Sheikh Khalifa: Industrialization-based Investment is Necessary for Economic Development

Qatar Chamber to launch "Qatar Above the Siege"

- National products capture consumer confidence
- 100 Omani companies are preparing to enter the Qatari market
- Our non-oil exports return to pre-siege levels
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The sublime address of the Emir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani at the opening session of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly was comprehensive and exceptional and has received great attention and welcome at both regional and international levels.

The speech reiterated Qatar’s strengthened commitment to supporting humanitarian issues around the world and its steady stance towards world security and peace. It reflected the country’s role in combating terrorism and revealed the nature of the unjust siege imposed by neighboring countries with a view to undermine its sovereignty.

Underscoring Qatar’s openness to dialogue without encroaching on its full sovereignty and its freedom in decision-making, HH the Emir’s renewed its call for an unconditional dialogue based on mutual respect for sovereignty.

The strong speech expressed Qatar’s views on the regional and global issues, emphasizing its long-standing position regarding countering terrorism in all forms and manifestations, citing all accusations of the blockading countries as baseless.

Emir expressed his pride in Qatari people along with all residents who gathered at the Corniche to show their solidarity to the Emir on his return home. This glorious reception showed the world that the people of Qatar are all united with their leader. It sent out a strong signal to the blockading countries that the people have complete trust and faith in their leadership.

This huge turnout is a powerful blow to the siege countries which have failed to achieve its objectives aiming at splitting this unique coherence between the people of Qatar and its wise leadership.

Beyond any doubt, this great solidarity to HH the Emir is not a coincidence, but it is a normal reaction towards a beloved leader who provided a decent life for his people who are home respected, their rights are maintained, and awaiting a prosperous future.

This synergy between Qatar’s people and leadership is the key to overcome the siege repercussions. It enabled the national economy to withstand against this unjust blockade and formed a motive for the private sector to shoulder its responsibilities and to play a greater role in the economic process. Businessmen and importers played a key role during the ongoing crisis. They promptly signed contracts with new destinations to find alternative products away from siege countries. This drastically contributed to the continued flow of supplies of goods needed by the local market without interruption.
Qatar’s private sector has significantly proven beyond any doubt that it succeeded in implementing the directives of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir, that highlighted the importance of building an independent economy able to facing obstacles and to proceeding its growth in confident steps. In the last few months, the private sector assured its ability to bear the full responsibility towards the national economy. It has built a vast network of relations and gained long experience.

For its part, Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry played a very vital role in facing the repercussions of an unjust siege imposed by three Gulf states on the State of Qatar. Since the very beginning of the crisis, The Chamber’s board and staff sought to perform their roles to the fullest to help the private sector play a key role during this stalemate. On the heels of the siege, numerous Qatari businessmen have built productive enterprises with the aim to increase the dependence on the national product. These projects started manufacturing products of high quality and have managed within a short duration to gain confidence of consumers.
Qatar’s economy, without any doubt, has successfully managed to address the unjust siege imposed on Qatar with the aim to undermine its position as an economically independent and sovereign State. It also overcame the impacts of closing all land, sea and air ports with Qatar and thwarted the objectives of blockading countries. Unexpectedly, the measures imposed by siege countries affected their economies which lost Qatari markets as one of the biggest importers of their products.

The strength of the Qatari economy and the vigilance of private sector were crucial factors in avoiding any gap in the domestic market. Qatar’s private sector was a great booster to the national economy during the ongoing crisis. It proved its ability and responsibility to play a significant role and to combine efforts with government bodies to beat the boycott.

Since the beginning, Qatar Chamber exerted tireless efforts to confront the siege, and it responded promptly in order to maintain the flow of goods and products. It has communicated and coordinated with various concerned government agencies and formed specialised committees to tackle all obstacles in order to ensure the continuous flow of goods from abroad without interruption.

The Chamber helped businessmen and importers to find new alternative markets by organizing business trips to Oman, Pakistan and Turkey which concluded in contracts and transactions signed among Qatari businessmen and their counterparts from these countries.

The Chamber also hosted number of trade delegations to get them acquainted with Qatari pro-investment climate and to increase trade exchange with these countries by finalizing agreements and partnerships between Qatari and foreign companies.

In parallel, all concerned authorities played a key role by adopting new measures that facilitate establishing enterprises and providing industrial lands and incentives that attract investors in all sectors particularly in SMEs, food and medicine for achieving the food security.

For this objective, Qatar Chamber in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Industry recently organized the first edition of MEDFOOD Exhibition which represented an important opportunity to introduce the audience to Qatari products and to attract investment in the field of food and medicine.

The experiment of siege has prompted us to build an independent economy, produce our food and medicine and diversify our income sources.

“We are opening our economy to initiatives, investments, production of food, medicine and ultimately to diversify our sources of income,” the Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said. That is now our main goal that we will be working to achieve during the period ahead.

Saleh bin Hamad Al Sharqi
Director General
Qatar Chamber is keen to contribute to providing the necessary support and facilities for the national industries, which is a fundamental pillar of the policy of diversifying the capabilities of the national economy, which is in line with the vision of 2030. The Chamber calls on the owners of ideas of productivity to work on transforming their ideas into industrial projects. Qatar Chamber is also keen to contribute to the elimination of any obstacles that may prevent the start of these industries.

Editor
Siege countries failed to harm Qatari economy

40 national companies in the food and medicine exhibition “MedFood 17”

Qatar will officially join World ATA Carnet in December: QC

QICCA and Qatar University sign agreement

Qatar’s non-oil exports jump 67% to QR1.3 billion in July

Qatari, Turkish companies sign 15 agreements

Qatar, Pakistan discuss ways to boost investment and trade

Hamad Port seen transforming Qatar into regional trading centre

Qatari & Danish firms to expand cooperation

QC meets Indian trade delegation

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Facilitating investment, promoting foreign trade and continuing flow of goods

QC to launch “Qatar Above the Siege” slogan

Qatar Chamber has announced that it launched the slogan of “Qatar Above the Siege” aiming to face the ongoing crisis, unjust siege and all smear campaigns against the State of Qatar.

