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PPP Law

enhances integration between public and private sectors



Minister of Commerce: Private sector is an active partner in the economic process



QC Chairman: PPP projects enhance development, attract investments



Sheikh Khalifa elected member of ICC Executive Council

QC launches labour re-employment platform in the private sector

QC receives ISO Certification in information security



Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani
Qatar Chamber Chairman



New victory for Qatar over siege states

The State of Qatar has achieved two great victories over the siege countries on the international arena, proving to the world that it adopted all possible legal means to regain its rights.

The first victory represented in the decision made by the International Court of Justice that rejected the appeals by siege countries regarding the competence of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to handle a complaint filed by Qatar on the closure of the airspace.

In June 2017, siege countries closed airspace to Qatari airplanes and prevented them from flying to and from airports in those countries, in a flagrant violation of international law and agreements.

According to this verdict, ICAO Council will resume procedures of handling the dispute of the complaint filed by Qatar which will lead the blockading countries to face international responsibility for violating international aviation rules.

In addition, the ruling stressed the integrity and fairness of Qatar's position.

The second resounding victory represented in the WTO's ruling that Saudi Arabia has breached intellectual property rights by refusing to take action against beoutQ piracy channel, and instead has been actively promoting and supporting this piracy.

BeoutQ Channel has pirated copyrighted media content of beIN in Saudi Arabia and beyond via Saudi-based Arabsat satellite frequencies, while Saudi Arabia has refused to take any effective criminal action against the channel.

It is obvious that Saudi Arabia has breached its obligations under the WTO Agreement on Trade related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and failed to protect intellectual property rights by refusing to take action against beoutQ.

Under this ruling, Saudi Arabia must now heed the WTO Dispute Settlement Body's call to stop its abuse of intellectual property rights, and bring its measures into conformity with laws of the WTO.



Qatar's economy set to overtake pandemic of Corona

Qatar's total value of foreign merchandise trade in last May has recorded a considerable surge in exports and imports. This means that the state's foreign trade has grown to its normal level before the pandemic of Covid-19, and that the Qatari economy has restored its usual activity after this pandemic, which has affected the whole world.

In May, the total value of foreign merchandise trade reached QR21.2bn, an increase of 10 percent compared to April.

This increase was driven by an increase of the state's exports and imports. The total exports reached QR13.3 billion, an increase of 12.7 percent compared to QR11.8 billion in April, while imports during the same month reached about QR7.9 billion, recording an increase of 5.3 percent compared to QR7.5 billion the value of April.

Therefore, the foreign merchandise trade balance showed a surplus of QR 5.4 billion, recording an increase of 25.5 percent compared to April.

These figures stressed that the Qatari economy is set to overtake the crisis of coronavirus and its repercussions due to its sustainability and strength.

There is no doubt that building a sustainable and robust economy requires exerting concerned efforts by all parties, public and private sectors.

We are proud that the Wise Leadership is very interested to open the scope for the private sector to participate actively in the economic development and in projects being implemented in the country.

For this, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has issued the Public-Private Partnership Law.

The law will pick up the pace of developing infrastructure and will pave the way for the launch of more investment projects in various sectors.

It is certain that the partnership between both sectors would help boost Qatar's position as a global center for investment and business and support the implementation of projects related to Qatar National Vision 2030 and those related to the host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

I am fully confident that Qatar's host for this international event would achieve a set of significant economic gains. For example, the Qatari economy is expected to grow by 3% over the medium term, helped by continued investments related to the host, according to estimates of the World Bank.

These benefits also include highlighting the state's world class infrastructure and facilities before world countries and showcasing Qatar as a leading center for business and investment.

Moreover, the host would have a positive impact on the state's GDP, which means that the consumption, investments, government purchases and total exports will increase.

In general, the event will achieve a boom in the country's economic activities, where large numbers of tourists will spend a significant amount of income for the economy.

Saleh bin Hamad Al Sharqi
General Manager

Economic Magazine issued by



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Qatar's foreign merchandise trade has showed a significant jump last May. It was amounted to nearly QR 21.2 billion, registering an increase of 10 percent compared to last April. This indicates that the state's foreign trade has returned to its normal level before the pandemic of Covid19-, which had a negative impact on trade process in most of world countries. Likewise, exports of the Qatari private sector grew by 7 percent in the same month according to certificates of origin issued by Qatar Chamber.

Editor



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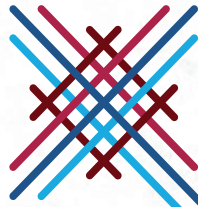
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Commercial Court contributes to improving business environment: bin Twar

In a meeting held on July 29, the Cabinet had approved the draft law establishing the Commercial Court and the law to issue it.

The Cabinet had agreed to the requirements for the establishment of the court, including the allocation of an independent headquarters and a special budget for the court, the appointment of a specialised judicial team and the provision of trained staff.

The draft law contains provisions related to the establishment of the court, its chairmanship, management and organizational structure, its headquarters and budget, and the departments that comprise it and the formation of each department and its jurisdiction, as well as the establishing of an electronic system to register cases and requests in matters pertaining to the court, and all appeals against judgments and grievances from orders issued by them, and the establishment of a case management department. The project also included the procedures to ensure the speedy settlement of commercial cases and disputes, and the implementation of court rulings.

Commenting on the approval, Qatar Chamber First Vice Chairman HE Mohamed bin Ahmed bin Twar said that

establishing a commercial court would contribute to improving business environment and boost its position in business and investment regionally and globally.

In statement published in Lusail Newspaper, he said that such specialized courts would enhance investor confidence in Qatar's investment environment and attract more investments to the state, as well as boost the economic development process.

"We had called for establishing a specialized investment and business court in order to enhance the investment environment, facilitate litigation procedures, and resolve any problems faced by businessmen and investors. This creates an attractive climate characterized by fairness and transparency and represents an added value to the national economy in general." he added.



