But for the past year, the yield curve has been flattening as the return on short-term debt has been getting close to long-term yields, possibly signaling eroding confidence in the economy's perfor-

mance in the coming years.

The spread between the yield on two- and 10-year Treasury paper fell from 135 in December 2016 to 51 basis points on December 15, the lowest since October 2007 -- just before the start of the global financial crisis.

Worse still would be if the yield curve inverts, as short-term returns outpace the longer-dated debt -- meaning the spread is negative -- and if officials ignore the warning.

The yield curve inversion "could be heralding a contraction of the economy," says Gary Duncan, chief economist at Oxford Economics.

As Gregori Volokhine, of Meeschaert Financial Services, explained: "An inversion of the curve indicates that investors do not have confidence in the future."

The main factor behind the flattening of the yield curve is the US central bank's moves to raise the benchmark interest rate five times since the end of 2015, including three increases this year and three more expected in 2018.

The long-term yields fluctuate more in line with growth and inflation expectations. And while growth prospects have been revised upwards for next year -- in part due to the impact of the massive corporate tax cuts just approved by Congress -- the Federal Reserve's inflation target will

not be reached until 2019, according to its latest forecasts.

The Fed's preferred inflation measure was only 1.6 percent year-on-year in October.

Two voting members of the Fed's policy committee -- including Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari -- dissented from the December 13 decision to raise rates, preferring to wait for inflation to rise further.

Kashkari also mentioned his concerns about the yield curve and the signal it is sending to policymakers.

"While the yield curve has not yet inverted, the bond market is telling us that the odds of a recession are increasing," he said in a statement explaining his opposition to raising rates again.

Duncan of Oxford Economics cautioned that "if the Fed tightens its policy too quickly, the markets anticipate a slowdown in the economy in the longer term" as credit becomes more expensive.

However, outgoing Fed Chair Janet Yellen downplayed those fears.

"There are good reasons to think that the relationship between the slope of the yield curve and the business cycle may have changed," Yellen said in her press conference last week.

FTN's Low said Yellen could be making the same mistake as her predecessors Alan Greenspan in 1998 and Ben Bernanke in 2006, who each saw recessions after the yield curve inverted.

"Janet Yellen is making the same speech," Low said. "This is worrying."

Like most analysts, Low does not anticipate an inversion before 2019, or a recession until "early 2020."

Historically the economy has seen four to six quarters between a curve inversion and the start of a recession.

Of course, not every flat curve brings on an economic downturn, and some economists agree with Yellen that it may be too early to panic.

Noted economist Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser at Allianz SE, parent company of PIMCO, notes several reasons the yield curve could steepen, including many indicators signaling the economy still has room to expand and inflation to pick up.

If it doesn't, the Fed could reverse course quickly, he wrote in a blog post.

In addition, "the synchronized pick-up in growth in the rest of the world is supportive of the US expansion."



Chief Guest Mr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, chairman of the executive committee at United Commercial Bank, opens the bank's 174th branch at Chandanish in Chittagong yesterday.



Nazmul Hasan Papon, president of Bangladesh Cricket Board, and Tamal SM Parvez, chairman of NRB Commercial Bank, open the bank's 60th branch at Bhairab in Kishoreganj yesterday.



Adil Raihan, deputy managing director of Mercantile Bank, opens the bank's 126th branch at Ishwardi in Pabna yesterday.

### Development and Dissemination of Pearl Culture Technology Project

Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute  
Mymensingh-2201, Bangladesh

Memo No. 33.04.0000.136.04.026.16-1234

Date: 24.12.2017

### Request for Expressions of Interest (3rd Call)

Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh.
Agency	:	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh.
Procuring entity	:	Director General, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh.
Expression of Interest for selection of	:	International Mussel Breeding Expert/Pearl Culture Technician; Package No. SD1.
Duration	:	12 months.
REoI Memo No. & date	:	Memo No. 33.04.0000.136.04.026.16-1234 & 24.12.2017
Procurement sub method	:	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
Budget and source of funds	:	Development Budget and GoB.
Development partners	:	N/A.
Project/programme code	:	5-4405-5012.
Project/programme name	:	Development and Dissemination of Pearl Culture Technology Project.
REoI closing date and time	:	Date: 06.02.2018 and Time: 05.00pm.
REoI opening date and time	:	Date: 06.02.2018 and Time: 05.30pm.
<b>Information for applicant</b>		
Outline of the assignment and required qualifications & experiences [Details provided in the Standard Request for Application (SRFA)].		
Position	Number	Outline of the assignment
International Mussel Breeding Expert/Pearl Culture Technician	02	<p>❖ To assist the Pearl culture technique.</p> <p>❖ To assist the Mussel operation, laboratory/field activities.</p>
		<p>❖ The Pearl Culture Technician must have at least graduation/equivalent degree in Fisheries/Aquaculture/Marine Science with minimum 6-8 years working experience abroad on pearl culture and breeding.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>In case of highly practical experienced candidate, educational qualification might be relaxed. Highly trained experience persons will be preferred.</p>

### Other details:

Applicants are requested to provide information as per the format provided in Standard Request for Application (SRFA) indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV in prescribed form with other details as applicable). SRFA may be obtained from the websites: [www.fri.gov.bd](http://www.fri.gov.bd) or [www.mofl.gov.bd](http://www.mofl.gov.bd) or from the address below either through email or in person from the office of the undersigned. The applicants shall submit supporting documents in favour of their experience and qualifications along with the SRFA. The services of the Expert/Technician will commence immediately after appointment and shall be completed as described in SRFA.

