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King receives recommendations of judiciary development committee

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday met with members of the specialised committee to develop the judiciary and received the committee's recommendations, according to a Royal Court statement.

During the meeting, held at Al Husseinia Palace and attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, His Majesty was briefed by Judicial Council President Mahmoud Ababneh, who is chair of the committee, on key recommendations.

The recommendations focused on reviewing legislation related to judicial work, judges, Judicial Council governance, and the judicial sector's structural and technical infrastructure, the statement said.

The committee, formed under Royal directives after the King's visit to the Judicial Council last November, drew upon a set of existing references, plans and regulatory frameworks.

The committee recommended amending more than 200 legal articles to standardise court procedures, effectively utilise



His Majesty King Abdullah meets with members of the specialised committee to develop the judiciary and receives its recommendations, during a meeting attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein at Al Husseinia Palace

technology, streamline and expedite litigation processes, increase the number of specialised judicial chambers, and to expand the jurisdiction of the Economic Chamber and enhance the efficiency of its judges in order to create a more attractive judicial environment for domestic and foreign investment.

His Majesty commended the committee's efforts, emphasising the need to follow a clear action plan in order to immediately implement the

recommendations within a set timeframe, and to ensure coordination and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders, the statement said.

The King underlined the importance of evaluating the impact of the recommendations

following their implementation, to guarantee desired outcomes are achieved.

Royal Hashemite Court Chief Yousef Issawi and Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh attended the meeting.



His Majesty King Abdullah receives International Committee of the Red Cross President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger at Al Husseinia Palace

King receives ICRC president

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday received International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, according to a Royal Court statement.

During a meeting at Al Husseinia Palace, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the ICRC's humanitarian role and efforts to alleviate the suffering of those affected by war in conflict zones.

The King also emphasised the importance of utilising dialogue and diplomacy to resolve conflicts in the region.

For her part, the ICRC president highlighted the need to protect civilians in conflicts, commending Jordan's vital efforts, led by His Majesty, to bring stability to the region, the statement said.

The meeting also touched on the High-Level Conference on Humanity in War, which

Jordan is set to host this year in partnership with the ICRC and a number of countries as part of the Global Initiative to Galvanise Political Commitment to International Humanitarian Law.

HRH Princess Rym Ali, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, and Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh attended the meeting, the statement said.

Crown Prince meets with Germany's economic cooperation and development minister



HRH Crown Prince Hussein, during a meeting with Germany Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Reem Alabali Radovan, expresses Jordan's appreciation for the strong partnership between the two countries in the fields of economic and humanitarian development

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Crown Prince Hussein met with Germany's Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Reem Alabali Radovan on Tuesday and expressed Jordan's appreciation for the strong partnership with Germany in the fields of economic and humanitarian development.

During the meeting, held at Al Husseinia Palace, His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of Germany's support for national projects in the areas of advanced technical education, and modernisation of the public sector, as well as the national water conveyance project, according to a Royal court statement.

The meeting also touched on ways to expand Jordanian-German cooperation...

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Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan, and Director of the Office of the Crown Prince Zaid Baqain attended the meeting.



Army says Iran launched 4 missiles towards Jordan, all intercepted

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) said on Tuesday that Iran had targeted the Kingdom with four missiles over the past 24 hours, all of which were intercepted and destroyed by the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

JAF Media Directorate said in a statement that the missiles were intercepted "with full

professionalism".

The Public Security Directorate (PSD) said that its relevant units had dealt with 17 reports of falling shrapnel and projectiles over the past 24 hours, with no injuries reported except for some minor material damage.

The PSD renewed warnings to the public against gathering near, approaching or

tampering with any suspicious objects or shrapnel, citing potential risks.

While urging citizens to follow official instructions and guidance issued through authorised channels, PSD also called on the public to report any suspicious items to security services via the emergency number 911.

