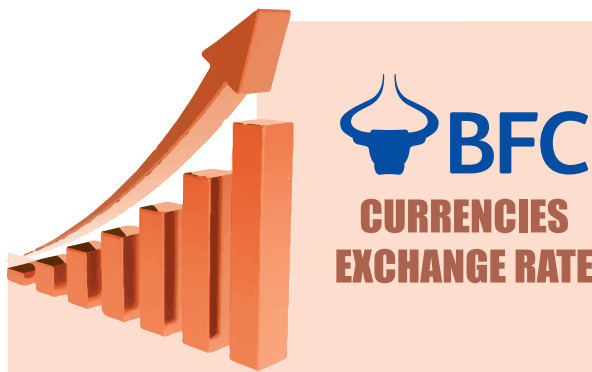


Did You Know?



49% of organisations have initiatives to grow via reducing costs, only 29% have initiatives to grow via new products and services



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2890	0.2866
BANGLADESH	0.00487	0.00479
CANADA	0.2902	0.2870
DENMARK	0.0569	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0434
EURO	0.4100	0.4079
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00603	0.00565
INDONESIA	0.00003016	0.00002862
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003480	0.003410
JORDAN	0.5365	0.5351
KOREA	0.00037341	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.086900	0.0867
NEW ZEALAND	0.2747	0.2733
NORWAY	0.0469	
NEPAL	0.00368	0.00346
OMAN	0.97962	0.98262
PAKISTAN	0.00365	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00783	0.00760
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.27350
SINGAPORE	0.2700	0.2680
SOUTH AFRICA	0.27000	0.02920
SRI LANKA	0.00273	0.00255
SWEDISH	0.0441	
SWITZERLAND	0.3811	0.3786
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0017
TAIWAN	0.012300	
THAILAND	0.010800	0.010790
TURKEY	0.1177	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4892	0.4863
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102800	0.102810
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37800	0.37805
YUAN	0.058500	0.0585

Rates are for indication purpose only. For firm rates or for currencies not listed above please call Bahrain Financing Company. Telephone: 17228888, Website: www.bfc.com.bh

GULF INTERBANK RATES

COUNTRY	1 US DLR	1 UK STG	1 SFR	100 YEN
BAHRAIN	0.3770	0.4764	0.3722	0.3313
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.4870	0.2819	0.2509
OMAN	0.3849	0.3899	0.3800	0.3383
QATAR	3.6420	3.6890	3.5956	3.2006
UAE	3.6730	3.7204	3.6262	3.2279
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7984	3.7022	3.2955



Hisham Al Rayes

GFH backs WIBC

Manama

GFH Financial Group (GFH) yesterday announced its Platinum Sponsorship for the 23rd Annual World Islamic Banking Conference (WIBC 2016) to be held in Bahrain from 5th to 7th December 2016 under the theme "New Economic Uncertainties and Vigilant Growth".

This is the fourth consecutive year for GFH as a leading supporter of the global Islamic summit,

which is being held with the Strategic Partnership of the Central Bank of Bahrain.

GFH will be represented at the WIBC by a delegation of the Group's board members and senior management team including the its Head of Investment Management, Hammad Younas, who will take part on a panel dedicated to "Asset Allocation Outlook - Regions and Countries for New Growth."

Commenting, Hisham

Al Rayes, CEO of GFH Financial Group, said, "As long standing leaders and industry innovators, GFH are pleased to once again lend our support to WIBC. We are also pleased to be supporting another strategic initiative of the Central Bank of Bahrain, who has taken a leading role as an industry pioneer and the positioning of Bahrain as a global Islamic finance centre."

More than 1,300 high-level industry attendees

from 50+ countries are expected to take part in the three day conference. Key features for WIBC 2016 include sessions dedicated to banking leadership opportunities and asset management best practices; thought leadership from leading strategy consultants; and panel sessions focused on SMEs and entrepreneurship and the impact of innovation in financial technology ("fintech") and other important topics.

WTO seeks trade deal on green products

Geneva

The heavyweights of world trade, including the United States, China and Japan, meet in Geneva this weekend to establish a list of environmentally friendly products for which tariffs can be eliminated or reduced.

The green products include solar panels, wind turbines and air quality monitors "that can help achieve environmental and climate protection goals," the World Trade Organisation said. EU Trade Commissioner

Cecilia Malmstroem is expected at the WTO talks on Saturday along with senior officials of 17 countries, including US Trade Representative Michael Froman.

The officials hope to finalise an accord on Sunday but nothing is guaranteed, a source close to the WTO said.

Talks on the Environmental Goods Agreement began in July 2014, based on a proposal at the World Economic Forum in Davos six months earlier.

Malmstroem said some 300

environment-related products would be considered at the Geneva talks.

Over \$1,000 billion (940 billion euros) worth of goods in this sector are traded every year, according to the WTO.

If a deal is reached this weekend, countries will next year establish a list of reduced tariffs for each product, a WTO spokeswoman said on Friday.

The WTO said the benefits of a new agreement would be extended to all of its members. (AFP)



Picture for representation only

Washington Monument shut until at least 2019

Washington

The Washington Monument, which has been plagued with elevator problems since a 2011 earthquake struck the US capital, will remain closed until 2019 for much-needed repairs and renovations, the National Park Service said Friday.

A new elevator will be installed in the towering landmark -- one of the most popular in the US capital -- to allow visitors to reach the top of the giant stone obelisk for sweeping views of the city and its surroundings. Billionaire businessman and philanthropist David Rubenstein has donated the \$2-3 million needed to complete the project, which will resolve ongoing mechanical, electrical and computer issues.

"The monument has become a symbol of our country, and reminds everyone of the towering strengths of our first president," Rubenstein said in a statement issued by the National Park Service.

Rubenstein, co-founder and co-chief executive officer of private equity firm The Carlyle Group, is among the richest people in the United States, with a net worth of some \$2.5 billion, according to Forbes.