In a special interview with Qatar Tribune, the Turkish Ambassador to Qatar HE Fikret Ozer discussed the latest developments in the relations between the State of Qatar and Turkey on several levels. Ozer first assured the strong relations between the two nations are deep-rooted as Turkey was one of the very first countries to recognize Qatar after independence.

The Turkish envoy said the relations are getting stronger year after year highlighting that the trade volume between Qatar and Turkey has doubled this year reaching over $1.3bn compared to $750mn last year, and expecting it to reach to $2bn by the end of 2018. “This comes after the constant cooperation efforts by both nations, especially after the unjust siege imposed on Qatar last year which Turkey responded to by providing all the necessary support to Qatar and opened its markets for,” he added. Ozer emphasized that more than 220 Turkish commercial companies are registered in Qatar so far, and 60 of them are major companies operating in Qatar in different fields of commerce and investment. He added, “Qatar exports LPG, petrochemicals and aluminium as well as food, industrial products and equipment. Qatari businessmen have invested and financed many projects in Turkey, the latest of which was the largest chemical plant in Turkey”.

Besides, Turkey is proving to be a favourite travel destination for Qataris as the number of tourists from Qatar so far this year has more than doubled from two years ago, the Turkish Ambassador said. “More than 71,000 Qatari tourists visited Turkey so far this year, the figure was just 33,000 in 2016, he added. Ozer expects the number to cross 100,000 by the end of this year. The ambassador said the tourist influx from Qatar to Turkey saw an upsurge in 2017 after the bilateral relations underwent a massive transformation. One added that there was a significant rise in the number of Qatari investors in Turkey as more real estate and brokerage companies are opening in Doha, facilitating transactions in this field.

Ozer appreciated the Qatari support to Turkey during the crisis and threats that occurred in Turkey in the past few years such as the failed military coup in 2016 and recently, the manipulation of the Turkish Lira. “HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani has given an appreciated support during his recent visit to Ankara where he poured in $15bn into the Turkish banks which had a significant positive impact on our economy”, he continued.

“Ties between Qatar and Turkey are deep-rooted,” Ozer added. “In 2014, Qatar and Turkey signed several agreements, including the Turkish military base in Qatar, whose priorities include Gulf security and regional security. At the beginning, Iran was not comfortable about this base, but some other neighboring countries were more uncomfortable than Iran, including Saudi Arabia, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan explained to the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud that the mission of the Turkish base is the security of the GCC and other neighboring countries, and the base could establish similar bases in Saudi Arabia, but King Salman never responded back to him,” Ozer explained.

Commenting on the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, the Turkish ambassador said that Turkey will not leave this case until the perpetrators are tried. Ozer added that Khashoggi had a great advantage in the field of journalism in the Arab world and stressed that President Erdogan and the Turkish investigation team will not hide any of the investigations from the world.

“I had known him in person since I was working for the Turkish diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia in Jeddah, and he was a man,” Ozer remembers.
Yunus Emre Institute in Doha primarily aims at supporting those who would like to learn Turkish language, culture and art, and promote Turkey. The Yunus Emre Institute in Doha also seeks to promote friendly relations between the two countries, enhance cultural interaction, and provide information to Qatari people in this direction.

The Institute creates an appropriate ground for Qataris to learn Turkish from expert sources thanks to activities which are organized under "culture", "art" and "Turkish education" titles.

The Institute has worked to strengthen ties between the countries since 2016 within the framework of education projects. It has also started to organize educational and cultural activities in various schools based in Doha with the aim of building educational bridges between Qatar and Turkey and introducing Turkish language, culture and values to the educational institution in Qatar.

The Institute aims to open new courses to promote Turkish cuisine and Turkish art.

The Turkish School was built on the request of President of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Built by TAV Construction Company, the school operates in affiliation with Turkish and Qatari Ministries of National Education and under the supervision of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Doha.

Having started with providing education to 25 students on a 10,000 square metres area in the district of Ain-Khaled in the academic year 2016-2017, the Turkish School continues to render educational services to nearly 200 students now. A total of 18 teachers are teaching in the school's primary, secondary and open secondary and high school classes.