FDI inflows to Kingdom exceed \$2 billion in 2025, highest since 2017 — CBJ

AMMAN (JT) — Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Jordan reached \$2,024.8 million in 2025, up from \$1,618.8 million in 2024, marking a 25.1 per cent increase and the highest level since 2017, according to preliminary balance of payments data released on Tuesday by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Arab countries accounted for \$1,241.7 million, or 61.3 per cent of total inflows. Gulf countries contributed 30.8 per cent, led by Saudi Arabia at 16.1 per cent, followed by the United Arab Emirates at 5.3 per cent and Kuwait at 4.9 per cent. Among other Arab countries, Iraq ranked first at 9.7 per cent, followed by Egypt and Lib-



Aqaba International Industrial Estate

ya at around 6 per cent each, the CBJ said in a statement.

European countries contributed \$276.7 million, or 13.7 per cent of total FDI, including 9.6 per cent from EU countries and 2.8 per cent from the United Kingdom.

Non-Arab Asian countries accounted for 4.8 per cent, or \$97.2 million, led by India at 1.6 per cent and China at 1 per cent, while the United States contributed 3.3 per cent, or \$67 million.

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GROWTH

Jordan's economy grows by 3% in Q4 2025 — DoS

AMMAN — Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025, up from 2.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2024, according to the quarterly report issued by the Department of Statistics (DoS).

The figures indicated continued economic resilience despite the repercussions of the Gaza war and the Iran-Israel confrontation during 2025.

Sectoral data showed that all areas of economic activity recorded growth in the final quarter of the year compared with the same period a year earlier.

The agricultural sec-



The Kingdom gross domestic product grew by 3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2025, up from 2.6 per cent in the same period of 2024, according to the Department of Statistics

tor posted the strongest performance, growing by 7 per cent, followed by mining and quarrying at 6.9 per cent, manufacturing at 6.9 per cent.

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5.2 per cent, and electricity supply at 4.5 per cent.

In terms of contributions to overall growth, manufacturing accounted for the largest share, contributing 0.87 percentage points. Agriculture followed with 0.46 percentage points, while mining and quarrying added 0.24 percentage points.

Manufacturing also ranked as the largest contributor to GDP overall, representing 17.3 per cent of total output at constant prices. It was followed by the real estate sector at 11.5 per cent, public administration and defence at 9.2 per cent, and agriculture at 6.9 per cent.



His Majesty King Abdullah, accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, receives Middle East and North Africa Adviser to the French President Dora Cattuti

King receives France president's Middle East, North Africa adviser

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday received Dora Cattuti, the Middle East and North Africa adviser to France President Emmanuel Macron, according to Royal Court statement.

During a meeting at Al Husseinia Palace, attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, His Majesty reiterated

ated the need to put an end to Iran's attacks on Jordan and other Arab countries, and to reach an agreement that would stop the escalation.

The King called for putting an end to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and preventing the exploitation of the current regional situation as a pretext

to create new facts on the ground in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, the statement said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh and France's Ambassador to Jordan Franck Gellet attended the meeting.

King receives Poland defence minister

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday received Poland Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz, according to a Royal Court statement.

During the meeting, held at Al Husseinia Palace and attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, His Majesty emphasised the need to restore comprehensive calm in the Middle East through dialogue and diplomacy.

The meeting also touched on the importance of strengthening cooperation between Jordan and Poland across various fields, particularly in the areas of military and security cooperation, the statement said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Chair-



His Majesty King Abdullah, accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, receives Poland Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz, and emphasises the need to restore comprehensive calm in the Middle East through dialogue and diplomacy

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Yousef

Huneiti, Director of the Office of His Majesty

Alaa Batayneh and the accompanying Polish

delegation attended the meeting.

German minister visits Makani centre, reviews role in education, protection

AMMAN (JT) — Minister of Social Development Wafa Bani Mustafa and German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Reem Alabali Radovan on Tuesday visited a Makani Centre run by the Islamic Centre Charity Society to review its programmes and services.

