





Qatar attends signing of San Francisco Declaration, Silicon Valley summit

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Minister of State for Foreign Trade Affairs H E Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Sayed with other delegates during the meeting.

DOHA: Minister of State for Foreign Trade H E Dr. Ahmad bin Mohammed Al-Sayed, participated in the Pax Silica Founders Retreat, held in California, United States, on the sidelines of the Silicon Valley & The World Summit, organised by Semafor.

The events brought together senior government officials, policymakers, chief executive officers, representatives of international companies, investors, and prominent leaders in the technology, artificial intelligence, and advanced industries sectors.

The Pax Silica initiative, which the State of Qatar joined through the signing of the Pax Silica Declaration in Doha in January 2026, aims to strengthen international cooperation in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies, secure and diversify strategic supply chains and enhance their resilience, and develop economic and technological partnerships among participating countries, thereby contributing to economic security, innovation, and sustainable growth.

He also participated in the signing ceremony of the San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity, which emphasises the importance of economic security as a fundamental pillar of national security, strengthening cooperation to safeguard sensitive technologies and critical infrastructure, and enhancing the security and resilience of strategic supply chains to support innovation and sustainable economic prosperity.

He also took part in the Silicon Valley & The World Summit, organised by Semafor.

The summit serves as an international platform bringing together senior government officials, policymakers, and leaders of major global technology and investment companies to promote dialogue and cooperation between developers of advanced technologies and economic and technology policymakers.

Discussions addressed several strategic topics, including the future of artificial intelligence, investment in digital infrastructure, semiconductors, supply chain security, and economic transformations driven by technological advancement, as well as opportunities for international cooperation and partnerships in emerging sectors.

On the sidelines of these events, the Minister held a series of bilateral meetings with senior government officials and executives from leading international companies and investment institutions.

The government meetings included discussions with Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs of the United States Jacob Helberg; Minister for Digital Development and Information of the Republic of Singapore H E Josephine Teo; Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea H E Dr. Kim Jina; the UK Prime Minister's Chief Adviser on Business, Investment and Trade Varun Chandra; and Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Republic of India S. Krishnan.

He also held meetings with senior executives from leading international companies and investment institutions, including Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer of Mubadala Investment Company in the United Arab Emirates Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak; President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google Ruth Porat; Chief Executive Officer of Temasek Global Investments and Chairman, Middle East & Africa Chia Song Hwee; and Chief Executive Officer of Scale AI Francis deSouza.

The meetings focused on strengthening economic, trade, and investment relations, exploring opportunities to increase trade across commercial, investment, and non-oil sectors, and expanding economic and investment cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

He also highlighted the promising investment opportunities and competitive advantages offered by Qatar's business environment, with a view to attracting high-value investments and strengthening economic and trade partnerships with countries, companies, and international institutions.

Qatar eyes broader economic growth from AI and digital transformation

DEEPAK JOHN
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■ *Qatar's investments in connectivity and digital infrastructure could generate significant economic opportunities across multiple industries, including by creating the conditions for innovation, investment, entrepreneurship and higher productivity.*



DOHA: Qatar is entering a new phase of digital transformation, with the focus shifting from building digital infrastructure to harnessing technology, AI and connected government services to drive economic growth, boost productivity and create wider value across industries.

Speaking to *The Peninsula* on the sidelines of the recently held MWC26 Doha, Mohamad Madhoun, Partner, Government and Public Services at Deloitte Middle East, said the country's next digital transformation phase would depend on how effectively existing investments are translated into tangible benefits for citizens, businesses and the wider economy.

"The foundations are already strong, and the opportunity now is to turn those investments into better services, stronger productivity, and broader economic value," Madhoun said.

He noted that the priority should no longer be simply increasing the number of digital services available, but ensuring that people and businesses can access and use them more effectively. This will require more seamless and connected services across government, supported by stronger coordination and integrated digital systems.

Madhoun also highlighted the growing importance of AI in Qatar's economic and development agenda, pointing to the establishment of the AI Center under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) as evidence of the country's increasing commitment to making AI a national priority.

He said governments across the region must now move beyond experimenting with generative AI and focus on deploying it at scale in areas where it can deliver measurable improvements to public services.

These include improving citizens' access to information and government services, automating administrative tasks and strengthening decision-making across public institutions.

However, he stressed that successful AI deployment requires more than technological investment. Strong data foundations, connected systems, privacy safeguards, accountability frameworks and appropriately trained public-sector employees will all be essential to scaling AI effectively.