The Turkish School in Doha, which employs Turkish language as its educational language and follows the Turkish national education curriculum, places more emphasis on Arabic and English classes compared to the schools in Turkey.

The Turkish School also organizes cultural activities, educational competitions and sports events in primary schools based in Doha with the aim of building educational bridges between Qatar and Turkey and introducing Turkish language, culture and values to the educational institution in Qatar.

Participating in creative educational projects of ALF Foundation at the same time, the school came in 4th among the 50 schools that took part in these projects in Doha in the academic year 2017-2018.

The Turkish School is set to gain an international quality in the forthcoming years to cultivate a richer cultural environment by accepting both Qatari students and students from other nationalities in Qatar from the academic year 2018-2019 onwards.
RELIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE BASED ON THE
VALUES OF THE PAST.
SINCE 1935......
**Turkish Airlines Brings New Elegant Style to Skies With New Cabin Crew Uniforms**

Turkish Airlines has unveiled a new uniform design that heralds a new era for the national flag-carrier. Created to symbolise the essential consideration for an airline that is a leader in the fashion industry, the new uniform incorporates traditional patterns and motifs from Istanbul, the melting pot for art and civilisation for centuries. This project is a reflection of the city’s vast art and cultural heritage. 

"I was really inspired when I saw Istanbul," said the designer behind the uniforms. "When I looked at the city, I saw a place that had been a melting pot for art and culture for centuries. I wanted to reflect that in the new uniform design." 

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**Turkish Airlines Posts $258 mn Net Profit in First Half of 2018**

Turkish Airlines, the national flag-carrier of Turkey, has reported a net profit of $258 million in the first half of 2018. This is a 38 percent increase compared to the same period of last year. The airline’s cargo revenue increased by 35 percent, reaching $784 million. Over the same period, Turkish Airlines managed to increase the amount of cargo by 22 percent compared to the same period of 2017. Main contributors to the growth in cargo/mail were Europe and Far East showing load factor growth of about 2 points.

**Turkish Airlines’ Load Factor reaches 83.4% in September**

Turkish Airlines’ Load Factor reached 83.4% in September. The national flag-carrier of Turkey continued to raise the bar with its operational excellence. This figure is the highest load factor in Turkish Airlines’ history for the month of September. Istanbul, the flag-carrier’s home base, contributes to this impressive result.

**Turkish Airlines Sponsors Exhibition on Engraving Techniques**

Turkish Airlines, the national flag-carrier of Turkey, has sponsored an exhibition on engraving techniques. The exhibition will be held at the Katara Cultural Village in Doha, Qatar. Turkish Airlines is committed to supporting cultural initiatives and promoting art and culture around the world. The exhibition will feature the works of Turkish artists who have participated in more than 100 collective exhibitions and have seen more than 70 solo exhibitions as well. The exhibition is expected to attract art enthusiasts and Turkish Airlines fans from all over the world.

**Turkish Airlines Sponsors Doha Women Forum 2018**

Turkish Airlines, the national flag-carrier of Turkey, has sponsored the Doha Women Forum 2018. The forum aims to celebrate and promote the role of women in leadership and society. Turkish Airlines is proud to support such initiatives that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

**Turkish Airlines Implements Two New Projects for Better Service to Business Class Passengers**

Turkish Airlines has implemented two new projects to enhance the service for its Business Class passengers. The airline introduced the "Meal Selection Before Flight" service, allowing passengers to view the meal details and visuals of the below-mentioned intercontinental destinations below: New York, Toronto, Washington DC, Caracas, Panama, Phuket, Port Louis, San Francisco, Sao Paulo, Freetown, Samarkand, Krasnodar and more.

The passengers can use this service in all intercontinental flights depending on the time when the flight is scheduled to depart. This service provides passengers with the opportunity to experience a more flexible flight and a more customized service. "Dine on Demand" service is another new initiative offered by Turkish Airlines. Passengers can dine at any time they wish during the flight. This privilege is only available to Business class passengers in international destinations.