This came during a press conference held by the Chamber in the presence of QC’s chairman HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al Thani and representatives of media.

The new slogan affirmed the private sector’s full support and solidarity with the wise leadership and its readiness to handle all difficulties so that Qatar remains gallant, powerful and a symbol of durability and defiance.

Addressing the media, Sheikh Khalifa said that the new slogan aims to change the investment culture of businessmen from a consumption economy based on importing goods and products into a productive economy based on manufacturing and industrialization to achieve the desired self-sufficiency. This orientation is pursuant to the directives of the Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani who underscored the need of opening Qatar’s economy to initiatives, investments, production of food, medicine and ultimately to diversify our sources of income, he added.

He pointed to that the chamber and business community announced the full support and solidarity with calls of nationals and expatriates to apply the reciprocity principle entailing the boycott all goods and products imported from blockading countries. Sheikh Khalifa indicated that
this unjust siege imposed by neighboring countries has left its mark on the conscience of Qatar’s people and caused a big crack in the unity of GCC that was one day a source of pride and strength for a long time.

This fraction would be for ages a stain on the fraternal relations among countries, he said. Measures imposed by the blocking countries are baseless and unjustified and constitutes a flagrant violation to the diplomatic norms, he added.

Terming the siege as immoral, he emphasized that it was deliberately backed by a systematic campaign of lies and allegations in a view to distort Qatar’s image and position. It included the closure of all land, sea and air ports to prevent the reach of daily life products and foodstuff to Qatari people.

“Obviously, we are certain that the hacking of the Qatar News Agency was premeditated and previously planned and the allegations of these countries were just deep malice and greed,” he noted, adding that the main objective beyond this siege is undermining Qatar’s sovereignty and its freedom in decision-making along with impeding the growth and progress it witnessing at all fields.

HE continued saying that blockading countries have thought that Qatar would surrender to their dictations within a few days of the siege, but they were frustrated and surprised by the unity of Qatar’s people and their leadership, the Emir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who is an example of dignity and steadfast, not only in Qatar but also for all world countries even among these countries’ peoples.

The will of Qatari people has prevailed and defeated their evil intentions of siege countries. It thwarted their threats entailing collapsing Qatar’s economy and hindering strategic mega projects being established particularly those related to 2022 FIFA World Cup, he cited.

Qatar’s Robust Economy
QC’s Chairman said that Qatar’s economy proved its strength and robustness against the crisis and thwarted the objectives of siege countries.

He reviewed the economic indicators since the beginning of the siege saying that according to the strategic partnerships with world countries, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) continued its foreign investments which touched $ 335bn and it announced there are several bids in the future at all sectors. Several banks and companies announced signing transactions with world countries.

Despite what siege countries expect, number of companies newly registered in the Ministry of Economy and Commerce during siege reached 4713 companies, he pointed out.

According to the foreign trade, he referred to the launch of Hamad Port with $ 7.4 bn cost, and a capacity of 7.5 million containers annually. Hamad Port received 49000 containers in the first month of the siege and it increased to 83000 containers in September with a surge of 100% before the siege, he mentioned.

Regarding Qatari trade balance, Sheikh Khalifa said it achieved a surplus after two months of imposing the siege amounted to QR 12.5 b registering an increase of QR 9b or 45.5% comparing to the same month in 2016.

Concerning the Qatar’s non-oil exports, he said they were amounted in August to QR 1.8b comparing to QR 1.3b in July recording an increase of 35.2% and to August 2016 which reached QR 1.5b with a rise of 20.3%.

These data showed the surge of non-oil exports exceeded the pre-siege data.

He also added that there is strategic stock of gabbro for one year.

According to the ongoing projects, he said that Ashghal completed 95% of the 2017 roads development plan and its local products usage rose from 5% to 30% after the siege.

The Supreme Committee for Legacy & Delivery revealed the design of the Thumama stadium (sixth stadium of the 2022 World Cup). Two new stadiums are expected to be revealed by the year end.

Real estate sector saw a remarkable growth amounted by QR 10.4 b with 120% rise since the beginning of the siege.

In tourism sector, occupancy rate in feasts reached 100% and Citizens of 80 countries can now enter Qatar visa-free
Facilitating investment, promoting foreign trade and continuing flow of goods

Khalifa bin Jassem: encourage businessmen to settle the food industry

Full coordination between the Chamber and government to remove any obstacles that may appear to investors

H E Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassem Al Thani, Chairman of the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) said that the current trend is to encourage businessmen to settle more industries, especially in the food and medicine production sector.

His Excellency said in an interview with the Qatar News Agency last August, that businessmen have been given new benefits, incentives and facilities to start their projects, in line with the initiative launched by the Coordinating Committee to facilitate industrial investment in Qatar under the slogan ‘Own a factory within 72 hours’, which also included offering industrial opportunities in various sectors.

At the same time, the Chamber plays an important role in promoting economic and trade co-operation with various countries around the world, whether by organising visits for Qatari businessmen or by receiving foreign trade delegations.

It also seeks to sign more bilateral co-operation agreements with various chambers of commerce to facilitate investment and enhance trade exchange and the continued flow of various products into the Qatari market.

HE Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Thani said that there is a full co-ordination between the Chamber and government authorities to facilitate investment in Qatar, which will contribute to the establishment of new industries, feeding the Qatari market with various products and exporting the surplus abroad.

He pointed out that the non-oil productive sector occupies a key position in the framework of the development and resettlement of the industrial sector.

He explained that “non-oil exports to Qatari companies achieved during the first half of this year about QR8.6bn by issuing about 29,941 certificates for exports destined for about 66 countries around the world.”
Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassem Al Thani, Chairman of Qatar Chamber, praised the contents of the speech of Emir, H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, delivered at the 72nd session of United Nations’ General Assembly meeting. It was a word of pride that affirmed Qatar’s steadfastness, strong leadership and the rational approach of its people. Qatari leading business minds reaffirmed in one voice that the siege countries failed in their intention. The blockading countries wanted to halt the progress of Qatar by shaking the basic pillars of the Qatari economy. Sheikh Khalifa described the speech of the Emir as “strong and comprehensive” that highlighted Qatar’s consistent policy in supporting humanitarian issues around the world and country’s initiatives to achieve peace and security. The Chairman of QC affirmed that the speech was decisive with regard to the Qatar’s sovereignty, which does not accept any interference, while at the same time proposing a solution to the crisis through dialogue.

