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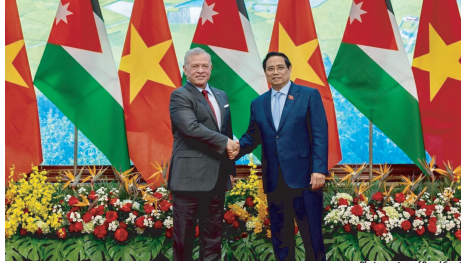


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His Majesty King Abdullah meets with Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh in Hanoi on Wednesday to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Vietnam, in service of mutual interests

King, Vietnam president hold talks in Hanoi

- * His Majesty expresses pride in Jordan-Vietnam relations
- * Vietnam-Jordan Business Forum will be held Thursday
- * Vietnamese president affirms his country's commitment to expanding relations with Jordan

King, Vietnam PM discuss bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah, during a meeting with Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh in Hanoi on Wednesday, discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Jordan and Vietnam, in service of mutual interests.

His Majesty affirmed Jordan's readiness to build on its friendly relations with Vietnam, and strengthen economic, investment and defence cooperation, according to a Royal Court

statement.

The King highlighted the importance of developing cooperation between the two countries across several sectors, such as tourism, pharmaceutical industries, medical equipment, agriculture and halal foods.

The meeting also addressed regional developments, with His Majesty commending Vietnam's stance in support of efforts to achieve peace in the region on the basis of the two-

state solution, the statement said.

For his part, the prime minister stressed the importance of advancing cooperation between Jordan and Vietnam across various sectors.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Oudah, and Jordan's non-resident Ambassador to Vietnam Saad Radaideh attended the meeting.

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah held talks with Vietnam President Luong Cuong in Hanoi on Wednesday, focusing on bilateral relations and regional developments.

His Majesty expressed pride in relations between Jordan and Vietnam, which span nearly 45 years, and expressed the Kingdom's commitment to enhancing ties and expanding cooperation with Vietnam across various sectors, including economic and defence fields, according to a Royal Court statement.

Speaking about the Vietnam-Jordan Business Forum, scheduled to be held Thursday, the King said it represents a new phase of cooperation and strengthened partnerships between the private sectors of the two countries across various fields, which



His Majesty King Abdullah holds talks with Vietnam President Luong Cuong, focusing on bilateral relations and regional developments

will serve to build connections between Southeast Asia and the Middle East, Africa and

Europe, the statement said. Discussions addressed opportunities

to expand economic cooperation in promising sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical

equipment, agriculture and halal foods.

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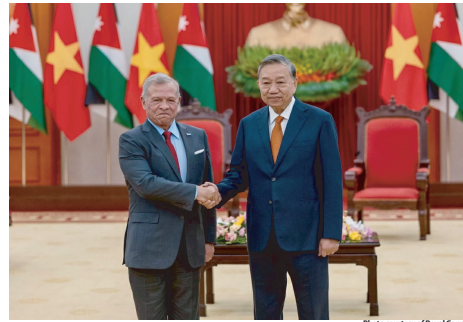
King meets with Vietnam Communist Party general-secretary

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah met with General-Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Tô Lâm in Hanoi on Wednesday.

The meeting touched on the friendly relations between the two countries, with His Majesty highlighting Jordan's readiness to explore new horizons for partnership with Vietnam, particularly in economic, investment and defence fields, according to a Royal Court statement.

Discussions also addressed opportunities to expand economic cooperation in pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, agriculture, halal foods and food security efforts.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign



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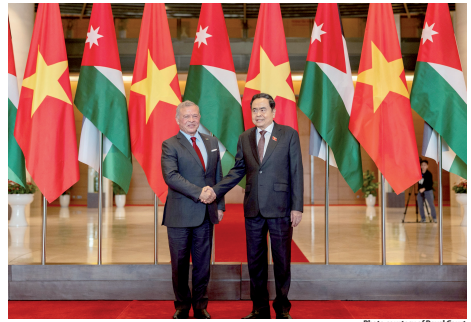
King meets with chairman of Vietnam National Assembly

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah met with chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Tran Thanh Man in Hanoi on Wednesday.

The meeting covered the long-standing friendship between Jordan and Vietnam, ways to enhance parliamentary cooperation, as well as the latest developments in the Middle East, particularly the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, according to a Royal Court statement.

His Majesty commended Vietnam's position in support of the two-state solution as the only way to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi,



His Majesty King Abdullah meets with Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Tran Thanh Man to discuss the long-standing friendship between Jordan and Vietnam

Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa

Batayneh, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Oudah, and Jordan's non-resi-

dent Ambassador to Vietnam Saad Radaideh attended the meeting.

JAF receives 16th group of Gaza child patients under medical corridor

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan on Sunday received the 16th group of child patients under the "Jordan Medical Corridor"

initiative, launched to support the Palestinian people and help alleviate their suffering.

The Jordan Armed

Forces-Arab Army (JAF) said that it had evacuated nine patients and 16 accompanying relatives, who

will receive treatment in Jordanian hospitals in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation, according to a JAF statement.

Since the initiative's launch in March 2025, Jordan has evacuated a total of 1446 individuals, comprising 387 patients and 1059 companions, transported by land and air over several trips to receive medical care in Jordan and other countries.

The initiative was announced by His Majesty King Abdullah, during a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House on February 11, 2025, to treat 2,000 child patients from Gaza in successive

stages.

The Jordan Medical Corridor is one of several ongoing initiatives launched by the Kingdom to support the people of Gaza.

Jordan runs two military field hospitals in Gaza — one in the Strip's north and was established in 2009 following the war in 2008 and the second in Khan Younis in the south, which was established in November 2023 at the peak of the Israeli war of aggression on the coastal enclave that erupted on October 7, 2023.

Besides the field hospitals in Gaza, the JAF established the Jordanian field hospital in Nabulus in late November 2023.



The Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army on Sunday receives the 16th group of child patients under the 'Jordan Medical Corridor' initiative, launched to support the Palestinian people and help alleviate their suffering

Jordan, Syria reopen water file with 'active joint committee' in place

'We now have an active joint committee after years of suspension'

By Mai Anati

AMMAN — Jordan and Syria have reopened their long-suspended water file, which represents an important step towards restoring structured cooperation after years of progress in managing shared resources.

A Syrian delegation recently concluded a visit to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, part of renewed technical discussions that build on a previous joint workshop



Aerial view of the Wihdeh Dam in the northern region on the border with Syria

on integrated water resources management held earlier in

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The Crown Prince Foundation on Wednesday concludes the first edition of the 2025 School Athletics Championship, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Jordan Athletics Federation

CPF concludes 2025 School Athletics Championship

AMMAN (JT) — The Crown Prince Foundation (CPF) on Wednesday concluded the first edition of the 2025 School Athletics Championship, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Jordan Athletics Federation.

The CPF said that the championship aligns with the vision of HRH Crown Prince Hussein to empower young people and develop their skills, aiming to build an aware and capable sporting generation and promote school sports culture through national partnerships, according to a ministry statement.

It also seeks to identify and nurture athletic talent from an early stage while instilling key values such as self-confidence, teamwork, discipline, commitment and perseverance.

Around 8,000 students from schools across the Kingdom participated in the championship, which featured 60- and 100-metre races through school and

regional qualifying rounds, culminating in finals that saw the participation of 48 students, where 18 winners were honoured across the different categories.

The event concluded with the awarding of winners and the recognition of referees and participating directorates, reflecting a spirit of positive competition and achievement

The closing ceremony also included inspirational stories from prominent Jordanian athletes, with footballer Muhammad Mahadin sharing his journey

and emphasising the importance of investing in sporting talent from school stages.

Taekwondo champion Juliana Sadiq also spoke about her career and achievements, highlighting the role of family support and mental preparation in turning challenges into opportunities.

The event concluded with the awarding of winners and the recognition of referees and participating directorates, reflecting a spirit of positive competition and achievement.

The CPF stressed it is preparing to launch the second phase of the championship to expand participation and discover more sporting talent nationwide.

The closing ceremony was held at the Amman International Stadium under the patronage of Ministry of Education Secretary-General for Educational Affairs Nawaf Al-Jarrah, and attended by CPF Executive Director Tamam Mango and Chairman of the Jordan Athletics Federation Rami Advan.

Princess Ghida, Dar Al Handasah sign agreement to support KHCC projects

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Princess Ghida Talal, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCCF) and Centre (KHCC), on Wednesday signed a cooperation agreement with Dar Al Handasah (Shair and Partners), represented by its CEO Talal Shair.