586 Omani companies working in Qatar, says Al-athba

Qatar Chamber's Second Vice Chairman HE Rashid bin Hamad Al-athba said that there are about 586 Omani companies operating in the Qatari market at the end of 2019, of them 441 joint companies with Qatari partners and 145 companies with full Omani capital. These companies are engaged in services, energy and industry.

In interview with Al Sharq Newspaper, Al-athba praised the strong and distinguished relations between Qatar and Oman in all fields, especially in commercial and economic aspects.

He also noted that the Qatari private sector welcomed the progress achieved between both countries in the past few years, expressing his hope that their bilateral relations see further cooperation, particularly in investments projects in a way that help both sides benefit from huge potentials and available opportunities offered by both countries, as well as the sincere desire of both parties to level up their relations to wider vistas in all economic and trade fields.

Al-Athba pointed out that Qatari investments in Oman are distributed in alliances and partnerships in more than 200 Omani companies in various sectors.

"Oman was Qatar's top non-oil exports last year according to certificates of origin issued by the Chamber," he added. QC Second Vice Chairman said that the world economic scene calls for greater cooperation between the two countries more than before, affirming that there are many promising opportunities for joint investment between the two countries in many areas such as ports and logistical services, dry docks, tourism, mining and industry (manufacturing and petrochemicals), agriculture, transportation, communications, and fisheries and others. Al-athba stressed that the Qatari private sector is a pivotal pillar



in strengthening relation with all countries, noting that Qatar Chamber plays a key role in expanding economic relations with other countries. Qatar Chamber works hard to enhance areas of joint investment and support commercial partnerships an economic alliances with Omani side, as well as it urges Qatari businessmen to further cooperate with their Omani counterparts, forge trade partnerships and explore opportunities available in Oman.



مؤتمر تطوير الشراكة
بين القطاعين العام والخاص
CONFERENCE ON DEV. PARTNERSHIP
BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

**Commerce & Industry Minister:
PPP Law enhances integration
between both sectors**



Under the patronage of Minister of Commerce & Industry H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari and Qatar Chamber (QC) Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani, the first conference on ‘Developing Partnership between Public and Private Sectors’ kicked off.

The conference, held by Qatar Chamber through the video conference technology, saw the participation of about 15 speakers from prestigious local and international organisations. It aims to raise awareness among the business sector on Law No 12 of 2020 regulating the partnership between public and private sectors. Addressing the opening

session, Minister of Commerce & Industry H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari said that the issuance a law regulating partnership between public and private sectors at this time constitutes a crucial step in providing the appropriate legislative framework for regulating the private sector’s contribution to the implementation of major development projects.

The minister expressed his sincere appreciation and thanking for HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for his interest and confidence in the private sector and issuance the law No. 12 of the year 2020. He also thanked the Prime Minister HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khlaifa bin Abdul Aziz for his constant keenness on providing all means that help in supporting



this vital sector.

The minister also said that this conference is being held under exceptional circumstances due to the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has affected all world economy's components and productive sectors, noting that the economic consequences of this pandemic have constituted a strong motive for many countries to take precautionary measures to curb the current crisis and protect the private sector.

Al Kuwari pointed out that thanks to the wisdom of the Wise Leadership, our country has established an integrated strategy based on the concerted efforts of all government agencies to provide a comprehensive package of support for Qatari companies and allocate QR 75 billion as financial and economic incentives for the private sector, including SMEs.

"The stimulus package

contributed to mitigating burdens on SMEs and encouraging them to proceed in a way that supports the national economy to continue the march of prosperity toward the implementation of Qatar National Vision 2030," he added.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry assured that Qatar has adopted the partnership experience for several years, especially in implementing of logistics, food security, health and education projects.

Underlining the importance of the PPP law, the minister said that it boosts the complementary relationship between the governmental and private sectors, adding that it provides a regulatory framework for the contractual relationship forms between both parties.

The minister stressed that his patronage for the conference reflects his trust in the private sector and its role as a real

partnership in the state's economic development.

He hoped the conference would help in discussing ways to prepare national companies to take advantage of partnership opportunities, highlight the advantages of the new law and strengthen communication between concerned people from the government and private sectors to establish integrated mechanisms for implementing innovative national projects that meet the needs of citizens and residents and allow for a bright future for the coming generations.





QC Chairman: PPP Law boosts pvt sector's role in the development



Qatar Chamber Chairman HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani said that the issuance of PPP law represented a confirmation from the Wise Leadership and esteemed government on the leading role of the private sector in the state's sustainable development.

Stressing the role of the new law, Sheikh Khalifa noted that it constituted a strong push for the private sector to implement its role as a genuine partner to the public sector in the development march.

Speaking at the opening session, Sheikh Khalifa noted that the Chamber played a key role in highlighting the idea of issuing a law regulating the PPP, pointing out that it held a conference on this issue in 2009, which recommended the need for a legislation governing partnership between the two sectors.

He also noted that the law provides the opportunity for offering more joint projects in various economic sectors, affirming that partnerships projects contribute to enhancing

economic development and attracting more investment, especially that the private sector has become able to play a greater role in economic development, which is one of the key pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030. QC Chairman outlined that issuing the PPP law would have a significant impact on activating the private sector and accelerating the initiation and implementation of projects.



“Ashghal” set a list of projects under PPP law for the private sector: Al Muhannadi

President of the Public Works Authority “Ashghal”, Dr. Eng. Saad bin Ahmad Al Muhannadi said that the authority has prepared a list of projects in which the private sector can participate within the requirements of the PPP law, noting that these projects include construction and infrastructure projects.

Al Muhannadi also noted that Ashghal has started to tender for some projects, especially in construction projects and sewage

treatment, pointing out that other projects are under study and will be introduced after completing feasibility studies.

“Ashghal is part of the implementation of the partnership between the two sectors in line with Qatar National Vision 2030,” he said.

He said that the PPP law enhances the private sector’s role and contribution in the mega projects and benefits both sectors.