Sheikh Khalifa added that the speech expressed Qatar’s position on regional and international issues, affirming its firm stance supporting the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, considering that the allegations made by the blockading countries are only fabrications and lies and could not produce any piece of evidence. “We are proud of you (the Emir), and we renew our allegiance and loyalty and rally around you for Qatar to move forward in the path of progress and prosperity, a proud and resilient country,” said Sheikh Khalifa. On the impact of the blockade, he said that the siege did not affect the markets as much as it did to the siege countries that have lost their market share in Qatar. He reiterated that the blockade is an opportunity for the private sector to prove its ability to overcome the challenges. The private sector has the ability, resources and know-how to play major roles in the country’s economic process. He stressed that the efforts of the private sector, especially during the initial days of the siege was remarkable, as it focused on the continued flow of goods to the domestic market that helped avoid any shortage of consumer goods or building materials. The local businessmen and importers carried out their responsibilities well by signing contracts with new suppliers from several alternative destinations immediately after the outbreak of the crisis. He also praised the great cooperation on the part of various governmental bodies which contributed to finding solutions to all obstacles facing the Qatari traders and opening the door for businessmen to expand their activities in order to cover and fill any deficit that might have resulted from the consequences of the blockade.
The Qatari private sector has demonstrated its ability to face the siege imposed by three Gulf states on the state of Qatar since June 5, according to Qatar Chamber vice chairman Mohamed bin Towar al-Kuwari.

In a media statement, al-Kuwari said: “More than 100 days after the unjust blockade, the Qatari market remains unaffected contrary to the expectations of the siege countries, which considered Qatar a small country in terms of geography and population.

“These countries thought that Qatar will not withstand the land, sea, and air blockade but they have forgotten that a country’s economic strength is not measured by geographical area and population, and perhaps the simplest example is Singapore, which set the largest economic success story in the world.”

Al-Kuwari said the state of Qatar had succeeded in building a strong knowledge-based economy, including a genuine partnership between the public and private sectors under the patronage of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani.

He said the state had utilised many options and alternatives to secure the needs of the local market such as food or raw materials for construction. Al-Kuwari said the launch of maritime routes between the Hamad Port and a number of ports in Oman, Turkey, and other countries in East Asia contributed to the strengthening of the movement of Qatari imports from different international sources.

“Since the first day of the blockade, there was no interruption in the flow of commodities. The goods coming from siege countries were covered by alternative countries without any impact on consumers,” al-Kuwari said, citing the “great response” by businessmen and “the pivotal role played by Qatar Chamber.”

“No matter how long this siege will last, it will not affect the Qatari economy. Qatari businessmen and Qatari companies now have working relations with suppliers from around the world. The flow of commodities needed by the Qatari market will continue without any obstacles,” al-Kuwari emphasised.

Al-Kuwari also lauded Qatar Chamber’s efforts in responding to the needs of the market immediately after the announcement of the economic blockade. “Qatar Chamber has moved in all directions to confront the crisis and maintain the flow of goods and products,” he said.

He noted that the chamber has expanded its network to find new import destinations and visited “sisterly and friendly countries,” including Oman, Pakistan, and Turkey, to secure partnerships between Qatari businessmen and their counterparts.

The chamber also received a number of Arab and foreign business delegations to enhance trade exchange. It also called for the need to direct private sector investments to establish projects needed by the market, especially in the field of food security.
Citing Hamad Port’s “great capabilities,” modern facilities, and advanced systems, an official of Qatar Chamber said the mega project will increase volume of trade between Qatar and the rest of the world.

With rapid growth expected “in the coming years,” Qatar Chamber director general Saleh Hamad al-Sharqi said Hamad Port will transform Doha into a regional trade centre, which would promote inter-trade in the Middle East region and enhance the region’s trade with the world. In a press statement, al-Shari said Hamad Port provides “a golden opportunity” for the private sector and Qatari businessmen to activate their business and promote the import and export of various commodities.

“The port provides great capabilities for receiving all types and sizes of ships, allowing Qatari traders to import and export all goods,” he pointed out. Al-Sharqi praised the achievements of Hamad Port during its partial operation, which lasted for less than a year. During this period, it was able to acquire 27% of the regional trade in the Middle East. This is expected to increase in the coming period, he noted.

He also underlined the important role played by Hamad Port “under the current circumstances” by the opening of direct shipping lines with a number of ports in Oman, Kuwait, Turkey, India, and Pakistan. “This contributed to the continuous flow of supplies and goods needed by the domestic market,” he said.

Al-Sharqi stressed that Qatar Chamber is continuously coordinating with the Qatar Ports Management Company (Mwani Qatar) “to provide all facilities” to Qatari companies that are importing and exporting various goods in order to ease trade movement. “Qatar Chamber will work during the coming period to organise seminars and open meetings with Qatari businessmen and traders, as well as commercial companies operating in the country to showcase the capabilities of Hamad Port. “They can benefit from these capabilities in terms of enhancing their business dealings and linking them with different import and export channels of different countries to enhance Qatar’s foreign trade,” al-Sharqi said.
Qatar Chamber officials held business meetings with representatives of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry with a view to underpinning trade relations between both countries in Pakistan's capital Islamabad, according to a statement issued by the Chamber.

The Chamber’s delegation included the board member Rashid bin Hamad al-Athba and its director general Saleh bin Hamad al-Sharqi. Meetings which are being convened from 11-14 July focused on enhancing cooperation ties between both parties in economic and trade sectors including construction, building materials, foodstuffs, textiles and furniture.

Qatari delegation held several meetings with Pakistani officials, businessmen and presidents of chambers. They reviewed partnership opportunities and mechanisms of exchanging expertise between Qatari and Pakistani companies. Businessmen of both sides discussed establishing joint factories in Qatar which would help provide all commodities to the local market and exporting abroad the surplus.
Pakistan's minister of Commerce Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan held a meeting with the Qatari delegation to discuss ways of boosting bilateral relations particularly in private sector sectors. Khan welcomed the delegation, affirming that the visit significantly reflected the strong ties both countries have. He praised the Qatari businessmen's confidence in Pakistan's economy, hoping this meeting would help expand cooperation and establishing real ventures.