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EoI(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

### Procurement entity details:

Name of the official inviting EoI	Arun Chandra Barman.
Designation of official inviting EoI	Project Director.
Address of official inviting EoI	Development and Dissemination of Pearl Culture Technology Project, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh-2201, Bangladesh.
Contact details of official inviting EoI	Tel: +88 091-62952; Fax: +88 091-62953; Cell: +88 01718-149804 Email: <a href="mailto:aruncbt@yahoo.com">aruncbt@yahoo.com</a>

Arun Chandra Barman  
Project Director

## Reliance aims to be a big clean energy provider: Ambani

REUTERS, Mumbai

India's Reliance Industries Ltd will become a major provider of clean energy in the country, Chairman Mukesh Ambani said, as the South Asian nation transitions to renewable energy sources from fossil fuels.

India is one of the world's biggest users of coal, and renewable energy such as solar power is a priority for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

"Can Reliance become a leading provider of clean and affordable energy to India? Yes we can and yes we will," billionaire Ambani said at a function on Saturday to mark 40 years of the company.

Reliance, owner of the world's biggest refining complex and also a leading petrochemicals player, expanded its tie-up with BP earlier this year to meet India's rising fuel and renewable energy demand.

Reliance can also be a global producer of innovative materials and among the top 20 companies in the world, Ambani said. He didn't give details.

## Iraq reaches initial deal with China's Zhenhua to develop East Baghdad oilfield

REUTERS, Baghdad

Iraq has reached an initial deal with China's state-run Zhenhua Oil to develop the southern portion of the East Baghdad oilfield, the oil ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

Iraq is seeking the help of Zhenhua Oil to increase production from East Baghdad oilfield to 40,000 barrels per day within five years as of the start of the development operations, Asim Jihad said in a statement.

Iraqi oil officials have estimated the East Baghdad field, a "super giant" with around 8 billion barrels of crude reserves, has the potential to produce 120,000 barrels of oil per day.

Under the initial deal with Zhenhua Oil, which will be announced in formal ceremonies to be held in Baghdad on Monday, the Chinese firm will commit to building an "oil residential complex", the statement said.

Oil Ministry officials said increasing East Baghdad crude production would help feed nearby refineries and power stations and free up more oil for exports from the southern region.

Iraq produces and exports the bulk of its crude from the southern region.

<b>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</b>		
Bangladesh Television BTV Headquarters Building Rampura, Dhaka-1219 <a href="http://www.btv.gov.bd">www.btv.gov.bd</a>		
<b>Invitation for International Tender</b>		
Date: 21/12/2017		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Information.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Television.
3	Purchaser name	Director General, Bangladesh Television.
4	Purchaser district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Digital Satellite Earth Station and Allied Equipment on Turn Key basis.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	15.54.0000.023.07.150.17.
7	Issue date	21/12/2017.
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM), International Competitive Tender (ICT).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
9	Budget and source of funds	GOB.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
10	Tender package No.	GR-3.
11	Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Digital Satellite Earth Station and Allied Equipment on Turn Key basis.
12	Tender publication date	21/12/2017.
13	Tender last selling date	05/02/2018.
14	Tender closing date and time	06/02/2018, 15.00 hr. BST.
15	Tender opening date and time	06/02/2018, 15.10 hr. BST.
16	Name & address of the office (s)	Selling tender document: Office of the Director Finance (6th Floor), Bangladesh Television, Headquarters Building, Rampura, Dhaka-1219. Receiving tender document: Conference Room of Chief Engineer (3rd Floor), Bangladesh Television, Headquarters Building, Rampura, Dhaka-1219. Opening tender document: Conference Room of Chief Engineer (3rd Floor), Bangladesh Television, Headquarters Building, Rampura, Dhaka-1219.
17	Pre-tender meeting place/date/time of	Conference Room of Chief Engineer (3rd Floor), Bangladesh Television, Headquarters Building, Rampura, Dhaka-1219. Date: 14/01/2018, Time: 11.00hr. BST.
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
18	Eligibility of tenderer	Manufacturer/authorised supplier of a manufacturer.
19	Brief description of goods	Digital Satellite Earth Station and Allied Equipment on Turn Key basis.
20	Brief description of related services	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Digital Satellite Earth Station and Allied Equipment on Turn Key basis.
21	Price of tender document	Tk 5000.00 (five thousand).
22	Amount of tender security	
23	Tender security amount in the form of bank guarantee	US\$ 25,000.00 (US Dollar twenty-five thousand only).
24	Completion time in months from date of confirmation of LC	4.
25	Purchaser details	
26	Name of official inviting tender	Muhammad Anisur Rahman.
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Engineering Manager.
28	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Television, Headquarters Building, Rampura, Dhaka-1219.
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: +880-2-58314480, Fax: +880-2-8312927, e-mail: <a href="mailto:em2hg@btv.gov.bd">em2hg@btv.gov.bd</a>
30	The purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Muhammad Anisur Rahman  
Engineering Manager  
(On behalf of Director General)

GD-2816