The agreement is part of Dar Al Handasah's contribution to supporting KHCCF's mission in fighting cancer, particularly by providing design services for future projects, which include designing a building for paediatric oncology treatment and a haematology and bone marrow transplantation centre for adult patients, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

During the signing ceremony, Princess Ghida stressed the importance of this cooperation, noting: "We highly appreciate this partnership with Dar Al Handasah, which will play a significant



HRH Princess Ghida Talal, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Centre, on Wednesday signs a cooperation agreement with Dar Al Handasah (Shair and Partners)

role in saving the lives of cancer patients and contribute to raising the level of care we provide to our patients."

Shair said: "Stemming from our absolute support for the critical role played by KHCCF in providing comprehensive care for cancer patients across Jordan, and our belief that the integra-

tion of engineering, medical, and social work forms a fundamental pillar in confronting health and humanitarian challenges."

He added: "We are honoured to be part of this work. This partnership enhances joint efforts to support cancer patients, especially children, by providing

innovative design solutions that contribute to ensuring the best possible physical and psychological care for them, reflecting the spirit of hope and supporting the journey of recovery, and reinforcing Jordan's medical status in the region."

The agreement is part of the KHCCF's efforts

to expand its capacity and continue providing full and advanced care to cancer patients from Jordan and the region, supported by leading national institutions that believe in the importance of community partnership in backing the health sector and enhancing its sustainability.

Army chief inaugurates facilities at Airports Security and Protection Directorate

AMMAN (JT) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Youssef Huneiti on Wednesday visited the Airports Security and Protection Directorate, where he was briefed on the directorate's roles and responsibilities, ongoing operations and training programmes.

During the visit, which was attended by several senior Jordan Army officers, Huneiti also checked on the directorate's initiatives, according to a JAF statement.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Youssef Huneiti on Wednesday visits the Airports Security and Protection Directorate, where he was briefed on the directorate's roles and responsibilities

He also inaugurated a number of administrative buildings and

facilities, including a mosque within the directorate premises, and

inspected the procedures for security and protection at airports and on aircraft, which are implemented in accordance with the latest operational standards and protocols.

Huneiti stressed the importance of providing all possible services and facilities to passengers, noting that such efforts reflect JAF's professionalism and efficiency in dealing with visitors to the Kingdom.

The army chief also highlighted the need to maintain the highest standards of performance

in coordination with other institutions and security agencies operating at airports, praising the efforts of the directorate's personnel.

The buildings were constructed and equipped according to the highest technical standards by the Military Housing and Works Directorate, aiming to enhance administrative facilities and provide comfort for the directorate's personnel, ensuring optimal performance of their duties.

Senate participates in inaugural Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference in Pakistan

AMMAN (JT) — A delegation from the Senate, headed by Chairman of the Administrative Committee Senator Tawfiq Krishan and the membership of Senator Rakan Fawaz, participated in the inaugural Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) held in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, under the theme: "Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development".

Krishan described the conference as "a precious opportunity that must be seized and a serious responsibility that must be shouldered", the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He added that the event will grant a deep understanding and an effective, comprehensive briefing on the essence of the chal-



A delegation from the Senate participates in the inaugural Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, held in the Pakistani capital Islamabad

lenges facing the aspirations and ambitions of nations in their endeavours to establish the foundations of peace, consolidate the components of security, and accelerate sustainable development.

Krishan underscored that parliaments, through the integration of their

roles, the synergy of their efforts and their soft power, represented by effective parliamentary diplomacy, will be an influential party in the equation of peace, security and development, and a bridge capable of igniting civilisation communication between nations and

peoples.

He stressed the importance for countries that are experiencing border disputes and conflicts to adopt the path of dialogue and negotiation, and prioritise the language of reason and wisdom in addressing their differences, to ensure stability, preserves the interests of their peoples and paves the way for peace, security and prosperity.

Krishan said that the recent Israeli war on the Gaza Strip exposed to the entire world the true face of Israel and the brutality of its barbaric army, which has committed genocide crimes against the Palestinian people.

He reiterated Jordan's steadfast position in defending the historical rights of the Palestinian

people, foremost among them the establishment of their independent state on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The senator stressed that His Majesty King Abdullah has made the Hashemite Custodianship over Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem a solid pillar at the core of his political discourse and diplomatic efforts.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Senate delegates, accompanied by the Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan Maen Khraisat, met with Chairman of the Pakistani Senate Yousuf Raza Gillani over ways to enhance parliamentary relations between the two countries.

Under the \$253,000 project funded by UN-Habitat, a water catchment pond would be established in the Al Husseinia area to support agricultural and pastoral activities and strengthen water security in the region, according to a ministry statement.

The initiative comes as part of national efforts to promote the sustainable management of water resources and address challenges posed by water scarcity and climate change through innovative, practical solu-

tions focused on rain-water harvesting and efficient water use in arid areas.

Agriculture Minister Saeb Khraisat said the project builds on the ministry's ongoing achievements within its water harvesting strategy and aligns with the executive programme of the Economic Modernisation Vision for 2026-2029, which prioritises water and food security and the efficient use of natural resources.

Khraisat highlighted the important role of UN agencies operating in Jordan, particularly UN-Habitat, in supporting government-led development and environmental projects, describing the collaboration as "a successful model of partnership between national institutions and international organisations".



The Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday signs an agreement with the UN-Habitat to implement a project aimed at enhancing the ecosystem through sustainable water harvesting in Al Husseinia

Agriculture Ministry, UN-Habitat sign agreement to enhance water harvesting

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday signed an agreement with the UN-Habitat to implement a project aimed at enhancing the ecosystem through sustainable water harvesting in Al Husseinia, in the southern governorate of Maan.

Under the \$253,000 project funded by UN-Habitat, a water catchment pond would be established in the Al Husseinia area to support agricultural and pastoral activities and strengthen water security in the region, according to a ministry statement.

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The project focuses on developing rain-water harvesting systems, particularly water ponds, in line with the Kingdom's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation.

Ataruz reveals 'vibrant' Islamic-period village life, enduring folklore

By Saeb Rawashdeh

AMMAN — Although Ataruz, located some 23 kilometres south of Madaba, is best known for its Iron Age temple and remarkable Mosaic religious heritage, the site also witnessed a "significant" chapter in its life during the Islamic period.

Evidence shows that Ataruz continued to be inhabited during both the Early Islamic and especially the Mid-Islamic (Mamluk) periods, noted Professor Chang-ho Ji

from La Sierra University. The professor added that the early phase left only light traces of activity—likely small groups or temporary use—but by the late 13th century, the hilltop evolved into a thriving rural village with several housing units, stone-paved floors, and domestic installations such as "tabuns".

"Families built new homes while also reusing building stones and architectural features from the earlier Iron Age structures," Ji continued, adding that during the

Islamic period, the site's role shifted dramatically—from a sacred and political hub to a village rooted in everyday family life and local economy.

Findings from the Islamic layers are rather abundant.

They include household tools such as grinding stones, mortars, pestles, jars and lamps; textile-related items like spindle whorls and metal pointers; and a striking amount of personal adornment—bracelets, earrings, pendants, beads, and even

ceramic stones linked to long-distance trade and Islamic devotional traditions, the professor elaborated.

"These discoveries reveal a picture of modest pottery and craftsmanship and a community engaged not only in subsistence but also in cultural expression and trade networks that reached as far as Cairo, Mesopotamia and India."

"While the Islamic period did not replicate the monumental grandeur of the Iron Age, it offers something equally com-

elling for a modern audience: A human-centred window into medieval village life in Jordan, showcasing resilience, adaptation, and cultural continuity through the reuse of Iron Age landscapes," Ji underlined.

While Ataruz was reoccupied during the Ottoman Period, there is no evidence that the site retained any cultic function during the Hellenistic-Roman or Islamic periods. However, the memory of its sacred past continued in local imagination.

Prince Hassan meets with academics, industrialists in Irbid

Prince highlights importance of integration between industry, scientific research

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Prince El Hassan, president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, on Wednesday visited Al Hassan Industrial Estate and Yarmouk University in Irbid.

During the visit, the prince met with a number of industrial and academic leaders, emphasising the importance of boosting integration among education, scientific research and industry to support sustainable national development, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.



HRH Prince El Hassan, president of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, on Wednesday visits Al Hassan Industrial Estate and Yarmouk University in Irbid

At Al Hassan Industrial Estate, Prince El Hassan was briefed on recent developments and key achievements in the fields of industry, investment, and employment.