For his side, QC's board member Rashid bin Hamad Al Athba said that Qatar's delegation invited their Pakistani counterparts to visit Qatar in order to explore investment opportunities and fields that both side could cooperate in.

The invitation is highly welcomed by Pakistan and there is a large businessman delegation expected to visit Qatar soon, he noted. Saleh al-Sharqi assured the Chamber's interest to open new channels of trade cooperation with all friendly and sisterly countries and to find new sources of importuning.

He pointed out that there is a large trade exchange between Qatar and Pakistan, adding that the chamber sought throughout discussions with Islamabad Chamber to increase Qatar’s imports from Pakistan, especially food items and building materials. Trade with Pakistan is witnessing growing rapidly. Trade volume reached last year QR 2.8 billion, while it was QR 1.9 billion in 2014 and QR 887 million in 2015, al-Sharqi said. Qatar's exports to Pakistan in 2016 touched QR 2.5 billion, whereas Pakistan's imports to Qatar were only QR 317.7 million.
Joint Business Center established in Doha

The Qatari - Omani Business Council discusses enhancing trade cooperation

Qatar Chamber vice-chairman HE. Mohamed bin Ahmed bin Twar announced the establishment of Qatar-Oman Business Center in Doha with the aim to be a link between Qatari and Omani business communities and strengthens the presence of Omani companies in Qatar and Qatari companies in Oman.

This came during the Qatar-Oman Joint Business Council, which convened on sidelines of the Omani Products Exhibition (Opex 2017) in Doha. Along with number of Qatar Chamber officials, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman Said bin Saleh al-Kiyumi, and Omani-Qatari Business Council chairman Mahmoud bin Mohamed al-Jarwani were present.

The direct shipping lines linking Hamad Port and the Sohar and Salalah ports in Oman “will be a milestone” in maritime transport and the shipping industry at the regional and international levels, bin Twar said. He noted that the maritime links between the two countries that were formed after the economic blockade on Qatar “has had
Stressing the importance of the center, bin Twar said it provides a platform to discussing ways to promote trade cooperation between Qatar and Oman and to seek “more available opportunities,” as well as the possibility of establishing joint ventures between the two sides. “This visit will achieve to meet its objectives in strengthening the bonds of mutual cooperation between the two sides. Undoubtedly, the state of Qatar and Oman have long and strong relations at the level of the two leaderships and peoples. “The meeting of the Qatar-Oman Joint Business Council comes in light of the circumstances in which Qatar is witnessing an unprecedented siege by three Gulf countries. The blockade has enabled the state of Qatar to continue its economic and commercial momentum to overcome the repercussions of this unjust siege,” he pointed out.

He added: “The Omani-Omani Joint Business Council and all the Omani businessmen and exporters who, for the first time since crisis, have been in contact with their fellow businessmen in Qatar, which is an important role in the continued flow of goods on the Qatari market throughout the siege. “We have witnessed constant contacts between the two parties in Doha and Muscat, and perhaps our meeting today in the joint business council comes in this context and support for this trend.”
Qatar will officially join World ATA Carnet in December: QC

The State of Qatar will officially join the World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC) in early December 2017, according to a press statement issued by Qatar Chamber.

Qatar Chamber director general Saleh bin Hamad al-Sharqi headed the chamber’s delegation participating in the 10th World Chambers Congress held in Sydney from September 19 to 21. The chamber’s delegation included also Sheikha Tamader Al Thani, Director of the International Chamber of Qatar, and acting ambassador of the State of Qatar to Australia Mr. Abdul-Aziz Saad Al Kuwari.

The conference is being held by the World Chambers Federation and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in conjunction with the Sydney Chamber of Commerce. The Qatar Chamber is sponsoring the conference, which addresses many important trade issues globally and regionally.

The statement said that the chamber had informed the World ATA Carnet Council (WATAC) that the State of Qatar will join the council in December 2017 to be the 78th member in the council.

On the sidelines of the 10th World Congress, the chamber had held meetings that highlighted topics of World Certificates of Origin, ATA Carnet, launch the electronic version of ATA Carnet alongside the ongoing and future financial affairs.

Al Sharqi added that the chamber has been invited to join the World Certificates of Origin Chain, noting that the chamber applauded the invitation and would accept it soon.

He said: “We discussed many issues including Electronic Certificates of Origin and Rex & Exportal systems which are being established to facilitating the issuance of the World Electronic Certificates of Origin and thereby facilitating trade
Sharqi reviewed cooperation ties with Australian Chamber

transactions among countries.” He pointed out that the World Chambers Congress is a dynamic forum that facilitates the exchange of ideas in the real world and best practices in rooms and businesses. It was a platform that discussed many issues regarding the flow of goods around the world and exchanging expertise and pressing issues facing world business community.

He also held several meeting with presidents and directors of chambers participating in the global event with a view to discuss enhancing cooperation and trade exchange between Qatar and other countries such as President of Arab-Australian Chamber of Commerce Mr. Roland Jabbor.

Over 1000 representatives of world chambers representing 109 countries participated in the activities of the 10th World Chambers Congress. It is worth mentioning that the 8th World Chambers Congress was hosted by Qatar in 2013, where about 2600 people representing more than 143 countries participated.

Qatar Chamber director general Saleh bin Hamad Al Sharqi discussed ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation between Qatar and Australia. This came during a meeting with chairman of Australian Chamber of Commerce in the presence of Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari, Acting Ambassador to Australia on the sidelines of the 10th World Chambers Congress held in Sydney 19-21 Sept. 2017.

Al Sharqi said that he invited Australian businessmen to visit Qatar to get acquainted with business and investment opportunities, noting that Australians welcomed the invitation who have great interest to invest in Qatari market.
Qatari Chamber director-general Saleh bin Hamad al-Sharqi said the members of the delegation, composed of Qatari businessmen, signed 12 cooperation agreements with their Turkish counterparts in Izmir and three other deals in Istanbul. Al-Sharqi said the agreements focused on pharmaceuticals, foodstuff, construction, building materials, shipping, logistics, plastic, aluminium, glass, technology, furniture, and air-conditioning sectors.

