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The Peninsula

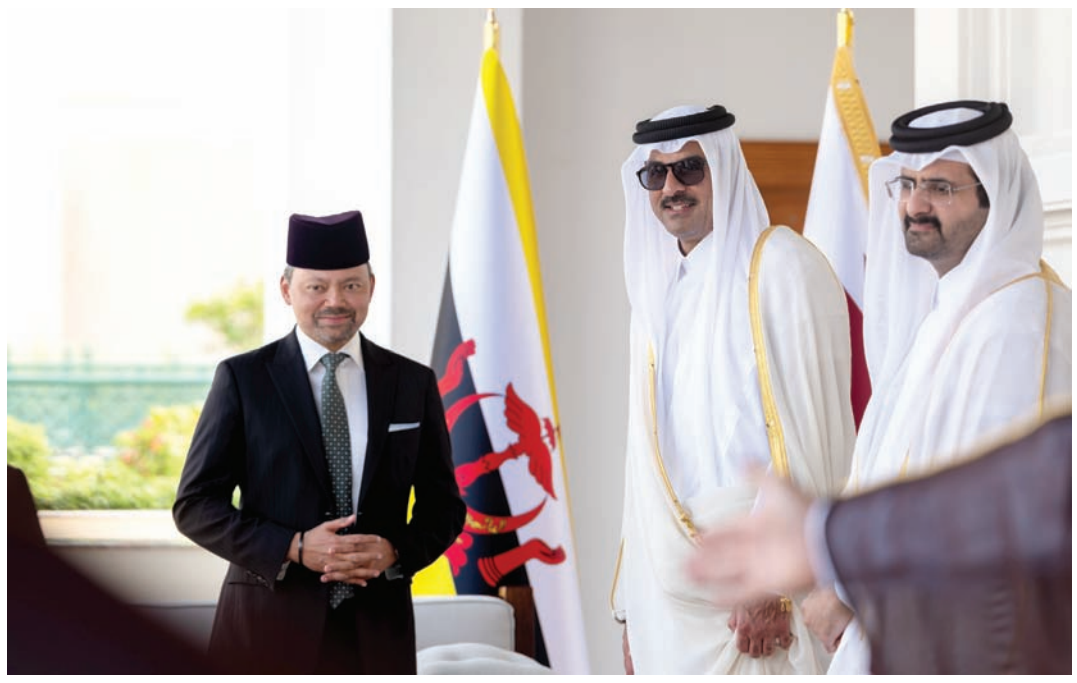
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Amir, Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam discuss strengthening bilateral relations



DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam H R H Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah and his accompanying delegation at the Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Majlis at the Amiri Diwan yesterday, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

At the outset of the meeting, H R H the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam conveyed the greetings of H M Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam to H H the Amir, along with wishes for his continued health and happiness and for the Qatari people further development and growth.

In turn, H H the Amir entrusted H R H the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam to convey his greetings to H M the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, wishing him good health and well-being and the people of Brunei continued progress and prosperity.

The meeting discussed bilateral relations between the State of Qatar and Brunei Darussalam as well as ways to support and strengthen them across various fields, in addition to key issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, Chief of the Amiri Diwan H E Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khulaifi, and Their Excellencies ministers and senior officials. From the Brunei Darussalam side, it was attended by the members of the official delegation accompanying His Royal Highness. — *QNA*

Qatar launches regulatory guide for pvt schools, kindergartens

SANAULLAH ATAULLAH
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has launched a new regulatory guide for private schools and kindergartens, outlining unified standards for addressing violations and strengthening compliance to ensure a safe, stable and sustainable learning environment.

The guide was unveiled at an event held at the ministry's headquarters theatre, attended by senior ministry officials and representatives of private schools and kindergartens.

The initiative is part of the ministry's efforts to improve the quality of educational services, strengthen compliance with regulatory requirements and ensure that educational institutions operate in an environment that protects rights and promotes national values and identity, in line with the human and social development goals of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The guide aims to standardise the procedures for identifying and addressing violations, strengthen preventive measures and clearly define the responsibilities of licence holders, school leaders and employees. It also establishes a framework to ensure fairness, transparency and consistency in applying regulatory procedures, while enabling educational institutions to take appropriate preventive and corrective measures.

The guide aims to standardise the procedures for identifying and addressing violations, strengthen preventive measures and clearly define the responsibilities of licence holders, school leaders and employees. It also establishes a framework to ensure fairness, transparency and consistency in applying regulatory procedures, while enabling educational institutions to take appropriate preventive and corrective measures.

It is based on the mandate of the Department of Private Schools and Kindergartens under Amiri Decision No. 35 of 2022, Law No. 23 of 2015 regulating private schools, particularly Article 37, its executive regulations, and other relevant decisions, policies and circulars. The guide operates within the framework of these laws and does not replace them or restrict the legal powers of the competent authorities.

Assistant Undersecretary for Private Education Affairs Omar Abdulaziz Al Namaa said the guide's real value would be determined by how effectively it was implemented within private educational institutions.

He urged licence holders and school leaders to adopt it as a reference in their daily operations, review and document their internal procedures, strengthen self-monitoring and follow up on corrective measures.

He said the guide represented a step towards standardising regulatory practices and building greater trust and cooperation between the ministry and private educational institutions, thereby supporting the quality and stability of education. ➔P2

Qatar braces for more rain and cooler weather through weekend

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar is expected to experience cloudy conditions, scattered rainfall and a noticeable drop in temperatures through the end of this week, with thunderstorms and strong downdraft winds possible in some areas, according to the Qatar Meteorology Department.

Weather forecaster at Qatar Meteorology Department Abdulrahman Nasser Al Suwaidi said yesterday that the country witnessed an increase in cloud cover in the morning, accompanied by scattered rainfall across the country. Speaking to Qatar TV yesterday, he said that rainfall ranged from moderate to heavy, with Al Thakhira recording the highest amount at 30.8mm.

He said cloudy weather is expected to persist until the end of the week, with opportunities for scattered rain of varying intensity. Some areas may experience thunderstorms accompanied by strong downdraft winds, which could lead to reduced visibility.

Regarding marine conditions, Al Suwaidi said warnings of thunderstorms and high waves are expected to remain in place until the end of the week, with rough sea conditions anticipated.

Temperatures are also expected to drop noticeably towards the end of the week, with maximum temperatures ranging between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius and minimum temperatures between 18 and 22 degrees Celsius across the country.

Qatar, Estonia eye new AI opportunities through deeper digital cooperation

JOEL JOHNSON
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar and Estonia are looking to deepen their long-standing digital partnership, with artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, digital governance and defence emerging as key areas for expanded cooperation.

In an interview with The Peninsula, Estonia's Minister of Justice and Digital Affairs, H E Liisa-Ly Pakosta, described the relationship between the two countries as built on mutual interest.

"We see the cooperation as a way to share our strengths, but we are not competing. We are working together," Minister Pakosta said at the Mobile World Congress (MWC Doha), emphasising the opportunities for both countries to learn from each other and develop solutions with global potential.



We see the cooperation as a way to share our strengths, but we are not competing. We are working together.

H E Liisa-Ly Pakosta

She noted that digital governance remains a central pillar of the Estonia-Qatar partnership, highlighting the European country's extensive experience in developing efficient government services, improving data quality and strengthening interoperability between public sector systems.

The Minister stressed that cooperation is particularly valuable as both countries adapt their public sectors to the rapid advancement of AI. "Estonia has progressively integrated AI into its public services, with approximately 260 public services now using AI-based solutions."

She explained that the country's optimism and ambitious AI strategy, agreed in spring 2024, have evolved into a more cautious and security-oriented approach following practical implementation experience.

Among the key lessons, she noted the importance of building more technological capabilities locally, strengthening risk assessments and ensuring greater control over data protection and infrastructure costs. ➔P3

Kahramaa completes smart electricity meter rollout

THE PENINSULA



DOHA: Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) has completed its project to transition electricity customers across the country to smart meters, marking a significant step in its ongoing digital transformation and efforts to enhance service quality and efficiency.

The completion of the project is part of Kahramaa's strategic initiatives to modernise its service infrastructure, adopt advanced digital technologies and improve the overall experience of subscribers.

Smart electricity meters are expected to enhance the accuracy and reliability of consumption readings while improving the efficiency of services associated with the meter system. The technology also enables more effective management and processing of consumption data, supporting the development of a more efficient and flexible electricity service infrastructure.

The transition to smart meters represents an important milestone in Kahramaa's efforts to upgrade its electricity services and make greater use of modern technologies in managing consumption data and meter readings.

Kahramaa urged customers who still have old electricity meters to contact the corporation and report them to facilitate their replacement with smart meters.

Customers with old electricity meters can report them and complete the necessary replacement procedures through Kahramaa's customer service channels.

EU-Qatar relations set for major boost with Strategic Partnership Agreement

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The European Union is seeking to elevate its relations with Qatar through an ambitious Strategic Partnership Agreement that will deepen cooperation in security, trade, investment, energy and technology, while strengthening political coordination on regional and international challenges.

In an exclusive interview with The Peninsula, European Union Ambassador to Qatar H E Antonino Maggiore said the proposed agreement, negotiations for which were launched in December 2025, would establish a comprehensive framework for translating diplomatic engagement into tangible economic and institutional partnerships.

The European Union and Qatar have developed a strong and increasingly comprehensive relationship, built on mutual trust, shared interests and a common commitment to regional stability and international cooperation.

H E Antonino Maggiore



"The European Union and Qatar have developed a strong and increasingly comprehensive relationship, built on mutual trust, shared interests and a common commitment to regional stability and international cooperation. Our ambition now is to take this relationship to the next level," he said.

The Ambassador identified security and defence, trade and investment, energy security, green transition, digital transformation, education and research among the priority areas. He emphasised Qatar's growing diplomatic influence, describing the country as an indispensable international mediator whose engagement complements the EU's diplomatic capabilities.

"Qatar has established itself as an indispensable diplomatic actor, particularly through its mediation efforts, and we believe that closer political coordination between the EU and Qatar can make a meaningful contribution to peace and stability," Maggiore said.

On regional developments, he praised Qatar's ability to maintain communication channels with different parties during complex diplomatic situations.

Regarding Gaza, he said both sides support implementation of the US peace plan, humanitarian assistance and a lasting political solution based on two states. ➔P4

The Peninsula
ESTABLISHED IN 1996

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Amir meets Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam

Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani met Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah and his accompanying delegation at the Sheikh Abdullah bin Jassim Majlis at the Amiri Diwan yesterday, on the occasion of his visit to the country. The meeting discussed bilateral relations between Qatar and Brunei Darussalam as well as ways to support and strengthen them across various fields, in addition to key issues of common interest.







EDITORIAL

A stronger framework for better schools

THE quality of education is measured not only by what students learn in classrooms but also by the environment in which they learn. Safe schools, responsible leadership, transparent management and clear accountability are all essential to building an education system that prepares young people for the future. Qatar's new regulatory guide for private schools and kindergartens is therefore a welcome and timely initiative.

Launched by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the guide seeks to establish unified standards for identifying, addressing and preventing violations across private educational institutions. More importantly, it sends a clear message that maintaining educational standards is a shared responsibility that requires commitment from school owners, administrators and employees.

Private schools play an increasingly important role in Qatar's education landscape. With that responsibility comes the need for consistent oversight and a clear understanding of regulatory obligations. Schools cannot be expected to deliver quality education while operating under unclear procedures or inconsistent standards. A common framework can help eliminate confusion, promote fairness and ensure that institutions are held accountable under the same rules.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the guide is its emphasis on prevention rather than simply punishment. Its gradual approach to handling violations, taking into account their nature and seriousness, gives schools an opportunity to correct shortcomings before they develop into more significant problems. This is a sensible approach because regulation should not exist merely to penalise institutions. It should encourage improvement and create a culture of responsibility.

The guide also addresses areas that directly affect students and families, including school fees, registration, academic affairs, health and safety, student behaviour, counselling and the protection of national values and identity. These are not minor administrative matters. They shape the everyday experiences of children, parents and teachers and ultimately influence public confidence in private education.

