

Kingdom's exports grew 16pc last month, reveals iGA report

Plan to promote Bahrainisation discussed
Manama

Chief Executive of Labour Fund (Tamkeen), Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Janahi, yesterday received a delegation from the Parliamentary Probe committee on Bahrainisation in Public and Private Sectors, chaired by MP Ibrahim Al Nifi'i.

Promoting Bahrainisation in the labour market to achieve the objectives of the national Labour Market plan were discussed, in addition to co-ordination with various sides for the implementation of the social insurance system for trainees within the framework of professional and specialised programmes.

Dr Janahi gave a brief on Tamkeen's programmes and initiatives to support Bahraini employees to be the first choice in the labour market through the development of their professional and knowledge skills.

The parliamentary delegation praised Tamkeen's role in attracting national aptitudes, as it scores the highest Bahrainisation rate that reaches 99.2 per cent.

The delegation also commended its keenness to collaborate with various agencies for the development of individuals and enhance their competitiveness in the labour market.

Saudi largest importer of Bahrain goods, says report

According to the report, China is the largest exporter to the Kingdom.

The top 10 countries accounted for 68pc of the imports to the Kingdom.

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom's exports grew 16 per cent last month, reaching BD210 million against BD181m recorded during May 2018.

This came as the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) issued its Foreign Trade Report for May 2019, which encompasses balance of trade, imports, exports and re-exports.

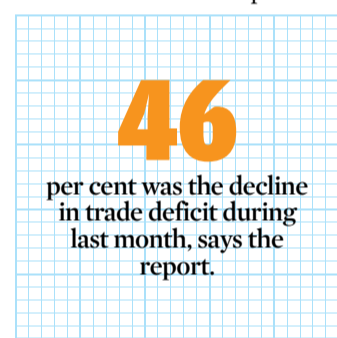
The top 10 countries accounted for 82pc of the total exports while others imported 18pc of goods and services from the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia was ranked first as the largest importing country from the Kingdom (BD63m), followed by the US (BD30m) and the UAE (BD21m).

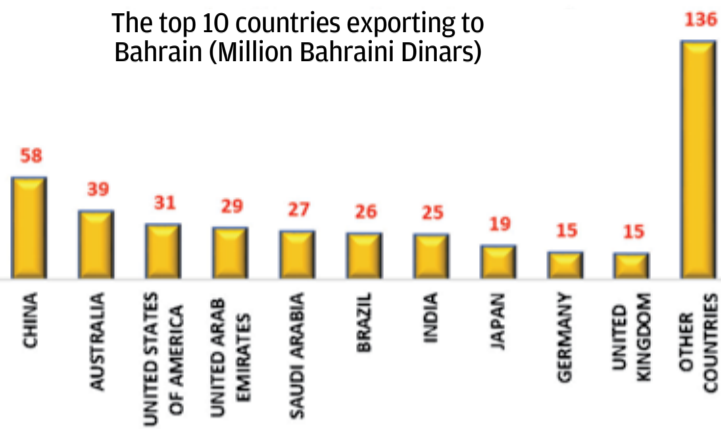
Among the goods exported, agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged the top prod-

ucts (BD60m) while unwrought aluminium alloys were positioned second (BD23m). And aluminium wire stood third among the exported goods (BD19m).

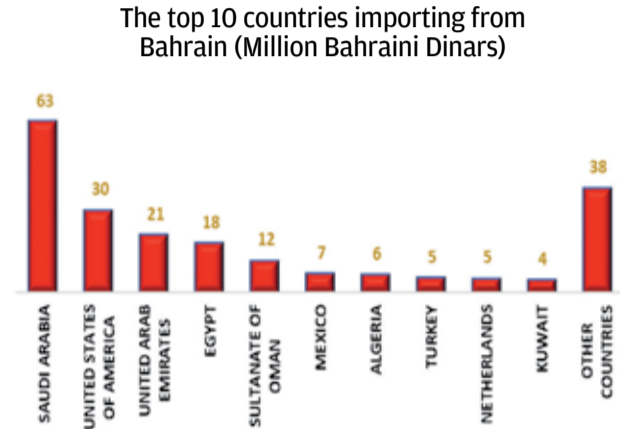
The report pointed out that the value of imports declined by 14pc as it reached BD419m during last month versus BD489m in May 2018. The top 10 countries accounted for 68pc of the



The top 10 countries exporting to Bahrain (Million Bahraini Dinars)



The top 10 countries importing from Bahrain (Million Bahraini Dinars)



imports.

According to the report, China is the leading exporter to the Kingdom (BD58m) and Australia came second (BD39m) while the US was ranked third (BD31m).