The visit was attended by UNICEF Representative in Jordan Marc Rubin, KfW Development Bank Country Director in Jordan Matthias Schmidt-Rosen, and officials from the ministry and the association, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Bani Mustafa highlighted the importance of partnership with Germany in implementing social programmes and developing the Makani programme in cooperation with UNICEF, noting that it is implemented through community centres, the Jordan River



Minister of Social Development Wafa Bani Mustafa and German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Reem Alabali Radovan on Tuesday visit a Makani Centre

Foundation, the Islamic Centre Charity Society and Tkiyet Um Ali.

She said that the government is working to integrate the programme into the National Social Protection Strategy (2025-2033) to ensure

sustainability and boost cooperation with international partners.

Bani Mustafa added that Makani represents a shift towards integrated and sustainable social protection systems, combining education, protec-

tion and psychosocial support, which promote investment in human capital.

Radovan said that the programme provides a safe space for Jordanian and Syrian children to lean and interact togeth-

er, reflecting Jordan's efforts to support refugee education.

She noted that Germany supports these centres as part of its commitment to social stability and sustainable development in Jordan, stressing the importance of investing in children and youth.

Schmidt-Rosen said that Germany's support comes as part of its commitment to social stability and sustainable development in Jordan, stressing the importance of investing in children and youth.

He described Makani as a global model for integrated services, highlighting cooperation with the Jordanian government and national institutions.

The Ministers and the delegation reviewed services at the centre, including early childhood support, learning assistance, child protection and youth skills development.



During its Ramadan campaign in Gaza, the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation delivers 301,152 Iftar and suhoor meals and distributes 7,519 food parcels

JHCO Ramadan campaign delivers aid to thousands in Jordan, Gaza

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) has concluded its Ramadan campaign, after a month of continuous humanitarian work across the Kingdom and in the Gaza Strip.

During Ramadan, the campaign achieved wide-reaching results, including assistance to 23,860 families in Jordan, benefitting 173,102 individuals, comprising 19,824 Jordanian families and 4,036 Palestinian refugee families.

A total of 18,984 food parcels and 1,945 shopping vouchers were distributed in cooperation with 257 local charities and 13 Palestinian refugee camps.

The Eid clothing initiative benefitted 2,881 families, reaching 40,152 individuals across the Kingdom through centres in Amman and Karak, as well as mobile units.

In Gaza, the organisation delivered

301,152 Iftar and suhoor meals, distributed 7,519 food parcels, and carried out 14,944 relief interventions related to shelter and essential needs, including blankets, infant formula, tents, fruit and vegetable baskets, Zakat Al Fitr assistance, clothing parcels, shopping vouchers, Eid sweets and family sponsorships.

JHCO said that the campaign aimed to reach the most vulnerable families, ease mounting living and humanitarian pressures during the holy month, and promote values of solidarity, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The campaign also included the implementation of Zakat Al Fitr programmes, marking the end of Ramadan, helping beneficiary families meet essential needs ahead of Eid Al Fitr, in line with the social and humanitarian objectives of the religious obligation.

As part of efforts to support Jordanian families and enable them to celebrate Eid with dignity, the organisation, through the Clothes Bank, implemented an Eid clothing initiative for underprivileged households, allowing families and children to select garments in a manner that preserves dignity and respects social considerations.

In the Gaza Strip, the organisation continued its humanitarian support under challenging conditions, focusing on urgent priorities, particularly food, shelter and essential daily needs during Ramadan.

These efforts included Iftar meal programmes, the distribution of ready-to-eat meals and food parcels, as well as other relief initiatives aimed at alleviating the harsh conditions faced by residents and reaffirming Jordan's continued humanitarian support for Gaza.

DoS begins implementing 3rd phase of 2026 population census

AMMAN (JT) — The Department of Statistics (DoS) on Tuesday said that it began implementing the third phase of the 2026 Population and Housing Census since mid-February, with the process set to continue for around six months.

DoS Director General Haidar Freihaat urged citizens and non-Jordanian residents to cooperate with field personnel during their visits and provide the required information, the Jordan News

Agency, Petra, reported.

He stressed that all data collected are protected under the Statistics Law, treated with "strict" confidentiality and used solely for statistical purposes.