Al Jaida: PPP essential to support the economic development process

CEO of Qatar Financial Center (QFC) Yousuf Mohamed Al Jaida said that the conference aims to bring together institutions of both sectors under one umbrella to examine opportunities and exchange experience.

He noted that partnership between both sectors is essential for supporting the march of the state’s economic development, especially under the current circumstances of coronavirus pandemic.

“According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, Qatar is expected to be the only country in the region to achieve 5% of GDP growth and 2.4% growth in the consumer index during 2021.” he added.





PPP projects supports strategic objectives of QNV 2030, Sheikh Thani bin Ali

Head of the conference's organizing committee HE Dr Sheikh Thani bin Ali Al Thani said that the conference reviewed the most important regulatory and legal aspects of the PPP system and highlighted the new administrative frameworks that are necessary for the success of these joint projects. Sheikh Thani also said that the partnership projects would contribute to achieving the strategic objectives of the state, defined in Qatar National Vision 2030.

He stressed that progress and prosperity Qatar witnessing, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the state, will introduce a real picture to the world of the progress Qatar achieved. Sheikh Thani expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Commerce and Industry and QC Chairman, as well as to all speakers whose discussions enriched the conference's outcomes and made it a success.

QC keen to raise the private sector's awareness of PPP law, Al Sharqi

QC Director-General Saleh bin Hamad Al Sharqi said that the Chamber is keen on holding the conference to raise awareness among business sectors on the Law No 12 of 2030 regulating the partnership between public and private sectors. In press statements, Al Sharqi also said that the conference has addressed many important

issues related to means and fields of developing public-private partnership in a way that supports the national economy and the desired development in accordance with Qatar National Vision 2030. He praised the large participation of the conference from speakers and attendees, noting that the conference's sessions reviewed

the opportunities and challenges of PPP law and highlighted many international experiences and research studies on the partnership and expectation of the private sector as well.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani elected member of ICC Executive Board



The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Qatar) has announced that Chairman of Qatar Chamber and ICC Qatar HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani was elected a member of the ICC Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) based in Paris. The election came during the meeting of the ICC World Council held on June 23. The ICC Executive Board plays a vital role in the international trade

in terms of developing policies and strategies related to global trade, in terms of developing policies and strategies for international trade, facilitating trade around the world, and introducing and reviewing ideas and views that promote international trade and global economic openness. The ICC Qatar said that the election came during a meeting of the ICC World Council, noting that the term of the new board will

start from July 1. The ICC Qatar Secretary General and QC Board Member, Dr Khalid bin Klefeekh Al Hajri welcomed the election of HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani onto the new ICC Executive Board, which coincides with a host of global challenges. He assured that HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani was elected due to his years of experience in business. Dr. Al Hajri expressed his trust



in HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani to continue his leading role in the global trade, noting that his membership in the board would enable him to play greater role in the leading organization, especially that HE was awarded the ICC “Merchant of Peace” award in 2017 in recognition for his leading role in enhancing values of business prosperity and building of a sustainable and inclusive global economy. On its formal website, the ICC praised the role played by HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jaasim Al Thani in facilitating global trade and launching the World Trade Agenda, which is a joint initiative



between Qatar Chamber and ICC. It also paid tribute to his tireless efforts in promoting open trade and investment and the host of 8th World Chambers Congress in Doha in 2013.

The ICC also said that HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani has been Chair of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry since May 2006. HE is Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce Qatar. In March 2017, he was awarded the ICC ‘Merchant of Peace’ award, in recognition of the role he played in the field of business. The ICC, based in Paris, is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries.



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Mr Denton said:

“ICC thanks Paul for his deep commitment to our global institution. Under his leadership we have made great strides in securing business commitment to drive long-term sustainable and development as well as ICC’s own sustainability objectives in line with global goals.”

Chairmanship and Executive Board composition

The 2020 meeting of the ICC World Council also confirmed new members of the ICC Executive Board, making the composition of ICC’s leadership the most diverse to date in terms of gender and regional balance.

The following, newly elected Board members will begin two-year terms on 1 July 2020:

Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammad Al-Thani (Qatar)

HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al-Thani, a prominent member of the ruling family of Qatar, has been Chair of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry since May 2006. He has held several senior government positions and currently heads the Competition Protection and Anti-Corruption Committee of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He is Chairman of Al Dar Exchange Company, Vice-Chairman of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce; Vice-Chairman of Doha Insurance Company, Board Member of several Arab-Foreign Joint Chambers of Commerce and the Union of Arab Chambers, an Executive Committee member of the Union of Arab Chambers. He also chaired the Federation of Chambers of Commerce (FGCCC) from 2014-2016.

Sheikh Khalifa is Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce Qatar and is recognised worldwide for his efforts in promoting open trade and investment. In March 2017, he was awarded the ICC ‘Merchant of Peace’ award, in recognition of the role he played in the creation of the ICC and QCCI World Trade Agenda Initiative. HE Sheikh Khalifa also hosted the 8th World Chambers Congress in 2013 in Doha.

Sebastian Escarrer (Spain)

Sebastian Escarrer is Chairman of ICC Spain, and served as CEO and ViceChairman of Melia Hotels International for 18 years. He is also a member of the Premium Brands Fund Advisory Board, of the

Qatar Chamber gets ISO 27001 certification

The Qatar Chamber has received the ISO 27001:2013 certification. Developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO), ISO 27001:2013 is a world-recognised and international best practice standard for information security.

QC's Director-General Saleh bin Hamad Al Sharqi said that the awarding of the certificate emphasized the Chamber's interest in developing its information security management system, noting that this certificate is a world-recognised and international best practice standard in this important field. Al Sharqi stressed the Chamber's commitment to the implementation of the latest e-services and to the development of updated applications.

"The Chamber is keen on the security of the information and data provided in the services it offers, and is interested to ensure that the best international standards are applied, and that security control standards are adopted to protect information against any security risks," he added.

Al Sharqi also said that the Chamber has updated its IT infrastructure to develop its

electronic services and facilitate the electronic connectivity with government bodies.