He noted that the visit “achieved remarkable success” and contributed to “strengthening the bonds of cooperation” between Qatari and Turkish businessmen, which laid the groundwork for further joint-cooperation between the two sides in various fields of trade and industry. Al-Sharqi and some members of the delegation held several meetings with a number of Turkish businessmen in Istanbul on August 6, where they discussed bilateral cooperation in a number of fields such as food products, construction, and electricity.

Al-Sharqi also held a meeting with Istanbul Chamber chairman Ibrahim Shakler in the presence of the chamber’s board members, the vice-president of the Turkish Exporters Association, and other Qatari businessmen. During the meeting, the two officials discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the chambers of Qatar and Istanbul and “pave the way for business owners to achieve more cooperation and establish alliances that serve the economies of both countries.”

Shakler also accepted al-Sharqi’s invitation to receive a Turkish delegation that will be visiting Qatar after the end of the Haj season in October. Al-Sharqi invited Turkish businessmen to examine the projects and opportunities available in the State of Qatar. The Qatari delegation’s recent visit to Izmir and Istanbul was organised by Qatar Chamber, in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy of Turkey. Members of the delegation also visited the headquarters and factories of Turkish companies on the sidelines of the meeting.
Qatar Chamber (QC) stressed its keenness to establish close relations with the chambers of commerce in Turkey for the sake of the private sectors in both countries, said Mohammed Mahdi Al Ahbabi, Member of the QC Board of Directors, adding that the chamber has agreements and memorandums of understanding with a number of Turkish counterparts, including memorandums of understanding with the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, and another with Istanbul chamber.

In his speech during the opening of Turkey-Qatar B2B meeting in the Turkish city of Izmir, Al Ahbabi noted QC’s keenness on increasing mutual visits between the Qatari and Turkish sides to discuss the opportunities available in both countries and create partnerships between businessmen from both sides.

He pointed out that the Qatari delegation includes a group of Qatari companies operating in the fields of building materials and investment in Turkey.
Qatari & Turkish firms sign agreements for joint projects

Qatar Chamber (QC) has announced that two agreements have been signed between Qatari and Turkish companies to start joint projects.

construction, foodstuffs, plastic and paper industries, electricity, tools and medicines, which will allow for the signing of cooperation agreements between the Qatari and Turkish sides, and create alliances between businessmen to set up joint projects especially in the health, education, tourism, construction and contracting sectors. Al Ahabbi pointed out that QC encouraged Qatari businessmen to direct their investments to Turkey due to its attractive investment advantages as well as its strong relations with Qatar, hoping that the meeting will be an opportunity to enhance joint cooperation.

The event, attended by more than 100 businessmen from Qatar, saw a series of meetings between Qatari businessmen and their Turkish counterparts to discuss ways of enhancing trade relations and reviewing investment opportunities available in both countries to establish joint ventures in Turkey or in Qatar. These meetings and bilateral meetings resulted in the signing of a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding between Qatari and Turkish companies in various fields.
The agreements were penned at the sidelines of a visit by a Qatari delegation to the Turkish city of Izmir, led by Mohammed Mehdi Al Ahbabi, Member of the Board of Directors of Qatar Chamber and head of delegation. “The discussions held by the Qatari delegation participating in the meetings in Turkey over the last two days had yielded positive results, as important agreements and partnerships had been concluded between businessmen from both sides. Two agreements were signed between Qatari and Turkish companies to start joint projects,” said Al Ahbabi.

He stressed the importance of increasing the volume of trade exchange with Turkey, and strengthening partnerships between the private sector in both countries not only on the level of exchange of goods, but for the implementation of joint industrial and productive projects. Qatari delegation also visited a number of Turkish companies following meetings with their counterparts. The meetings aimed at enhancing trade relations between the two countries, reviewing investment opportunities in Qatar and Turkey and possible alliances between businessmen and companies from both sides. Bilateral trade volume between the countries reached $600m in the first half of this year.
The Pakistani delegation, headed by President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Zubair Tufail, also included leading businessmen from food, agriculture, shipping, pharmaceuticals, textiles and chemical sectors. Addressing the delegation, Vice Chairman of Qatar Chamber Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Tawar said that trade between the two countries has increased in the last few years and this reflects the keenness of both governments to upgrade the bilateral relations to new levels of cooperation at all levels.

«Trade exchange between the two countries reached QR2.85 billion in 2016. Pakistan is Qatar’s 21st trading partner, and Qatari businessmen aspire to double those ratios through new investment opportunities,» Tawar said. Calling upon the private sectors of both countries to forge effective business partnerships, Tawar said the private sector can play a very effective role in bilateral trade and they should engage in high-value projects that contribute to enhancing relations between the two friendly countries. «I call upon the private sector in the country to benefit from investment opportunities in Pakistan and to partner with Pakistani business owners, especially in the food, pharmaceutical, telecommunications and agriculture sectors,» Tawar said, adding that the chamber is ready to provide all necessary data and information in this regard. Expressing hope that the meeting will contribute to enhancing economic cooperation between businessmen from the two countries, Tawar referred to the agreements signed between the two sides, such as the promotion and mutual protection of investments agreement in 1999 and the economic cooperation agreement in 1984, which paved the way for developing cooperation and increasing partnerships between businessmen in both countries. FPCCI President Zubair Tufail, stressing the importance of promoting mutual cooperation between the Pakistani and Qatari businessmen, called on Qatari businessmen to visit Pakistan to identify the investment opportunities available in his country, noting that there are many sectors that Qatari businessmen can benefit from by entering into constructive partnerships with their Pakistani counterparts. Tufail stressed the importance of investment in the energy sector, especially as Qatar supplies large quantities of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Pakistan, which plays a major role in reducing the energy shortage in the country, and other sectors serving mutual investment. Tufail said Pakistan enjoys an attractive investment environment with many opportunities. It has large markets with a population of more than 200 million and has substantial reserves of natural gas, iron ore, copper, limestone and agricultural lands. FPCCI is the apex body of Pakistan’s 50 chambers of commerce and industry, 11 women’s chambers of commerce and industry and 117 all Pakistan associations, representing multiple industry, trade and service sectors.
Qatar Chamber (QC) hosted a meeting of leading Qatari businessmen with the members of the Danish business mission. Both sides exchanged ideas to expand and deepen bilateral cooperation.