In an open dialogue with experts from the industrial, trade and investment sectors, as well as academics and business leaders, the prince highlighted the

need to link industrial companies with vocational training institutions and universities to develop technical skills and enhance workforce efficiency in service of the national economy.

He underscored the significance of creating job opportunities and promoting economic empowerment to boost productivity and keep pace with global transformations towards digital systems.

The prince also called for enhancing the competitiveness of Al Hassan Industrial Estate as a hub for quality industrial investment and production in northern Jordan.

Prince El Hassan stressed the need to continue bridging the gap between academia and industry to enhance the national innovation ecosystem and align educational outputs with labour market needs.

During his visit to Yarmouk University, accompanied by HRH Princess Sumaya, Prince El Hassan met with presidents of Jordanian universities in a meeting dedicated to discussing two main topics: The importance of linking scientific research with the industrial sector and preparations for the upcoming "Youth and Renaissance" conference scheduled for April.

AT A GLANCE

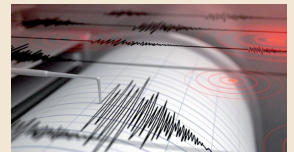
Army intercepts drugs smuggled from Syria



AMMAN (JT) — The Northern Military Zone on Wednesday intercepted an attempted narcotics smuggling operation along its northern frontiers. Authorities detected projectiles carrying drugs launched from Syrian territory towards Jordan, according to an army statement.

Following intensified search and inspection operations, the projectiles were seized and handed over to the competent authorities.

Northern Jordan residents feel tremors after Cyprus earthquake



AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Seismological Observatory (JSO) at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on Wednesday evening recorded a 5.9-magnitude earthquake that struck Cyprus at 5:23pm, according to JSO Director Ghassan Sweidan. Sweidan said the main quake was followed by several aftershocks ranging in magnitude between 2.9 and 4.0 on the Richter scale. He added that residents in the northern parts of Jordan felt the tremor.

PSD director, Canadian ambassador discuss enhancing bilateral security cooperation



AMMAN (JT) — Public Security Directorate (PSD) Director Maj. Gen. Obeidallah Maaytah met on Wednesday with Canadian Ambassador to the Kingdom Louis Martin Omeia to explore ways of strengthening security cooperation between the two countries. The meeting focused on improving operational efficiency and exchanging specialised expertise in line with international standards, according to a PSD statement. Maaytah highlighted the strong ties between both countries, particularly in policing and security and underscored the importance of sharing pioneering experiences to enhance public safety and support joint crime-fighting efforts. The ambassador commended the PSD's advancements at both strategic and operational levels and reaffirmed Canada's commitment to continued collaboration, praising the directorate's professionalism in delivering security and humanitarian services that bolster community stability.



Al Mamlaka TV photo

The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa receives around 3,430 barrels of Iraqi crude oil between October 11 and November 10, 2025, under the framework of the renewed memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries

3,430 barrels of Iraqi oil arrive at Zarqa Refinery under extended MoU

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa has received around 3,430 barrels of Iraqi crude oil between October 11 and November 10, 2025, under the framework of the renewed memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries.

According to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the deliveries were part of the quantities that had been delayed due to logistical reasons, the public service broadcaster Al Mamlaka TV reported.

The ministry said the continuation of these shipments ensures the steady supply of a portion of Jordan's crude oil needs, in line with the energy cooperation agreements between the two countries.

It also said that the move reflects the ongoing cooperation between Amman and Baghdad in the energy sector and aims to bolster economic ties and enhance Jordan's energy security.

Early winter drought raises concerns over Kingdom's agricultural sector, food supply

By Maria Weldali

AMMAN — As November progresses without significant rainfall, farmers and agricultural experts are warning that another dry start to the winter season could threaten crop production and intensify economic pressure on the country's struggling farming sector.



JT file

Farmers and agricultural experts warn that another dry start to the winter season could threaten crop production

Adnan Khaddam, president of the Jordan Valley Farmers Union, described the situation as "worrying but not surprising".

Speaking to The Jordan Times, he noted that rainfall patterns have become increasingly erratic in recent years, delaying the planting of winter crops and disrupting the agricultural calendar.

"Farmers are anxious because the rain has simply not come. The soil remains too dry for seeding, especially in rain-fed areas, and every day of delay adds more risk and expense," he said.

Rain-fed agriculture remains vital to Jordan's rural economy, particularly in the northern and central highlands, where crops such as barley and legumes depend almost entirely on natural precipitation, he added.

Khaddam noted that this year's lack of early rain has already reduced the planted area compared with previous seasons.

"Many farmers are holding off, waiting for rain. If it does not come soon, they will face a shorter growing window and likely lower yields," he said.

Engineer Laila Bani Amer, an agricultural consultant, stressed that dry soil conditions have halted sowing of wheat and chickpeas. "Without sufficient moisture, germination fails and seeds go to waste.

Some farmers have resorted to irrigation to prepare their land, but the costs are high, especially with rising diesel and water-pumping prices," she noted.

The economic implications extend beyond the fields. Reduced local production often increases reliance on imports, placing further strain on the country's trade balance. Already, the Ministry of Agriculture said that it is evaluating the possibility of importing olive oil after weak rainfall affected the withering of olive trees in several regions.

Khaddam warned that these recurring weather shocks highlight the need for greater investment in sustainable irrigation systems and climate-adaptation measures.

Each day without rain adds to the uncertainty faced by Jordanian farmers. A delay that used to be routine now appears as a symptom of broader climate change, threatening the stability of the nation's agriculture and food systems.

CBJ, Finance Ministry sign agreement to link e-payment system with GFMS

AMMAN (JT) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday signed a cooperation agreement to complete the electronic linkage with the Government Financial Management Information System (GFMS), which is implemented across all ministries and public institutions.

The agreement aims to automate all financial operations related to the ministry through systems developed by the CBJ, using the bank's digital certificate infrastructure, according to a CBJ statement.

Under the agreement, the CBJ and the Ministry of Finance will develop an integrated electronic connection system with the GFMS to execute cash transfer requests swiftly, securely and efficiently, thereby improving service quality and enhancing client satisfaction.

The system will automate services provided to government clients of the CBJ, significantly reducing processing time for high-volume transactions, the statement read.

In 2024 alone, non-automated transfers for the government sector, excluding salary payments, totalled around 3,350 transactions worth over JD7 billion.

The new system is expected to enhance institutional integration and save time and effort.

CBJ Deputy Governor Khalidoun Washah said the linkage aims to improve the quality of electronic banking services provided to the government sector, noting that the new system will enhance financial resource management, provide accurate and timely data to support decision-making, and strengthen financial oversight.

Finance Ministry Secretary General Salameh Oudah said the linkage will save time, effort and money for individuals and institutions, ensuring that fund transfers from ministries and departments using GFMS are conducted securely and efficiently in accordance with financial regulations.

He added that the system will also reduce human errors, eliminate risks related to lost or damaged cheques, and gradually resolve pending transactions.

Army chief, NATO official discuss cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti on Wednesday met with Director General of NATO's International Military Staff Gen. Janusz Adamczak and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, attended by several senior Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAAF) officers, the two sides discussed aspects of military cooperation and coordination, as well as ways to enhance the partnership in the fields of training and exchange of expertise, in a manner that contributes to achieving regional security and stability,



JAF photo

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti on Wednesday meets with Director General of NATO's International Military Staff Gen. Janusz Adamczak

announced the opening of its Liaison Office (NLO) in Amman, according to a second JAAF statement.

In September, NATO

describing it as an "important milestone in the long-standing partnership" between Jordan and the Alliance.

The Liaison Office builds on three decades of NATO and Jordan cooperation and marks the Alliance's first political presence in the Middle East, reflecting NATO's commitment to strengthening regional dialogue and cooperation.

The NATO Liaison Office also serves as a central platform for advancing joint initiatives and accelerating coordination between NATO and Jordan in addressing emerging regional challenges.

Cassation Court upholds 3-year sentence for man engaged in sexual activities with minor

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Cassation Court upheld a January 2024 Criminal Court decision to sentence a man to three years in prison after convicting him of engaging in consensual sexual activities with a minor in July 2022.

The Criminal Court handed the defendant a three-year prison term after convicting him of engaging in sexual activities with a 17-year-old girl five times in July.

Court documents said the defendant and the victim developed a relationship a few weeks before the incident.

"The defendant gave the victim a mobile to use for communications between them," the court stated.

The two filmed themselves in intimate positions and exchanged photos and videos, the court added.