On his part, Head of QC IT department Jihad Itani said that the ISO 27001:2013 certificate is one of the most internationally accepted and widely recognized information security standards developed to provide organisations with a framework for establishing processes for implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing and improving an Information Security Management System (ISMS), noting the standard considers not only ICT but encompasses the entire administrative operations. Itani also said that the Chamber was awarded the certificate due to its commitment to the implementation of a set of practices and controls related to information security, noting that awarding this certificate will reflect positively in the quality of services provided to the Chamber's members and strengthens the Chamber in achieving and complying with Qatar national Cyber Security framework and its readiness for FIFA2022.





Qatar Chamber: “Labour Re-employment Platform” now available for all companies

Recruitment platform facilitates businesses, supports private sector, says Al Sharqi

Qatar Chamber said on Tuesday that it has successfully developed its recently-launched initiative the “Labour Re-employment Platform” in a way that enables companies seeking to contract with new labourers and employees to login to the platform and select the required labourers.

“Thus, the platform’s mechanism of working has become in two directions after it was equipped only for companies with redundant or laid-off labourers,” the Chamber said.

In a statement, the Chamber also noted that companies that have redundant labour and companies that need labour can benefit from the services of the platform. It pointed out that companies that have laid-off workers and employees can register on the platform and log in their resumes, while individuals from labourers and professionals can also enter the platform and register their CVs to search for suitable work in the private sector.

At the same time companies that are willing to employ new labour can register on the platform, identify the available labour, choose from labour according to its requirements, and contract with them through the Ministry of Administrative Development,

Labour and Social Affairs (MADLSA) in accordance with the laws and procedures in force in the state.

The Chamber invited companies looking for new labour to login to the platform and benefit from the services it provides by filling an electronic form on the Chamber’s website and getting a link to enter the platform.

It is to be noted that the “Labour Re-employment Platform” was launched by the Chamber early this month with the aim to assist companies.

The platform stressed the Chamber’s keenness to help companies get labour easily.

The Chamber said it plays the role of mediator between companies that want to hire new workers and the companies that have laid off theirs.

On his part, Saleh Al Sharqi said that the main objective of the platform is to help facilitate businesses, noting that the chamber is keen to help companies searching for new labourers.

He called on companies to register in the platform to benefit from its services in free, noting that the chamber is interested to help companies to hire new

labourers from laid-off laboureres in coordination with the Ministry. Al Sharqi also said that the platform is not only dedicated for the current conditions related to the spread of Corona virus, but will continue in the future, noting that the platform was developed so that individuals seeking work



can login to the platform, register their data and resumes.

The procedures for contracting with labourers are governed by the laws of the State and supervised by the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affair, he added, noting that the platform will be promoted in many languages to reach to Asian laboureres via various means of media.



Qatar topped Arab world in a slew of global development indices

Qatar Chamber has issued its monthly economic newsletter for June 2020 which highlighted the most prominent trends in the Qatari economy, as well as statistics related to foreign trade and trade of private sector. The report, prepared by QC's Researches & Studies Department, featured views of the business community on the issuance of the Public-Private Partnership Law which emphasized that the private sector is a real partner of the state in implementing many development projects. It also highlighted that the consequences of the blockade and the Corona pandemic have demonstrated the real capabilities of the private sector and its eligibility to implement major development projects within the framework of the objectives of economic diversification and attracting domestic and foreign investment. The report also said that many reports expected that many different industrial sectors, such as chemicals, plastics and petrochemicals, are expected to achieve significant expansions during the next few years in parallel with the continuous increase in the production of LNG from the North Field during the upcoming years. These reports also pointed out to the development of the industrial

sector in the country during the last few years, and its remarkable successes despite the regional and international economic challenges and variables. The newsletter also highlighted a study conducted by the QC's Food Security and Environment to identify the production inputs required for plant and animal farms during the current phase, which should be included in the state's food security concerns and strategies.

It also outlined the advanced rankings of Qatar in many international development indicators. According to the Arab Monetary Fund, Qatar topped the Arab countries in the participation of woman in labour force with about 58%, followed by Kuwait with 49.3%.

Qatar also ranked 1st in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and 27th globally in Global Peace Index for 2020, which is issued by the Institute for Economics and Peace in Sydney, Australia, maintaining its superiority in the global index ranking.

It also ranked 1st in the Arab



world and 16th globally in the Societal Safety and Security index, making Qatar one of the 20 safest countries in the world. Commenting on this ranking, the QC's newsletter said that this accomplishment stressed the country's leading position worldwide in safety, noting that it is corresponding with the QNV



2030 and its main strategy in maintaining security and safety, therefore enhancing investment climate.

The state also ranked 31st globally in the economic freedom index among 168 countries, according to the 2020 Index issued by the Heritage Foundation in Washington in Global Finance Magazine. The newsletter included a report on the state's foreign trade for April and trade of the private sector according to the certificates of origin issued by the Chamber.

According to the figures of The Planning and Statistics Authority for April 2020, the total the value of foreign merchandise trade statistics amounted to QR 19.3 billion.

In April 2020, the total exports of goods (including exports of goods of domestic origin and re-exports) amounted to around QR 11.8 billion, while the Qatari imports during the same month amounted to about QR 7.5 billion.