Mohammed bin Ahmed bin Twar, Vice-Chairman of QC, in his address, invited Qatari and Danish businessmen to establish partnerships to tap thriving business and investment opportunities in Qatar’s promising sectors, which will be a win-win situation for both countries’ economies. “This is the right time to make advantage of the investment climate and incentives Qatar provides for foreign investors. There are opportunities in industry, education, aviation, health, sport, services and all other economic sectors,” he said.

He added: “Despite Qatar and Denmark enjoy distinctive relations but their trade exchange is still below expectations. It reached in 2016 only $70m. Both countries own huge potentials and resources which must be tapped.”

Bin Twar noted that Qatar has attached great interest to the economic diversification and exerted tireless efforts to decrease the dependence on energy revenues as a single source of income. So, in line with the objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030, Qatar has encouraged the private sector to expand its contribution in the national economy and to play greater role in the process.

“This has stimulated Qatar businessmen to intensify their business inside the state and to find investments abroad and at the same time it attracts foreign investors to open companies here in Qatar in cooperation with Qatari partners,” he said. At the end he anticipated that the meeting will help create new era of relations between Qatar and Denmark.
Qatar Chamber, Ethiopian delegation discuss trade ties

Qatar Chamber held a meeting with an Ethiopian government delegation to review and enhance trade ties between the two countries.

The meeting also focused on investment opportunities in the agricultural, mining, construction, and real estate sectors. The Ethiopian delegation included rulers of the Oromia Region, in addition to government officials and Ethiopian ambassador Mesganu Arga Moach. The two sides discussed potential exchange visits for trade delegations and establishing a Qatari-Ethiopian business forum to expand the scope of partnership between the two countries. Qatar Chamber vice-chairman Mohamed bin Twar al-Kuwari said Ethiopia “is a promising destination” for Qatari investments. He added that the chamber is ready to encourage the private sector to invest in Ethiopia, and highlighted that Qatar has investments in the Ethiopian real estate sector. The head of Oromia region’s development office said Ethiopia is rich in natural resources, and cited that the country’s agricultural and mining sectors were attracting a lot of foreign investments. He assured that the government of Ethiopia “makes it easy for foreign capital to invest and is willing to provide Qatari businessmen with all the information they need to start investing.” Moach expressed hope that the visit would enhance trade cooperation “in line with expectations and ambition” of both sides.
Qatar Chamber Vice Chairman Mohamed bin Ahmed bin Twar, who led the Qatari side, said the meeting represents a positive chance for both sides to explore investment opportunities. He hoped to reach positive outcomes as a result of Indian delegation’s talks with their Qatari counterparts, highlighting the strong economic relations between the two sides. The QC vice-chairman said the presence of a large Indian community in Qatar works as a big factor in enhancing the ties. He said the cooperation between both sides is increasing in several areas, especially in the hydrocarbon field. The trade volume between Qatar and India in 2015 amounted to approximately $10.3 billion, with India being the third largest importer of Qatari gas only behind Japan and South Korea. About the private sector, he said there are vast cooperation opportunities between Qatari and Indian companies. According to Twar there are a number of areas that provide good investment opportunities in both countries such as technology, construction, and oil and gas. Twar urged the Indian side to explore the investment opportunities in the Qatari market and build real partnerships with their Qatari counterparts to reap the benefits for both countries.

The Chamber discussed prospects of enhancing mutual cooperation with the Qatari-Russian Business Council and ways of launching new partnerships between Qatari businessmen and their Russian counterparts “on all fronts,” particularly food security. Mohamed bin Twar said the chamber saw “great interest” from Qatari businesses to cooperate with the Russian side in agricultural, livestock, and food warehouse projects, and to benefit from Russia’s “wide expertise in this area.” He noted that the Qatari government is offering its assistance to meet food security objectives. He also pointed out that there was substantial growth in food industries due to the “great attention” given to this sector to achieve self-sufficiency and export capability. The Qatar Chamber official underscored the opportunity to enhance commercial cooperation between the two countries, “especially that Qatar welcomes Russian investments that would contribute to the national economy.” According to the Qatari-Russian Business Council, many business owners from Russia “are keen on entering the Qatari market and establish effective partnerships.” The council also lauded Qatar’s “investment-stimulating atmosphere” and the assistance the Qatari government provides to foreign investors.
QC receives a host of African leaders and business delegations.

40 national companies in the food and medicine exhibition “MedFood 17”

Al Sada: Exhibition promotes self-sufficiency of food and medicine

Khalifa bin Jassim: QC responded to Emiri directives to support the open economy

Under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Interior His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani, the Minister of Energy and Industry HE Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada launched the first edition of MedFood 2017, expo organised by Qatar Chamber (QC) in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Industry, for three days.
A l Sada said the first edition of the expo brings together a number of national companies working in the food industry and pharmaceutical companies, with the aim to achieve more self-sufficiency especially in the field of food and medicine.

After a tour around the exhibition, Al Sada said the current edition focused on local industries and companies and will be expanded in coming years to include international products and companies. AL Sada further said the expo represented an important opportunity to introduce the audience to Qatari products and to closely see business initiatives in the field of food and medicine. In addition, the expo will help exchange views and expertise of the producers and businessmen as well as provide the government the chance to provide incentives in the different fields, he added.

QC Chairman HE. Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed al Thani said the expo reflects Qatar’s eagerness to support and strengthen the national food products, while encouraging investors to get involved in food and medicine. Sheikh Khalifa said in a statement on the sidelines of the expo that QC responded to the directives of the wise leadership to open the economy to different initiatives and investments that would help enable the country to produce its food and medicine, as well as diversify its income and achieve economic independence. QC immediately has been organising the expo in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Industry in order to highlight the national products and provide it with the needed support, he added.