The two also decided to meet alone in mid-July of 2022 when her family was not at home, the court maintained.

The two engaged in "consensual sexual activities five times", according to court papers.

The matter was exposed a few weeks later when the victim's family found the mobile and discovered its content and filed a complaint against him, the court added.

The defendant contested the Criminal Court's ruling through his lawyer, claiming that the "victim gave contradictory statements regarding the incident".

Meanwhile, the Criminal Court's attorney general asked the higher court to uphold the ruling.

The Cassation Court ruled that the Criminal Court's judgement fell within the law, that the

proceedings were proper and that the sentence given was satisfactory.

The Cassation Court tribunal comprised of judges Mahmoud Ebtouh, Rizeq Abulfool, Fawzi Nahar, Ibrahim Abu Shamma and Majid Rafaya.

Iraq's Sudani secures 'major victory' in general election — sources close to PM

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al Sudani, who is vying for a second term, has scored a big win in general elections, sources close to the premier said on Wednesday.

Iraqis on Tuesday headed to the polls for a general election that came as the country experiences a rare moment of calm in a region roiled by recent conflicts.

The next premier must answer to Iraqis seeking better jobs, better infrastructure, and improved education and health systems in a country plagued by corruption and mismanagement.

But he also faces the exacting task of maintaining the delicate balance between Iraq's allies, Iran and the US, even more so now that the Middle East is undergoing seismic changes, with new alliances forming and old powers weakening.

Iraq's electoral commission is expected to announce preliminary results later in the evening, but an official close to the premier said that his "Reconstruction and Development" list has secured a major victory.

Another two sources said Sudani's alliance has "won the largest bloc", with approximately 50 seats.

Sudani has emerged as a major force in Iraqi politics, after he was brought to power three years ago by an alliance of pro-Iran groups.

Official task

Once final results are confirmed, lawmakers are set to begin negotiations to nominate the prime minister, an often painstaking task that has



Iraqi soldiers stand in line to enter the polling station to cast their votes, during a special voting day for Iraqi security forces, taking place two days before polls open to the public in the parliamentary elections, in Baghdad on Sunday

at times taken months.

With an outright majority almost impossible to achieve by any single list, the role of prime minister is determined by the coalition that can secure enough post-election allies to form the largest alliance.

In Iraq, the role of prime minister goes to the Shiite majority, the speaker of parliament to a Sunni Muslim and the largely ceremonial presidency goes to a Kurd.

In previous parliaments, Shiite majority parties have struck compromise deals to work together and form a government.

Sudani was brought to power in 2022 by the Coordination Framework, an alliance of powerful pro-Iran Shiite parties who formed the largest parliamentary bloc.

A senior Iraqi politician told AFP last month that the Coordination Framework is divided over supporting Sudani, with former prime minister Nuri Al Maliki reportedly likely to oppose a second term for the incumbent.

Always a balance

Even as Iraq tries to move past two decades of war since a US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hus-

sein, the country of 46 million suffers from poor infrastructure and public services, mismanagement and corruption.

Many Iraqis who boycotted the elections told AFP the vote wouldn't bring meaningful change to their daily lives and said that it was a sham that only benefits political elites and regional powers.

Sudani has nonetheless vowed to continue on the path of "reconstruction and development".

During his three-year tenure, Baghdad has been transformed into a bustling construction

hub, with new tunnels and bridges springing up across the city. He also maintains that his government helped shield Iraq from regional turmoil in the past two years.

The next premier will have to maintain the balance between Iran and the US, the long term foes for whom Iraq has often served as a proxy battleground.

Since the US-led invasion, Iran has held sway in Iraqi politics, not only backing influential politicians but also supporting armed groups there.

The past two years

have seen Israel inflict heavy losses on Tehran-backed groups in the region and Iran itself was on the receiving end of an unprecedented Israeli bombing campaign that led to a 12-day war in June.

In addition to maintaining its foothold through the groups it backs, Tehran is also seeking to keep the Iraqi market open to products from its crippled economy.

Washington meanwhile hopes to cripple Tehran's influence, and has long pressured Baghdad to disarm Iran-backed groups.

JFK's grandson launches Congress bid for New York seat

NEW YORK (AFP) — John F. Kennedy's grandson Jack Schlossberg will seek a seat in the US House of Representatives, he said in a social media announcement that highlighted the soaring cost of living while attacking the White House.

The former president's only grandson will seek in midterm elections on November 3, 2026 to replace Jerry Nadler of New York's solidly Democratic 12th Congressional district, who is retiring.

Schlossberg, 32, known for his quirky social media clips, is seen as a progressive on the left of the Democratic Party and has vocally called for it to change, backing leftists like New York Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, 34.

He could face a crowded field to reach the election as the Democratic Party's anointed candidate depending on potential primary challenges.

In the clip posted to Instagram late Tuesday, Schlossberg called out a "crisis at every level", pointing to cuts to education, healthcare and social programmes, as well as alleged corruption.

He announced in September that he had formed an exploratory committee after Nadler said he would step down from representing the district that includes the middle portion of Manhattan.

"This district should have a representative who can harness the creativity, energy and drive of this district and translate that

into political power in Washington," he said in his announcement video.

"I'm not running because I have all the answers to our problems. I'm running because the people of New York 12 do."

He previously told The New York Times that "if Zohran Mamdani and I have anything in common, it's that we are both trying to be authentic versions of ourselves".

Schlossberg has also used his significant social media following to attack President Donald Trump.

'I'm not running because I have all the answers to our problems. I'm running because the people of New York 12 do'

"The President has made almost \$1 billion this year. He's picking winners and losers from inside the Oval Office. It's cronyism, not capitalism," he said in his announcement.

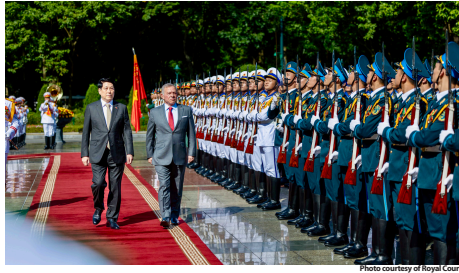
King, Vietnam president hold talks in Hanoi

Continued from page 1

The talks also covered regional developments, with His Majesty calling for creating a political horizon that would lead to just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the two-state solution, according to the statement.

The King reiterated the importance of ensuring adherence to the agreement on Gaza and intensifying international efforts to address the humanitarian crisis.

His Majesty warned of the dangers of continued escalations in the West Bank and Jerusalem, reasserting Jordan's rejection of plans to expand set-



His Majesty King Abdullah II held talks with Vietnam President Luong Cuong, focusing on bilateral relations and regional developments

tlements in the West Bank, annex land, and displace Palestinians. The King also stressed the need to

support Syria and Lebanon's efforts to maintain their security, stability and territorial integrity.

For his part, the Vietnamese president affirmed his country's commitment to expanding relations and

strengthening cooperation with Jordan. On the sidelines of the visit, the governments of Jordan and Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the foreign ministries of both countries, and another Memorandum of Understanding between the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarbub Oudab, and Jordan's non-resident Ambassador to Vietnam Saad Radaideh attended the meeting.

Ukraine ministers resign over major corruption scandals

KYIV, Ukraine (AFP) — Ukraine's energy and justice ministers resigned on Wednesday over their alleged involvement in a sweeping corruption scandal in the country's energy sector.

Investigators alleged a key ally of President Volodymyr Zelensky orchestrated a \$100 million kickback scheme to siphon off funds, triggering public anger at a time of widespread power outages caused by Russian attacks.

Ukraine has long been plagued by corruption and cracking down on graft is seen as a key requirement of its bid to join the European Union.

Zelensky earlier called for the resignation of his Justice Minister German Galushchenko, who investigators alleged received "personal benefits" in the scheme. Deputy Prime Minister Svitlana Grynchuk, who investigators alleged received "personal benefits" in the scheme, also resigned.

Neither is known to have been charged and Grynchuk has not been mentioned as having profited from the scheme.

"The minister of justice and the minister of energy cannot remain in their positions," Zelensky said in a video posted on social media.

Shortly afterwards, both submitted letters of resignation, Ukraine's Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said.

The scandal has triggered outcry among Ukrainians, who are suffering frequent heating and electricity outages from the Russian bombings.

"It's disgusting," Dav-

yd, a 24-year-old content creator, told AFP, declining to give his surname.

"They're destroying us, our reputation, and our future. We won't have a future if we have crooks like that," he said, expressing concern over how the scandal would play among Kyiv's crucial backers in the EU.

People "raise as much money as possible to help the army, and they are just hiding the money in their basements," he added.