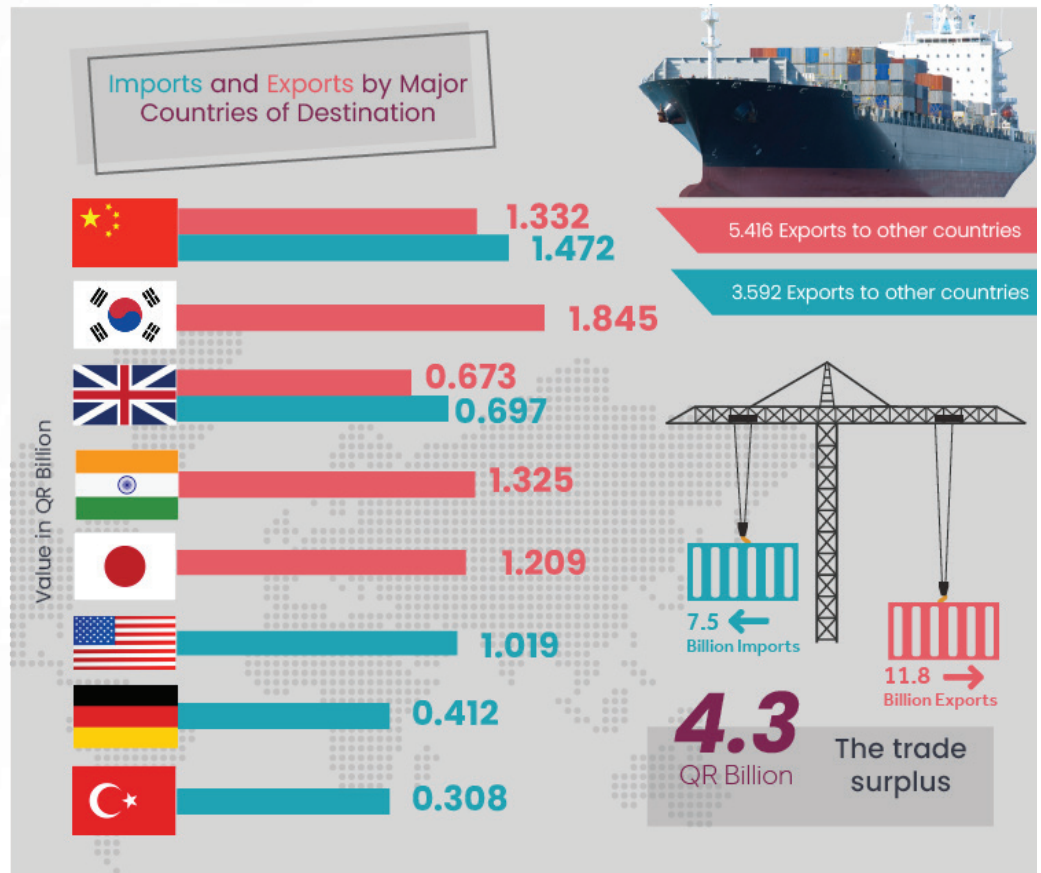
Therefore, the foreign merchandise trade balance, which represents the difference between total exports and imports, showed a surplus of QR 4.3 billion.

In April 2020, China was the leading country of origin of Qatar's total foreign trade (imports + exports) with about QR 2.8 billion, a share of 14.5% of the total foreign trade.

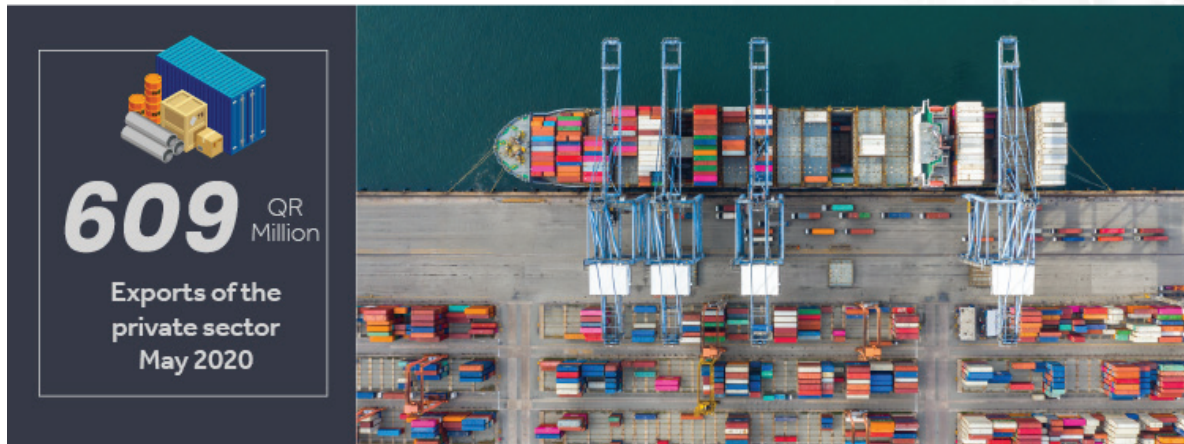
According to the certificates of origin issued by the Chamber in April, the private sector's exports reached QR 572 million.

The report said that as for the private sector's trade according to the certificates of origin issued by the chamber for exporting

companies, exports through the "General Model" certificate of origin form constituted the largest value at QR 298 million, followed by exports through GSP a total value of about QR 178 million and GCC model with a value of about QR 45 million. Exports through the Unified Arab certificate came in the fourth place with a value of QR 43 million, followed by the Unified GCC Certificate of Origin to Singapore which amounted to QR 8 million.



Private sector exports reach QR 610mn, up %7 in May



Qatar Chamber has issued its monthly economic newsletter for July 2020 which highlighted the most prominent trends in the Qatari economy, as well as statistics related to foreign trade and trade of private sector in May 2020.

The report, prepared by QC's Researches & Studies Department, highlighted the «Developing Partnership between Public and Private Sectors» conference held on July 7 via video conferencing under the patronage of H.E. Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari and H.E. Qatar Chamber (QC) Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Thani. The QC report also included figures from the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA). Total value of foreign merchandise trade in May reached QR21.2bn, which increased by 9.8 percent from QR19.3bn in April. This indicated that the state's foreign trade has grown to its

normal level before the pandemic of Covid-19, backed by an increase in the value of exports and imports.

In May 2020, the total exports of goods (including exports of goods of domestic origin and re-exports) reached QR 13.3 billion, an increase of 12.7% compared to QR 11.8 billion in April, while imports during the same month reached about QR 7.9 billion, recording an increase of 5.3% compared to QR 7.5 billion in April.