The first edition is limited to supporting local companies and factories as well as market the local products, since the local consumers lack awareness of local products. Next editions will witness a wider participation of different countries to encourage foreign investors to invest in the Qatari food and pharmaceutical sector, he said. Food 2017 expo aims provide an exhibiting medium for the companies specialised in manufacturing food and pharmaceuticals and find new market domains. It also aims to provide the opportunity for producers to exchange their expertise and experience and showcase private sector initiatives that contribute to the achievement of food and medicine security of the country. For his side, QC vice chairman Mohamed bin Twar said that the exhibition would be held in larger area next editions and would include several industrial sectors, noting that food industries would witness great progress in the coming years thanks to the huge investments dedicated to develop this sector.

QC director general Saleh Al Sharqi pointed out that this expo aims to promote national products and Qatar industry, assuring that varied exhibitions covering all sectors will be organized in the future. He added that the Qatari products covered over 15% of the national consumption during the siege and expected to reach 70% in the coming years. Al Sharqi called on shopping centers and hypermarkets to give priority to Qatari products and to place them in distinctive places to consumers.

He emphasized the importance of raising awareness among Qatar’s nationals and residents on the quality of Qatar’s industry.
The three-day expo, held under the patronage of the Prime Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, showcases a wide range of products, including food, garments, construction materials, industrial goods, furniture and furnishings, electrical and electronics products, health and medical products, textiles, leather goods, fertilizers, cosmetics, incense, plastics and industrial machinery, industrial equipment and tools, among others. The bilateral trade volume between Oman and Qatar has witnessed a sharp jump over the last few months as more and more companies from both sides are
establishing partnership to further deepen the level of cooperation.

“After the unprecedented blockade on Qatar, the trade volume between Qatar and Oman increased manifold. This exhibition is not only showcasing products that we import from Oman, but a lot of service providers are also participating in the expo,” the Minister of Economy and Commerce told reporters on the sidelines of the OPEX opening event. The Minister added: “Oman’s ports of Salalah and Sohar have become transit points for Qatari products.”

Commenting on the scope of the ongoing exhibition the Minister said that OPEX, the second edition of the expo, is not only a forum to get acquainted with Omani products, but it also provides great opportunity for companies from both sides to tap the growing business potential between the two countries by establishing long-term partnerships.

Present at the opening ceremony were large number of dignitaries from Qatar and Oman, including senior diplomats, prominent businessmen and top executives of public and private companies from Oman and Qatar.

The Minister further added that the exhibition reflects the keenness of the two countries to support and enhance the degree of coordination and cooperation, both at government as well as private level, to build fruitful partnership to encourage companies from both sides to take advantage of the different measures implemented in this regard, including the direct shipping lines from the newly opened Hamad Port to Sohar and Salalah.

He added: “Omani products and services have proven their worth in the Qatari market and are now become the backbone of the investment and trade exchange between the two countries.”
Over 100 participants in the second edition of the Omani Products Exhibition (OPEX) in Doha are looking to establish partnerships with local businesses to set up factories in Qatar, said Qatar Chamber vice-chairman HE, Mohamed bin Twar in a press statement issued by the Chamber.

The exhibition was inaugurated by H E Sheikh Ahmed bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, Minister of Economy and Commerce, and H E Dr Ali bin Masood bin Ali Al Sunaidi, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Oman at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC).

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The expo, which is scheduled to conclude today Thursday 28 Sept, was organised by Qatar Chamber, Oman’s Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Oman’s Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (PEIE) and Oman’s Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development (Ithraa).

Bin Twar said the exhibition saw a large turnout from Qatari businessmen and companies representatives who were eager to get acquainted with Omani products. He noted that it will be a great help to enhance bilateral cooperation with Qatar and Oman, assuring that all obstacles that might hinder expanding their trade exchange were addressed during a meeting of the Qatar-Oman Business Council held ahead the expo.

Qatar’s market strongly welcomes Omani products and Qatar Chamber helped Omani businessmen to facilitate their investments in Qatar, he added.

He underscored the importance of cementing the economic and trade ties with Omani side and reiterated the Chamber’s interest to create further cooperation in business and investment with Omani businessmen.

It is worth mentioning that Qatar and Oman have signed a number of agreements and MoUs to expand and enhance bilateral cooperation. The volume of trade exchange between Qatar and Oman in 2016 was about QR2bn, which is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years. Oman is the 25th trading partner of Qatar. The Qatari market has 350 joint Omani-Qatari companies engaged in contracting, engineering, services and industry. Omani product were traded in Doha previously, but over the last three months trade relations between the two sides are witnessing sharp growth.
Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) presented a research paper on the rules of international arbitration centres, at the 20th session of the International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (ICMA XX 2017), in Copenhagen. The paper discussed recent amendments to the rules of the international arbitration centres and their impact on the management of international arbitration procedures. The research paper was prepared by Dr Sheikh Thani bin Ali Al Thani, Board Member QICCA, Dr Minas Khatchadourian, Counselor of QICCA, and Ibrahim Mohamed Shahbik, Deputy Secretary General. More than 250 official delegates from over 50 countries are attending the ICMA XX 2017.

The five day event that began on September 25 discussed a number of topics relating to contracts for the carriage of goods by sea and international legislation to which they apply.

The congress also looked at issues as resolving maritime disputes, maritime insurance, bills of lading and shipbuilding contracts, and the most importantly judicial applications in disputes between ship owners and their protection clubs.

Arbitrators, mediators, legal practitioners, trade and investment experts, corporate executives, judicial officers, academics, risk management directors, chartering managers, ship brokers, P&I and hull and machinery representatives are among others who are attending the event.

The five-day congress is hosted by the Danish Institute of Arbitration. The high-profile event has drawn around 300 delegates to the Danish capital.

ICMA, which is held every 2 or 3 years, is an important forum for maritime arbitrators, lawyers and for the world wide shipping industry in which to deliberate on and exchange experience, views and news. Aside from providing a forum for discussion and high quality papers, ICMA also includes a social programme for accompanying persons and delegates.
Qatar’s private sector has significantly proven beyond any doubt that it succeeded in implementing the directives of H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir, that highlighted the importance of building an independent economy able to facing obstacles and to proceeding its growth in confident steps.

