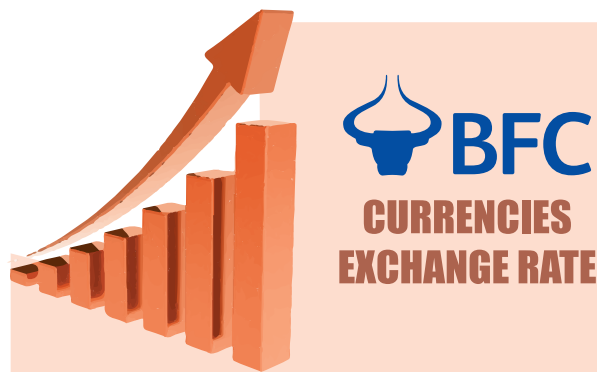


Davos debate



Afghanistan's first all-female orchestra performs during the closing ceremony of the World Economic Forum

key themes this year



COUNTRY/CURRENCIES	BUY	SELL
AUSTRALIA	0.2926	0.2902
BANGLADESH	0.00523	0.00478
CANADA	0.2893	0.2862
DENMARK	0.0573	
EGYPT	0.0361	0.0219
EURO	0.4112	0.4091
HONGKONG	0.04983	0.04943
INDIA	0.00620	0.00565
INDONESIA	0.00002997	0.00028830
IRAN TUMAN	0.00010959	
IRAQI DINAR	0.000294	
JAPAN	0.003450	0.003380
JORDAN	0.5365	0.5351
KOREA	0.00037148	
KUWAIT	1.2580	1.249
MALAYSIA	0.087500	0.0869
NEW ZEALAND	0.2756	0.2742
NORWAY	0.0470	
NEPAL	0.00406	0.00347
OMAN	0.97962	0.97962
PAKISTAN	0.00377	0.00360
PHILIPPINES	0.00783	0.00757
QATAR	0.10381	0.10376
SAUDI ARABIA	0.10061	0.10066
SINGAPORE	0.2686	0.2666
SOUTH AFRICA	0.02930	0.02920
SRI LANKA	0.00279	0.00252
SWEDISH	0.0455	
SWITZERLAND	0.0385	0.3823
SYRIA	0.001740	0.0123
TAIWAN	0.012600	
THAILAND	0.010900	0.010860
TURKEY	0.1076	
UNITED KINGDOM	0.4757	0.4728
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	0.4647	0.3746	0.3296
KUWAIT	0.2855	32.6526	0.2837	0.2496
OMAN	0.3849	0.3874	0.3825	0.3365
QATAR	3.6420	3.6653	3.6188	3.1844
UAE	3.6730	3.6965	3.6496	3.2115
SAUDI	3.7500	3.7740	3.7262	3.2788

Davos

The global elite wraps up its talkathon in the Swiss ski resort of Davos on Friday -- around the same time as Donald Trump enters the White House on a wave of anti-elitist anger.

Here are five key themes from this year's World Economic Forum, which gathers movers and shakers from business, politics, academia and showbiz every year for a week of earnest debate and extravagant partying.

China: globalisation's new saviour?



Alibaba Group Founder and Executive Chairman, China's Jack Ma

China's President Xi Jinping emerged as an unlikely capitalist hero as Davos kicked off Tuesday, with a staunch defence of globalisation that stood in stark contrast to the protectionist Trump.

The first Chinese supreme to address Davos, Xi said there was "no point in blaming economic globalisation for the world's problems" at a time when anger over the downsides of open borders has triggered political revolts in the US, Britain and beyond.

The message won glowing praise from Davos delegates -- though the irony of the communist leader's new

status as a capitalist darling was not lost on observers, and China hands noted that his mantra of openness clashed with his government's repressive actions at home.

China's growing thirst for foreign acquisitions was also on display in Davos. The country's richest man Wang Jianling and internet billionaire Jack Ma both expressed an interest in further investments in Hollywood and elsewhere.

Getting down to business on Brexit



British Prime Minister Theresa May

British Prime Minister Theresa May headlined Thursday, with business leaders flocking to hear further details of her Brexit plan.

May pronounced Britain "open for business" despite her announcement that she plans to exit the EU single market, promising a mass of ambitious trade deals with partners around the world.

Anxious executives in Davos said they were relieved to have a little more clarity on how Brexit might affect business -- but they said the devil will be in the details of the divorce negotiations.

Tackling the populist revolt



US philanthropist Bill Gates, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (R) gestures next to Guinean president Alpha Conde

After a year in which US and British electorates lashed out at out-of-touch elites, the cream of that elite did plenty of head-scratching over the reasons for the revolt and what can be done about it.

The official theme of this year's meeting was "responsive and responsible leadership", with the growing rural-urban divide in Western countries up for discussion along with how to appease the "squeezed and angry" middle class.

"It's a mistake not to recognise that the middle class in my country and in others is concerned that the government is not fighting for it," said ex-US Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers.

Robots are coming for your jobs

Others spent the week laying preparations for the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" -- technological advances such as artificial intelligence that are predicted to change our lives hugely in the decades to come, notably the way we work.

After industrial robots put paid to many manufacturing jobs in the West, experts now predict the loss of millions of white-collar jobs that machines will be able to perform -- and are urging governments to wake up to the challenge.

"There's insidious insertion of automation in a lot of different domains," said Missy Cummings, a robotics expert at Duke University, naming driverless cars as just one technology that will revolutionise our lives.

"The reality is we can't just keep our head in the sand like an ostrich." (AFP)