

Kingdom's exports surge 6pc in the second quarter

Saudi ranked first country importing from the Kingdom

● The report highlighted that China was ranked the first country that exports to Bahrain with BD171 million.

● Four-wheel drive cars were third listed products imported with BD50 million during second quarter 2019.

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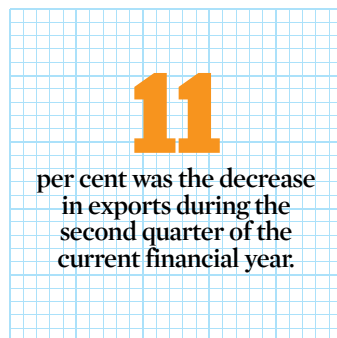
The Kingdom's exports increased by six per cent in the second quarter (Q2) of the current financial year, reaching BD595 million (\$1.56 billion) versus BD561 million for

Q2 2018, said the Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) in a new report.

The report said that top ten countries account for 78 per cent of the exported national origin value and 22 per cent for other countries.

Saudi Arabia was ranked the first country importing from the Kingdom with BD145 million, the US second with BD84 million and the UAE came in the third place with BD65 million.

With regard to national export products, agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged the top products exported in second quarter 2019 with BD132 million; unwrought aluminium alloys were positioned second products imported with a value of BD61 million; and aluminium wire stood third place for exported products with BD50



million.

The report pointed out that the value of re-exports increased by 58 per cent as it reached BD180 million during second quarter 2019 versus BD114 million for the same quarter of the previous year.

The top ten countries account for 88 per cent of the re-export value and 12 per cent for other countries.

The UAE was ranked as the first country to re-export from Bahrain with BD52 million, KSA ranked as the second with BD51 million, and China as the third with BD20 million.

Four-wheel drive cars emerged as the top product re-exported from Bahrain with BD21.8 million, gold ingots came as second products with BD21.6 million, and agglomerated iron ores and concentrates came as the third with BD16.4 million.

The trade balance, difference between exports and imports, the value of the deficit of the trade balance reached BD492 million during second quarter 2019 versus BD745 million for the same quarter of the previous year with decrease of 34 per cent.

The value of imports decreased by 11 per cent as it reached

BD1.266 billion during second quarter 2019 versus BD1.420 billion for the same quarter of the previous year, while the top ten countries account for 68 per cent of the imports value and 32 per cent for other countries.

The report highlighted that China was ranked as the first country that exports to Bahrain with BD171 million, Australia as the second with BD104 million whereas the Brazil ranked third with BD104 million.

Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged as the top product imported to Bahrain with BD125 million, while the aluminium oxide as the second with BD94 million.

Four-wheel drive cars were third listed products imported with BD50 million during second quarter 2019, the report added.

British Airways suspends flights to Cairo

British Airways suspended flights to Cairo for seven days on Saturday to allow for a security assessment, the airline said.

"We constantly review our security arrangements at all our airports around the world, and have suspended flights to Cairo for seven days as a precaution to allow for further assessment," the statement said.

It added it would never operate an aircraft unless safe to do so. When asked for more details about why flights had been suspended and what security arrangements the airline was reviewing, a spokeswoman for the airline responded: "We never discuss matters of security."

Three Egyptian airport security sources told Reuters that British staff were checking security at Cairo airport on Wednesday and Thursday.

The British Foreign Office advises against all but essential travel by air to and from the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, but has not issued similar warnings against air travel to and from Cairo.

The Egypt State Information Service could not immediately be reached for comment.

Arab coalition forces down Houthi drone



Debris seen on the tarmac following Houthi attack on Abha airport.

● The coalition had said earlier it also downed two drones in Yemeni airspace that had been launched towards Jizan.

Dubai

Arab Coalition spokesperson Col Turki Al Maliki yesterday said that coalition forces intercepted and shot down a drone launched by the Houthi militia in Amran governorate and directed towards Abha, Saudi state news agency SPA has reported.

Al Maliki added the Iranian-backed militia remained futile in their attempts to target the civilian areas as well as the civilian population.

The Arab coalition command would take strict measures to paralyse and neutralise all hostile capabilities of the militia within international humanitarian law and its customary laws, Al Maliki said in the SPA report.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen has been intercepting and downing drones launched by the Iran-aligned Houthi movement towards the southwestern Saudi cities of Jizan and Abha, state TV reported.

Earlier the Houthis' Al Masirah TV quoted a Houthi military spokesman as saying the group had carried out drone attacks targeting the King Khalid air base near the southwestern Saudi city of Khamis Mushait and drone hangars at Jizan airport.

"The Houthi militias contin-

ue targeting civilians and civilian airports in Abha, Jizan and Najran and continue to threaten regional and international security," the coalition spokesman, said.

The coalition had said earlier it also downed two drones in Yemeni airspace that had been launched towards Jizan.

The Houthis, who are battling the Saudi-led coalition in neighbouring Yemen, have in the past few months stepped up their attacks against targets in Saudi Arabia.

A Syrian resident of Saudi Arabia died last month from wounds sustained in a drone attack on Abha Airport that was claimed by the Houthis.

In response, the coalition has targeted the group's military sites around the Yemeni capital Sanaa and the port city of Hodeidah.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza met a number of citizens to listen to their comments and suggestions regarding power and water supplies. Dr Mirza said such comments and suggestions were always welcome and said anyone could come to his office at any time in this context.



A security delegation chaired by the Director-General of King Fahad Causeway Police attended the third joint meeting of the heads of borders, airports, ports and customs authorities in the Arab world held at the Arab Interior Ministers Council headquarters in Tunisia. The meeting discussed the implementation of the recommendations of the previous meeting and co-ordination in information technology, along with prosperous experiences.



The General Directorate of Traffic announced that the first batch of technical examiners of companies had been trained, as part of steps to assign the technical examination of vehicles to the private sector. Director of Licences Affairs Lieutenant-Colonel Abdulrahman Al Muawda attended the graduation ceremony. He highlighted that the training was part of the decision of Interior Minister to assign this service to the private sector under the supervision of the Traffic Department. The training included informing the examiners about procedures and equipment for examining vehicles that meet accredited criteria by the directorate.