Emir’s directive motive for private sector to play key role in economy

Private sector instantly find new markets

QC: Private sector bear responsibility with competence during the siege

Hamad Port facilitate providing goods to consumers in low cost

In the last few months, the private sector assured its ability to bear the full responsibility towards the national economy. It has built a vast network of relations and gained long experience.

For its part, Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry played a very vital role in facing the repercussions of an unjust siege imposed by three Gulf states on the State of Qatar. Since the very beginning of the crisis, The Chamber’s board and staff sought to perform their roles to the fullest to help the private sector play a key role during this stalemate.

The chamber has provided the business community with all possible facilitations to minimize the impacts of the unfair blockade through holding meetings with competent bodies representatives and businessmen and investors to discuss mechanisms of the continuous flow of goods and commodities and find instant resolutions for all obstacles facing business owners.
Pivotal Role
As a representative and defender of Qatar’s private sector, Qatar Chamber has made sustained efforts and played pivotal role to help the private sector meet the impacts caused by the siege. From the first day of the crisis, it held wider seminars and coordinates with government bodies and companies representatives to ensure the continuous flow of supplies and meet the needs of the local market in light of the recent measures taken against Qatar. These combined efforts had brought positive results and opened the door to finding new alternative markets without any interruption of any goods in the market.

The chamber had made good advantage of the agreements and memoranda signed with world chambers which significantly contributed to enhancing cooperation with all trade partners and bringing all needed goods to the local market.

Gulf Common Market
Despite Qatar Chamber has made many initiatives to push for the launch of the Gulf common market which gives the trading priority to the GCC state members, it actually has a strong conviction in the importance of diversifying trade channels, enhancing national industry and intensifying the self-dependence.

The chamber was confident in the capabilities of the private sector to face results of cutting trading transactions with siege countries and to open new channels to provide goods with best quality and less cost than those produced in countries of this illegal boycott. Owing to the similarity in commodities and industries manufactured in Gulf countries, the private sector has easily found new alternative products of siege countries in Kuwait, and Oman and it also has instantly built new ties with new markets such as Iran, Pakistan and India which are well-received by all consumers.

National Industry
On the heels of the siege, numerous Qatari businessmen have built productive enterprises with the aim to increase the dependence on the national product. These projects started manufacturing products of high quality and have managed within a short duration to gain confidence of consumers.

This period was filled with positive news for the industry sector. A chain of factories specialized in food security have been inaugurated and rapidly proved its position in the local market.

For its side, the chamber contributed to providing the needed support to these industries in order to be a booster to the economic diversity in line with the pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030. It is very interested to remove any obstacles facing industry which play important role in the creation of jobs and activating other services sectors.

Hamad Port
Early this month, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani had officially inaugurated the new Hamad Port which will be the booster of industry and trade sectors in Qatar.

This giant facility, covering a total area of 28.5 square kilometers, paves the way for the private sector to expand exports and enable manufacturers to reach new markets worldwide. It will contribute to increasing trade volume between Qatar and other global markets.

The opening of the port will facilitate launching several direct navigation lines connecting Qatar with all world countries, thus minimizing costs of goods and materials.

Qatar Chamber counts on the huge potentials of the new port which is equipped with the latest equipment and machines. It will serve as transporter of Qatari products to more than 130 markets around the world.

Hamad Port is Qatar’s largest access to the sea and will provide the country with complete independence in its import and export of goods to various continents.
The total value of Qatar’s non-oil exports in July reached QR1.3bn compared to QR793m in June, recording an increase of nearly 67 percent, a monthly report released by Qatar Chamber (QC) on the foreign trade of the private sector showed. The report, which was prepared based on certificates of origin issued by QC’s Research and Studies Department and Member Affairs Department, showed that non-oil exports were distributed to about 59 countries in July compared to 56 in the previous month. The total value of non-oil exports since the beginning of the year has touched QR8.9bn. “The return of the non-oil exports level to its previous value, before the siege, proves the success of Qatar’s private sector in overcoming the consequences of the siege,” said Saleh bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Director General of QC. He underlined the fact that the increase in the number of countries receiving the Qatari non-oil exports to about 60 countries, was the result of strong external trade relations that have enabled exports to find new and diversified destinations and open up new markets to Qatari exports. According to the report, Oman topped the countries receiving Qatari non-oil exports for the second month in a row, with total exports worth about QR422m representing some 31 percent of total exports. There was also a 42 percent increase in exports to Oman in
July. Al Sharqi stressed that the growth in exports to Oman was a real translation of the strong economic ties between the two countries, noting that Qatar and Oman have joint memorandums of understanding and investment partnerships in all sectors. The report revealed, that there was a decrease in the Arab countries (12 countries) compared to June, after excluding Saudi Arabia and Bahrain from the list completely. The Kingdom of the Netherlands came in second place with total exports amounting to QR301.08m, representing 22.7 percent of the total value of exports. In third place came Turkey with total exports amounting to QR106.57m, 8 percent of the total exports. Germany came in the fourth place with QR74.15m (5.6 percent) and China in the fifth place with exports amounting to QR54.47m (4.1 percent).

The report showed the rise of the European countries to first place in terms of region and economic groups receiving the Qatari exports in July 2017. European markets received 38.53 percent of Qatar’s total non-oil exports during the month with a total export value reaching QR511.7m.

The GCC countries, mostly Oman, came second place with exports amounting to QR436.9m, representing 32.9 percent of total exports. The region is followed by other Asian countries, coming third with exports worth QR285.33m, accounting for 21.49 percent of the total exports during the month. Aluminum worth QR335.8m, in various forms (alloys, cutters, molds and slabs) topped the exported goods, representing 25.3 percent of the total value of non-oil exports during July 2017, followed by gas oils with a value of QR313.5m (accounting for 23.6 percent of non-oil exports). Base oil exports came in the third place with QR181.4m (13.7%), followed by Helium worth QR91.2m, iron, steel, iron bars and nets, paraffin, chemicals, chemical fertilisers, polyethylene and plastic bags among the others.