'Internal enemies'

The allegations unveiled earlier this week, centre on kickbacks from contracts involving Energoatom, the state nuclear operator and country's most important electricity provider.

Grynchuk replaced Galushchenko as energy minister in the summer. Ukraine's parliament needs to formally approve both their resignations.

Anti-corruption prosecutors later said they also arrested an unnamed woman in the major operation.

Olena Boikova, 57, a retiree, said she felt "absolutely unacceptable" that those implicated in the scheme "internal enemies".

Ordering the ministers to step down, Zelensky said it was "absolutely unacceptable that there are still some [corruption] schemes in the energy sector" while Ukrainians are suffering daily outages.

Russia has battered Ukraine's energy grid with nightly drone and missile strikes in what Kyiv calls cynical attacks that seek to plunge millions of Ukrainians into the darkness and cold through the winter.

Investigators say the scheme was masterminded by Timur Mindich, a former business associate of Zelensky.

Mindich co-owns the production company Kvarial 95, founded by Zelensky when he was a star comedian before entering politics.

Mindich fled the country shortly before the allegations were announced on Monday, the state border service said.

Zelensky has not commented on Mindich's role in the scheme, but Prime Minister Svyrydenko said she was imposing personal sanctions on him and another businessman charged, Oleksandr Tsukerman.

Kvarial 95, which produced Zelensky's "Servant of the People" TV series, said the probe was not "related to the work of the studio".

The scandal presents a major test for Zelensky, who faces accusations of centralising power and silencing critics after the Russian invasion.

Earlier this year, there was a massive backlash from the public and in Brussels over attempts to strip the independence of the two anti-corruption bodies that are investigating and prosecuting this case.

Jordan, Syria reopen water file with 'active joint committee' in place

Continued from page 1

The meetings focused on strengthening coordination over shared basins, particularly the Yarmouk Basin, a vital source for both countries that has long faced challenges from irregular flows and upstream pressures.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation had earlier announced that the two countries reached an agreement on fair water sharing, underscoring their mutual commitment to advancing cooperation.

The ministry also confirmed the establishment of the Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee after a year of suspension," Salameh said. "There are preliminary agreements to reactivate this framework for the benefit of both countries, with a focus on improving water con-

ditions in the Yarmouk Basin," he added. Salameh noted that on several points, such as cloud seeding and enhancing water resources, and the Syrian side has already taken steps to stop illegal well drilling. Communications and meetings are ongoing, and we are hopeful these efforts will yield positive results for both sides".

Water experts view the renewed talks as a constructive step that blends technical cooperation with political will.

Laith Waked, who has led multiple projects in the water and agriculture sectors, said the renewed dialogue marks a pragmatic shift toward structured, long-term cooperation between

"The Yarmouk is a cross-border river governed by international law," he said, adding, "Unfortunately, Syria has not always complied with previous agreements, constructing dams and wells that have affected the river's flow into Jordan. This issue requires patience, political courage and a strategic use of leverage, through energy and resource exchange, to secure Jordan's fair share."

While challenges remain, particularly regarding upstream control and climate pressures, officials and experts agree that the revived dialogue marks a pragmatic shift toward structured, long-term cooperation between

Amman and Damascus, rooted in shared responsibility and mutual benefit. The development also aligns with Jordan's broader regional approach of fostering stability through dialogue and resource diplomacy, reaffirming the Kingdom's role as a constructive partner in addressing cross-border challenges.

Referring to remain unnamed, a senior official source has recently to The Jordan Times that the Syria's new authorities "really want to resolve water disputes with Jordan". "But they [the Syrians] themselves have similar drought issue that prevents them from resolving water share problem with Jordan."

THE JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily, established in 1975
 Published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 Queen Rania Al Abdullah Street
 PO Box 6110
 Amman 11118

Chairman of the Board
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Raed Omari

Editorial and advertising offices
 Jordan Press Foundation

The Jordan Times is published daily except Saturdays

E-mail: editor@jordantimes.com
journal@jordantimes.com
 Website: jordantimes.com
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National Library registration number:
 D19982062
 Telephone: 5500800 ext. 2392
 Facsimile: 5696183
 Advertising facsimile: 5696183
 Circulation Department:
 560800 ext. 2383

A new geopolitical paradigm

The visit this week of Syrian President Ahmed Al Sharaa to the White House could mark a turning point in traditionally unstable US-Syrian relations.

This visit, the first ever to the US by a Syrian president since the country's independence in 1946, put an end to Syria's journey from the cold embrace of Russia and Iran, the two external powers which supported the ousted Assad regime.

Just to be on the safe side, last month Sharaa also travelled to Moscow where he met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

This was their first encounter since the fall of Assad and revealed that Damascus and Moscow remain determined to maintain close ties.

While there Sharaa stated that previously signed agreements with Russia would be respected, indicating that Russian troops and sailors could remain at their bases in Syria.

Sharaa clearly intends to balance allies between east and west to retain a certain degree of freedom of action.



Michael Jansen

The White House visit also capped Sharaa's own transformational journey from Al Qaeda warrior fighting the 2003 US occupation of Iraq, his five years in a US prison, and relegation to the northwest Syrian province of Idlib where he prepared the putsch against President Bashar Assad and the takeover of Syria.

The first US-led coup in this region took place in Syria in March 1949 when the Syrian army overthrew President Shukri Al Quwatli who was accused of purchasing inferior arms for the Syrian army ahead of the 1948 war with Israel.

The officer behind the coup was Hosni Za'im who was overthrown that year, ushering a series of coups d'état until Hafez Assad ended the upheavals in 1970 and established a regime which lasted until December 2024 when Sharaa's Haya't Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) ousted Assad.

Under the Assads, Syria adopted domestic socialism and a line independent of the US in foreign policy by turning toward on Russia and Iran.

After the 2011 regional unrest began they tried to defend the Assads from dissidents like HTS which established itself in Idlib and with the protection and aid of Turkey took power in Syria in a bloodless coup.

Sharaa can still count on backing from NATO power and US ally Turkey, a fact which irks Israel.

Sharaa's visit to the White House has not only boosted his personal position but enabled Trump to press Congress to lift anti-Assad sanctions under the Caesar Act to enable Syria to raise investments to rebuild its economy and infrastructure after nearly a decade of unrest and financial collapse.

Although the number of Syrians who lived in poverty was 33 per cent before unrest erupted in 2011, the figure now is 90 per cent.

The US Treasury Department said it "will support Syria's efforts to rebuild its economy, provide prosperity for all its citizens, including its ethnic and religious minorities and combat terrorism".

Syria has formally joined the 89-member international coalition to defeat Daesh.

Trump and Sharaa discussed the integration of the US-backed Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) into the Syrian army as the SDF has been the most successful militia in the war against Daesh.

This has, so far, been resisted by the SDF although under US and Turkish pressure the SDF could be compelled to merge.

However, this could be difficult with the largely fundamentalist forces commanded by Sharaa.

On the domestic front, Sharaa must stabilise Syria by imposing law and order although it would appear that his military and police forces are undermanned and overstretched.

Consequently, in Syrian cities and rural areas there is low level street violence involving car jackings and robberies.

His security forces have apparently cracked down on fundamentalist elements who earlier attacked southern Druze and coastal Alawite areas.

In a key diplomatic shift, the US has announced the official reopening of the Syrian embassy in Washington, ending more than a decade of diplomatic absence.

After the presidential meeting, Syrian Foreign Minister Assad Al Saibai and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held discussions to outline the implementation of the agreed-upon initiatives.

It would appear that time will not be wasted while advancing relations.

From occupation to execution: How Israel's draft law violates international humanitarian law

By Hassan Dajeh

The Israeli occupation government has recently been moving towards enacting legislation that would allow the execution of Palestinian prisoners. This proposal cannot be viewed as a purely internal legislative matter, but rather as a step that violates the rules of public international law, international humanitarian law and human rights conventions, and contradicts the fundamental principles established by the United Nations since its founding.

The core of the issue is not merely the punishment itself, but the nature of the relationship between the occupying power and the occupied people, and the rights guaranteed to people struggling for self-determination.

The legal issue here extends beyond the punishment itself, reaching the very core of the international system, which is based on the illegitimacy of punishing individuals for exercising their fundamental right to resist occupation.

Since the adoption of its Charter in 1945, the United Nations has established a legal and moral foundation affirming the principle of the right of peoples to self-determination, a principle subsequently reaffirmed in several UN resolutions, including Resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960, which explicitly affirmed the legitimacy of the struggle of people under colonial domination or foreign occupation.