Qatar National Vision 2030 places human development at the heart of national progress. Achieving that ambition requires educational institutions that are not only academically strong but also safe, inclusive and accountable. Ultimately, better regulation should mean better schools, stronger trust and greater protection for students. Once implemented effectively, this guide will become an important foundation for a more reliable, responsible and sustainable private education sector in Qatar.

Shura Council stresses coordination to strengthen national identity and social values

DOHA: The Shura Council has reviewed the government's efforts to implement the National Framework for Promoting Positive Values and Good Conduct in Qatari Society, stressing the need for sustained coordination among state institutions to reinforce national identity and strengthen societal values. The Shura Council convened for its weekly session yesterday, chaired by Speaker H E Hassan bin Abdullah Al Ghanim.

Secretary-General of the Shura Council H E Nayef bin Mohammed Al Mahmoud read out the agenda, following which the legislative body approved the minutes of its previous meeting and pored over a report submitted by the government on the findings of follow-up efforts to monitor implementation of the National Framework for Promoting Positive Values and Good Conduct in Qatari Society, as well as the efforts and measures undertaken in this regard.

The Council had previously submitted a proposal during its 53rd annual session, calling for the substantive promotion of values and national identity in Qatari society, in recognition of the importance of thoroughly entrenching the system of societal values, safeguarding national identity, and substantially augmenting the role of families, educational institutions and community organisations in bringing up future generations.

In this regard, the legislators lauded the government's cooperation, along with its commitment to follow up on the feedback and proposals they had propounded, emphasising that it is quite important to have consistent coordination and integration between the legislative and executive authorities to the advantage of the public interest and society's aspirations.

In this regard, Al Ghanim said he was grateful for the government's interest in weighing the Council's perspectives, asserting that positive values and good conduct are a shared national responsibility that requires the combined efforts of all relevant institutions and entities, owing to the virtues of these traits in protecting national identity and a tight-knit society.

Giving overriding priority to the suggestions the Council had propounded demonstrates the ongoing cooperation between the Council and the government, reinforces the effectiveness of institutional work, and turns these proposals into concrete steps that respond to society's needs and aspirations, the Speaker said. Chairman of the Education, Culture, Sports and Media Affairs Committee of the Shura Council, H E Khalid bin Ahmed Al Obaidan, highlighted that monitoring the implementation of the National Framework for Promoting Positive Values and Good Conduct in Qatari Society is an outgrowth of the committee's efforts to consider the matter of promoting national values and identity, which ultimately culminated in a proposal submitted by the Council to the government, which, in turn, contributed to charting a national framework dedicated to this aspect. — ***QNA***

Amir congratulates President of Paraguay

DOHA: Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani, and Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani sent cables of congratulations to President of the Republic of Paraguay H E Pedro Alliana, on the occasion of his assumption of office, wishing him success and further development and growth for the relations between the two countries. — ***QNA***

Qatar launches regulatory guide for private schools, KGs

FROM PAGE 1

Director of the Department of Private Schools and Kindergartens and Acting Director of the Department of Private School Licensing Dr Rania Mohammed outlined the guide's main areas, which cover administrative operations, human resources, fees and financial affairs, student registration, academic affairs, security, health and safety, student behaviour and counselling, values and national identity, mandatory evaluation and school accreditation, as well as legal compliance and serious violations.

She explained that the guide establishes a gradual approach to handling observations and violations based on their nature, severity and impact.

It also specifies the required procedures and deadlines for addressing them and monitoring the implementation of corrective measures.

Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam visits National Museum of Qatar

DOHA: Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah and his accompanying delegation visited the National Museum of Qatar on Monday.

Accompanied during the tour by Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums H E Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al-Thani, HRH the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam viewed key exhibits across the museum's various galleries and received a comprehensive overview of its precious historical treasures and cultural collections.

The tour included galleries highlighting Qatar's early geological formation and natural environments, archaeological artifacts and rock carvings, and the traditional life of the Qatari people across both inland and coastal regions, alongside an immersive digital exhibition.

His Royal Highness also inspected significant items and collections related to pearls and jewellery design, in addition to touring galleries dedicated to Qatar's modern history, covering the transformative period from the discovery of oil and gas to the present day. — ***QNA***



Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Qatar Museums H E Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al-Thani and other dignitaries during the visit to the National Museum of Qatar.

Qatar hosts ministerial roundtable to discuss priorities of ICT sector

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The State of Qatar, represented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, hosted a Ministerial Roundtable chaired by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai, titled 'The Doha Declaration: Leading Digital Transformation Towards a More Inclusive and Sustainable Future,' with the participation of a number of ministers and senior officials from Member States, ahead of the opening of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26) in Doha.

The Ministerial Roundtable was held as part of the ministerial program accompanying the conference, providing a platform for dialogue and the exchange of views on the most significant transformations taking place within the ICT sector, as well as identifying areas requiring enhanced coordination and international cooperation in the period ahead.

In this regard, H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai stated: "We meet today at a time of rapid change within the communications and information technology sector, which requires us to work collectively to keep pace with new opportunities and challenges. The Plenipotentiary Conference represents an important opportunity to define the ITU's priorities for the years ahead and strengthen its capacity to support Member States. We look forward to our discussions in Doha contributing to broader consensus on shared issues and to guiding international cooperation towards tangible outcomes."

The Ministerial Roundtable addressed issues relating to meaningful and universal connectivity, the development of networks and services, and strengthening the resilience and continuity of digital infrastructure, alongside the opportunities and challenges presented by emerging technologies, foremost among them artificial intelligence and satellite communications.

The discussions also provided participants with the opportunity to exchange views on topics related to the Doha Declaration, and on shared messages that could help guide international cooperation and enhance countries' ability to benefit from technological progress.

By hosting this roundtable, Qatar underscores its commitment to supporting dialogue among ITU Member States and contributing to a constructive environment for discussing the decisions and strategic directions to be considered at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2026, taking place from 9 to 27 November 2026.

QF's BilAraby launches digital blog to amplify Arab voices and inspire contemporary thought

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Driven by the belief that enriching Arabic-language knowledge is a shared responsibility open to anyone with an idea or inspiring experience to contribute, Qatar Foundation's BilAraby initiative has launched its new digital platform, "BilAraby Blog," an open space where writers, thinkers, and aspiring voices from the community can contribute articles, insights, and inspiring ideas in a format that encourages reading, dialogue, and meaningful engagement.

Beginning November 2026, BilAraby Blog will welcome submissions from authors, thinkers, and individuals with inspiring ideas and experiences, inviting them to join a growing knowledge movement that places the Arabic-language at the heart of contemporary dialogue. Interested contributors can submit articles in Arabic on science, innovation, culture and technology through this email: info@bilaraby.qa. Articles should not exceed 700 words and should focus on a key topic or idea, along with proposed solutions.

The launch of the blog extends the BilAraby initiative's mission of amplifying the voices and ideas of Arabic speakers to reach a wider audience while strengthening the presence of Arabic-language knowledge content in the digital space. BilAraby Blog is designed to be user-friendly and aligned with readers' interests, creating better opportunities for new ideas to emerge.

Deputy Amir, Crown Prince of Brunei discuss bilateral relations







DOHA: Deputy Amir H H Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Thani and Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, held an official talks session at the Amiri Diwan yesterday.

At the beginning of the meeting, H H the Deputy Amir welcomed the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam and the accompanying delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay in Qatar and expressing his aspiration that the visit would contribute to strengthening and developing bilateral relations in various fields.

For his part, HRH the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam expressed his thanks and gratitude to H H the Deputy Amir for the warm reception and generous hospitality, affirming the importance of the visit in propelling bilateral relations between the two countries toward broader horizons.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to deepen and expand them in various fields, alongside the foremost regional and international issues and developments, particularly the latest developments in the region and ways to bolster regional stability.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H E Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater, and a number of ministers and senior officials. From Brunei Darussalam side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Education H E Dr. Romaizah binti Haji Mohd Salleh, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office H E Nor Ashikin binti Haji Johari, and several members of the official delegation accompanying HRH the Crown Prince. H H the Deputy Amir hosted a luncheon in honour of HRH the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam and his accompanying delegation.

Earlier, HRH Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, had arrived at the Amiri Diwan, where an official reception ceremony was held in his honour. — ***QNA***

Liwan opens Bu'ed Nadhar exhibition by 16 artists

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Liwan Design Studios and Labs yesterday opened 'Bu'ed Nadhar', an exhibition bringing together 32 works by 16 artists and designers developed through five of Liwan's residency and collaborative programmes in the presence of Chairperson of Qatar Museums H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani.

Presented as part of Design Doha 2026, the exhibition offers a collective view of the ideas, materials and creative practices that have emerged from Liwan's residency programmes to date.

Meaning "Beyond Immediate Vision," Bu'ed Nadhar considers design through the relationship between the past, present and future. The title reflects the idea that design extends beyond form and function, drawing on cultural memory, inherited knowledge and material practices while remaining open to experimentation, reinterpretation and new approaches to making.

Through its residency programmes, Liwan has brought artists and designers into direct exchange with craftspeople, mentors, workshops, suppliers, production facilities and natural landscapes in Qatar and abroad. Bu'ed Nadhar brings the outcomes of these exchanges together, showing how sustained research, collaboration and hands-on production can lead to new design practices and forms.

The exhibition also highlights Qatar as a site of design production, where local materials, industries, workshops and landscapes provide the foundations for experimentation and making. Across the exhibition, clay, palm leaves, wood, fibres, sand, glass, metal and upholstery are transformed into furniture, vessels, installations and sculptural works that reinterpret cultural knowledge through contemporary design.

Director of Liwan Design Studios and Labs and Curator of 'Bu'ed Nadhar' Aisha Nasser Al Sowaidi said, "The exhibition brings together the outcomes of several of Liwan's residency programmes and gives us the opportunity to see how these different exchanges and collaborations have developed over time. Our residencies give artists and designers the space to research, experiment and work directly with craftspeople, materials and production networks.

"The exhibition reflects how these experiences can lead to new work while remaining connected to the knowledge, traditions and environments that shape design in this region."

Each residency takes a different approach to research, mentorship, material exploration and production.

For the Ideas FROMM. Industry Residency, Liwan members Asma Shaklame, Abdulla Al Obaidly and Noora Al Henzab were selected to work under the mentorship of FROMM.Lab. In collaboration with local suppliers and production facilities across Doha's Industrial Area, they explored wood, upholstery, glass and metal through the lens of Qatar's industrial and urban landscape, demonstrating how local materials and production processes can inspire new design ideas.

'Shaping and Crafting the Future Residency', developed by Liwan with Campus MaNa in Burgundy, France, presents work by Aia Zaina, Haya Abu Al Saad, Reema Abu Hassan and Bashair Al Khulaifi. The projects combine material experimentation, environmental responsibility and creative reuse to propose more responsible approaches to design.



Chairperson of Qatar Museums H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani during the opening of the 'Bu'ed Nadhar' exhibition yesterday.

Angola seeks stronger technology, investment ties with Qatar: Minister

VICTOR BOLORUNDURO
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Angola is keen to deepen cooperation with Qatar in artificial intelligence, digital literacy, technological innovation and investment, as the southern African nation seeks to accelerate its digital transformation and create new opportunities for Qatari businesses.

Minister of Telecommunications, Information Technologies and Social Communication of Angola H E Mário Oliveira said Doha's hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26), scheduled from November 9 to 27, provides an important platform for strengthening partnerships and exchanging expertise.

In an exclusive interview with *The Peninsula* on the sidelines of his participation in the conference, Oliveira praised Qatar's technological advancement and its growing emphasis on building a connected, knowledge-based economy.

"Angola has been following the technological transformations in Qatar, which are built upon a connected economy. Qatar has intensified its focus on preparing for artificial intelligence and digital literacy, positive areas in which we look forward to deepening cooperation in the near future," he said.

The Minister noted that international gatherings such as PP-26 offer valuable opportunities to engage with industry leaders, exchange experiences and establish partnerships that could support Angola's ongoing digital development programmes.

He also invited Qatari investors to explore opportunities in Angola's expanding technology sector, highlighting regulatory reforms and the country's investment environment.

