

# Focus on global economic tremors

IMF annual meeting will be held this week in earthquake-stricken Indonesia

● Finance ministers and central bankers from 180 nations to participate

● Group of 20 finance ministers also are due to meet in Bali

Bali, Indonesia | AFP

Rising protectionism, vulnerable emerging markets and record debt levels: The IMF holds its annual meeting this week in earthquake-stricken Indonesia, as it shines a light on tremors in the global economy.

Finance ministers and central bankers from 180 nations will be among 32,000 attendees in Bali for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which takes place every three years outside



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director, Christine Lagarde speaks during opening remarks for the upcoming 2018 General IMF Meetings in Washington

of Washington. The gathering will be held from Tuesday to Sunday.

The resort island of Bali is 1,125 kilometers (700 miles) from Palu, the city on Sulawesi

that wracked by an earthquake and tsunami on September 28 that left more than 1,500 dead and 1,000 missing.

Despite the distance, security is a major concern for Indone-

“For most countries, it has become more difficult to deliver on the promise of greater prosperity, because the economic weather is beginning to change

CHRISTINE LAGARDE

sian organizers.

Bali experienced a series of volcanic eruptions over the summer, while the neighboring island of Lombok was struck by a string of deadly earthquakes.

If there is an earthquake, Jakarta recommends participants stay in the conference center, which, like many hotels in Bali, is built to withstand such seismic events.

In case of tsunami risk, attendees would be evacuated to

a nearby building.

But the focus of the meeting is averting economic rather than natural disasters.

The trade war launched by US President Donald Trump against China, along with disputes with allies like the European Union, Mexico and Canada, is a key source of concern.

**Risks materialize**

Like the OECD, which lowered its economic growth forecast for the world economy to 3.7 per cent for 2018, IMF chief Christine Lagarde signaled the fund would cut the outlook which in July stood at 3.9pc.

After sounding the alarm in recent years about threats to the global economy, Lagarde said last week “some of those risks have begun to materialise” and “there are signs that global growth has plateaued.”

The rise in trade barriers is slowing trade, and dampening

investment and manufacturing as uncertainty increases, she said.

And she repeated the warning about rising debt levels which “reached an all-time high of \$182 trillion -- almost 60 percent higher than in 2007.”

That creates concerns for emerging market economies which will come under increased pressure as the US central bank raises interest rates, while investors are likely to pull out of those markets seeking higher returns.

Argentina and Turkey already have been hit by headwinds, seeing their currencies collapse and forcing Buenos Aires to go the IMF for help.

The fund recently increased support for Argentina by \$7 billion to \$57 billion in exchange for tough economic policy reforms, although the loan has not yet been approved by the IMF board.

## VCBank sells 69pc stake in RHW for US\$39m

● RHW will employ 250 people of whom 150 will be medical practitioners

● Will focus initially on the provision of comprehensive maternity facilities

TDT | Manama

Venture Capital Bank (VCBank), a Bahrain-based Sharia-compliant investment firm, announced yesterday the sale of 69 per cent stake in its recently-completed Royal Hospital for Women (RHW) in Bahrain for US\$ 39 million.

Amanat Holdings, a Dubai Financial Market-listed investment company in the GCC healthcare and education sectors, made the acquisition.

This latest investment exit,



The Royal Hospital for Women

according to VCBank and its retail investors, generated a 34pc return on the original investment.

Comprising of 65 inpatient beds, RHW will focus initially on the provision of comprehensive maternity facilities extending to pre-natal and post-natal care, in addition to gynaecology.

Abdullatif Janahi, Board Member and CEO of VCBank, commented: “In addition to expanding and enhancing Bahrain’s healthcare sector, and promoting the Kingdom as a

medical tourism centre, the Royal Hospital for Women will provide employment and training opportunities for Bahraini nationals seeking a rewarding career in the medical field.”

Covering a built-up area of 10,000 square metres on a landscaped site of 40,000 square metres, RHW is situated on the outskirts of Riffa.

“The sale of this recently-completed hospital, with its unique patient value proposition, marks the Bank’s first investment exit from the regional



Abdullatif Janahi, VCBank Board Member & CEO

healthcare sector in which we have developed a particular expertise,” Janahi pointed out.

VCBank also conceived the idea for the German Orthopaedic Hospital (GOH) in Bahrain, which opened in 2010.



Gulf Air officials during the International French Travel Market (IFTM) Top Resa held in Paris from 26 to 29 September 2018. The airline was featured in the Kingdom of Bahrain pavilion and members of Gulf Air’s Paris office represented the airline during the show.



Bahrain Chapter of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India organised a seminar on EQ at Workplace exclusively for the women CA members. In the photo: Executive committee members along with the speaker Rekha Uttam and the participants



Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) recognised 30 employees from the Airport Operations and Facility Management departments who completed a business continuity management training course. Conducted by Munich Airport Consulting International, the training aimed to develop participants’ theoretical knowledge of business continuity concepts and practices based on international standards. BAC is currently working with Munich Airport Consulting International to develop an effective governance framework to help ensure continuity of operations at BIA during disasters and crises and to define, implement, and test the contingency plans.

## Gulf Hotel Bahrain joins the fight against breast cancer

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The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention & Spa has announced its backing for the Breast Cancer awareness campaign held this month.

The campaign, as part of activities to spread breast cancer awareness, will kick start with the Gulf Hotel staff donning a symbolic pink ribbon.

A selfie launch will be made under the hashtag of #ThinkPinkGulf.

A two day #OutThink Campaign, is also set-up, where staff will take part



Think Pink

in a sales blitz, giving out Think Pink Goodies besides offering a chance to win a “dinner for two” on the best selfie image voted.

A “Pink Brunch”, Executive Assistant Manager, Charbel Hanna, said, will be held on 12 October at the newly renovated Al Waha Restaurant, which features “pink signature cuisine, live cooking stations as well as regular brunch offerings. The brunch costs BD23 with soft beverages and BD28 with an extended beverage package. Part of the proceeds from the sales will be

donated to the Think Pink Society of Bahrain.

Additionally, a specialist Gynecologist from the Bahrain Specialist Hospital will hold a session demonstrating basic breast cancer examination methods, while a specialist nutritionist will provide advice on best diets for a healthy lifestyle.

Gulf Hotel said it is also offering, during the programme, exclusive Spa package rates. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the Think Pink Society of Bahrain.