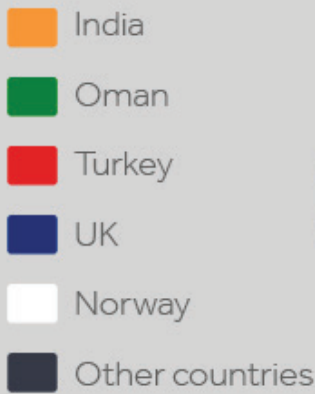
Therefore, the foreign merchandise trade balance, which represents the difference between total exports and imports, showed a surplus of QR 5.4 billion, recording an increase of 25.5% compared to QR 4.3 billion in April.

In May 2020, South Korea was at the top of the countries of destination of Qatar's exports with close to QR 2.12 billion, a share of 15.8% of total exports, followed by China with almost QR 1.870 billion and a share of 14.1 %,

followed by Japan, India and USA. With regards to Qatar's imports according to country of origin in May, the United States was the leading country with about QR 2.12 billion, a share of 26.7% of the total imports amounted to QR 7.9 billion, followed by UK with QR 1.305 billion almost, a share of 16.5%, and China with QR 1.057 billion, a share of 13.4%. Germany comes in the fourth place with about QR 0.345 billion, a share of 4.4%, followed by Turkey with QR 0.291 billion, a share of 3.6% of the total value. The report also featured the trade of private sector during May according to the certificate of origin issued by the Chamber. The private sector's exports in May increased by 7%, amounted to QR 609.6 million compared to QR 572.2 million in April. Exports during May through the «GSP» is the largest value, increasing by (126%) than the value of April, followed by exports through GCC model by 18% and

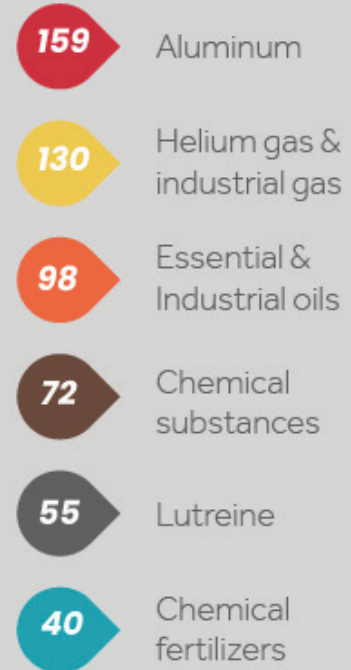


Exports of private sector during May 2020



According to commodities

Value in QR Million



the General Model by 6%. Data included in the report showed that the chemical fertilizers group came first in the private sector exports' list at QR40 million, recording a sharp increase of 34.000 percent compared to QR 117000 in April. The second was helium gas & industrial gas group, with exports amounting to QR130m, an increase of 319 percent compared to QR 31mn in April, followed by chemical substances which reached QR 72mn in compared to QR 53mn in April, an increase of 35%.

In the third place, petrochemicals exports, with exports reaching QR 15mn compared to QR 13mn in April.

On the other hand, there are many commodities saw a decrease such as steel exports, which reached QR 165.000 in May compared to QR 10mn in April, a decrease of 98 percent, followed by the paraffin exports, reaching QR 28mn in May compared to QR 48mn in April, a decrease of 40%, followed by essential & industrial oils, amounting to QR 99mn in May compared to QR 128mn in April, a decrease of 23 percent.

In May 2020, India was at the top of the countries of destination of private sector's exports with close to QR 178mn, a share of 29% of the total exports. Oman came in the second place with almost QR 98mn and a share of 16 percent, followed by Turkey with about QR 53mn, a share of 9 percent. UK came in fourth place with almost QR30mn, a share of 5 percent, and Norway with about QR 29mn, a share of 5 percent.



3 future scenarios for Covid-19

Medical Expert and CEO OF AQC Academy for Quality and Certification in Germany Ulla Mustafa said that there are three future scenarios for the outbreak of Covid-19 in the world, noting that the easing of measures against the spread of the Coronavirus is not considered a signal for the end of the crisis. She pointed out that there are some similarities between Corona and influenza viruses such as the way of infection by droplet and that the world population has little or no immunity against them.

Regarding differences, she said that the incubation period for influenza viruses is on average of two days (range one to four days), while for the Covis-19 five days (range 2 to 14 days).

The first scenarios, she said,

includes a series of smaller waves of the virus outbreak that stretch over the summer and then for another year of two, noting that the extent can vary geographically and depend on which containment measures are taken.

The second scenarios will be followed by a larger wave in autumn or winter 2020 and one or more small further waves in 2021, affirming that more measures would be necessary in autumn to curb the spread of the infection and prevent the health systems from being overwhelmed.

This scenario is based on that of the Spanish flu in 1918 and 1919. Ulla Mustafa also noted that the third scenario indicates that the peak of the outbreak would be in spring 2020 which will be followed by a continuous

occurrence of cases without a clear pattern, pointing out that this scenario would not likely require more stringent action, but would still be associated with cases and deaths. She also said that Germany is in the second place in an international ranking of the countries that have mastered the Corona crisis best due to the successful management of the government, the close cooperation between experts from a wide variety of specialist areas, the strength of health system, in addition to the specialist competences in the medical and nursing sectors and the insight of citizens.



QC's Tourism committee reviews measures of gradual lift



The Qatar Chamber's tourism and exhibition committee held a webinar headed by QC board member and chair of the committee HE Sheikh Hamad bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Thani in the presence of members.

The meeting touched on the latest developments in the tourism sector and the most important obstacles facing it under the precautionary measures to curb the spread of the Corona pandemic (COVID-19). The webinar also discussed the preparations of hotels and tourism offices in the framework of the gradual lifting of restrictions imposed by due to the Corona virus, as well as the rebound of tourism activity.