"The Angolan market is open, thanks to regulatory reforms, and enjoys political stability, allowing Qatari entrepreneurs to invest," Oliveira said.

He added that Angola aims to encourage technological innovation and develop its digital materials industry while providing Qatari companies with opportunities to expand their operations.

Turning to Angola's priorities at PP-26, Oliveira said his delegation is showcasing major infrastructure projects designed to improve connectivity, strengthen the business environment and accelerate digital transformation.

He emphasised the importance of African countries adopting coordinated positions in international telecommunications policymaking.

"Africa must no longer be merely a place where global digital policies are implemented; it must also become an active participant in defining those policies," he said.

Oliveira highlighted Angola's leadership in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Shared Satellite Programme, which secured eight orbital positions through the ITU for a proposed regional satellite project.

He said Angola's ANGOSAT-2 communications satellite has significantly expanded connectivity to previously underserved communities, including schools, hospitals and government institutions.

The satellite has also created entrepreneurial opportunities through the Conecta Angola Programme, which currently involves 71 small internet service providers.

According to the Minister, ANGOSAT-2 is already supporting telecommunications services in Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and South Africa, with further regional expansion planned.

Oliveira also outlined Angola's investment in submarine communications cables, which are strengthening international connectivity and supporting sectors including finance, healthcare and energy.

On digital government, he highlighted the recently implemented Angola National Cloud, a unified government platform capable of supporting more than 80 digital services.



H E Mário Oliveira

The initiative aims to strengthen data security, cybersecurity and digital sovereignty while improving access to public services.

He said the National Broadband Network project would expand telecommunications infrastructure across Angola's 21 provinces, while the Iluminar Angola initiative seeks to improve mobile coverage through infrastructure sharing and national roaming.

Addressing artificial intelligence governance, Oliveira acknowledged the technology's economic potential but warned of risks affecting employment, personal safety and critical infrastructure.

He disclosed that Angola is considering legislation to regulate AI applications and strengthen safeguards for citizens and businesses.

On cybersecurity, the Minister said Angola has introduced additional legal instruments and is preparing to operationalise its National Cybersecurity Centre to protect essential services and infrastructure.

Oliveira also reaffirmed the government's stated commitment to press freedom while highlighting efforts to modernise public media institutions and address misinformation through regulatory measures.

He expressed confidence that international cooperation, particularly with technologically advanced partners such as Qatar, would help Angola develop a more inclusive, innovative and competitive digital economy.

Qatar, Estonia eye new AI opportunities through deeper digital cooperation

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Pakosta warned that dependence on external AI infrastructure and unpredictable technology costs could create challenges for governments seeking to maintain digital sovereignty.

"We are looking for close cooperation with Qatar also to find ways to build further on the public services so that they are not so much dependent on costs that are not at all under our control," she said.

She said that Estonia's digital transformation also extends deeply into its justice system, which has been digitalised since 2014. "The country is now developing a further generation of AI-enabled services to improve efficiency across the justice sector."

Minister Pakosta outlined several applications already in use or under development, including AI-assisted translation, the simplification of administrative work in courts and free AI-based legal counselling available to the public.

She said that the legal counselling service incorporates a data anonymisation layer, ensuring that personal information entered by users is anonymised by the system.

According to the Minister, this has significantly changed how the country provides legal assistance, with person-to-person counselling retained for people with disabilities.

Estonia is also exploring the use of local AI models for handling sensitive information, she said explaining that the country's broader ambition is to improve efficiency throughout the entire justice process, from digital forensics and police investigations to court proceedings and final decisions.

She noted that Estonia is also allocating a further €5m (QR20.45m) to advance AI development in its justice system, working directly with judges to identify the most effective applications.

The Minister highlighted the emergence of cyberattacks driven by autonomous AI agents, which create new security challenges and require additional layers of protection. She said, "Estonia is responding through increased investment in software, firmware, skilled personnel, and stronger cybersecurity regulations."

She remarked that the country is building security capabilities to match AI agents' growing operational capabilities, while ensuring cybersecurity remains a coordinated national responsibility.

The Minister added that there was considerable potential to expand cooperation between Estonian and Qatari businesses, particularly through joint investment, research and the development of new digital services. Minister Pakosta urged closer business partnerships and mutual investment, emphasising that the next phase of Estonia-Qatar relations should focus on co-creating innovative services and technologies with relevance beyond their respective domestic markets.



Minister of Interior meets with Omani counterpart

Minister of Interior and Commander of the Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) H E Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani met during his visit to the Sultanate of Oman with Minister of Interior of Oman H E Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi. During the meeting, they discussed the relations between the two nations and ways to deepen and expand them, particularly in security matters.

Ministry of Awqaf to host seminar today on building cultural institutions to promote Arabic

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will hold its second seminar in the "Bi Lisanin Arabiyyin Mubeen" (In Clear Arabic) series today, November 10, to explore strategies for developing effective cultural institutions that can promote and advance the Arabic language.

Organised by the Ministry's Department of Islamic Research and Studies, the seminar will take place at Imam Muhammad bin Abdulwahhab Mosque immediately after Isha prayer, bringing together researchers and academics to discuss the role of cultural institutions in preserving Arabic and strengthening its presence in contemporary society.

Director of the Department of Islamic Research and Studies Sheikh Dr Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Ghanem Al Thani, said the seminar would feature three main discussion themes, with contributions from Salem Mohammed Al Qahtani, a researcher in Islamic heritage; Dr Ahmed Haji Safar, Associate Professor at the Department of Arabic Language, College of Arts and Sciences, Qatar University; and Ahmed Yousuf Al Mulla, Arabic language teacher at the Religious Institute under the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The first theme will examine the role of cultural institutions in preserving and developing Arabic, exploring the concept of cultural institutions as represented by mosques, schools, universities, media organisations, cultural institutions, scholarly councils and libraries.

The second theme will address the major challenges facing Arabic in the contemporary cultural environment, particularly those arising within cultural institutions.

The third theme will focus on future visions and practical plans for developing and renewing cultural institutions. It will explore strategies for building effective cultural environments that promote Arabic in line with contemporary requirements.

'Al Khor Urban Futures' opens at Design Doha Biennial 2026

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Qatar Museums (QM) yesterday unveiled 'Al Khor Urban Futures', the first public milestone of the Al Khor Heritage Trail, a long-term project to regenerate the coastal town's historic centre.

Presented as part of the Design Doha Biennial 2026, the exhibition runs November 5, 2026 to January 31, 2027 across Houses 37, 38 and 39 and Plaza A2 in Al Asmakh, Doha.

At its heart is a pre-concept for the town, some 50 kilometres north of Doha, shaped by two years of conversations with residents, elders, craftspeople, farmers and businesses, as well as ministries and public bodies. Visitors are now invited to question it, test it and add to it.

CEO of Qatar Museums Mohammed Saad Al Rumaihi said: "Al Khor's heritage is the foundation on which its future will be built. Our ambition is to enrich the town's cultural life and create lasting opportunities for the people who call it home. Al Khor Urban Futures brings the community into this journey from the very beginning, so that local knowledge and aspirations shape every stage of the vision. Together, we hope to show how heritage and design can guide the long-term renewal of a town while preserving the identity that makes it unique."

Local voices are woven into the project from the outset. The Al Khor Content Committee, formed with the people of Al Khor, advises on and reviews the content, ensuring that local knowledge and perspectives guide its development.

Inside the three traditional houses, visitors journey from Al Khor's heritage to its possible future. Ideas can be shared through a large map of the town, a contribution wall or through QR codes in each room, and every response will inform the next stage of the proposal.

On Plaza A2 stands the Al Khor Canopy, designed by Kéré Architecture and built with Seashore Group. Both a gathering place and a full-scale prototype of the shade proposed along the trail, it draws on Francis Kéré's expertise in lightweight structures and local building traditions.

Founder of Kéré Architecture Francis Kéré said: "Al Khor has a vibrant historical past. For the Al Khor Urban Futures project, we aim to bring the heritage trail together with the community, making it visible, accessible, and connected to everyone. By creating canopies that provide shade along the trail and places for people to gather, we create stronger links within the city itself and attract the community and visitors who will charge the place with their energy. This collective energy will inspire future development, while the place itself will have the capacity to absorb and grow."



Chairperson of Qatar Museums H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani with other officials during the unveiling of 'Al Khor Urban Futures.

The exhibition is curated by the Qatar Museums Heritage Cluster, the National Museum of Qatar, Kéré Architecture, MATERIA and the Al Khor Content Committee. MATERIA leads the regeneration strategy and its delivery alongside Kéré Architecture, while Qatar Blueprint has mapped heritage sites and destinations across northern Qatar in support of the trail.

MCIT, Cisco collaborate to expand AI applications

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and Cisco signed a collaboration agreement under Cisco's Country Digital Acceleration (CDA) programme on the sidelines of MWC26 Doha.

The agreement aims to expand the adoption of AI applications and develop advanced digital solutions that improve service delivery and operational efficiency across vital sectors, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Digital Agenda 2030.

The agreement was signed by Director of the Digital Innovation Department at MCIT Eman Ahmed Al Kuwari, and General Manager of Cisco Qatar, Hasan Khan. Under the agreement, MCIT and Cisco will work with government entities and businesses to develop innovative solutions that support digital transformation across priority sectors, including healthcare, tourism, national infrastructure, transportation and logistics.

Eman Al Kuwari said, "Qatar's Digital Agenda 2030 sets a clear direction for building a competitive, knowledge-based digital economy. Artificial intelligence, secure digital infrastructure, and national talent are central to that ambition. This collaboration with Cisco is part of the Ministry's broader approach of working with global technology leaders to turn national priorities into practical outcomes for government, industry, and society."

The collaboration aligns with Qatar's priorities in AI and digital infrastructure and focuses on three key pillars: artificial intelligence, safety and security, and digital experiences. Workforce development underpins all three pillars, with Cisco continuing to support national talent through Cisco Networking Academy, which provides education and training in AI, networking, cybersecurity, and essential digital skills to prepare Qatar's workforce for future employment opportunities.

General Manager of Cisco Qatar, Hasan Khan, said: "Qatar's digital ambitions are underpinned by infrastructure that is secure, AI-ready, and supported by local expertise. This agreement with MCIT gives us a clear framework to contribute to each of these, building on our long-term collaboration in the country. Through co-innovation with government and industry, and the continued work of Cisco Networking Academy, we aim to support Qatar's technology capabilities as it advances its Digital Agenda 2030."

The agreement builds on seven years of collaboration in Qatar under Cisco's CDA programme, a global co-investment initiative active in 62 countries that aligns technology with national and industrial priorities.

EU-Qatar relations set for major boost with Strategic Partnership Agreement

FROM PAGE 1

He also highlighted Qatar's mediation efforts concerning Iran and stressed the importance of protecting freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Turning to energy cooperation, Maggiore described Qatar as a reliable strategic partner for Europe, particularly as the bloc continues diversifying its energy supplies.

"Energy security and the green transition should not be seen as competing objectives. On the contrary, they are complementary dimensions of a forward-looking energy partnership," he said.

He identified hydrogen, renewable energy, emissions reduction and energy efficiency as promising areas for collaboration.

On security cooperation, the Ambassador announced that Doha will host the EU-GCC Forum on defence technology and artificial intelligence on December 3, providing opportunities for exchanging expertise and exploring defence innovation.

He also highlighted maritime security, counter-terrorism and cybersecurity as important areas for practical cooperation.

Addressing the prospect of visa-free travel for Qatari citizens to the Schengen area, Maggiore expressed optimism that progress could be achieved.

"The process to launch the negotiations is currently ongoing and hopefully the long-awaited visa liberalisation will take place in the near future once the negotiation procedures are over," he said. The Ambassador also disclosed plans to establish an EU-Qatar Business Council and explore organising an EU-Qatar Business Forum, potentially alongside the Qatar Economic Forum in 2027.

He said these initiatives would strengthen commercial relationships and encourage greater participation by European companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, in Qatar's expanding economy.

Maggiore identified artificial intelligence, food security, sustainable infrastructure, water management and transport among sectors offering significant investment opportunities.