**Tom's Turkey Day**

Republic Day of Turkey was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country. Turkish Airlines, the national flag-carrier of Turkey, flew the Pride of nations to a host of international destinations, including Istanbul, New York, Toronto, Washington DC, Caracas, Panama, Phuket, Port Louis, San Francisco, Sao Paulo, Freetown, Samarkand, Krasnodar and more. The airline managed to achieve a significant 18% increase in demand over the same period of last year.

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**HAVELSAN**

seeks innovation in technology.

**TBA Helps Promote Trade and Cultural Relations**

Turkish-Businessman Association (TBA-Qatar) was established in May 2006 as a non-government, nonprofit organization. TBA-Qatar represents more than 45 members to date, Turkish business people working for non-Turkish companies and organizations.

The main objectives of the Association are to promote Turkish culture, trade and commerce, and cultural relations between Turkey and Qatar, and promote Turkish culture, business and education, and encourage the exchange of cultural programs between both nations.

Through the activities of TBA-Qatar, its members can extend their business relations, meet and share their knowledge and experience about doing business in Qatar. On behalf of the Board of TBA-Qatar, Ahmet Başar thanked the Turkish Ambassador and the Commercial Counselor in Qatar for their support.

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**Command Control and Defence Systems**

**Training and Simulation**

**Information and Communication Security**

**Homeland Security and Cyber Security Solutions**

**Competitive Solutions**

HAVELSAN develops globally competitive products and has become one of the most important solution providers of the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF). Among its solutions is the CINCSIM Combat Systems developed for naval platforms which have been selected by NAVY as an alternative to in-house simulation solutions.

**ECONOMY**

**GENERAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018 (Jan-Aug)</th>
<th>2019 (Jan-Aug)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP (in constant prices)</td>
<td>121.8 billion USD</td>
<td>121.8 billion USD</td>
<td>143.8 billion USD</td>
<td>133.8 billion USD</td>
<td>136.2 billion USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP (in current prices)</td>
<td>276.2 billion USD</td>
<td>276.2 billion USD</td>
<td>316.4 billion USD</td>
<td>316.4 billion USD</td>
<td>345.2 billion USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public sector gross external debt stock</td>
<td>97.9 billion USD</td>
<td>104.6 billion USD</td>
<td>130.3 billion USD</td>
<td>166.2 billion USD</td>
<td>185.9 billion USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total external debt stock</td>
<td>453.2 billion USD</td>
<td>453.2 billion USD</td>
<td>504.1 billion USD</td>
<td>562.2 billion USD</td>
<td>594.4 billion USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private sector gross external debt stock</td>
<td>294.4 billion USD</td>
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<td>394.9 billion USD</td>
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<td>Public sector gross external debt stock</td>
<td>158.8 billion USD</td>
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<td>209.4 billion USD</td>
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<td>Private sector gross external debt stock</td>
<td>64.5 billion USD</td>
<td>70.8 billion USD</td>
<td>75.5 billion USD</td>
<td>82.1 billion USD</td>
<td>88.8 billion USD</td>
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<tr>
<td>External debt stock</td>
<td>453.2 billion USD</td>
<td>453.2 billion USD</td>
<td>504.1 billion USD</td>
<td>562.2 billion USD</td>
<td>594.4 billion USD</td>
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**FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS IN FORCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Free Trade Agreements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>16 countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>France</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Netherlands</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>15 countries</td>
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**Tourism**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Visitors</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>25.3 million visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>25.4 million visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>25.5 million visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>25.6 million visitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Turkish Statistical Institute**

The average growth rate of Turkey in 2017 was 7.4%. In 2013, Turkey became the 23rd largest country in the world in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) and the second largest country in Europe. In 2017, Turkey became the 33rd largest in terms of GDP per capita among the G20 countries. In the second half of 2018, Turkey became the second fastest growing economy among the OECD members after Ireland. The average growth rate of Turkey in 2017 was 7.4% and in 2018, it became the first among OECD members and the second fastest growing economy after Ireland. For the first quarter of 2018, Turkey was the first among G20 countries and the second fastest growing economy.

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Al Meera Wishes Turkey A Happy Republic Day

We at Al Meera, wish the Turkish Embassy in Qatar and the Ambassador, His Excellency Fikret Özer in celebration of the Turkish Republic Day. May this year be a grand and momentous one.