Addressing the challenges facing government digital transformation, he said the availability of technology was not necessarily the main obstacle to greater integration.

Rather, the difficulty often lies in ensuring that different government entities, systems and processes work together effectively.

He explained that institutions frequently develop their own platforms and workflows over time, making integration more complicated from both operational and governance perspectives.

The next step is to make interoperability a whole-of-government priority. That means stronger coordination, shared standards, and a greater focus on user journeys rather than organizational boundaries. It also matters for AI, because these technologies can only deliver full value when the underlying data and systems are connected, he said.

Beyond the public sector, Madhoun noted Qatar's investments in connectivity and digital infrastructure could generate significant economic opportunities across multiple industries, including by creating the conditions for innovation, investment, entrepreneurship and higher productivity. ➔P9

Qatar's data analytics market projected to reach $820m in 2026

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DOHA: The growing economic value of personal data and the need to develop legal frameworks governing its use and commercial exploitation was highlighted in a study by Qatari researcher Nour Dukhail Allah Al-Nabet and Mourad Boudaia, Assistant Professor at Qatar University's College of Sharia and Islamic Studies.

The study notes that Qatar's data analytics market is projected to reach approximately $820m in 2026, according to figures from TASMU, the digital programme of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT).

Published in Bait Al Mashura Journal, issued by Bait Al-Mashura Finance Consultations and ranked first in the Arab world in the field of Islamic economics and finance, the study examines the financial, jurisprudential and legal dimensions of personal data. It also highlights the continued expansion of the global big data analytics market, which is projected to reach $655.53bn by 2029.

Entitled 'The Jurisprudential and Legal Foundations of the Financial Nature of Personal Data: A Comparative Study with Qatari Law,' the study explores the distinction between raw personal data and data that has undergone processing, analysis and organisation, examining how this distinction affects the legal and financial status of data.

The researchers explain that raw personal data remains closely connected to the individual, particularly with regard to privacy, personal rights and human dignity. However, once data is processed, analysed and organised, it may acquire economic value and become an asset with a financial character that can be licensed or commercially exploited, provided that the rights of the individuals concerned are protected.

The study also examines the different jurisprudential approaches to defining property and financial rights. It notes that the Hanafi school adopts a relatively restrictive approach to the concept of property, while the Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali schools take broader approaches that recognise certain rights and benefits as having financial value, subject to specific conditions.

In light of these differences, the researchers favour a broader understanding of financial rights that takes account of contemporary developments and the growing economic importance of data. ➔P9

'Prospects of cooperation with Qatar include digitalisation, modern industries'

BERLIN: Chief Executive of Foreign Trade at the the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry Volker Treier **(pictured)** affirmed that the visit of H H the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to the Federal Republic of Germany comes at a particularly important time and represents an opportunity to strengthen the existing economic partnership between the two countries and expand it into new industrial, technological and investment sectors.



In exclusive remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Treier said that geopolitical tensions and the war in the Middle East were placing significant burdens on the world, with their repercussions extending to global supply chains, making continued dialogue and the development of shared economic prospects even more important at the present stage.

He said that Germany and Qatar already enjoyed a close partnership in both trade and financial investment, affirming that these relations provided a solid foundation on which to build and develop a more comprehensive and extensive partnership in the future.

Assessing the level of trade and economic relations between the two countries, the Chief Executive of Foreign Trade at the the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry affirmed that Qatari-German economic cooperation had developed positively over recent years, noting that bilateral trade reached approximately €2.5bn in 2025, an increase of 26 percent compared with the previous year.

Regarding the opportunities offered by the Qatari market to German companies, Treier affirmed that Qatar presented attractive economic and investment prospects in light of its sustained investments over the years in modern infrastructure, energy supplies and new technologies.

Treier identified three main areas that he believed offered promising opportunities for cooperation between the two sides. The first area involved energy technologies and industrial facilities, including solutions aimed at improving energy efficiency. The second area encompassed industrial digitalisation, automation and AI applications, which could help develop industrial capabilities and enhance productivity and competitiveness. ➔P9

Qatar and Germany seek broader horizons for cooperation, investment

BERLIN: Chairman of the German Federal Association of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (BVMW) Christoph Ahlhaus **(pictured)** affirmed that the visit of HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to the Federal Republic of Germany reflects the strength of the strategic partnership between the two nations and serves as a significant impetus for expanding the horizons of cooperation and joint investments.