He noted that Qatar's economic diversification agenda under Qatar National Vision 2030 aligns closely with European technological expertise and investment capabilities.

Beyond economic cooperation, the Ambassador emphasised strengthening academic partnerships, including collaboration with Qatar Foundation, university exchanges and joint research initiatives.

Looking ahead to the next 18 to 24 months, Maggiore said concluding the Strategic Partnership Agreement would represent a major milestone, although meaningful results would ultimately determine its success.

He expressed hope for stronger economic ties, enhanced security cooperation and greater engagement between European and Qatari institutions.

"What matters most is the practical impact of our cooperation," he said, reaffirming his commitment to building a more visible, operational and enduring EU-Qatar partnership.

مؤسسة قطر
Qatar Foundation

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Reference	Description	Tender Fee (QAR)	Tender Bond Value (QAR)	Bid Closing Date
CO-RFQ-559	Supply and Installation of Stone Flooring including Removal of Old Flooring at QNCC	1,000.00	N/A	03 December 2026 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-566	Supply, Installation, Integration, Testing & Commissioning including Programming and Configuration of New Fire Alarm Detectors at various locations in Qatar Foundation	1,000.00	N/A	07 December 2026 2:00 PM
CO-RFQ-567	Supply and Installation of Building Management System (BMS) Controllers including Configuration, Testing and Integration of all Software and Hardware Components in QSTP	500.00	N/A	08 December 2026 2:00 PM

Qatar Foundation (QF) Procurement Directorate is inviting companies to participate in the above listed public tenders. To receive the tender documents, please follow the below steps:

1) **Supplier Registration** It is mandatory to be registered as a supplier with QF in order to participate in the above tender(s). Only QF registered suppliers will be allowed to pay the tender fees online. Therefore, please visit QF website at https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration to complete the Supplier Registration process.

   Tender Fee: Interested bidders can Sign in by visiting this link https://suppliers.qf.org.qa/abstract and pay the respective non-refundable and non-transferrable tender fee online.
   All Tender Fees are to be paid using credit cards only.

   Tender Fee Payment Dates: Payment of Tender Fee online will be from **10th November 2026 to 19th November 2026.**

2) All bidders, who are registered and have paid the required tender fees online to QF, will then be granted access to download the Tender Document.

3) Technical and commercial bids need to be submitted and attached online in QF Supplier Portal as per instructions provided in the "Supplier Portal" work instruction.

   - The commercial bid must be valid for **180 days** from Bid Closing Date.
   - The commercial bid must be accompanied by a bank guarantee (tender bond) issued by a local bank in Qatar and should be valid for **180 days** from the bid closing date (where applicable as per the Tender documents).
   - The successful tenderer will be required to submit a performance bond as prescribed in each of the above tender documents.
   - Qatar Foundation special qualifications, terms and conditions shall apply as stipulated in the tender document.

Note: All work instructions for Supplier registration and Supplier portal can be found in below link:
https://www.qf.org.qa/supplier-registration

KATARA HOSPITALITY

The Tenders Committee announces the following Tender.

Tender No.	Subject	Tender Sale Period		Closing Date	Fees QR.	Tender Bond QR.
		Start Date	End Date			
KH/011-2026/TEN/GEN	Staff Transportation Services for Katara Hospitality Local Properties for Three (03 Years)	10/11/2026	22/11/2026	25/11/2026	1,200.00	N/A

CONDITIONS

- Interested Contractors are invited to register their Company online and obtain a Supplier Registration ID, a requirement for the issuance of Tender Documents by Katara Hospitality.
- A payment of non-refundable document fees should be deposited to Katara Hospitality Bank Account No. 0013-038587-060 with Qatar National Bank.
- **Tender documents may be collected during the Tender Sale Period only. Tender requests submitted after the specified Tender Sale Period will not be considered.**
- **Bank receipt together with valid Company Commercial Registration and Computer Card** must be submitted via KH.onlinetender@katarahospitality.com only. Tender Documents will be sent electronically within 24 hours during working days from receipt of complete requirements.
- Proposal to be submitted in sealed envelopes as per the Tender Documents requirements in (HARD COPY) & (SOFT COPY on USB).
- The successful tenderer is required to submit a performance bond issued by a bank operating in the State of Qatar and shall be valid to 30 days after the Contract expiry.
- Offers should be valid for 120 days commencing from the closing date (as stated above).
- Katara Hospitality has the right to increase or decrease the scope of services by 20% with the same terms, conditions.
- Katara Hospitality is not bound to accept the lowest tender or any other tender and is under no obligation to show reasons thereof.
- Bids must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon on the specified closing date. All submission should be delivered to the 30th Floor Reception of Katara Hospitality Head Office, Burj Marina Tower, Lusail City and addressed to the Chairman-Tenders Committee, quoting the Tender Number and Subject.
- Offers arriving thereafter may not be considered.

REGISTER YOUR COMPANY ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER E-SOURCING TAB TO ACCESS
ALL ACTIVE TENDERS THAT CAN BE VIEWED ON
KATARA HOSPITALITY WEBSITE "WWW.KATARAHOSPITALITY.COM
Tel: 44237778 / 44237774 / 44237870 Fax: 44237734
CHAIRMAN-TENDERS COMMITTEE

ITU conference opens in Doha to address global tech challenges

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Under the patronage of Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, government leaders from around the world yesterday opened the International Telecommunication Union's Plenipotentiary Conference 2026 (PP-26).

Organised by ITU and hosted by the State of Qatar, represented by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA), PP-26 takes place from November 9 to 27, 2026 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC).

Over the next three weeks, delegates from ITU's 194 Member States will address the world's most pressing digital opportunities and challenges, define the UN agency's strategic vision through 2031, and elect its leadership for the coming four years.

With 2 billion people still offline, rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI), and the expansion of space-based technologies, PP-26 will guide international investment and policy support to ensure the benefits of technology can be accessed worldwide.

"The decisions made here in Doha will shape our digital future for generations," said ITU Secretary-General, Doreen Bogdan-Martin.

"While emerging technologies are opening new possibilities, billions still remain offline. PP-26 is our chance to build a stronger, more resilient ITU — one that helps our members navigate change while bringing the benefits of technology to everyone, everywhere."

ITU enables the invisible digital fabric of everyday life, ensuring technology benefits humanity. Behind the technologies people rely on, ITU coordinates radio frequencies and satellite orbits, sets key technical standards, and drives digital development for everyone, everywhere.

The Plenipotentiary Conference meets every four years and is ITU's highest decision-making body. PP-26 calls on countries to work "Together for a connected digital future."



Minister of Communications and Information Technology H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai with officials and participants during the event.

The conference is expected to bring together around 3,000 participants to address critical, collective issues, such as 'expanding global connectivity and investment; strengthening the resilience of digital infrastructure; ensuring reliable emergency and humanitarian communications; advancing space-based connectivity and sustainability; and harnessing emerging technologies for development.

"We are pleased to welcome delegations from around the world to Doha for the PP-26," said Minister of Communications and Information Technology of the State of Qatar H E Mohammed bin Ali Al Mannai. "By hosting PP-26, Qatar reflects its commitment to international cooperation and to shaping the future of the sector. We look forward to decisions that strengthen ITU's role and advance connectivity for all.

The co-location of PP-26 and MWC26 Doha offers a unique opportunity to bring policy-makers and industry leaders together, foster international dialogue and partnerships, and advance discussions on innovation, investment, and the future of telecommunications."

A key milestone of PP-26 will be the election of ITU's senior leadership positions, beginning on 12 November. Member States will elect the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and Directors of the Radiocommunication, Telecommunication Standardisation, and Telecommunication Development Bureaux.

"PP-26 is taking place at a pivotal time, as the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector undergoes rapid developments that open up new opportunities while also presenting shared challenges that require enhanced international cooperation," said Engineer Ahmad bin Abdulla AlMuslemani, Chair-Designate of ITU PP-26 and President of the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) of the State of Qatar.

Qatar hosts Quran competition with 42 contestants from 19 countries

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs H E Dr Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Ghanem Al Thani attended the first-day competitions of the third edition of the international Quranic competition 'Awwal Al-Awael', the international branch of the Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed bin Thani Holy Quran Competition, which began yesterday at the Imam Muhammad bin Abdulwahhab Mosque.

The competition brings together 42 contestants representing 19 countries, all of whom are winners of top positions in international Quranic competitions. The participants are competing for a place among the 10 finalists, with the ultimate winner set to receive a prize of QR1m.

The Undersecretary followed part of the in-person public examinations conducted before an international judging panel comprising prominent scholars of Quranic recitation and Tajweed. The tests assess contestants' memorisation, precision, performance and understanding of the meanings of the Holy Quran.

On the first day, nine contestants from eight countries took part in the morning and evening sessions. The participants included contestants from Libya, Russia, Yemen, Oman, the United States, Egypt, Somalia and Bangladesh.

The competition features an exceptional level of expertise, with participants having secured first places in international Quranic contests. Several contestants also hold advanced qualifications in Quranic readings.

Among the participants, Abdullah bin Said bin Ali Al Hakamani of Oman has won first place several times in the Sultan Qaboos competition and also secured first place in the Egypt International Quran Competition. Muadh Mahmoud of Bangladesh won first place in the King Abdulaziz International Quran Competition and the Turkey International Quran Competition.

The competition's distinctive format brings together top achievers in international Quranic contests or winners of the full Quran memorisation category of the Sheikh Jassim competition during the preceding three years.

This year, 98 contestants from 35 countries registered, with 82 participants from 33 countries taking part in the preliminary rounds. Following remote examinations conducted through video communication technology, 42 contestants from 19 countries qualified for the in-person stage in Doha.

The tests cover memorisation of the entire Holy Quran, Tajweed, recitation and the meanings of Quranic words based on the approved book 'Al-Siraj fi Bayan Gharib Al-Quran'. Evaluation criteria include accuracy of memorisation, application of Tajweed rules, quality of performance and voice.


Contestants participating in the 'Awwal Al-Awael' Quran competition.

The first stage will continue until November 14, with results announced on November 15. The 10 finalists will compete on November 16 and 17, ahead of the closing ceremony on November 19.

The competition reflects Qatar's commitment to serving the Holy Quran and its memorisers, while strengthening the country's international standing in Quranic initiatives. It also aligns with the Ministry's strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030 in promoting Islamic values, religious education and cultural identity.

Vodafone Qatar, Digital Delmar partner on AI-powered healthcare

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Vodafone Qatar and Digital Delmar have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities for collaboration, combining Vodafone Qatar's advanced connectivity, customer channels and market reach with Digital Delmar's AI-powered healthcare ecosystem.

The MoU was signed during MWC Doha 2026 by Head of Public Sector Sales at Vodafone Qatar Sheikh Sultan Al Thani, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Digital Delmar, Engineer Ahmed El Naggar.

The partnership will assess opportunities to introduce connected healthcare solutions in Qatar, including elderly care and independent living support, remote home monitoring, enterprise healthcare solutions and consumer-focused services.

The companies will also explore business-to-business, business-to-business-to-consumer and direct-to-consumer opportunities. Vodafone Qatar's customer channels will play a central role in expanding access to proactive, personalised and connected care across homes, workplaces and the wider community.



Head of Public Sector Sales at Vodafone Qatar Sheikh Sultan Al Thani, and Chief Executive Officer at Digital Delmar, Engineer Ahmed El Naggar signing the agreement during the ceremony.

This collaboration aims to support Qatar's vision for a healthier and more connected society. As part of this, both organisations will explore the introduction of Anees, a consumer solution designed to monitor older people and people with disabilities, with AI-powered capabilities that can predict potential falls and health issues.

The solution aims to support independent living and quality of life while giving families and caregivers greater reassurance.

Enterprise Business Unit Director at Vodafone Qatar, Mohamed Mohsin Alyafei, commented: "At Vodafone Qatar, we recognise the important role that advanced connectivity and digital technologies can play in supporting the evolving needs of Qatar's healthcare sector.

Through this MoU with Digital Delmar, we look forward to exploring how AI-powered healthcare solutions can support independent living, improve access to care and contribute to Qatar's ongoing digital transformation."