As stipulated in the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1977, armed conflicts waged by people against foreign occupation are recognised as international conflicts. This entails rights

for combatants and prisoners of war, prohibiting their treatment as criminal offenders.

According to international humanitarian law, prisoners of war or those detained for reasons related to conflict or resistance, enjoy special protection. The Third Geneva Convention of 1949 emphasises the guarantee of a fair trial according to international standards and prohibits arbitrary punishment or the use of the judiciary as an instrument of political reprisal.

The Convention also prohibits subjecting prisoners to any violence, threats or humiliation, and forbids the imposition or execution of a death sentence except after a fair trial with guarantees of defence and review. However, the Israeli bill contradicts these principles, as it is not based on a legitimate legal framework but rather on political and vindictive motives, targeting a specific group based on their national identity rather than on objective legal criteria.

The bill also constitutes a flagrant violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, Article 6 of which stipulates that the death penalty... Where it still exists, it should only be applied to the "most serious crimes", and only after a fair trial before an independent and impartial judiciary. However, the facts in Israeli military courts indicate conviction rates exceeding 99 per cent, according to reports from international organisations. This raises serious doubts about the integrity of the military justice system for Palestinian detainees and demonstrates that trials under occupation fail to meet even the minimum standards of procedural justice.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), in its Article 10, affirms the right of every person to a fair and public trial before an impartial tribunal, a right clearly undermined within the Israeli occupation court system.

Furthermore, Article 5 of the Declaration and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibit cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment — standards that have been repeatedly violated in the case of Palestinian prisoners.

The legal issue here extends beyond the punishment itself, reaching the very core of the

international system, which is based on the illegitimacy of punishing individuals for exercising their fundamental right to resist occupation. The UN Charter, in Article 1, refers to the right of peoples to struggle against foreign domination and affirms the principle of self-determination as one of the organisation's fundamental objectives.

The International Court of Justice, in its 2004 advisory opinion on the separation wall, also affirmed that the Palestinian people have an inalienable right to self-determination, and that the international community has a duty to respect this right and refrain from taking any measures that impede its exercise.

It also contributes to eroding the image of the Israeli judicial system internationally and puts it at odds with human rights institutions and international courts

From the perspective of international humanitarian law, resistance to occupation is not a criminal offense, but rather an act related to an international armed conflict.

Therefore, treating combatants as prisoners of war or protected detainees remains a legal obligation of the occupying power.

Criminalising the act of resistance and then punishing it with the death penalty constitutes a double violation: A violation of the individual rights of the detainee and a violation of the collective right of the people to resist occupation.

Furthermore, enacting such a law opens the door to a discriminatory policy based on national identity, as it will be applied only to Palestinians. This,

according to international law standards, amounts to collective punishment, a clear violation of Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits collective punishment and all acts of terrorism.

Beyond the legal aspect, adopting this legislation carries serious political implications. It paves the way for transforming justice into a tool of revenge, undermines any chance for a just political solution and fuels violence instead of curbing it.

It also contributes to eroding the image of the Israeli judicial system internationally and puts it at odds with human rights institutions and international courts.

International law, including international criminal law, holds political and military leaders directly responsible for decisions that lead to grave violations of international humanitarian law.

If implemented, this bill could form the basis for prosecution before the International Criminal Court under the Rome Statute, given that extrajudicial killings or killings carried out as part of a discriminatory policy, constitute war crimes.

The international community and the United Nations institutions have a clear responsibility to stand against legislation that legalises extrajudicial killings. International legitimacy is not a slogan, but a binding commitment.

The international community's failure to uphold the legal foundation upon which the modern international order is built opens the door to the law of the jungle and threatens the entire human rights system.

The attempt to impose the death penalty on Palestinian prisoners is not a legal measure to maintain security, but a direct violation of international law and a dangerous regression from the principles agreed upon by the world after World War II. Legislation does not legitimise occupation, nor does it negate the right of people to freedom.

The right remains clear, and the law is unequivocal: A people under occupation have a legitimate right to struggle for self-determination and a prisoner is not a criminal, but rather part of an unresolved political issue.

The author is a professor of Strategic Studies at Al-Husseini Bin Talal University

The key to unlocking private climate finance

By Lynn Forester de Rothschild

LONDON — The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), now under way in Brazil, marks a decade since 195 parties adopted the landmark Paris climate agreement at COP21.

But what should be a moment of celebration is instead being overshadowed by rising uncertainty: The climate-finance gap still amounts to trillions of dollars, while support among the developed countries for climate action is fracturing.

The transition to a low-carbon global economy cannot succeed without the active participation of the private sector, yet businesses and investors are reluctant to commit funds amid uncertainty and instability. Above all, markets need predictability: Coherent policy frameworks, clearly defined priority sectors, and practical strategies for managing the financial, environmental and social risks.

The predictability and stability that investors and markets require, however, remain out of reach.

The International Energy Agency has warned that policy uncertainty has stalled the development and usage of many promising clean-energy technologies that are ripe for scaling up.

Excluding AI, venture-capital funding for energy innovation declined across sectors in 2023 and 2024.

Meanwhile, most countries still lack the policy and investment mechanisms needed to mobilise private capital at scale.

While tighter financial conditions and policy uncertainty play a major role, they are only part of the problem.

A deeper, often overlooked reason for the slow pace of progress is that the global climate movement has largely failed to focus on the people most affected by the energy transition: Workers, consumers and local communities.

From its very inception, the Council for Inclusive Capitalism (which I lead) has argued that major economic transitions provide companies and investors with a unique opportunity to build a more inclusive society.

The predictability and stability that investors and markets require, however, remain out of reach

Inspired by the late Pope Francis's call to "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor", we established a partnership with energy-intensive companies and investors to develop a framework for a just climate transition.

Created in collaboration with BE, Reliance, the California Public Employees' Retirement System, State Street and others, this framework places people at the heart of the energy transition.

It emphasises universal access to clean energy, decent jobs that provide pathways for retraining and reskilling, support for local communities and the need to strengthen supply chains. It also recognises that investors' capital-allocation strategies must align with these priorities through meaningful stakeholder engagement and sharing of best practices.

Together with the energy transition, the AI revolution is set to reshape labour markets. To this end, we co-hosted a meeting with World Bank President Ajay Banga at the recent UN Climate Week in New York to discuss how to learn from the mistakes of past transitions and ensure that no one is left behind.

Turning ambition into action requires achievable national strategies.

When implemented effectively, nationally determined contributions can serve as more than just climate pledges — they can guide investment and act as roadmaps for economic transformation.

Brazil provides a useful model: A joint report by the OECD and the UN Development Programme touts the country's National Bank for Economic and Social Development as a leader in creating innovative financial instruments capable of attracting private capital at scale.

Other emerging markets are also making strides. Wind and solar power are expanding rapidly across Africa, the Middle East and Asia, with India on track to become the world's second-largest renewable-energy market after China.

For developing countries, inclusive growth is not a slogan but a socioeconomic imperative, particularly when it comes to ensuring access to energy

and critical infrastructure.

Developed economies face a different set of challenges. In the United States, about 40 per cent of energy and technology projects announced under former US president Joe Biden's industrial and climate policies were already experiencing delays even before President Donald Trump's return to the White House. At the same time, rising energy costs are jeopardising the United Kingdom's net-zero transition, while European manufacturers struggle to cut CO₂ emissions and stay profitable in a global market increasingly dominated by Chinese firms.

Even so, there are reasons for cautious optimism.

Although Trump withdrew the US from the Paris agreement, energy affordability and AI competitiveness remain top national priorities.

Institutional investors and private capital have both the means and the incentive to back emerging technologies — including carbon-free, scalable nuclear energy — that can sustain AI growth without driving up utility costs.

The dozens of world leaders in Brazil for COP30 are meeting at a critical juncture.

To build a just and sustainable future, we must bridge the divide between governments, financial institutions, civil society and the private sector.

Only by focusing on workers, communities and consumers can we translate national targets into tangible progress that protects both people and the planet.

Lynn Forester de Rothschild, CEO of E.L. Rothschild, is founder and CEO of the Council for Inclusive Capitalism. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2024. www.project-syndicate.org

BUSINESS

Thursday, November 13, 2025

96% of consumers in Jordan 'proactively' safeguard digital payments — study

- 98% of consumers trust digital payments
- 80% anticipate increased usage in next 12 months
- 85% are likely to act on messages 'commonly' used by scammers, including clicking on link or responding to sender

By Ilham Darwazah

AMMAN — A study conducted by Visa entitled with 'Stay Secure' is launched on Wednesday, in association with Bank Al Eithad, in association with Bank Al Eithad, and in sponsorship of Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

The recent study made by Visa highlights 'strong' consumer awareness and 'solid' adoption of digital payment security measures in Jordan.