In his remarks to Qatar News Agency (QNA), Ahlhaus voiced the association's appreciation for the role played by the State of Qatar in supporting the German economy. He said that BVMW would like to extend their sincere thanks to HH the Amir and the Government of the State of Qatar for their confidence and investments in the German economy, particularly in the German medium-sized enterprise sector.

He emphasised that high-level official visits contribute to building the confidence that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in particular, need in order to make decisions about expanding and entering new markets.

He indicated that economic relations between Qatar and Germany are characterized by strength and mutual trust, and are witnessing rapid development that paves the way for a new phase of cooperation, one that extends beyond major investments to include broader participation by SMEs and startups.

He also noted that economic cooperation between the two countries has, in recent years, primarily centered on large corporations and investments. However, the next phase calls for broadening the scope of this partnership to include more German SMEs, leveraging their industrial and technological capabilities, as well as their specialised expertise, to support development projects and economic diversification in the State of Qatar.

He noted that the BVMW is working toward this goal through its regional office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, based in Doha since 2023, which operates on the foundation of a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Invest Qatar. ➔P9



QCB Deputy Governor participates in Singapore FinTech Festival 2026

Deputy Governor of the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) H E Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalid bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al-Thani participated on Friday in a panel session titled 'A Multi-Rail Future: What Should Come First'. In a statement, QCB said that the participation was on the sidelines of the Singapore FinTech Festival 2026, held from 18 to 20 November 2026.

QIA, Brookfield Corporation announce initiative to explore investments in critical industries

DOHA: Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Brookfield Corporation announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on exploring potential investments in Germany's critical industries and defence sector.

The MoU is designed to encourage collaboration between the parties in identifying and executing such opportunities, with the aim of investing a combined aggregate amount of €15bn.

According to a statement issued by QIA, Germany has identified defence as one of its priority critical industries, emphasising the strengthening of domestic production capacity, technological sovereignty and resilience.

CEO of QIA Mohammed Saif Al Sowaidi said: "This agreement reflects QIA's commitment to long-term investment in strategically important sectors. In partnership with Brookfield, we look forward to supporting the growth and resilience of Germany's economy."

For his part, CEO of Brookfield Bruce Flatt said: "We are thrilled to partner with QIA on this important initiative. Brookfield's investment and operating expertise across high-quality industrial businesses, which provide essential products and services underpinning the global economy, is ideally suited to supporting Germany's objective of building the critical production capacity required for a more resilient European industrial base." — *QNA*



QIA CEO Mohammed Saif Al Sowaidi and Brookfield CEO Bruce Flatt during the signing ceremony.

Volkswagen Group hails Qatar as trusted long-term partner, sees scope for deeper cooperation

BERLIN: German automotive giant Volkswagen Group has hailed Qatar as an important and trusted long-term partner, saying the longstanding investment partnership between the two sides provides a strong foundation for navigating the profound transformation reshaping the global automotive industry.

Speaking to to Qatar News Agency (QNA), a Volkswagen Group spokesperson said Qatar's investment in the group reflects a long-term commitment, noting that continuity in such partnerships is particularly valuable at a time of profound change in the automotive industry. "Trust does not develop overnight," the spokesperson said, stressing that it is built through reliability, sustained dialogue and a shared understanding of the importance of long-term business development. The partnership with Qatar, he added, has evolved over many years and demonstrated its resilience through varying economic and geopolitical conditions.

Qatar has substantial investment expertise, extensive international networks and long experience as a global investor, while Volkswagen brings industrial capabilities, technological expertise and a broad international presence. — *QNA*

Britain's CPI up 3.6% in October on higher transport costs

LONDON: Britain's consumer price index (CPI) rose 3.6 percent year-on-year in October, up from 3.5 percent in September and 3.1 percent in August, mainly driven by higher transport costs, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said Wednesday. Core CPI, which excludes energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, rose 2.8 percent year-on-year in October, little changed from September, the data showed.

ONS chief economist Grant Fitzner said annual costs of both raw materials and manufactured goods continued to rise, driven by high crude oil and petrol prices. Prices in restaurants and hotels made the largest downward contribution to the annual inflation rate, partly offsetting the upward pressure from energy costs. Economists warned that inflation could accelerate further in the coming months.