On his part, Sheikh Hamad said the committee is currently identifying the most important obstacles faced by hotel owners and travel offices due to the consequences of the Corona pandemic and the complete cessation of tourism and travel. He also noted that the committee is also working on proposals and recommendations for developing the private tourism sector after rebounding of the economic activity with the gradual lifting of restrictions and to identify the vision of the private sector for the coming period. He affirmed that these visions will be submitted to the QC's Chairman and to the relevant

government bodies. Sheikh Hamad pointed out that the Committee, in cooperation with the concerned parties, is constantly discussing developments in the tourism sector and organizing exhibitions after this crisis ends. He assured that the sector was highly affected by the suspension of travel and airport closing around the world, and the cancellation of tourist exhibitions and events, noting that these impacts resulted in the cancellation of travel reservations, refund of advance fees and other damage to travel offices and exhibitions.

QC food Security Committee reviews decision to register new goods and requests for price increase



Qatar Chamber's (QC) Food Security and Environment Committee held a webinar attended by owners of food distribution centers and representatives of food importing companies.

The webinar, headed by QC Board Member Mohamed bin Ahmed Al Obaidli, was also attended by many representatives of the relevant parties of the Committee Tasked with Determining Maximum Prices and Profit Raios and Food Outlets Committee. The meeting reviewed challenges faced by suppliers and distributors in applying the decision to register the new prices of foodstuffs and consumer goods for the goods listed by the Committee, as well as the requests for increasing prices of foodstuffs and consumer goods.

Attendees also reviewed reasons for the Committee's decision to submit requests for increasing prices to the Quality License and Market Control Department, affirming that this step aims to study the market and combat

the unjustified causes of price increase, as well as obtain official approvals to increase prices in accordance with the list issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, so that the supplier can distribute those goods after they arrive from abroad directly. During the meeting, it was agreed that requests to increase prices should be approved within two days from the date of submitting the request.

On his part, Mohamed Al Obaidli stressed the importance of enhancing coordination with the Committee Tasked with Determining Maximum Prices and Profit Raios, notably in decisions related to food security and inviting the QC's Food Security & Environment Committee to participate in the relevant meetings.

He also underscored the importance of strengthening communication between the Food Security & Environment Committee and all companies working in the sector to identify the challenges facing companies and work to solve them in

coordination with all concerned bodies, pointing out that it has been agreed with the Ministry to evaluate the experience in coordination with the Chamber in October 2020 after three months of implementation.

Al Obaidli also emphasized the importance of providing the Chamber with the suppliers' views regarding the list of goods and factors determining cost factors to achieve balance between all parties.

Chair of Food Outlets Committee Abdul Rahman bin Abdulla Al Ansari said that the meeting views of private sector on importing agricultural goods from Algeria, especially that importers called on providing data of Algerian companies working in this sector and obtain previous experience with GCC states. Al Ansari also noted that the meeting touched on the need to activating agricultural fairs between Qatar and Algeria. "Qatari private sector is interested to further enhance cooperation with Algerian businessmen." He added.



QC's Environment Committee reviewed proposed decisions to regulate the waste recycling industry



Qatar Chamber's Environment, a subsidiary of Food Security and Environment Committee, held a webinar to discuss decisions proposed by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment on the regulation, recycling and waste treatment, and the appropriate time to implement the proposed recycling procedures. The meeting was chaired by Head of Food Security and Environment Committee Mohamed bin Ahmed al-Obaidli in the presence of the Committee's Vice Chairman Abdulrahman bin Abdulla Al Ansari, Dr Saif Al Hajari and Nasser Ahmed Al Khalaf. During the meeting, attendees called for allowing factories to qualify themselves to be able

to implement these decisions, stressing the importance of providing economic and environmental studies and working on establishing mechanisms to bear the expected cost in case such legislation is applied between all parties, whether the consumer, the producer or the relevant governmental authorities. The meeting also stressed the importance of listening to the views of manufacturers, recycling specialists and consumer representatives on this regard. Attendees also stressed the importance of organizing awareness programs to the business community and consumers on the proposed

decisions, noting that the recycling industry requires financial facilities, praising the role played by Qatar Development Bank (QDB) in providing facilities to support these industries. The meeting recommended to invite representatives from the Ministry of Municipality and Environment and owners of factories to attend the upcoming meeting in order to review these proposals and identify the field or economic studies on which the concerned parties depended on when formulating these proposals. It also recommended allowing enough time before issuing a legislation that regulates the recycling process.



Al Ahmadani calls for deterrent solutions to unlicensed “home hairdressers” phenomenon

Qatar Chamber board member and chair of Woman Committee Mrs. Ibtihaj Al Ahmadani held a webinar with many owners of beauty salons.

The meeting held upon a request from several businesswomen and investors in beauty salons to review losses incurred by this sector due to practices of “home hairdressers” who practice the profession at home without a license, adversely affecting the licensed salon sector.

The webinar saw the participation of many businesswomen including Dr. Sheikha Al Kubaisi, Hessa Hamed, Turfa Al Malki and Nora Al Kharji.

Addressing the meeting, Al Ahmadani said that the Chamber’s Woman Committee is interested in discussing all obstacles facing businesswomen to find appropriate solutions with concerned parties. She noted that the problem of unlicensed hairdressers is one of the obstacles that face commercial sectors worldwide, affirming that it must be addressed to find effective solutions.

Al Ahmadani also said that the Woman Committee in the Chamber received complaints from businesswomen who are suffering the spread of the phenomenon of unlicensed traders in beauty sector, who work without a license in violation of the law.

She noted that these unlicensed hairdressers damage licensed plastic salons, referring that this

action is harmful to this important economic sector.

Al Ahmadani assured that this phenomenon had been raised many times in the meetings of the Woman Committee, underlining the importance finding deterrent solutions for this problem.

The webinar also reviewed all legal and moral violations of this phenomenon, as well as its health and financial impacts on the national economy, and the financial impacts on licensed salons.