'Stay Secure' which surveyed 300 adults, found that 96 per cent of consumers are actively taking precautions to secure their online transactions, underscoring growing savviness as digital payments 'rapidly' gain momentum.

While 44 per cent of respondents acknowledge their vulnerability to scams like phishing, this is offset by greater adoption of security measures and a preference for stronger authentication, indicating a 'proactive' shift in consumer behaviour.

Consumers are now 'demonstrably' more adept at spotting red flags and verifying the legitimacy of online interactions.

This awareness is underscored by 50 per cent of consumers who consider themselves knowledgeable about recognising fraud and scams.

Additional insights highlight the continued acceleration of digital payments in the Kingdom, with 96 per cent of respondents stating that



A study conducted by Visa entitled with 'Stay Secure' is launched on Wednesday, in association with Bank Al Eithad, and in sponsorship of Central Bank of Jordan

they "mostly" or "completely" trust digital payments, even in the face of potential fraud threats.

As digital payments continue to grow in use and popularity in Jordan, the study outlines actionable steps that retailers, banks and payments processors can take to cultivate even greater trust.

By 2030, the number of users in the digital payments market in Jordan is projected to reach 6.37 million with a transaction value of \$11.22 billion.

Vice President and Country Manager for Levant, Mario Makary, said: "Visa is proud to bring

our Stay Secure study to Jordan, affirming a highly empowered consumer base in the country."

He added, "Jordanians understand the future of payments is increasingly digital and are not only aware of digital payment security threats but also actively taking steps to protect their transactions."

Makary noted that "this proactive engagement, with an unwavering trust despite fraud concerns, powerfully illustrates the value and convenience of digital payments."

"Visa's continuous consumer education initiatives are vital for fostering

and reinforcing this trust. Yet, with online scams an ever-present danger, continuous consumer vigilance remains paramount." He added.

Chief Executive Officer of Bank Al Eithad, Munasser Dawwas, said that "We are pleased to work with Visa to create a more secure and inclusive digital payments ecosystem that benefit consumers, businesses and banks in Jordan."

CEO noted, "Awareness is the first step, and the Stay Secure initiative provides educational resources and practical tips to combat fraud."

Dawwas added, "At

building trust, as around 96 per cent of respondents surveyed 'trust' digital payments for making transactions.

In fact, 78 per cent Jordanians feel more secure when required to enter a security code or click on a link from the vendor to confirm their identity when making online payments.

Digital payments gain traction is one of findings where consumers in Jordan view digital payments is faster and simpler than other methods (73 per cent) and appreciate that they allow them to make payments anytime, anywhere (64 per cent).

Study revealed that 50 per cent of respondents consider themselves very or 'extremely' knowledgeable when it comes to recognising frauds and scams.

In Jordan, 52 per cent consider mobile payments as the "easiest" digital payment method, while bank transfers are the "safest" and "most secure" (66 per cent).

Overall, 90 per cent intend to use digital payments more over the next 12 months.

The "Stay Secure" study is a part of Visa's annual Stay Secure campaign, launched in Jordan in partnership with Bank Al Eithad, which reflects both partners commitment to raising consumer awareness, strengthening education and building confidence during the first nine months of

Another finding is



Al Wadi Al Abyad phosphate mine in the Karak Governorate, located some 115 kilometres southeast of Amman

Industrial output edges up 1.47% for first nine months in 2025 — DoS

AMMAN (JT) — The Industrial Production Index rose by 1.47 per cent during the first nine months of 2025, compared with the same period of 2024, according to the Department of Statistics (DoS).

In its latest monthly report released on Wednesday, the DoS said the cumulative index reached 88.96 percentage points from January to September 2025, up from 87.67 percentage points a year earlier.

While industrial output recorded a slow-down in September, falling by 0.80 per cent compared with the same month of 2024 and by 3.58 per cent compared with August.

The report also noted that the base year for the index has been revised to 2018=100, replacing 2010=100, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The manufacturing sector, which carries the highest relative weight of 88.7 per cent, posted a 1.45 per cent increase in production during the first nine months of

the year. The electricity sector, accounting for 5.9 per cent of the index, rose by 3.24 per cent, while the extractive industries sector with a 5.4 per cent share, slipped by 0.87 per cent.

On a monthly basis, the overall industrial production index dropped to 89.46 percentage points in September, compared with 90.18 percentage points in September 2024 and 92.78 points in August 2025.

The decline was primarily attributed to a 1.32 per cent contraction in manufacturing output.

In contrast, the mining and quarrying sector and the electricity sector each recorded growth of 3.39 per cent compared with the same month last year.

In comparison with August, all major sectors experienced declines. Manufacturing output fell by 2.63 per cent, extractive industries sector by 1.65 per cent, and electricity production by a sharp 18.27 per cent.

Stocks mostly rise on hopes of US shutdown deal, rate cut

LONDON (AFP) — World stock markets mostly rose Wednesday on optimism the US government shutdown was nearing an end and on hopes of another Federal Reserve interest rate cut.

Wall Street stocks edged ahead after the opening bell ahead of a congressional vote expected to reopen the government after the longest shutdown — six weeks — in US history.

The House of Representatives appeared likely to vote on Wednesday on a spending bill to solve the budget standoff, after eight Democrats broke ranks in the Senate on Monday.

Around 20 minutes into trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had added around 0.8 per cent while the broad-based S&P 500 added 0.3 per cent, while the tech-rich Nasdaq edged into the red after several days of gains.

Adam Sarhan of 50 Park Investments said the market needed concrete signals about the economy after the shutdown resulted in a dearth of economic data.

"Investors are going to wait for the next bullish catalyst, which could be Nvidia, arguably the most important AI stock out there right now," Sarhan said. The chipmaker is set to report earnings on November 19 Paris and Frankfurt



A person walks past the New York Stock Exchange at Wall Street in New York

both gained just over 1 per cent, while London was up 0.3 per cent.

In Asia, Hong Kong and Tokyo ended higher but Shanghai edged lower.

"The prospect of an end to the US government shutdown later today is fueling demand for risk assets," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading group XTB.

After passing the Senate, a spending bill to reopen the US government is due before the House of Representatives and then President Donald Trump, with hopes services can resume as soon as Friday.

Investors have welcomed the deal, which would end a shutdown that began on October 1 and saw a million feder-

al workers unpaid, food benefits for low-income Americans threatened and thousands of flights cancelled.

The dearth of key data points has left traders and the Federal Reserve unable to make informed decisions on policy.

"The end of the shutdown is positive for financial markets as we should get a clear read on economic data in the next week or so," Brooks said.

Adding to the upbeat mood were expectations for a Fed rate cut in December after data from private payrolls firm ADP added to recent reports pointing to a softening US labour market.

"Investors want — and need — this data to be soft enough to justify

another 25 basis point rate cut from the Fed's Reserve in December," said Ipek Ozkardeskaya, senior analyst at Swissquote bank.

Wall Street had closed mixed on Tuesday amid worries about elevated tech valuations following a breathtaking AI-fueled rally this year.

Traders were also spooked by news that Japanese investment firm SoftBank had sold all its shares in US chip giant Nvidia for \$5.8 billion, without giving a reason.

Shares in Nvidia fell three per cent on Tuesday but clawed that back Wednesday, and SoftBank plunged as much as 10 per cent in Tokyo after Wednesday's open before closing down 3.5 per cent.

Microsoft says to invest \$10b in Portugal AI data centre

LISBON (AFP) — Microsoft said recently it intends to invest \$10 billion from early next year in a mega data centre in Portugal dedicated to developing artificial intelligence infrastructure.

The project, in partnership with British firm Nscale, which specialises in AI data centres, and with Start Campus, which has begun construction of a major data centre near the southern port of Sines, will see Microsoft install 12,600 of Nvidia's latest-generation chips.

The company in a statement termed the scheme "one of the largest investments in AI computing ca-



AFP File Photo

capacity in Europe".

In an interview with the Portuguese business daily Jornal de Negócios, Microsoft President Brad Smith said Portugal has emerged as a key European destination for data centre construction and

investment.

Smith is currently in Lisbon for the Web Summit, a key annual event in the hi-tech calendar, dubbed "Davos for geeks".