Aluminium Oxide emerged as the top product imported to Bahrain (BD33m), while non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates came second (BD32m). Four-wheel drive cars stood

third (BD14m) during May 2019.

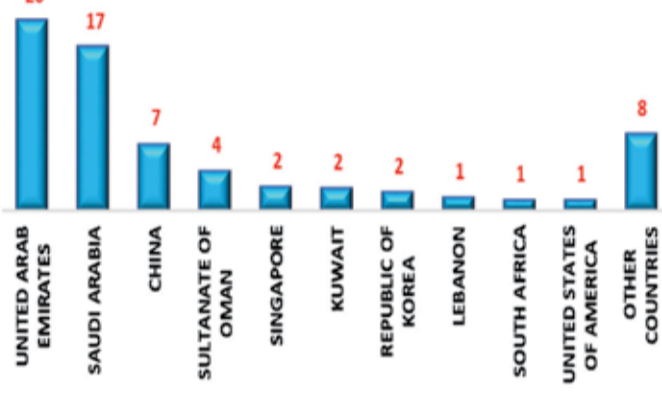
The report said that the value of re-exports increased by 57pc as it reached BD66m during May 2019 versus BD42m for the same month of the previous year.

"The top 10 countries accounted for 88pc of the re-exported goods. The UAE has been ranked the first country to re-export from Bahrain (BD20m), while Saudi ranks second (BD17m), and China the third (BD7m).

"Gold ingots emerged the top product re-exported from Bahrain (BD10m) followed by four-wheel drive cars (BD7m). Agglomerated iron ores and concentrates came third (BD6m)."

The trade deficit saw a decline of 46pc as it reached BD143m last month compared to BD266m in May 2018.

The top 10 re-exported countries from Bahrain (Million Bahraini Dinars)



None injured in Hamad Town kindergarten fire

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

No injuries were reported after a kindergarten building caught fire in Hamad Town yesterday.

Reportedly, no children was present at the facility as they were on a vacation.

The Ministry of Education yesterday confirmed the incident, stating none were injured in the fire.

The Ministry of Interior also confirmed the incident.

Sources said the fire was caused by an electric short circuit.

The Civil Defence team in-

stantly rushed to the scene and put out the fire, they added.

In another incident, a parked car caught fire in Isa Town. Nobody was injured.

Meanwhile, the General Directorate of Civil Defence announced yesterday that it would continue with its awareness campaign among housewives about the risks of gas leakage in homes.

The campaign is part of the directives of the Interior Minister to improve safety awareness. It includes lectures on safety instructions and how to prevent gas leakage.



A portion of the kindergarden was damaged in the fire.

ICRF provided '\$1.5m to Indian workers in need'



Mr Thomas speaks at the press conference in the presence of other ICRF officials.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

One-and-a-half million American dollars (BD 550,000) worth of financial support has been provided by the Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) to Indian workers in need in the Kingdom, it was announced.

It has also supported over 400 families after the death of their breedwinners through its Family Welfare Fund. As per the scheme, a financial assistance of Indian Rupees 100,000 (BD544) was being handed over to the dependant of the deceased expat, who earned less than BD100 a month.

These were among the many achievements and planned initiatives announced during a press conference held by the organisation in Juffair yesterday.

"We regularly conduct medical camps at various labour camps, apart from blood donation campaigns and jail visits," said ICRF Chairman Aruldas Thomas.

As part of the ICRF LIFE (Listen, Involve, Foster, Engage) initiative, around 10,000 flyers and around 500 stickers have been printed to spread awareness about suicide hotlines.

"We have seen many situations, where students, as well as adults have gone into depression and suffered a lot. This initiative was started mainly

targeting the students. We want to listen to their problems, involve them in a meaningful relationship, foster a relationship with them and engage them in positive activities," said ICRF LIFE convener Dr Babu Ramachandran.

The ICRF has also expanded its volunteer strength by including around 40 new members representing various states of India, residing in Bahrain.

The fund will organise 'ICRF - Summer Fest', which will be held on June 28, at the Indian Club premises starting 3pm.

"We intend to create an atmosphere of celebrations and enjoyment for the low-income workers, in turn boosting their morale and create awareness

on support systems available for them."

"The event will have tug of war, running race, sack race, karaoke singing, spot quiz, cinematic dance and many more. Apart from the first, second and third prizes for all competitions, all participants will receive gift hamper," the ICRF stated.

Any company willing to send their workers to the event may contact the event co-ordinators Sudheer Thirunilath on 39461746 or Subair Kannur on 39682974.

The press meet was attended by Chairman of ICRF Aruldas Thomas, Deputy Chairman Dr Babu Ramachandran and Joint Secretary Pankaj Nallur apart from other ICRF officials.