Chief Executive Officer of Digital Delmar, Engineer Ahmed El Naggar, said: "At Digital Delmar, we believe the future of healthcare is not defined by where care is delivered, but by how intelligently and seamlessly it reaches people.

Our collaboration with Vodafone Qatar represents an important step toward transforming this vision into reality. By combining Vodafone Qatar's advanced connectivity and extensive market reach with Digital Delmar's AI-powered healthcare technologies, we aim to create a connected healthcare ecosystem that brings care closer to people, at home, at work and wherever they are.

From intelligent elderly monitoring through Anees to remote healthcare and corporate wellness, our ambition is to make healthcare more proactive, accessible and personalised, while contributing to Qatar's vision for a smarter, healthier and more connected society."

Qatar Airways expands Canadian network through Porter Airlines deal

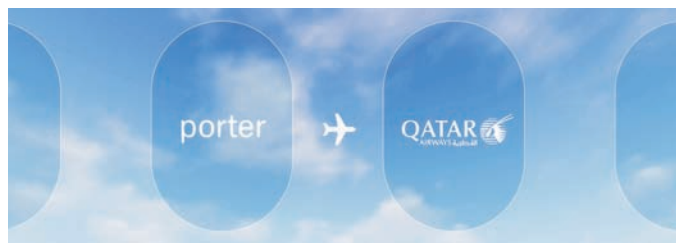
DOHA: Qatar Airways announces a new codeshare agreement with Porter Airlines, expanding its reach across Canada and providing passengers with greater connectivity and travel options.

Under the agreement, Qatar Airways will place its (QR) code on select flights operated by Porter Airlines, offering passengers convenient onward connections beyond its existing Canadian gateways in Toronto (YYZ) and Montreal (YUL). By leveraging Porter Airlines' growing domestic network and strong presence in Eastern Canada, the partnership will provide greater access to destinations across the country, including Edmonton, Halifax Ottawa, St. John's, and Thunder Bay.

Passengers can book the codeshare flights for travel effective from 16 November 2026 through the Qatar Airways website or app.

The collaboration will also offer travellers departing from Canada greater choice and flexibility when planning their journeys. Passengers travelling from Montreal and Toronto can connect through the award-winning Hamad International Airport in Doha to explore Qatar Airways' extensive global network of more than 170 destinations including Delhi, Manila, Dubai, and Addis Ababa.

Qatar Airways continues to strengthen its presence in Canada, now operating daily services to both Toronto and Montreal, for a total of 14 weekly flights.



PHCC highlights vital role of nurses and midwives in healthcare delivery

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Nursing and midwifery professionals play a central role in strengthening Qatar's primary healthcare system, with their expertise, continuous professional development and commitment to patient-centred care contributing to improved service quality and patient safety, a senior Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) official has said.

Speaking on the Arab Nurses and Midwives Day, Nursing Consultant and Clinical Affairs Specialist at PHCC, Afrah Mousa Saleh Ali highlighted the corporation's continued efforts to empower nursing and midwifery professionals through training, career development and leadership opportunities.

She said PHCC leadership's support for the two professions has had a significant impact on service quality and patient experience across its health centres. These efforts, she added, are aligned with PHCC's vision and strategy, the National Health Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030.

Nursing Consultant and Clinical Affairs Specialist at PHCC, Afrah Mousa Saleh Ali highlighted the corporation's continued efforts to empower nursing and midwifery professionals through training, career development and leadership opportunities.

Describing nurses and midwives as the backbone of healthcare delivery, Ali said they serve as a vital link between patients, their families and healthcare teams, playing an important role throughout the patient journey.

She noted that nursing professionals are at the forefront of patient safety through continuous monitoring, early identification of warning signs, timely intervention, accurate documentation and incident reporting. PHCC leadership has also placed emphasis on strengthening a culture of safety and continuous quality improvement.

Across PHCC health centres, nurses and midwives lead and support a wide range of services, including maternity and child healthcare, vaccinations, chronic disease management, early screening, school health and elderly care.

Midwives, in particular, play an essential role in monitoring pregnant women, identifying potential risks, providing postpartum care and supporting breastfeeding.

Ali said the ability of nursing and midwifery professionals to build long-term relationships with patients and their families helps strengthen trust, ensure continuity of care and improve the overall patient experience.

She stressed that professional competence directly influences healthcare quality indicators, including patient safety, satisfaction and the reduction of complications. Specialisations in emergency care, intensive care, oncology, paediatrics, mental health and home healthcare are increasingly important in responding to evolving healthcare needs.

She also highlighted the importance of attracting young Qataris to nursing and midwifery through local academic programmes, while preparing national professionals for specialised and leadership positions.

On professional development, Ali said nursing and midwifery have evolved into evidence-based professions, offering career opportunities beyond clinical practice in areas such as research, education, advanced practice, health informatics, quality management and leadership.

PHCC supports this development through postgraduate education, specialised certifications and leadership programmes, in line with national priorities to strengthen primary care, prevention, patient-centred services and the national healthcare workforce.

She also pointed to the growing role of technology, including electronic health records, virtual consultations, data dashboards and artificial intelligence, in improving operational efficiency and decision-making.

"Technology does not diminish the human side of care. Rather, it gives nurses more time to spend with their patients. Technology is a tool, while people remain at the heart of care," she said.

Concluding her message, Ali urged nursing and midwifery professionals to continue leading improvements in healthcare through knowledge, data and innovation.

She reaffirmed PHCC's commitment to investing in their capabilities, expanding career pathways and fostering a supportive working environment that recognises excellence and safeguards their well-being.

Wife of Brunei Darussalam Crown Prince visits Shafallah Centre

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah, consort of His Royal Highness Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, and her accompanying delegation, visited the Shafallah Centre for Persons with Disabilities to learn about its specialised services and programmes for the care, rehabilitation and empowerment of its members.

She was received by Minister of Social Development and Family and Chairperson of the Qatar Social Work Foundation H E Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi.

During the visit, Princess Sarah was briefed on the comprehensive range of services provided by the Shafallah Center through its various departments, sections, units and facilities.

She also learned about the key rehabilitation, educational and therapeutic programmes and services, as well as efforts to develop the capabilities of persons with disabilities, enhance their independence and promote their active participation in society.

The visit also included discussions on issues concerning persons with disabilities in Qatar and Brunei Darussalam, and explored ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation and exchange expertise and experiences in the fields of care, rehabilitation and empowerment.

These efforts aim to further develop services provided to persons with disabilities and improve their quality of life.

The reception was attended by Qatar Social Work Foundation CEO Rashid Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Shafallah Centre Executive Director Fatima Saeed Al Saadi, and several other officials from the centre.



HRH Princess Sarah, consort of HRH Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah, Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam, and Minister of Social Development and Family and Chairperson of the Qatar Social Work Foundation H E Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi during the visit to Shafallah Centre.

WCM-Q students honoured for academic achievement

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) foundation and pre-medical students were recognized for earning a place on the prestigious Dean's Honor List for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Sixty-two students in the pre-medical programme were honoured, making it the longest list in WCM-Q history. Forty-two students made the list in the Fall 2025 semester, including 19 second-year pre-medical students and 23 first-years.

In the Spring 2026 Semester, a total of 58 students secured a spot on the list, comprising 26 second-year pre-medical students and 32 first-years. Some students made it to the list twice. Additionally, six Foundation Programme students were honoured for scoring a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.

The event brought together WCM-Q faculty, student, alumni, and families to celebrate the students and encourage them to maintain their outstanding performance.

The ceremony also saw the launch of the newly created Dr. Syed Naqi Award, which recognises outstanding achievement by a pre-medical student who has been promoted to the first year of the medical curriculum.

Speaking at the event, Dean of WCM-Q, Dr. Javaid Sheikh said: "Despite your demanding academic schedules, you still managed to remain actively involved in extracurricular activities, and you have excelled not only academically but also at a professional level.

"Let me also remind you that you are part of a very special institution; over the past quarter-century, WCM-Q has become an iconic institution in the region, with strong recognition in the United States. This is because our commitment, from the very beginning, was to fulfilling our tripartite mission of education, research, and clinical excellence while maintaining the highest standards in everything we do."

Dr. Sheikh praised the faculty for their dedication to teaching, noting that their commitment contributes to the students' outstanding academic performance.

He also praised WCM-Q's affiliation with Hamad Medical Corporation, Sidra Medicine, the Primary Health Care Corporation, and Aspetar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, which provide students with the best possible clinical training.



WCM-Q pre-medical and foundation students were recognised for academic excellence.

WCM-Q alumnus Dr. Mohamed Al-Hajjaji, Class of 2016, now an attending pediatrician at Sidra Medicine, was the keynote speaker.

During the event, Dr. Sheikh presented the inaugural Dr. Syed Naqi Award to second-year medical student Shahd Aljoudi. Dr. Sheikh said: "The winner of this award is a student who best exemplifies the outstanding character exhibited by Dr. Naqi during his 14 years on the faculty at WCM-Q. Dr. Naqi created a lasting impression on students and co-workers through his encyclopedic knowledge of immunology, enduring dedication and professionalism, forthright character, and positive regard for others."

Aljoudi said, "When I was told I would receive the award, it felt surreal. I couldn't believe it. It's such an honour. I hope to pursue a career in interventional cardiology after training in internal medicine in cardiology. My years at WCM-Q have been the best years of my life; it has been one of the greatest opportunities, including the extracurricular activities and the people."



Officials during the launch of Qbake's new bakery products.

Qbake and Al Meera launches new range of Filipino bakery products

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the State of Qatar H E Mardomel Celo D Melicor, joined Qbake and almeera at Al Meera's Mansoura branch for the official launch of Qbake's new Filipino Bakery Range, a selection of Filipino products baked fresh every day in Qatar.

Accompanied by Consul Jeffrey Batac, the Ambassador cut the ribbon to reveal the new range in the presence of senior officials from Qbake and Al Meera. His presence underlined the significance of the launch for the Filipino community in Qatar. Community representatives, content creators and members of the media also attended, and guests and shoppers were invited to sample the products.

The range offers the Filipino community the familiar tastes of home, while giving other customers the chance to discover them.

The first four products are Pan de Sal, Tasty Slice Bread, Pan de Coco and Spanish Roll. Four more—Ensaymada, Cheese Bread, Pan de Ube and Banoffee Choco Chip Muffins—will be added soon.

The launch products went on sale on November 1, 2026 and are available exclusively at Al Meera stores across Qatar until 30 November 2026.

The partnership combines Qbake's local bakery production with Al Meera's nationwide retail network, connecting products made in Qatar with customers across the country.

For Al Meera, the collaboration is part of its ongoing commitment to working with local producers and offering a diverse assortment that reflects the tastes and everyday needs of the communities it serves.

Olive Suno Radio Network announces podcast series in alliance with AI Mavericks

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Olive Suno Radio Network, in alliance with AI Mavericks, has announced "AI For All – Real People. Real Insights.

The Future of Intelligence," an original podcast series, at the MEEZA Media & Events Space at Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2026 Qatar.

C Nambiar, marking another milestone in the network's expanding digital media and content initiatives.

AI For All aims to make conversations about Artificial Intelligence accessible, engaging and relevant to everyone. Moving beyond the technical side of AI, the series brings together C-suite executives, business leaders, technology

The first episode of AI For All features Group Chief Commercial Officer of MEEZA Fadi Nasser, sharing insights on enterprise AI adoption, practical AI projects and how Artificial Intelligence is shaping the future of business in Qatar and the region.

Through the alliance, AI Mavericks will help shape conversations, connect the series



Officials during the announcement of "AI For All – Real People. Real Insights. The Future of Intelligence," podcast series.

The series was announced by Managing Director of Olive Suno Radio Network Ameer Ali, alongside Founder of AI Mavericks and Host and Creative Lead of AI For All Vineet

experts, entrepreneurs and innovators to share their experiences and perspectives on how AI is transforming businesses, industries and everyday life.

with AI practitioners and thought leaders, and share episodes across its community, extending the series' reach to an engaged, AI-curious audience.