The meeting also touched on the positive impacts of licensed salons on the state’s economy and their contribution to making Qatar a tourist destination in the field of women’s beauty centers. Attendees said that the beauty centers provides jobs and income for the staff working in many fields, noting that salons are required by the Ministry of Commerce to use products that meet standard specifications in terms of components and validity, so salons supply other commercial sectors with liquidity to buy cosmetics, sterilizers, and new products that are offered in the market.

The meeting also pointed out that salons also contribute to increasing profits of local banks,

like other commercial sectors, from opening workers’ accounts, transferring monthly salaries, requesting facilities, loans, card exchange and paying tenants’ checks, in addition to salons’ contribution to the real estate



market through hiring service and commercial property.

The meeting also discussed the reasons for the reluctance of Qatari workers to work in beauty salons due to reasons included the weak salary that is not enough to meet the aspirations of Qatari workers.

The meeting highlighted the role of those who are facilitating the work of unlicensed hairdressers such as social media activists who make advertisements and promote unlicensed employment, visa traders and shell companies, and a segment of Qatari women who deal with these labourers.



E-arbitration necessary amid Corona pandemic: Sheikh Thani



Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) Board Member for International Relations Sheikh Dr. Thani bin Ali Al Thani has participated in a webinar titled “Impact of Corona Crisis on International Arbitration”. The webinar, which was held by “Law Ambassadors Initiative”, discussed ways of conducting arbitral proceedings through modern technologies amid the crisis of Covid-19. Addressing the seminar, Sheikh Thani said that there are a significant increase in settling disputes online due to the repercussions of the global pandemic, noting that the electronic arbitration has become one of the alternative means of solving commercial disputes.

HE noted that this type of arbitration is conducted in accordance with the principles of the Seoul Protocol, which is characterized by a set of procedures that cope with the modern time. Elaborating the advantages of e-arbitration, Sheikh Thani said that it is characterized by rapid dispute resolution, low expenses and visits, efficiency and variety of arbitrators, as well as overcoming the problem of jurisdiction and conflict of laws, and establishing the principle of transcending time and place in law. He also said that e-arbitration has many disadvantages such as being not accepted by those who don’t know how to deal with technology, lack of confidentiality

and inadequacy of domestic and international legislation for electronic arbitration, as well as some procedural and substantive obstacles. Sheikh Thani stressed the importance of reinforcing laws to deal with electronic arbitration, because of the absence of organized national legislative texts. He also underscored the need for holding conferences and seminars to raise the awareness of this type of arbitration and its related new definitions.

Sheikh Thani: Qatar is omnipresent in the UN activities



Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) Board Member for International Relations Sheikh Dr. Thani bin Ali Al Thani said that Qatar's legislations and laws highly support sophisticated media activity, guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, press and media freedom and keep pace with the technological and technological development of publications, publishing and arts.

He also said that Qatari laws deal with cybercrime and impose severe penalties for protecting individuals' freedom.

Speaking at the opening session of the "Third International Scientific Conference on Electronic Media", Sheikh Thani noted that the State of Qatar is omnipresent in most of the UN activities, affirming that Qatar's accession to the International Covenants on Civil, political, Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights is an important step in improving human rights and promoting Qatar's overall development and its National Vision 2030, with all its economic, social and political pillars.

The conference held via the video conference was organized by the International Center for Consulting "Markaz Al Khebrah" in the participation of many notable Arab and foreign speakers and experts.

Sheikh Thani stressed Qatar's belief in the importance of strategic partnership with the United Nations by acceding to and participating in international conventions, noting that Qatar has actively contributed to strengthening the international community's efforts to maintain international peace and security. Qatar is also interested to support the development process, he said adding that without it the United Nations will not achieve its objectives

in promoting human rights, enhancing humanitarian assistance and promoting the participation in collective action to address the existing and emerging challenges facing the world.

Sheikh Thani reviewed the most important laws regulating media in Qatar such as Law No (8) of 1979 on Publications and Publishing.

He also referred to Law No 13 of 2019 on the establishment of media city which aims at managing and developing media activity in Qatar, and enhancing its position as a venue for attracting international media, technology companies, research and training institutions in media and digital media.



Sheikh Thani: Qatari law among first six applicable laws at ICC Court of Arbitration

Representative of the State of Qatar in the ICC International Court of Arbitration Sheikh Dr. Thani bin Ali Al Thani said that about 33 Qatari companies have filed arbitration proceedings before the ICC International Court of Arbitration last year, including 13 companies as claimants and 20 respondents, noting that Doha has been selected as a place of arbitration in 12 of them. He also noted that the Qatari law was ranked sixth in the world among the most applicable laws before the ICC International Court of Arbitration among 124 laws. Elaborating the statistical report of the International Court of Arbitration, he said that the report provides an overview of the cases administered by the Court including parties, arbitral tribunals, numbers and nationalities of arbitrators appointed and confirmed, applicable law chosen by the parties, subject and size of disputes and places selected as seats of ICC arbitrations. According to the report, Sheikh Thani said that the Qatari Law was chosen by disputing parties many times, pointing out that it came in the sixth place worldwide out of 124 applicable laws. In 2019, English law was first as the most selected applicable substantive law, followed by the laws of Switzerland, US (New

York) and France. The laws of Brazil, Qatar and Spain ranked fifth, sixth and seventh. This reflected the foreign investor's trust in the Qatari law as a means of dispute settlement between disputing parties, he said. Sheikh Thani pointed out that the ICC Court's Secretariat registered a total of 869 new cases in 2019, noting that USA came in the first place with 196, followed by India, Brazil, France, and China. Approximately 30% of parties in ICC Arbitration came from Asia and the Pacific, including GCC states, he added. He said that the average amount of cases filed with ICC Court was \$30 million, which doubled in many large-scale cases. "In 2019, the ICC Court's Secretariat registered 35 new requests filed under mediation rules. Cases involved 97 parties from 34 countries including two Qatari companies. Disputes were generated from a wide range of business sectors such as construction, energy and telecommunication" Sheikh Thani added. A total of 16 requests related to the appointment of experts were filed with the ICC in 2019 including Qatari and GCC companies.

