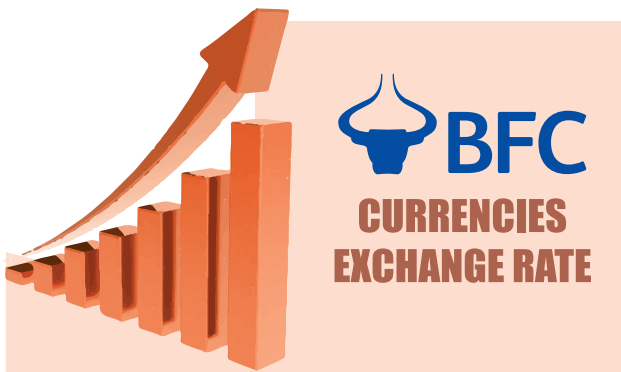


Did You Know?



Canon was established by a movie camera repairman, who wanted to introduce European-style cameras into Japan. Leica, the leading camera manufacturer at the time, was his biggest inspiration. Allegedly, he tore a Leica camera apart and was baffled by what he saw: "I was surprised that when these inexpensive materials were put together into a camera, it demanded an exorbitant price. This made me angry"



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2969	0.2945
BANGLADESH	0.00517	0.00476
CANADA	0.2944	0.2913
DENMARK	0.0572	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4082	0.4061
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00586	0.00575
INDONESIA	0.00002997	0.00002896
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003500	0.003430
JORDAN	0.5346	0.5351
KOREA	0.0003782	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.242
MALAYSIA	0.087000	0.0869
NEW ZEALAND	0.2767	0.2754
NORWAY	0.0476	
NEPAL	0.00387	0.00035
OMAN	0.97962	0.97962
PAKISTAN	0.00358	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00778	0.00756
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.26810
SINGAPORE	0.2706	0.2686
SOUTH AFRICA	0.03090	0.03080
SRI LANKA	0.00277	0.00251
SWEDISH	0.0456	
SWITZERLAND	0.3843	0.3818
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012600	
THAILAND	0.010970	0.010990
TURKEY	0.1093	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4780	0.4751
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	0.4716	0.3764	0.3321
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.4100	0.2850	0.2515
OMAN	0.3849	0.3855	0.3843	0.3391
QATAR	3.6420	3.6478	3.6362	3.2082
UAE	3.6730	3.6789	3.6671	3.2356
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7560	3.7440	3.3034

Banks support Saudi, Egypt retreats

Dubai

Stock markets in the Middle East were mixed in modest trading volumes yesterday with Saudi Arabia and Qatar outperforming because of support from the banking sector, while Egypt fell as the currency hit a three-month high.

Two-thirds of the 12 listed banks on Saudi Arabia's bourse gained, lifting the index 0.1 percent.

Alawwal Bank added 2.7 pc, with most activity occurring in the last hour of the session.

The largest Islamic lender, Al Rajhi Bank, added 0.4 pc after the bank gained market share in corporate banking last year.

Qatar's index climbed 0.9 pc in a broad-based increase as Qatar National Bank added 1.8 pc.

Dubai's index edged down 0.1 pc as builder Arabtec dropped 3.9 pc and peer Drake & Scull lost 2.6 pc.

Large caps weighed on Abu Dhabi's index, which fell 0.5 pc. First Gulf Bank lost

Closing Bell

SAUDI ARABIA added 0.1 pc to 7,140 points.

DUBAI edged down 0.1 pc to 3,646 points.

ABU DHABI fell 0.5 pc to 4,621 points.

EGYPT lost 0.8 pc to 12,549 points.

KUWAIT fell 0.5 pc to 6,791 points.

QATAR added 0.9 pc to 10,917 points

OMAN edged up 0.3 pc to 5,858 points.

BAHRAIN inched down 0.2 pc to 1,321 points.

0.7 pc and Etisalat dropped 1.1 pc.

Egypt's index retreated 0.8 pc as bourse data showed foreign investors were net sellers to the tune of about \$175 million - a very large amount by the standards of that market.

Foreign investors bought stocks heavily in the months after the Egyptian pound was floated on Nov. 3,

which caused the currency to depreciate, making equities much cheaper for international buyers.

In the last couple of weeks the pound has been rebounding, however, and it was quoted at 15.77 per U.S. dollar yesterday. The appreciation has made stocks more expensive for foreigners and encouraged some to book currency gains. (Reuters)

BCCI to hold business forum



DT News Network Manama

The ICT committee of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) headed by bureau member Ahmed bin Hindi and in cooperation with GS1 Bahrain is holding a seminar on standard barcoding tomorrow at 11 a.m. in Al Majlis Hall of Bait Al Tijjar.

All members of the business community have been invited to attend this seminar which will be conducted in Arabic and English by CEO of GS1 Bahrain Raed Al Samahiji. Interested participants can contact 17380094.

Ministry launches new e-service

DT News Network news@dt.bh

Manama

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism launched a new electronic service "My CR".

The service allows the investors after entering the Commercial Registration Portal "Sijilat", to find all relevant investors CRs and data directly without entering additional information such as CPR or CR number through a single window.

It also allow investors to renew CR and find out CR irregularities. The investor can also find out electronic certificate, operation financial assets.

Seminar on finance solutions held

DT News Network Manama

As part of its efforts to support the training and development needs of the local and regional financial sector, the Bahrain Institute for Banking and Finance (BIBF) held a Financial Technology seminar (FinTech) focusing on the upcoming trends in FinTech pertaining to Bahrain and the wider GCC market. The seminar was led by

experts from Europe and the GCC including MasterCard and Upaid, who discussed the upcoming trends in FinTech especially focusing on payment solutions for the Middle East as a whole.

The experts also collaborated with the attending audience to discuss how to integrate these solutions as part of Islamic banking operations and activities.

"The BIBF strives to provide comprehensive business

solutions and exceptional learning opportunities that match local and regional market conditions. The seminar shed light on the inventive and ingenious financial technology solutions that have transformed the sector, and presents a framework for how these solutions can be integrated as part of enormously successful Islamic finance sector," BIBF's Deputy Director Dr. Ahmed Al Shaikh said. Head of the BIBF Islamic

Finance Center, Mujtaba Khalid also showcased a customisable app, developed in-house by the BIBF Islamic Finance Centre in partnership with European based UPaid that facilitates Islamic retail banking consumers to manage their finances, make Shariah compliant investments and make both online and offline payments.

The Islamic Finance Centre is launching its online e-Learning portal on the February 26.