Syrian Visual Arts Association holds photography workshop to develop creative skills

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Syrian Visual Arts Association in Qatar has organised a photography training workshop aimed at helping enthusiasts develop their technical skills and take their first steps towards professional photography.

The workshop, titled "Photography Basics: Your First Step Towards Professionalism", was conducted by Dr. Abdul Razzaq Ouda Bashi (**pictured**), with the participation of photography enthusiasts and people interested in visual arts from among citizens and residents.

The initiative, organised under the umbrella of the Syrian Community Council in Qatar, forms part of the association's efforts to promote artistic culture, nurture creative talents and encourage community participation in cultural and artistic activities.

The workshop introduced participants to the technical and artistic fundamentals of photography, covering key elements of exposure, including aperture, shutter speed and ISO sensitivity. It also addressed artistic composition, lighting control and selecting appropriate shooting angles to improve photographic quality and develop participants' creative vision.

Combining theoretical explanations with practical exercises, the session gave participants an opportunity to explore camera capabilities and learn how to use different settings to produce photographs with better technical and artistic quality.



The trainer also highlighted the importance of continuous practice and experimentation in developing photography skills and progressing from an amateur level towards greater professionalism.

Dr Abdul Razzaq Ouda Bashi said photography goes beyond simply operating a camera and taking pictures, describing it as a comprehensive visual language based on understanding light, composition and the ability to explore details through a creative perspective.

"We sought through this workshop to simplify the basic concepts of photography and present them in an interactive manner that combines theoretical knowledge with practical application, helping participants understand the camera's technical tools and use them creatively," he said.

"Every photographer has a unique vision, and the journey towards professionalism begins with mastering the basics and continuing to learn, practise and experiment," he added.

The workshop introduced participants to the technical and artistic fundamentals of photography, covering key elements of exposure, including aperture, shutter speed and ISO sensitivity.

Chairman of the Syrian Visual Arts Association in Qatar Eng Waseem Al Khader, said the workshop reflects the association's and the Syrian Community Council's commitment to strengthening the Syrian community's positive cultural and artistic presence and contributing to Qatar's cultural and social landscape.

He said the association seeks to build bridges of communication and cooperation between Syrian artists and creative talents and their Qatari counterparts, as well as residents of different nationalities, believing in the role of arts in bringing cultures closer and promoting community interaction.

Al Khader also expressed appreciation for the safe and stimulating environment Qatar provides for creativity and its support for culture and the arts, noting the country's efforts to embrace cultural diversity and encourage interaction among different communities.

Indonesia envoy lauds Qatar's peace diplomacy, pays tribute to Father Amir

ARSALAN ALTAF
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Indonesia has praised the leadership of Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for advancing peace through diplomacy and reaffirmed its solidarity with Qatar in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and the well-being of its people and residents.

Ambassador of Indonesia to Qatar H E Syahda Guruh Langkah Samudera made the remarks at a reception in Doha yesterday, celebrating the 81st anniversary of the Independence of Indonesia, where he also paid tribute to late Father Amir, H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, for his vision in transforming Qatar.

The ambassador said Indonesia deeply appreciated the Amir's leadership in promoting peace and diplomacy, describing the commitment to peace as one of the strongest bonds between the two countries.

He also paid tribute to the late Father Amir, saying: "As Qatar approaches its National Day, we also wish to pay tribute to the late Father Amir, H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, whose vision transformed this nation."

The reception was attended by Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah, Minister of State H E Eng. Essa bin Hilal Al-Kuwari, Director of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H E Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhroo, Ambassador of Eritrea and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps H E Ali Ibrahim Ahmed, members of the diplomatic corps and other distinguished guests.

Referring to Qatar's National Day message, "You Are the Nation's Treasure," the ambassador said the theme offered an important reminder of the value of people in national development.

"This year's National Day message, 'You Are the Nation's Treasure,' reminds us that a nation's greatest strength is its people," he said, adding that the message was an appropriate inspiration for the next 50 years of Indonesia-Qatar relations.

The reception marked another significant milestone in bilateral relations, with the two countries celebrating 50 years of diplomatic ties. The ambassador described the friendship as one that had grown through business, cooperation, cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections, including the approximately 30,000 Indonesians who call Qatar home.

He expressed optimism about expanding cooperation, particularly as Qatar pursues economic diversification, and urged greater engagement with Indonesia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

"With market of 700 million people and trillions dollar economy, Asean offers large opportunities," he said, highlighting Qatar's status as an Asean Sectoral Dialogue Partner as an important platform for deeper economic engagement.

"Indonesia stands ready to connect our markets, industries, and talent with Qatar's capital, energy, and innovation," he added. The ambassador highlighted several initiatives reflecting the expanding partnership, including recent political consultations, defence-industrial cooperation involving Qatar, Türkiye and Pakistan, and a proposed joint investment fund between Qatar Investment Authority and Indonesia's Danantara.

He also expressed hope for the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Indonesia-GCC Free Trade Agreement to further expand trade and investment.

Looking towards the future, he said Qatar was an important partner in Indonesia's national development vision, Indonesia Emas 2045, which will mark 100 years of independence.

"For Indonesia, peace must go beyond the absence of war. It must uphold freedom, human dignity, and justice," he said.

He expressed particular concern over the suffering of Palestinians, especially in Gaza, and reiterated Indonesia's support for an independent and sovereign Palestinian state through a two-state solution in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

He concluded by emphasising that the relationship between Indonesia and Qatar was ultimately about bringing people closer and building mutual understanding.

"Beyond pursuing economic progress, our partnership is ultimately about people—bringing them closer, building understanding, and learning from one another," he said.



Minister of Municipality H E Abdullah bin Hamad bin Abdullah Al Attiyah, Minister of State H E Eng. Essa bin Hilal Al-Kuwari, Ambassador of Indonesia to Qatar H E Syahda Guruh Langkah Samudera and other dignitaries cut a cake to mark the occasion. PIC: WALIELDIN MOHAMED/THE PENINSULA

Hamad Bin Khalifa University professors receive 2026 Arab Researchers Award



Dr. Haitham Abu-Rub receiving the award from the officials.

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) has added another achievement to its growing record of scientific excellence, as Dr. Haitham Abu-Rub and Dr. Mowafaq Househ distinguished professors at the College of Science and Engineering (CSE), received the 2026 Arab Researchers Award. Organised annually by the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, the award is the first Arab initiative dedicated to recognising scientific research and honouring Arab researchers' contributions.

Dr. Abu-Rub received the award in Engineering and Technological Sciences in recognition of his efforts to find innovative solutions for smart electric power grid technologies. The award also acknowledges his outstanding research contributions and scientific achievements in advancing various areas of smart grids, including integrating clean renewable energy, electric vehicle technologies, and applying artificial intelligence to optimise the operation of power grid assets.

Dr. Househ was awarded for his contributions to medical and health sciences, particularly in telemedicine and digital health. His work supports remote monitoring of chronic conditions such as diabetes, accessing healthcare beyond regular working hours, and connects patients to healthcare professionals worldwide.

The award reflects the remarkable progress of HBKU's pioneering research in smart electric power grids and its efforts to generate advanced knowledge and lead pioneering research both locally and internationally. It also recognises the excellence of the research conducted, the high value of contributions to advancing scientific knowledge, and its role in serving and supporting the Arab scientific community.

Commenting on this achievement, Dr. Mounir Hamdi, Dean, CSE said: "This award reflects Hamad Bin Khalifa University's ongoing efforts to create an integrated ecosystem for scientists and researchers, enabling them to develop innovative solutions and research that address challenges facing Qatar and the world. Such recognition represents a significant research achievement that aligns with Qatar's goals in sustainable energy, innovation, and building a knowledge-based economy."

HBKU continues to support scholars and researchers in energy and digital health through a vibrant research ecosystem across the university.

Awqaf receives QR400,000 endowment for Jabal Thuaileb Project

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The General Directorate of Endowments at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has received a new cash endowment of QR400,000 from a donor to support the Jabal Thuaileb Waqf Project in Lusail, with its proceeds allocated to the Waqf Fund for Righteousness and Piety.

The endowment, placed under the supervision of the General Directorate of Endowments, represents a continuation of the donor's previous contributions, reflecting a commitment to supporting charitable initiatives and investment projects that generate sustainable returns for the benefit of society.

Located in the Jabal Thuaileb area of Lusail, the major real estate endowment project comprises 25 residential buildings containing 881 apartments of various types. It is being developed on a plot covering approximately 69,000 square metres, with a total built-up area of around 192,575 square metres.

The project aims to develop endowment assets and generate sustainable income, providing renewable financial resources for charitable activities while ensuring that proceeds are allocated in accordance with donors' conditions.

Assistant Director of the Waqf Funds Department at the General Directorate of Endowments Ali Hamad Al Mohannadi Al Marri, said the contribution to the Jabal Thuaileb project represents a model of participation in long-term real estate investment projects that help develop endowment resources and generate recurring returns for designated charitable purposes.

He said the General Directorate is working to develop real estate endowment projects and diversify investment opportunities, while preserving and growing assets and maximising the benefits of their returns. These efforts aim to achieve financial sustainability and strengthen the capacity of endowment funds to meet evolving community needs.

Al Marri added that the continued establishment of new endowments reflects growing awareness of the role of waqf in development and social welfare. Participation in investment-based endowment projects helps secure renewable resources whose benefits can extend to future generations, while respecting donors' conditions and fulfilling their intentions.

The fund is one of six endowment funds supervised by the General Directorate of Endowments. It supports a wide range of charitable and humanitarian activities, allowing proceeds to be directed towards various good causes in accordance with donors' conditions.

The Pearl Food Festival returns to Porto Arabia with expanded culinary and family experience

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: United Development Company (UDC), the master developer of The Pearl and Gewan Islands, is bringing The Pearl Food Festival back to Porto Arabia from 11 to 21 November 2026. Sponsored by Qatar Airways Privilege Club, with Snoonu as National Delivery Partner, the third edition will build on the festival's success as a lively gathering for residents and visitors, celebrating food, family and the community spirit of The Pearl Island.

More than 40 food booths will bring together an eclectic mix of culinary concepts from The Pearl Island and beyond, offering visitors a broader mix of flavours and new discoveries. The selection will feature cuisines from across Asia, Italy and the wider region, reflecting the diversity of Doha's dining scene and making the festival a welcoming place to explore different culinary traditions along the Porto Arabia waterfront.

The festival will also offer plenty for families to enjoy, with a dedicated kids' zone featuring inflatables, carnival games, crafts and face painting. Across the festival grounds, visitors will enjoy live entertainment, a series of photo moments, and giant food-themed installations.

Qatar Airways Privilege Club's role as Official Sponsor and Snoonu's role as National Delivery Partner will be brought to life through on-site activations and giveaways. These partner-led experiences will give visitors opportunities to engage with both partners during their visit and add an interactive dimension to the festival.

Through its growing programme of food concepts and family experiences, The Pearl Food Festival reflects UDC's ongoing commitment to creating vibrant destinations and memorable experiences for the community. The third edition will welcome residents and visitors to enjoy Porto Arabia's waterfront setting (18-22 La Croisette) and discover an extensive mix of flavours from 11 to 21 November 2026 from 3.PM to 11.PM on weekdays and 3.PM to midnight on weekends.



Visitors at the Pearl Food Festival.

Sounds of Canada concludes Years of Culture concert series in Doha

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra (QPO) celebrated Canada's musical heritage with Sounds of Canada, bringing a two-concert series presented as part of the Qatar, Canada and Mexico 2026 Year of Culture to a close.

The concert was attended by Chairperson of Years of Culture H E Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Held at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) and led by acclaimed conductor Charles Olivieri-Munroe, the concert featured works by Canadian composers Oskar Morawetz, Pierre Mercure, and Jacques Hétu. The evening introduced audiences in Doha to the country's orchestral traditions, highlighting the diverse cultural influences and artistic voices that have shaped Canadian classical music.

Conductor Charles Olivieri-Munroe said, "Canada has a remarkably rich and varied musical heritage, shaped by different cultures and experiences. Having grown up and studied in Canada, it was particularly meaningful to share the music of these composers with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra and audiences here in Doha. Each brings something distinctive to the programme, and it was a pleasure to introduce their works to new audiences through this cultural exchange."