Freihaat also called on the public to verify the identity of personnel before sharing any information, noting that this can be done by scanning the QR code displayed on the official identification badge they carry.

He stressed that coop-

eration with statistical teams reflects "a sense of national responsibility", highlighting the importance of the census in providing accurate data to support community development and comprehensive planning.

He added that the department has begun sending SMS messages to citizens and residents this week to announce the launch of the 2026 census, underline the importance of cooperation, reassure the public

about data confidentiality and provide contact channels for inquiries.

In February, Freihaat presided over the inaugural session of the media committee for the General Population and Housing Census 2026.

During the meeting, Freihaat said that the census is expected to be one of the Kingdom's "largest and most important" national statistical projects, providing accurate data that support public policy and guide

economic and social decision-making.

He also noted that the census is being carried out using a full enumeration method rather than relying on samples, and will cover all households, residences and establishments across the Kingdom.

Preparations for the census began two years ago, with the implementation process divided into four main stages; two of which have already been completed.

NCHR praises gov't measures to regulate markets, protect consumer rights

AMMAN (JT) — The National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) expressed its appreciation for Prime Minister Jafar Hassan's directives, which stressed the need to regulate the prices of essential goods and address any unjustified increases that exceed actual costs, in a manner that protects citizens' rights and promotes fairness in the markets.

The centre also commended the government's direction towards taking effective and deterrent meas-

ures against violators and commodity hoarders, including the imposition of fines and the closure of non-compliant establishments, given the direct impact of such actions on consumer protection and maintaining price stability, according to a NCHR statement.

NCHR noted that it has, during the past period, monitored a number of reports and complaints related to rising prices.

These were documented and communicated to the relevant

authorities to take the necessary measures, including boosting oversight and inspection, and continuing to receive complaints from individuals through the designated channels.

The centre expressed appreciation for the government's response and the measures taken.

NCHR stressed its continued commitment to follow-up, monitoring and taking the necessary actions in coordination with the relevant stakeholders.

MoU signed to bolster Kingdom's digital business, entrepreneurship ecosystem

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship and the King Hussein Business Park (KHBP) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster cooperation in developing the Kingdom's digital business and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

The agreement focuses on expanding the scope of the Virtual King Hussein Business Park (VKHBP), the first integrated smart virtual business platform in Jordan and the region to leverage metaverse technologies, according

to Al Mamlaka TV.

The MoU aims to broaden cooperation to support global, regional, and local companies of all sizes, including startups and entrepreneurial ventures, by providing an advanced digital environment.

The initiative allows businesses to operate virtually, offering access to virtual office spaces and a comprehensive suite of digital support services.

These benefits include hosting digital activities, connecting with international investors and government entities, and facilitating access to gov-

ernment services and the broader entrepreneurship network.

Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Sami Smeirat said that the partnership aligns with the ministry's efforts to enhance the national digital economy and provide a modern business environment that keeps pace with global technological advancements.

He noted that virtual platforms have become essential tools for facilitating business operations and expanding access to markets and

investments.

Smeirat added that VKHBP represents an "advanced" model for an integrated digital business environment, adding that companies and entrepreneurs, through this partnership, will be able to access government services and digital tools within a single platform, supporting startup growth and fostering innovation.

KHBP Chief Executive Officer Ammar Izziddin said that the VKHBP provides an "innovative" model for a smart digital business city char-

acterised by streamlined procedures, adding that this environment helps attract local and regional firms while supporting innovation and business establishment without geographical constraints.

Izziddin said that the platform's comprehensive ecosystem of virtual assets and digital tools ensures sustainability, accelerates growth, and enhances professional networking. By simplifying procedures and reducing operational costs, the initiative boosts the competitive edge of participating businesses.

Safadi, ICRC president, German cooperation minister discuss humanitarian efforts, regional tensions

Foreign minister, French presidential advisers discuss Amman-Paris cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Tuesday met with President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric to discuss enhancing cooperation and addressing regional developments.

