

US default could trigger recession

Treasury secretary says

REUTERS, Washington

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Tuesday warned that a default on government debt would likely leave millions of Americans without income payments, potentially triggering a recession that could destroy many American jobs and businesses.

Yellen told a gathering of community bankers that the unprecedented economic and financial crisis would be exacerbated by possible disruptions to the federal government's operations, including air traffic control, law enforcement, border security and national defense, and telecommunications systems.

The accompanying financial crisis could multiply the severity of the downturn, she said in remarks prepared for delivery, adding, "It is very conceivable that we'd see a number of financial markets break - with worldwide panic triggering margin calls, runs and fire sales."

Yellen said the standoff over the federal debt limit is already driving borrowing costs higher and adding to the country's debt burden

Yellen on Monday told Congress the Treasury expects to be able to pay the US government's bills only through June 1 without a debt limit increase, heaping pressure on Republicans in Congress and the White House to reach a deal in coming days.

Failure to reach a deal would result in severe economic and financial consequences, she said.

"Our economy would suddenly find itself in an unprecedented economic and financial storm," she said, adding that 66 million Social Security beneficiaries and millions of veterans and military families would likely go unpaid. "And the resulting income shock could lead to a recession that destroys many American jobs and businesses," she said.

Yellen said the standoff over the federal debt limit is already driving borrowing costs higher and adding to the country's debt burden, and urged Congress to avoid the "eleventh-hour brinkmanship" over the debt ceiling in 2011 that led to the first-ever downgrade of the US credit rating.

"Time is running out. Every single day that Congress does not act, we are experiencing increased economic costs that could slow down the US economy," Yellen said in remarks to the Independent Community Bankers of America.

"The US economy hangs in the balance. The livelihoods of millions of Americans do too. There is no time to waste.

Congress should address the debt limit as soon as possible."



Towhid Samad, chairman of Bangladesh General Insurance Company, handed over a full claim settlement cheque to a fire ravaged Bangabazar shop owner, who is a client of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, at the insurer's head office in Dhaka recently. Officials from both the insurer and the bank were present.

PHOTO: BANGLADESH GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY



MHM Fairoz, managing director of Singer Bangladesh Ltd, and Arefin Shuvo, an actor and model, exchanged signed documents of an agreement at a programme held at Singer's corporate office in Dhaka recently. High officials from Singer Bangladesh and their creative agency Mighty Byte were present.

PHOTO: SINGER BANGLADESH



Nazeem A Choudhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank, and Mohammad Fawaad, director of operations at Crowne Plaza Dhaka Gulshan, exchanged signed documents of a memorandum of understanding on discount offers and services at the latter's office in the capital recently. Masudul Haque Bhuiyan, head of cards and ADC of the bank, and senior officials from both organisations were present.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Netherlands to support young entrepreneurs of Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Netherlands government has offered a new incubation programme for young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh to support them with skills, funding and resources.

This programme titled "Orange Corners Incubation Programme" in Bangladesh aims to support young, early-stage entrepreneurs to enable them to turn their smart ideas into sustainable businesses, according to a press release.

It is designed to build capacity of early-stage entrepreneurs through world-class training, funding opportunities of up to 50,000 Euros, and a global network to take their businesses to new heights through this initiative. Applications for the programme are open till early June 2023.

The top applicants will be invited to attend a selection boot camp in late June 2023, among which, teams with highest potential will be onboarded to the first cohort of the incubation programme in July 2023, with at least 50 per cent female representation to support women-led businesses in Bangladesh.

Orange Corners is a global initiative of the foreign ministry of the Netherlands, which supports young entrepreneurs across Africa, Asia and the Middle East to enable them to start and grow sustainable businesses.

Oil prices steady

REUTERS, Tokyo

Oil prices were steady on Wednesday after a surprise rise in US crude inventories stoked demand concerns as economic worries cooled with a tighter supply outlook for later in the year.

Brent crude futures rose 19 cents, or 0.3 per cent, to \$75.10 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate US crude was up 20 cents or 0.3 per cent to \$71.06 at 1145 GMT. The International Energy Agency on Tuesday predicted demand would outpace supply by 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in the second half of the year, with China making up 60 per cent of oil demand growth in 2023.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (MAY 17, 2023)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 60-Tk 75	0	5.47 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 46-Tk 50	1.5 ↑	3.23 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 60	1.77 ↑	36.9 ↑
Lentil (kg)	Tk 90-Tk 100	-2.56 ↓	-13.64 ↓
Soybean (litre)	Tk 180-Tk 185	6.41 ↑	-2.14 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 35-Tk 40	29.31 ↑	74.42 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 70-Tk 75	107.14 ↑	70.59 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 47-Tk 50	11.49 ↑	22.78 ↑

SOURCE: TCB



Syed Waseque Md Ali, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, virtually inaugurates two sub-branches of the bank -- Badsha Mia Bazar sub-branch in Cumilla and Tanbazar sub-branch at Tanbazar in Narayanganj -- from the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday. Among others, Abdul Aziz and Muhammad Mustafa Khair, additional managing directors, and Md Zahurul Haque and Md Masudur Rahman Shah, deputy managing directors, were present.