"Inflation is likely to climb further in the coming months, reaching a peak north of 4% early next year," said Martin Sartorius, Economist at Confederation of British Industry. — *XINHUA*

Qatar eyes broader economic growth from AI and digital transformation

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He pointed to the growing momentum around AI in Qatar, noting that commitments to QAI involving investments of more than $20bn, alongside investments by hyperscalers in the country, were sending a strong signal of confidence in the market. It shows that AI is not just part of the policy conversation, but increasingly part of the country's economic future. Looking towards 2030, he said the real measure of a digitally transformed government would be its ability to redesign services around people's needs instead of simply transferring existing processes online.

A genuinely transformed government should deliver fewer administrative steps, less duplication, faster outcomes and a more connected experience for citizens and businesses.

Madhoun further said, by 2030, true transformation should also mean government is using AI responsibly to improve decision-making, anticipate needs more effectively, and free up public-sector teams to focus on higher-value work. Ultimately, success will be measured by whether government becomes simpler, more proactive, and more effective in delivering value.

Qatar and German seek broader horizons for investment

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Ahlhaus said that the office plays a pivotal role in supporting German companies that wish to enter the Qatari market and expand from there into the markets of the Gulf region and Asia. This is carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Invest Qatar, with the aim of strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries and creating favorable conditions for establishing long-term partnerships.

He highlighted the importance of Qatari-German efforts aimed at strengthening ties between universities, research institutions, and start-ups as well as SMEs in both countries. Such efforts would enable the application of research and technological development outcomes to joint economic and industrial projects, while broadening the scope for leveraging the expertise and capabilities available to both sides.

In his assessment of the advantages that the State of Qatar offers to German companies seeking international expansion, the BVMW Chairman emphasised that Qatar possesses highly attractive investment fundamentals, particularly its stability, advanced infrastructure, and strategic location, which serves as a gateway connecting Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Ahlhaus unveiled plans to organize the largest German delegation to participate in the Web Summit Qatar, set for 2027. He explained that the planned delegation would include approximately 300 participants and 50 startups, with the states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Berlin also taking part as partner states.

He emphasised that this participation represents a new step toward expanding the German presence at the summit, and reflects the BVMW's interest in developing a permanent platform that enables German innovations and technology to reach Qatar, and, from there, the markets of the Gulf and Asia. — *QNA*

'Prospects of cooperation with Qatar include digitalisation, modern industries'

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The third area, according to Treier, involved modern infrastructure, logistics, and water and environmental technologies, affirming that these sectors offered important opportunities to develop industrial and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Concluding his remarks to QNA, he affirmed that current challenges clearly demonstrated the considerable value of reliable partners and long-term economic relationships. — *QNA*

Qatar's data analytics market projected to reach $820m in 2026

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Such an approach, they argue, can help address the legal questions arising from the commercial use of processed personal data without compromising the rights of individuals.

The study examines Qatar's Civil Code No. 22 of 2004, particularly Article 56, in relation to the legal concept of property and the scope of rights that may be subject to financial dealings.

The researchers consider this provision relevant to assessing whether processed data may acquire a legally recognised financial character. — *QNA*

Alibaba spends big on AI hardware to drive 10% revenue climb

HANGZHOU: Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. posted a slightly stronger-than-projected 10% rise in revenue, reflecting the company's pivotal role in providing the computing for China's AI development boom.

Revenue grew to 271.52 billion yuan ($40.7bn) in the September quarter, surpassing estimates by less than 1%. Its US shares slipped in pre-market trading, reflecting investors' caution over a company that's spending aggressively to stake out a position in an intensely competitive arena without easy paths to profit. It recorded a free cash outflow of 34.5 billion yuan during the three months.

Alibaba faces growing pressure to show it can deliver on AI, particularly after Washington this week moved to shut a loophole that major Chinese firms use to access the advanced chips they need. That's turning investors more cautious on growth potential, as well as their ability to train and run next-generation models. Alibaba's market value stands at roughly $200bn, less than half its level just over a year ago when investors were betting on the firm Jack Ma founded to lead the industry.



Alibaba's revenue grew to $40.7bn in the September quarter, surpassing estimates by less than 1%.

Like rival Tencent Holdings Ltd., Alibaba is prepared to sacrifice margins to plow capital into research and data centers. Chief Executive Officer Eddie Wu pledged more than $53 billion over a three-year period to build a full suite of services and businesses from models to chips. The company raised about $10.2bn from a Hong Kong share sale in August, after Wu said spending would surpass original targets. For now, the company benefits from renting cloud computing capacity to other tech firms developing or operating artificial intelligence, a business that's thrived alongside Chinese efforts to match US frontier players OpenAI and Anthropic PBC. AI cloud and compute services revenue surged 53%. Alibaba is moving fast to expand its AI footprint while the core e-commerce business plateaus.