The two sides reviewed ongoing coordination between Jordan and the ICRC, with a focus on preparations for a high-level humanitarian conference on warfare that the Kingdom is set to host in the final quarter of the year, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

The conference builds on a 2024 global initiative launched by Jordan, Brazil, South Africa, China, France and Kazakhstan, in partnership with the ICRC, aimed at strengthening political commitment to International Humanitarian Law.

Safadi and Spoljaric also discussed the repercussions of escalating regional tensions and efforts to de-escalate, as well as the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories.



Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Tuesday meets with President of the International Committee of the Red Cross Mirjana Spoljaric

Safadi stressed the need to uphold the ceasefire in Gaza and ensure the unimpeded delivery of adequate and sustained humanitarian aid to address the worsening humanitarian situation in the Strip.

He also called for an end to illegal Israeli measures in the occupied West Bank, describing them as

violations of international law, and warned against continued restrictions on the right to worship for Muslims and Christians in occupied Jerusalem.

Also on Tuesday, Safadi met with German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Reem Alabali Radovan to discuss ways to enhance economic, investment and development cooperation

between the two countries, as well as regional developments and efforts to address their repercussions.

Safadi and Alabali Radovan underscored the importance of expanding cooperation programmes in key sectors, particularly water and vocational training.

Safadi also commended Germany's continued support for development projects in Jordan and its assistance in helping the Kingdom address the impact of regional crises.

The two ministers discussed efforts to end the war with Iran and restore regional security and stability based on respect for international law and principles of good neighbourliness.

They stressed the need to prioritise diplomacy as a means to de-escalate tensions and safeguard regional and international peace.

Safadi also reviewed the situation in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, stressing the need to intensify efforts to halt illegal Israeli measures that undermine the two-state solution and prospects for a just and lasting peace.

He warned against continued restrictions on the right to worship for Muslims and Christians in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as measures that violate the historic and legal status quo at Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem.

Safadi also emphasised the importance of supporting the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees to ensure it can continue its vital role across its five fields of operation, commending Germany's support for the agency.

Also on Tuesday, Safadi received French Presidential Adviser for the Middle East and North Africa Dora Katoutie and Special Envoy of the French President for Libya Paul Soler.

During the meeting, Safadi and the French delegation discussed the implications of the dangerous escalation in the region and the prospects for restoring calm, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Discussions also focused on protecting the region from the threat of an expanding conflict and the necessity of activating diplomacy as a means to ensure regional security and stability.

The two sides also explored avenues to bolster bilateral relations between the two countries across various sectors.

AT A GLANCE

Jordan condemns foiled terror plot targeting Bahrain

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan on Tuesday condemned a foiled terror plot targeting the sovereignty, security and safety of Bahrain, describing it as an "unacceptable" attempt to undermine Bahrain's stability and endanger its citizens.



In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said Jordan rejects and denounces the plot, reaffirming its full solidarity with Bahrain and support for all measures taken to safeguard its sovereignty, security and stability, and to ensure the safety of its citizens and residents. The ministry also reiterated Jordan's firm rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at de-stabilising security and stability.

Army thwarts drug smuggling attempts using drones

AMMAN (JT) — The Southern Military Zone on Tuesday foiled two attempts to smuggle a quantity of narcotics using two drones on its western border.



Border Guard units, in coordination with the security agencies and the Anti-Narcotics Department, detected the drones through surveillance and downed them, the Jordan Armed Forces - Arab Army said. The seized materials were handed over to the relevant authorities for necessary legal action.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti meets on Tuesday with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz

Army chief, Polish deputy PM discuss cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti met on Tuesday with Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides discussed military and defence cooperation between Jordan and Poland, exploring ways to develop and strengthen collaboration across various fields to serve mutual interests and enhance regional and international security and stability, according to a Jordan Armed Forces - Arab Army (JAF) statement.

Discussions focused on areas of shared concern, including training, exchange of exper-

tise, counterterrorism and defence capacity building.

Huneiti reiterated the JAF's commitment to deepening ties with the Polish Armed Forces, aiming for the highest levels of coordination and integration.