In addition to a data centre powered by renewable energy, the Sines

site has the advantage of being a link point for important submarine telecommunications cables linking the Americas to Europe.

Regarding data centres, "demand in the AI field, particularly over the last five months, has become quite crazy," Nscale's product director, Daniel Bathurst, told AFP.

For a player like Microsoft, "it's a race against time," he added.

"We have the expertise, we have access to the energy, and we can implement this for them on time," he added in an interview on the sidelines of the Web Summit.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Wednesday amounted to JD12.5 million spread over 5.8 million shares that traded through 3,637 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 0.11 per cent, closing at 3421.24 points.

Out of 109 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 37 companies rose while the share price of another 33 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Jordan Worsteds Mills by 5.05 per cent, Tuhama for Financial Investments by 4.76 per cent, Jordanian Management and Consulting Company by 4.74 per cent, Dar Al Aman for Islamic Finance by 4.65 per cent and Babelon Investments Company Plc. by 4.41 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Jordanian Mutual Funds Management Company by 20 per cent, Jordan Insurance by 7.41 per cent, Union Investment Corporation by 7.14 per cent, Union Tobacco and Cigarette Industries by 5.26 per cent and Shira Real Estate Development and Investments by 5 per cent.

THE MARKET TODAY

ASE Index: ▲ 3421.24 ▼ 0.11% November 12, 2025

Historical Data

Click and drag in the plot area to zoom in.

DAILY SUMMARY

Regular Market	OTC Market
Trading Value (JD)	12,497,257
Trading volume	5,781,115
No. of Transactions	3,637
No. of Securities	109

● Gainers: 33

● Losers: 37

● Unchanged: 39

PROMINENT CRUSADE FORTIFICATIONS IN LEVANT



By Saeb Rawashdeh

The Middle East is home to numerous fortresses built by and occupied by Crusaders during the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. Many of these impressive fortifications are still standing and offer a glimpse into medieval military architecture as they witness about a turbulent history of the region. Crusades enabled Franks to contact with the Levant and exposed Franks to advanced knowledge in science, medicine, mathematics, astronomy and philosophy. New ideas in architecture, navigation and administration affected the

West European societies.

Crusader routes opened new trade connections between East and West, especially through Italian cities like Venice, Genoa and Pisa which grew in prominence.

Europeans gained access to luxury and fancy commodities: spices, silk, sugar, glass and perfumes—boosting demand for foreign trade. It also helped develop banking systems and merchant guilds as trade intensified.

Centuries of warfare also exposed both sides to military technology: Fortifications, siege engines and crossbows. The Age of Exploration was in direct was influenced by the Crusades while returning crusaders spent part of its loot in urban centres which stimulated mercantilism.

Krak des Chevaliers

Krak des Chevaliers is located near Homs in Syria and initially it was occupied in the 11th century by a settlement of Kurdish troops garrisoned there by the Mirdasids; as a result, it was known as Hisn Al Akrad, meaning the "Castle of the Kurds". In 1142 it was given by Count of Tripoli Raymond II to the Knights Hospitaller. It remained in their possession until it fell in 1271.

The Hospitallers began rebuilding the castle in the 1140s and were finished by 1170 when an earthquake damaged the castle. The order controlled a number of castles along the border of the County of Tripoli, a state founded after the First Crusade. Krak des Chevaliers was among the most significant castles and had a role of the military bases and administrative centre.



Karak Castle

Karak Castle is located in central Jordanian massive and the fortress was a significant hub for the control of pilgrimage road to Hijaz and also trade routes between the East and the West banks. Construction of the castle began in the 1140s.

In 1176 Raynald of Châtillon gained possession of Karak Castle after marrying Stephanie of Milly, the widow of Humphrey III of Toron (and daughter-in-law of Humphrey II of Toron). In 1183 Saladin besieged the castle in response to Raynald's attacks. After the Battle of Hattin in 1187, Saladin besieged Karak Castle again and finally captured it in 1189.



Sidon Castle

Sidon's Sea Castle was built by the crusaders in the 12th century in the modern day port city of Sidon. During the 13th century, the Crusaders built the Sea Castle as a fortification on a small island connected to the mainland by a narrow 80m long roadway. Sidon was partially destroyed by the Mamluks when they took over the city from the Crusaders, but they subsequently rebuilt it and added the long causeway.



Montreal

Montreal is a Crusader fortress near southern city of Shobak, perched on the side of a rocky, conical mountain. The castle was built in 1115 by Baldwin I of Jerusalem during his expedition to the area where he captured Aqaba on the Red Sea in 1116. Originally called 'Karak de Montreal' or 'Mons Regalis', it was named in honour of the king's own contribution to its construction (Mont Royal). Saladin besieged Montreal in 1187 and during a long siege, some defenders went blind due to the lack of salt. Because of the hill Saladin was unable to use siege engines, but after almost two years the castle finally fell to his troops in May 1189.



Byblos Castle

Byblos Castle in Byblos in Lebanon was built by the Crusaders in the 12th century over the remains of Roman structures. It belonged to the Genoese Embriaco family, whose members were the Lords of Giblet (as Byblos/Lebanon was called during Middle Ages). Saladin captured the castle in 1188 and dismantled the walls in 1190. Later, the Crusaders recaptured Byblos and rebuilt the fortifications of the castle in 1197.



As winter approaches, Jordanians await rain amidst growing climate concerns

By Hadeel El Bis

With the onset of winter, Jordanians eagerly anticipate the rainfall that forms an essential part of their lives, agriculture and water supply in the Kingdom.

This year, some have noticed a delay in precipitation compared to previous seasons, raising concerns about its impact on water reserves, agricultural crops and the environment more broadly.

According to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, total rainfall at the end of last season reached approximately 340mm in the north of the Kingdom—below the usual annual average of 400-600mm. This shortfall has negatively affected water reserves and agriculture, particularly rain-fed crops.

When does the rainy season begin?

The Meteorological Department confirms that Jordan's rainfall period typically extends from October until mid-May, with heavy early-season precipitation known in Arab heritage as "alwasm" (the marking rain), which leaves its mark on the land and stimulates plant growth.

Dr Jamal Mousa, meteorological forecasting consultant, notes that alwasm is defined as the first seasonal rainfall exceeding 10 per cent of the annual average, lasting at least three consecutive days, not followed by a dry spell exceeding ten days.

He adds that early al-wasm, typically in mid-November, is best for farmers as it enhances plant growth, whilst delayed rainfall leads to stunted growth and postponed planting seasons. To date, Jordan has not experienced sufficient rainfall.

World Bank estimates indicate that approximately 75 per cent of Jordan's rainfall is concentrated during winter. A scientific study has shown that a 20 per cent decrease in rainfall leads to a reduction in surface runoff of up to 52.8 per cent, which diminishes wadi and groundwater recharge and increases drought risks.

Impact of delayed rainfall on agriculture and water resources

Mousa says that reduced rainfall directly affects agricultural production, noting that this year's olive season is suffering from reduced yields due to drought.

Environmental expert Dr Mohammed Khashashneh points out that these changes directly affect rain-fed crops, particularly olives and oranges in areas such as Irbid, Jerash and Ajloun. Tree survival has become increasingly difficult.

Khashashneh explains that last season witnessed insufficient precipitation in the north of the Kingdom, where annual rainfall typically ranges between 300 and 600mm, though actual amounts were considerably lower.

He also notes that reduced rainfall affects water reserves in wadis, reservoirs and dams. Annual rainfall in Jordan totals approximately eight billion cubic metres, part of which is stored in dams with a combined capacity of approximately 300 million cubic metres. When the season is poor, these facilities remain nearly empty, limiting the capacity to irrigate crops.

Possible solutions for adaptation

Al-Khashashneh emphasises that confronting climate change requires mitigation through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation to new weather patterns. This includes rescheduling water use, reducing reliance on water-intensive agriculture, and encouraging smart and hydroponic farming techniques that save 50-90 per cent of water consumption. He stresses the role of universities and agricultural research centres in establishing model farms, emphasising the necessity of integrating these approaches into national food security plans to ensure sustainable production amidst accelerating climate change.

An international report notes that Jordan is amongst the countries most vulnerable to drought, with temperatures expected to rise by 3-4°C by 2050 under a high-emissions scenario.



340 mm

is The total rainfall at the end of last season, which is less than the usual annual average of 400 to 600 mm, according to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

20%

decrease in rainfall will lead to a decrease in surface runoff of up to **52.8%**, which will affect the replenishment of wadis and groundwater and increase the risk of drought, according to a scientific study.