

## Did You Know?



Elektro was the first humanoid robot. It was built in 1939 by Westinghouse. It was seven feet tall and had a vocabulary of 700 words.



## BFC CURRENCIES EXCHANGE RATE

COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2931	0.2907
BANGLADESH	0.00483	0.00459
CANADA	0.3022	0.2990
DENMARK	0.0630	
EGYPT	0.0234	0.0218
EURO	0.4529	0.4504
HONGKONG	0.04970	0.04930
INDIA	0.00582	0.00584
INDONESIA	0.00003017	0.00002855
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010964	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000300	
JAPAN	0.00352	0.003450
JORDAN	0.5362	0.5354
KOREA	0.00039520	
KUWAIT	1.254	1.254
MALAYSIA	0.0929	0.0929
NEW ZEALAND	0.2621	0.2622
NORWAY	0.0481	
NEPAL	0.00395	0.00365
OMAN	0.98027	0.98340
PAKISTAN	0.00366	0.00358
PHILIPPINES	0.00761	0.00744
QATAR	0.10386	0.10381
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10065	0.10071
SINGAPORE	0.2829	0.2809
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02830	0.02820
SRI LANKA	0.00278	0.00246
SWEDISH	0.0481	
SWITZERLAND	0.3904	0.3873
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0018
TAIWAN	0.013100	
THAILAND	0.011690	0.011680
TURKEY	0.1039	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.5075	0.5046
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	0.102850	0.102870
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	0.37790	0.37800
YUAN	0.056800	0.056800

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	0.5738	0.3798	0.3344
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.1901	0.2877	0.2532
OMAN	0.3849	0.3820	0.3878	0.3414
QATAR	3.6420	3.6147	3.6695	3.2302
UAE	3.6730	3.6455	3.7008	3.2576
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7219	3.7783	3.3259



Choe Ryong Hae

# China, North Korea envoys talk up ties

**Beijing**  
Traditional friendship between China and North Korea represents “valuable wealth” for their people, China said after its special envoy met a high-ranking North Korean official, but there was no mention of the crisis over North Korea’s weapons.

Song Tao, who heads the ruling Chinese Communist Party’s international department, is visiting Pyongyang to discuss the outcome of the recently concluded Communist Party Congress in China, at which President Xi Jinping

cemented his power. In a brief statement dated Friday but reported by Chinese media on Saturday, the international department said Song, who is there representing Xi, reported to North Korean official Choe Ryong Hae the outcome of the congress.

Song and Choe also talked about relations between their parties and countries, the department said.

“They said that the traditional friendship between China and North Korea was founded and cultivated by both countries former old leaders, and is

valuable wealth for the two peoples,” it said.

“Both sides must work hard together to promote the further development of relations between the two parties and two countries to benefit their two peoples.”

The department made no mention of North Korea’s nuclear or missile programs, which are strongly opposed by China.

The North’s official KCNA news agency said Song informed Choe about China’s 19th National Congress “in detail”, and stressed China’s stance to steadily develop the traditionally friendly

relations between the two parties and countries.

Song arrived on Friday but it is not clear how long he will be in North Korea.

China has repeatedly pushed for a diplomatic solution to the crisis over North Korea’s development of nuclear weapons and missiles to carry them, but in recent months it has had only limited high-level exchanges with North Korea.

The last time China’s special envoy for North Korea visited the country was in February last year. (Reuters)

# Robots to take over 6,000 jobs by 2021: Nordic bank

**Oslo**  
The Nordic banking giant Nordea has announced it would shed 6,000 jobs during the next four years. One of its reasons is replacement of human positions with “robots”. Nordea has around 32,000 employees. CEO Casper von Koskull explaining the layoff in a statement said “need to cut costs” and “improvement in efficiency” were key factors, Xinhua reported.

The layoffs include 2,000 outsourced consultants. How the sackings would be distributed in the Nordic area was not specified.

Nordea said it was introducing “robots” that respond to customer questions online.

One such robot in Norway has already begun working in September and has already



A humanoid robot works with employees on an assembly line at a factory

responded to 10,000 questions previously handled by staffers.

In Finland, robot service begins in December. Von Koskull said “artificial intelligence” will improve customer experience.

Some jobs described as “routine” will be transferred to Poland. Salary levels in Finland and the other Nordics are higher than in Poland.

The news came two days after Nordea announced it

had begun cooperation with Apple-pay, now available in the Nordic area.

Analysts have pointed out that after a couple of years Apple and comparable companies could be severe competitors to traditional banks.

After a change of legislation next year, banks in Finland must allow access to a customer’s account to outside services, if the customer permits.

The media here noted that Nordea’s announcement brought recollections of the 1990s. During that decade the number of jobs in banking in Finland reduced from 55,000 to 25,000 employees.

The Nordea employee union received the news “with dismay as the bank is very profitable now”. (IANS)