PHOTO: FIRST SECURITY ISLAMI BANK

Baggage tax on gold

FROM PAGE B1

The sources said all concerned, including the prime minister and finance minister, have provided policy support.

An NBR source said about 99,791 kilogrammes of gold bars worth Tk 87,500 crore were brought into the country through luggage in the last four years till 2022.

However, about 52 per cent, or at least 52,195 kg worth Tk 44,366 crore, was brought in 2022 alone.

The amount is also equal to three to four years' demand of the country, said the sources.

The government received about Tk 1,714 crore in duties from the gold in the last four years.

In 2018, the NBR allowed 18

companies to import gold but up until now only three have imported a nominal amount.

"Individuals bringing gold into the country under the baggage rules have to pay less in taxes than the ones importing gold for business," Mohammad Fakhurul Alam, director general of the CIID told The Daily Star.

"The smugglers are taking advantage of this facility...this is impacting our remittance inflow," he said.

"We sent some suggestions to the NBR to change the baggage rules.

Besides, I have heard that some suggestions have been forwarded from other organisations and agencies. However, I still don't know

what changes will be made, he added.

"The cost of importing gold is almost double that under the baggage rules. As a result, smugglers are using baggage rules to bring in gold," said Anwar Hossain, vice president of Bangladesh Jewellers' Association, told The Daily Star.

"Gold bars and jewellery worth around Tk 73,000 crore come to Bangladesh under baggage rules every year and most of this gold goes to neighbouring countries," he said.

"The money of the gold was supposed to be remitted by migrants but it arrives in the form of gold," he added.

Dollar jumps, stocks waver

AFP, London

The haven dollar climbed and global stock markets wavered Wednesday as investors fretted over the slow progress of talks seeking to raise the US debt ceiling.

All eyes remain on Washington, where lawmakers remain deadlocked

in negotiations to lift the country's borrowing limit to pay its debts and avert a market-rattling default.

The euro slid to \$1.0821, the lowest level since early April, in a broad dollar rally as the greenback benefitted from its status as a safe bet in times of economic turmoil.

Asian and European equities

were handed a tepid lead from Wall Street, where disappointing retail sales data and weak Home Depot earnings highlighted soft consumer demand.

But analysts said the readings were unlikely to give the Federal Reserve room to pause its interest-rate hiking campaign yet.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Registrar General
Birth & Death Registration
Local Government Division
Transport Pool Building (8th Floor)
Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000
www.orgbdr.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.04.0000.102.07.013.23-857 Date: 17.05.2023

Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

The Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration likes to develop a Mobile Apps (Android and iOS) to facilitate easy access for birth, death, and correction applications. It invites parties to express their interests to build the Apps. Written Expression of Interest (Eoi) will be received by 12:00 Noon, 27th May 2023 by way of email or in person.

2. Key Qualification Criteria of the Consulting Firm:

The Consultant Firm will demonstrate experience of at least 07 (Seven) years in similar assignments of managing procurement, designing, developing, installation, integration of IT systems. The tenderer's ToR should contain the following information and documents to substantiate their legal status, qualification, and experience:

- Professionals with a mixed set of skills, educational background, and experience in the relevant fields.
- Name and background of the firm with general and similar experiences including firm's brochure.
- In case of intention of forming association in the form of JV or sub-consultancy, their name with related experience in specific assignment.
- Copy of the registration certificate with professional body.
- List of relevant professional staff with mentioning their qualification and experience.
- Summary of experience of the firm in similar assignments completed during the last 07 (Seven) years, client name, contract value, and details of the task.
- Availability of resources, demonstration of capacity to carry out the assignment should be mentioned in the EOI.
- Submission of the copies of all legal documents that the firms hold to carry out their businesses including VAT/IT registration certificates.

3. The client reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs without showing any reason whatsoever.

17.05.2023
Dr. Abu Nasar Mohammad Abdullah
Deputy Registrar General (Joint Secretary)
Birth & Death Registration
Phone: 2223355892
Email: drj1@orgbdr.gov.bd

GD-866