The company just upgraded its flagship large language model, the Qwen4-Max. The Qwen series is the world's most downloaded open weight model family. It offers a consumer-facing Qwen App, one of China's most popular, integrating functions including shopping, navigation, and travel booking, as well as a productivity tool dubbed Qwen Work. And it's Apple Inc.'s partner on AI services in China, set to roll out in December. "As AI monetization continues to ramp up, we will maintain disciplined investments in AI capabilities with a focus on return on invested capital while targeting to achieve positive free cash flow," Chief Financial Officer Toby Xu said in a statement.

Alibaba's revenue growth in fiscal 2Q ended September was likely led by AI cloud, which partly offset weak China e-commerce (Taobao ecosystem) receipts. The new AI Cloud and Compute Services segment's margin probably widened year on year as higher-margin AI products gained share and T-Head chips increasingly replaced costlier third-party ones. AI Labs and Applications losses likely exceeded last year's but shrank from 1Q on more efficient model training and lower Qwen app marketing, easing the drag on 2Q adjusted Ebita, added Catherine Lim, analyst. — ***THE WASHINGTON POST/ BLOOMBERG***

GCC-Stat highlights Oman's broad-based development, future-ready economy

MUSCAT: Oman is advancing a broad-based economic transformation aimed at diversifying its economy, strengthening competitiveness and positioning the Sultanate as a more influential regional and global economic hub, the Statistical Center for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC-Stat) said.

In a report issued ahead of Oman's National Day on November 20, GCC-Stat highlighted the Sultanate's progress across investment, trade, logistics, energy and tourism, alongside growing efforts to build human capital and accelerate the transition toward a knowledge- and innovation-driven economy under Oman Vision 2040.

Oman's nominal gross domestic product reached about $109.7bn in 2025, while real GDP expanded 2.3%, underscoring the resilience of economic activity amid the country's ongoing diversification drive. Inflation remained contained at around 1%, while foreign reserve assets stood at $19.4bn, supporting macroeconomic stability and strengthening the economy's capacity to sustain investment and development.

Oman's environmental performance has also improved, with the Sultanate climbing six places to 49th globally in the 2026 Environmental Performance Index, compared with 55th in 2024.

Investment is emerging as a key pillar of Oman's diversification strategy. The stock of foreign direct investment reached about $80.4bn in 2025, while net FDI inflows totaled $4.956bn.

The Special Economic Zone at Duqm exemplifies Oman's efforts to capitalize on its strategic location and economic potential to attract international capital. Committed investment in the zone reached $22.9bn as of June 2026, representing a 141% increase from 2021.

Trade has also remained a major component of the economy, with Oman's merchandise trade reaching about $126.256bn in 2025.

Merchandise exports to other GCC countries totaled $7.9bn in 2024, reinforcing the Sultanate's role within regional supply chains and trade networks.

Tourism is another increasingly important driver of economic activity and diversification. Oman is leveraging its natural landscapes, cultural heritage and distinctive tourism assets to expand the sector and deepen its regional appeal.

Dhofar Governorate's Khareef season provides a clear example of tourism's economic contribution. Spending by visitors from GCC countries during the 2025 Khareef season was estimated at $83.8m, accounting for 23.3% of total visitor spending during the season and generating activity across hospitality, transport, retail and other services.

The designation of Al Jabal Al Akhdar as the GCC Tourism Capital has further elevated Oman's tourism profile, while creating additional opportunities for regional cooperation in destination development, tourism promotion and knowledge exchange.

Oman's development strategy extends beyond headline economic indicators, with human capital, quality of life and knowledge creation increasingly central to its long-term growth model.

The country continues to strengthen education, healthcare and social protection systems while expanding investment in research and innovation. Expenditure on research and experimental development reached about $492.6m in 2025, reflecting a growing commitment to building the capabilities needed for a knowledge-based, future-ready economy.

Researcher density stood at 1,242 researchers per million people, highlighting continued efforts to expand the country's research base and strengthen its capacity for innovation.

Women are also playing an increasingly significant role in economic activity. The labor force participation rate among Omani women aged 15 and above reached 32.9% in 2025, reflecting their growing contribution to the labor market and the country's broader development agenda. — *QNA*