Years of Culture is Qatar's cultural exchange initiative, connecting people and countries through shared experiences in the arts, heritage, education, sport, and other fields. Its longstanding collaboration with QPO brings this mission to life through music, introducing audiences to the creative voices of Qatar's partner countries.

QPO Executive Director Kurt Meister said, "Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra was delighted to welcome Charles Olivieri-Munroe to lead this programme celebrating Canada's musical heritage. Following Sounds of Mexico in September, Sounds of Canada brought our Years of Culture two-concert series to a close offering audiences in Qatar the opportunity to discover works by composers whose music may be less familiar to them. Through our continued collaboration with Years of Culture, we can introduce a wider range of orchestral works while sharing the composers and stories behind them."

The programme featured four works by three Canadian composers, each offering a distinctive perspective on the country's musical heritage and introducing audiences to Canada's diverse orchestral voices. Oskar Morawetz's Carnival Overture opened the programme, followed by his Symphony No. 2, offering a further introduction to one of Canada's most prominent 20th-century composers. Following the interval, the evening concluded with Pierre Mercure's Kaleidoscope, followed by Jacques Hétu's On the Banks of the Saint-Maurice River, Op. 78.



The Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra performing during the event.

Global media leaders gather to discuss AI's future in journalism

7th World Media Summit in China adopts Beijing Consensus on AI development

IRFAN BUKHARI
THE PENINSULA
IN BEIJING, CHINA



Participants at the opening ceremony of the 7th World Media Summit in Beijing recently. (XINHUA)

BEIJING hosted the opening ceremony of the 7th World Media Summit on Saturday (November 7), with global media leaders and representatives gathering to discuss the evolving role of the media in the age of artificial intelligence. This year's summit is themed "Media in the Intelligent Age: From Consensus to Action."

Co-organized by *Xinhua News Agency* and the Beijing municipal government, the five-day event brought together nearly 500 participants representing about 330 mainstream media organizations, think tanks and government institutions from 112 countries and regions. Representatives from the United Nations and other international organisations also took part.

The World Media Summit was initiated in 2009 and is now a major global platform for media exchange and cooperation. The last summit was held in Urumqi, the capital city of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, in 2024. Li Shulei, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

Yin Li, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, also addressed the ceremony.

At the summit, delegates discussed the role of the media in the age of artificial intelligence (AI) and how the industry should respond to the challenges it poses. They called for closer cooperation to broaden access to advanced technologies and help media organizations worldwide develop together, while urging concrete steps to uphold journalistic ethics and safeguard the authenticity of news content as AI use expands.

The 7th World Media Summit Beijing Consensus was adopted at the ceremony. It calls for joint efforts to advance the transformation and development of the global media industry in the AI era.

Recognizing AI's growing role in media development, the consensus commits to advancing the inclusive and responsible application of AI in the media sector so that advances in AI benefit media organizations at all stages of development and in every country.

The summit also released the Global Media Initiative for the Joint Development of AI Application Standards. Launched by *Xinhua*, the initiative brings together major media outlets and other professional organizations to safeguard the authenticity of information, protect data security, and uphold media ethics, thereby maintaining public trust in the media.

The first 22 participants also include Russia's *TASS News Agency*, the *Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama), South Africa's Independent Media*, and *China's People's Daily* and *China Media Group*.

Under the initiative, participants plan to work together for about two years to develop a set of standards that address different media uses of AI and are validated by media outlets. The initiative also calls for a global database of AI applications.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Fu Hua, president of *Xinhua News Agency*, called on media professionals to share new technologies and applications, exchange experience in using them, and close gaps in AI research, development and understanding. "We should lead the way in ensuring that all media professionals have a fair chance to benefit from AI," he said.

AFP Chairman Fabrice Fries also stressed the need for inclusive AI development at the summit. "The benefits of this technological revolution should extend far beyond a small number of companies or countries," he said. Fries called on media organizations, governments, businesses and universities to work together to ensure that AI helps build a healthier, more diverse global information ecosystem. In particular, AI models must be trained on datasets that reflect the diversity of human societies and perspectives, he said.

For participants from Global South countries, the summit is particularly important in helping their media organizations adapt to the digital era and narrow development gaps.

"As AI is reshaping the entire chain of news production at an unprecedented speed, it has brought opportunities but also risks and challenges to the media industry, such as ethical lapses in the use of technology and the proliferation of false information," Lyu Yansong, editor-in-chief of *Xinhua,* said at the Summit.

"We should take the initiative to share technological expertise, open-source models and training resources, and work together to strengthen our capacity to address risks arising from AI," he said.

21 migrants die trying to reach Greece's Crete: Authorities

ATHENS: Twenty-one people have died over the weekend trying to reach Greece's island of Crete, a top destination for migrants headed for the European Union from Africa, authorities said yesterday.

Eight bodies were found on one boat and 12 on another, while some 40 people were rescued off both, the Greek coast guard said yesterday. Another body was later found yesterday afternoon.

Maritime police launched an emergency rescue late Saturday after a boat issued an alarm signal, with strong winds making sea conditions difficult, the coast guard said.

Around 28 survivors and one body, all Sudanese nationals, were picked up by another boat sailing nearby, then transferred to a police vessel and taken to Crete, authorities had said on Sunday.

Two Sudanese citizens, one of them 16, were arrested after being identified by the survivors as suspected people-smugglers, the authorities said. — *AFP*

Trump vows comeback as bitter showdown with Congress looms

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump vowed a political comeback on Sunday as the major parties clashed over Democrat threats to prosecute top administration officials after the president's Republicans lost control of Congress in midterm elections.

The devastating results in last Tuesday's vote leave Trump politically hamstrung as he enters the remaining two-year 'lame duck' period of his White House tenure. It also opens the door to multiple investigations by the Democrat-controlled Congress of the president, his family and senior members of his administration. On political talk shows Sunday, incoming congressional leaders from the Democratic Party promised to hold Trump and his aides to account, while the president's top law officer resolved to defend them and Trump dug in his heels on social media.

"America took a giant step back in History with the results of the last Election," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, adding that the stock market that had grown during his tenure took a loss after the vote.

"But have no fear, we will be back, BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE!"

On Friday, a defiant Trump appointed hardline advisor Stephen Miller as his new chief of staff, signaling a bare-knuckle fightback — even though many Republicans, including Vice President JD Vance, have reflected on why they had lost so badly at the ballot box. Miller was architect of Trump's tough immigration policy, which analysts have identified as a contributing factor to the unpopularity of Republicans and their election debacle.


US President Donald Trump speaks to the media at President Donald J Trump International Airport in West Palm Beach, Florida, on November 8, 2026. (AFP)

Amid Democrat threats for administration officials to "lawyer up," Trump said Saturday he was ordering the Justice Department to examine Democratic threats to impeach members of his administration, likening it to "extortion."

With control of committees in both chambers of Congress, Democrats can summon officials, demand documents and hold public hearings, putting Trump and his senior aides under intense scrutiny. — *AFP*

Ukraine, EU 'coordinated positions' before Abu Dhabi talks: Zelensky

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday he had spoken with EU chief Ursula von der Leyen to coordinate positions with the bloc ahead of US-mediated talks with Russia in Abu Dhabi this week.

European powers are engaged in an intense diplomatic push to ensure any settlement in Russia's war on Ukraine is fair to Kyiv — and avoid Washington offering Moscow new security guarantees over Europe's head.

Posting on X after speaking with von der Leyen, Zelensky said they had "coordinated our positions regarding the meeting in Abu Dhabi".

"We are doing everything to ensure that the trilateral format delivers results," he added.

The European Commission chief confirmed on social media after their exchange that "the EU will be present alongside our partners" for the Abu Dhabi talks taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday, echoing weekend statements by France's foreign minister.

Kyiv's lead negotiator Rustem Umerov announced that the Ukrainian delegation — currently on the way to Abu Dhabi — would "hold separate coordination meetings with our European partners" there.

"Representatives of European countries — including the E4 group (the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy) — as well as representatives of NATO and the European Commission will be in Abu Dhabi," Umerov said on Telegram. — *AFP*

Krakow shooting rampage suspect dies amid hunt for motive

KRAKÓW: A Polish man accused of carrying out a deadly shooting spree in Krakow died in hospital yesterday, two days after he was critically wounded in a gunbattle with police, authorities said.

But after he had originally been linked to the far right, prosecutors said that his reasons for killing nine people, including three family members, remained unclear. The 24-year-old, dressed in military garb, allegedly opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle in a Krakow square killing six people.

The bodies of his parents and a sister were found at the family home in another town.

Two police officers, who were seriously wounded in the chase, shot the man, named by media as Michal Oksinski, at an intersection near the city's Main Market Square. After three operations, the suspect was declared dead around 4:30am (0330 GMT), regional authorities said.

"We inform you that the perpetrator of the tragic events died this morning in the hospital," regional police said in a post on X.


Polish policemen secure an area in the courtyard of a residential building where the Krakow gunman used to live in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski on November 8, 2026. (AFP)

Authorities had previously said the man had been "fascinated by far-right ideologies" and Prime Minister Donald Tusk called the shooting — the deadliest in the country since the fall of communism in 1989— an act of "terrorism". But at a press conference yesterday, prosecutors said that there was no evidence tying the suspect to any particular political bent.

"We do not have findings that we could, in a responsible way, categorically state that he was inspired by any particular ideology," national prosecutor's office spokesman Przemyslaw Nowak said. "It is far too early to comment on the motives ... We have not found any obvious symbols that are generally associated with a particular political movement, whether far right or far left," he added. — *AFP*

DR Congo armed rebellion advances in eastern offensive

KINSHASA: Armed anti-government fighters have advanced after launching an offensive in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, local and security sources said yesterday. The front lines in the violence-wracked region had been relatively stable since the signing of a US-brokered peace deal between the DRC and Rwanda in December.

Washington has imposed sanctions on the Rwandan defence ministry and a financial institution in the central African country over their alleged ties to the M23 armed group fighting in the DRC. The M23 movement — which was renamed the Front for the Refoundation of the Nation (FRN) last month — has seized swathes of the eastern DRC, home to valuable minerals coveted by world powers, since it took up arms again in 2021. — *AFP*

France says Iran's Guards behind cyberattacks on fridges

PARIS: France yesterday said Iran's Revolutionary Guards were behind "unprecedented" cyberattacks on supermarket fridges in the country last month, vowing sanctions on a European level against Tehran.

Swathes of French supermarkets were hit in the October 11 and 12 cyberattacks, which raised the temperatures in their refrigerators, in some cases forcing them to throw away entire inventories of perishable food.

"I can confirm that this attack was carried out by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said of the cyberattacks.

"This attack is unprecedented in both its scale and its level of aggression," he said on the sidelines of the G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Paris.

The Paris prosecutor said in a separate statement she had opened an investigation into Shahid Kaveh, a shadowy cyber unit of the IRGC, the Islamic republic's ideological army, over the attacks.

"It marks the first large-scale cyberattack aimed at sabotage on our national territory, and it constitutes a major attack on the nation's interests and the security of the French people," said Barrot.

"We will implement sanctions at the European level against all those responsible," he added.

Barrot only directly referred to attacks against French supermarket systems, which he said targeted 700 sites.

However, similar incidents have been reported in other European countries. — *AFP*

COP31 opens with leaders under pressure to tackle climate crisis

ANTALYA: The COP31 climate talks kicked off yesterday with an early fight over money as the UN's chief urged world leaders to "get serious" about tackling the crisis after a year of devastating weather extremes.

Antonio Guterres made his plea as thousands of participants descended on a sprawling expo centre in the Turkish Mediterranean city of Antalya for the UN's annual two-week climate conference. The summit comes after a year of punishing heatwaves in Europe, major wildfires in Indonesia and catastrophic floods in Nepal, with an exceptionally strong El Nino weather phenomenon fuelling more climate chaos.

"We have entered a new age of climate extremes," Guterres said in a statement.