Experience True Turkish Traditions At Al Meera

Al Meera is proud to host the Turkish Festival from 24th October to 6th November 2018 to offer our nation the rare opportunity to connect and celebrate Turkish heritage and culture.

Enjoy the art of Turkish cuisine with the country’s beloved pastries, dry fruits, food and juices at all our branches.

Let’s grow closer and strengthen our ties between Qatar and the Turkish Republic.
Cagri Kurbal, owner of Merger Mimari, believes Qatar is poised to be the next major trade centre of the Gulf region and that now is the time for companies to widen their markets. As a Turkish man with a background in foreign trade and construction materials and supply company, he recently started operating in the GCC region, basing their business in Doha.

With the recent meeting of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) law, which will allow in-will new Qatar investment in sectors by the end of 2018, Qatar is poised to become the trade hub of the GCC. The foreign investment committee chairman suggests that this will definitely help develop Qatar’s independent economy. Economic development can never be considered without the development of a proper industry, as it is the backbone of any economy.

Dr. Baris Kurbal believes his company can add real value to the building of Qatar’s independent economy. From architecture to design and construction materials, they achieved an authentic look and the best service. This is especially crucial for companies to widen their markets as Qatar becomes a new trade centre of the GCC.

The shop displays exceptional collections as well. Handmade shoes painted with patina, snazzy leather jackets, overcoats, bag and leather goods to come. Come to your favourite bespoke Doha tailors. Choose your fabric and have handmade quality, durable comfort, look always sharp.

We offer bespoke tailored clothing only for you, with high-quality fabric, finding life in the hands of professionals tailors.

We provide services to personnel clothes for corporate companies.

Interviewing Our Experience

Merger Mimari has worked on some of the most complex industrial buildings, such as the World Trade Center in New York, the Greenox Urban Residence in Istanbul, which required the company to push the limits of possibility in order to provide the most natural looking concrete and wood for the façade, using an aluminum-based material. In partnership with premium brand Euramax, the world’s number one in aluminum coating, they achieved an authentic look and the building won the Leed Gold certification in the Green Building category.

Kurbal continues: “We have also contributed to the building of some of the most complex industrial buildings, such as the Turkcell Data Center and Alibab Data Centre, in Turkey, with project budgets of almost half a billion USD. Our award-winning work on such projects demonstrate our experience in using the most suitable and effective materials which are compliant with the international markets and the best in the world within the industry.”

Don’t forget; being a gentleman is a matter of choice.

– Mohamed Aboodrika

A man in a well-tailored suit will always shine brighter than a man in an off-the-rack suit.

– Mohammed Saadon Al Kawari

The difference between good and great is attention to detail.

– Baris Kurbal

Professional Staff

- Professional staff split as tailors of women’s and men’s clothing. They are experts in their fields, belonging to traditional methods since their early ages, respectful to their master’s lifetime, dedicated, having work ethics, at least 10 years of experience in their profession and craftsmanship over the age of 55.

Awards-Winning Merger Mimari

Rises to GCC

Our particular principle is to supply bespoke tailoring clothes with prominent elements within an elegant harmony of the whole. The size, the design and the textile of the suit will be hand-picked and tailored to fit the body in its entirety.

BARS RESPOKE endorses bespoke clothes with sincere efforts of craftsmen and highlights specific details of a person with exquisite results in the style of elegance.

We wish the gentlemen to dress stylish and elegant. Furthermore, we appeal to wide range of clientele and sectors from businesses to architects or a photographer, from the business sector to artists who won’t lose to fashion.

Product range is from slim fit, straight, short, long, dress coat, suit coat, blazer, overcoat, leather jacket and many other options. They all are designed to adapt bespoke clothes and completely provide with the patterns of BARS RESPOKE Tailoring.

Personalized Clothes for Corporate Companies

We cater individual requirements of corporate companies, as well. Our clothing projects for the corporate companies consider the corporate identity, industry, climate of the company and customer profile they address, ensuring effective working conditions of personnel.

We appeal to different industries such as hotels, armies, restaurants, banks, transportation, hotels etc.

We provide services to personnel clothes for corporate companies.

Corporate Companies

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