The UN secretary-general urged leaders to "get serious by cutting emissions faster, accelerating a just transition from fossil fuels and delivering the finance and protection vulnerable countries need". The COP31 opening ceremony opened an hour-and-a-half late without explanation.

Negotiators had been locked in discussions late Sunday over demands by developing nations to include items on climate finance in the official agenda.

"This has already been a difficult start for COP31," said Jasper Inventor, head of Greenpeace's COP31 delegation.

Under UN climate agreements, developed countries, which are historically responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, have provided financial support to help developing nations adapt to climate impacts and transition to cleaner energy. But poorer countries say the sums remain insufficient. — *AFP*

Beijing to activate orange alert for heavy air pollution

BEIJING: Beijing will activate an orange alert for heavy air pollution starting from Nov. 11, the Beijing Municipal Ecology and Environment Bureau said yesterday.

According to air quality forecasts, unfavorable meteorological conditions will lead to a regional air pollution episode affecting the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding areas in north China.

From November 11 to 14, Beijing's air quality is expected to reach moderate pollution levels, with some areas and periods reaching severe pollution levels.

In response, the city will activate the orange alert -- the second-highest level in China's four-tier emergency response system. Residents are advised to take appropriate health precautions. — *XINHUA*





FAJR 4:28AM	ASR 2:27PM
SUNRISE 5:47AM	MAGHRIB 4:50PM
DHUHR 11:19AM	ISHA 6:20PM



We do not need another large, resource-intensive news agency. What we need is a shared digital platform, similar to a photo and video agency, where media institutions from the Global South can upload high-quality raw content.

Editor-in-Chief calls for shared digital platform for Global South media

At World Media Summit in Beijing, Prof. Al-Shafi urges for stronger cooperation among media institutions to address challenges posed by digital platforms and AI

IRFAN BUKHARI
THE PENINSULA
IN BEIJING, CHINA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of *The Peninsula* Prof. Khalid Mubarak Al-Shafi attended the 7th World Media Summit held in Beijing on Saturday under the theme "Media in the Intelligent Age: From Consensus to Action."

The 7th World Media Summit, jointly organised by *Xinhua News Agency* and the Beijing municipal government, drew nearly 500 representatives from nearly 330 mainstream media outlets, think tanks and government bodies from 112 countries and regions, as well as the United Nations and other international organisations.

Prof. Al-Shafi also attended a reception hosted in honour of participants of the summit in Golden Hall, Beijing Hotel where he interacted with Xinhua officials and media representatives. *The Peninsula* under his leadership has regularly participated in Xinhua-organised media summits for the past several years, reflecting strong partnership between the two media outlets.

Talking to *Xinhua* on challenges and opportunities in the era of comprehensive transformation, Prof. Al-Shafi said that the current transformation is not simply a shift from paper to digital. "It is a structural shift from the logic of institutions to the logic of platforms, and from editorial judgment to algorithmic decision-making." On major challenges being faced by media institutions in the Global South, he observed that around 90% of news distribution in the Global South passes through a limited number of platforms. "These platforms do not merely control access to audiences; they also shape what is considered 'important news' through algorithms trained around the priorities of the Global North."

We should launch an alliance to develop an open-source AI model trained on the languages of the Global South, and grounded in our history, knowledge, and concepts.

He added, "Traditional advertising revenues are collapsing, while media institutions in the Global South lack the collective bargaining power to negotiate fair compensation from digital platforms, unlike their counterparts in the Global North, which benefit from stronger industry alliances."

He further said, "There is a growing risk that generative AI will become a factory for disinformation targeting our societies. At the same time, most AI-powered tools for detecting fake content and verifying information are trained primarily on Northern languages, making them less effective when dealing with our dialects and local languages."



A general view of the 7th World Media Summit.

Highlighting opportunities, Prof. Al-Shafi said that the Global South no longer needs to build massive printing facilities, broadcasting networks, or satellite infrastructure. "A smartphone and a small studio are enough to reach millions of people. This has dramatically reduced the cost of producing and distributing narratives."

"There is growing global dissatisfaction with one-sided narratives. Stories from the Global South about climate resilience, grassroots innovation, and development through non-Western approaches now have a genuine global audience and market."

He further said, "For the first time, we have an opportunity to break down language barriers. An investigative report can be translated from Arabic into Asian languages, Bengali, or Spanish almost instantly and at virtually no cost."

Talking on the importance of cooperation among countries of the Global South, he said: "No single media institution in the Global South can negotiate effectively with giant digital platforms, develop its own large language model, or impose its priorities on international news agencies. Fragmentation is what keeps us in the position of suppliers of raw news material, while the Global North produces the finished product and sells it. Cooperation represents a shift from being individual suppliers to becoming a collective force capable of producing and competing on equal terms."

On media's responsibilities and cooperation in the era of intelligent transformation, he said that responsibility is not simply about telling the truth. "It is also about ensuring that the truth reaches audiences." He also suggested, "We do not need another large, resource-intensive news agency. What we need is a shared digital platform, similar to a photo and video agency, where media institutions from the Global South can upload high-quality raw content, including footage documenting climate impacts, agricultural innovation, and cultural heritage. This content would be freely available for mutual use, supported by instant AI-powered translation."

On algorithmic sovereignty, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Peninsula* said: "We should launch an alliance to develop an open-source AI model trained on the languages of the Global South, including Arabic and its dialects, Urdu, Swahili, and Malay, and grounded in our history, knowledge, and concepts. This model could be used for translation, fact-checking, and news summarisation, reducing our dependence on models that interpret the world primarily through the perspectives of the West."



Editor-in-Chief of *The Peninsula* Prof. Khalid Mubarak Al-Shafi at the 7th World Media Summit in Beijing.

He also proposed that participants of the summit should sign a joint document outlining three key commitments: commitment to transparency; commitment to cross-border verification; commitment to solutions-based storytelling.

"We should establish a Global South Media Negotiating Bloc to engage with YouTube, TikTok, and Meta on two key issues: fairer algorithms that provide greater visibility to content produced in the Global South; and the establishment of a funding mechanism to support local journalism in the Global South, similar to the funding arrangements secured by media institutions in the Global North."

"We should establish a three-month practical exchange programme focused not on theoretical training, but on producing joint investigative reports. For example, a team from Al Jazeera, working alongside Chinese or other Asian, African, and Brazilian broadcasters, can produce a joint investigation on topics such as "The New Grain Route" or "Climate Migration," with the report published simultaneously in multiple languages."

World will be exceptionally hot in coming months, WMO says

THE El Niño phenomenon building on the Pacific Ocean will boost global temperatures by an additional 0.1C to 0.2C, making the world exceptionally hot for the remainder of this year and into early 2027, the World Meteorological Organization said.

This year is already on track to be one of the warmest on record, with temperatures 1.47C (2.65F) above the pre-industrial average between January and September, the UN agency said in its State of the Climate report, released yesterday as the COP31 climate summit kicks off in Turkiye.

"We are supercharging our weather and El Niño will be a risk multiplier," said WMO Secretary General Celeste Saulo. "El Niño and indeed the state of the global climate in 2026 gives new meaning to the phrase 'off the charts.'"

Temperatures are expected to rise more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels in 2026, according to data released last week by observation agency Copernicus. That threshold was already surpassed in 2024, the hottest year on record, and the UN expects global temperatures to rise above that level as a long-term average.

It forecasts an increase of 1.8C this century in a best-case scenario, which would require significant reductions in the man-made greenhouse gases causing climate change beyond countries' current commitments.

Even if nations make good on their current emissions promises, the UN warns that the world is on track to warm by 2.6C.

This year's El Niño is the strongest on record. The weather phenomenon changes temperature and rain patterns across the globe, altering the likelihood of droughts, floods, heat and other extremes in various regions. The WMO expects it to persist until February, bringing temperature anomalies of as much as 3.7C in the waters of the central and eastern Equatorial Pacific, compared to an anomaly of 0.2C recorded in March.

Between 2017 and 2026, sea levels rose an average of 3.9 millimeters (0.15 inches) a year, compared with 2.4 millimeters a year between 1993 and 2002, the WMO said. Ocean heat has continued to increase this year, according to the agency, indicating an acceleration in the rate at which the Earth system is gaining heat. Hotter oceans expand, contributing to rising sea levels, while melting sea ice is another factor. Arctic sea ice reached the lowest or second-lowest maximum extent on record in March this year, the WMO found.

Extreme weather events affected renewable energy differently in various parts of the world in 2025, according to the report. Across Europe, solar-power production was above the average and wind-power production below it, while electricity demand driven by temperature was lower than average. — ***THE WASHINGTON POST***

The hidden health risks of the morning rush

THE morning rush often feels like nothing short of a crisis. For our hearts and brains, it's also the riskiest time of day.

A meta-analysis of almost 12,000 adult stroke patients found that people were 72 percent more likely to have a stroke between 6 and 9 a.m. compared with the remaining 21 hours of the day. Every type of stroke studied saw a morning spike - whether caused by clots, bleeding or even "ministrokes" called transient ischemic attacks.

Heart attacks follow a similar pattern. A separate analysis found that they are 40 percent more likely to happen between 6am and noon than the rest of the day. That's probably because, in many ways, mornings create a perfect biological storm.

In the early hours, melatonin begins to fall and cortisol climbs - peaking shortly after awakening. While you sleep, blood pressure tends to dip by around 10 to 20 percent of your daytime baseline, then starts to rise just before you wake up. Once you get up and start moving, blood pressure surges. That elevation in blood pressure raises the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

But in terms of strokes, the issue is not simply blood pressure. It turns out your blood itself changes in the morning too. In 2011, researchers from Boston found that our circadian rhythm drives platelets — small cell fragments that form blood clots — to become more likely to clump together in the early morning. And a subsequent study found that a blood protein that prevents clots from dissolving also peaks in the morning hours.

Circadian biology affects far more than our energy. It governs the behavior of many of our bodies' cells, molecules and even which genes are expressed. And it helps explain why the morning can be a vulnerable time for stroke.

Strokes are medical emergencies that occur when a part of the brain doesn't receive enough blood — often caused by a blood clot suddenly blocking a vessel or a vessel bursting. When this happens, brain cells begin dying within minutes, and people can experience abrupt symptoms such as slurred speech, a drooping face, or weakness on one side of their bodies. Those are the stroke symptoms many people are familiar with. But in one study, about 1 in 7 stroke patients had of those symptoms. Instead, many people having strokes experienced sudden trouble keeping balance or loss of vision. These symptoms are more common when blood vessels in the back of the brain become blocked. — ***THE WASHINGTON POST***

Anthropic launches new models

SAN FRANCISCO: Anthropic announced yesterday that it would release updated versions of two of its most powerful artificial intelligence (AI) models.

The new models, Fable 5.2 and Mythos 5.2, can perform up to 30 percent faster than previous versions, particularly on complex tasks such as coding, while costing 20 percent less, the company said.

Both are built on the same underlying model. Fable 5.2 has safeguards that block most cybersecurity and biology tasks, which lets Anthropic offer it to all users.

Mythos 5.2 has fewer of those restrictions and is available only to vetted organizations working in cybersecurity or biomedical research.

The first versions of Fable and Mythos were released under a cloud of controversy.

Both models were pulled days after their June launch, when the US Commerce Department ordered Anthropic to bar access by foreign nationals. The controls were lifted weeks later. — ***AFP***



Drone light show

A 3,000-drone light show was held to mark the 77th anniversary of the founding of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, yesterday. (Xinhua)

TRENDING IN **QATAR**

On *The Peninsula* social media platforms

Businesses can now display QR codes in place of printed licence extracts

MoCI has announced that business owners can now display a QR code instead of a printed commercial licence extract.

Ministry warns against illegal street sales

The Ministry of Municipality has warned against engaging in illegal commercial activities, including selling goods on roads and streets.

EU to crack down on influencer marketing

The EU will clamp down on influencer marketing and ban online features that trick Europeans, according to documents.

Qatar set for noticeable drop in temperatures this week

Temperatures across Qatar are expected to drop noticeably towards the end of the week, the Qatar Meteorology Department (QMD) forecast on Monday.