Kosiniak-Kamysz commended Jordan's pivotal role, under His Majesty King Abdullah's leadership, in maintaining regional security and stability and commended the professionalism and efficiency of the JAF.

Also on Tuesday, Huneiti received Presidential Committee of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric and an accompanying delegation at the JAF General Command.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed

ways to enhance cooperation between the JAF and the ICRC, particularly in the areas of humanitarian assistance, relief operations and the exchange of expertise in international humanitarian law, according to a JAF statement.

Huneiti stressed the importance of the ICRC's role in supporting those affected by conflicts and disasters, praising the level of ongoing cooperation between the two sides across various humanitarian fields.

For her part, Spoljaric expressed appreciation for the efforts of the JAF in supporting humanitarian activities, underscoring the importance of continued cooperation to advance shared humanitarian objectives.

Committee announces April fuel prices

AMMAN (JT) — The Fuel Pricing Committee on Tuesday announced new prices for petroleum derivatives for April 1-30, following its monthly review of global oil markets.

The committee decided to raise the prices of several fuel products, while maintaining current rates for kerosene and domestic gas cylinders, according to an Energy Ministry statement.

The committee reviewed international oil prices for March compared with Febru-

ary, noting significant and sustained increases driven by regional developments

In line with the government's policy of gradually reflecting global price hikes to limit the impact on citizens and economic sectors, the committee said the new prices only partially reflect the actual rise in international costs.

The government would continue to absorb part of the cost differences until global prices stabilise, noting it has already incurred around JD150 million in

direct energy and electricity costs during the first month of the regional crisis.

Under the new pricing, the 12.5kg domestic gas cylinder will remain unchanged at JD7, despite rising global liquefied petroleum gas prices, with the government providing a subsidy of JD2.4 per cylinder. The price of kerosene will also remain fixed at 550 fils per litre.

Other fuel prices were adjusted as follows: 90-octane petrol increased to 910 fils per litre from 820 fils,

95-octane petrol rose to 1,200 fils per litre from 1,050 fils and diesel climbed to 720 fils per litre from 655 fils.

The committee stressed that the increases will not affect government tax revenues, as they only partially reflect global price rises, noting that subsidies on diesel and kerosene currently exceed the taxes imposed on them.

Actual costs for April were estimated at 1,165 fils per litre for 90-octane petrol, 1,325 fils for 95-octane petrol,

1,120 fils for diesel and 1,135 fils for kerosene.

According to the committee, the government reflected only 37 per cent of the actual increase for 90-octane petrol, 55 per cent for 95-octane petrol, and around 14 per cent for diesel, while fully absorbing the rise in kerosene prices.

The decision, the committee said, aims to balance actual costs with local retail prices in line with government efforts to cushion the impact of global market volatility.

Deputising for Queen, education minister honours 106 students for academic excellence

AMMAN (JT) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Rania, Minister of Education Azmi Mahafzah on Tuesday honoured 106 outstanding Jordanian students at the 20th edition of the Queen Rania Awards for Academic Excellence for British curriculum students.

The awards recognised students' exceptional academic achievements, with recipients collectively winning 136 prizes across British education qualifications, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Distinctions included "Top in the World", "Top in the Region" and "Top in the Country" in international examinations administered by Cambridge, Pearson, and Oxford AQA, underscoring the quality of Jordan's educational outcomes and their global



Minister of Education Azmi Mahafzah on Tuesday honours 106 outstanding Jordanian students at the 20th edition of the Queen Rania Awards for Academic Excellence for British curriculum students

competitiveness.

The ceremony was attended by UK Ambassador to Jordan Philip Hall, representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and over 400 guests, including 80 representatives from partner schools,

parents and educators who played a key role in supporting the students' success.

Director of the British Council in Jordan Alex Lambert said the awards showcase the ambition and exceptional talents of Jordanian students. "This achievement re-

flects not only academic excellence but also the strong partnership between students, their families and schools within a comprehensive international education system," he said.

Head of Examinations for Jordan, Iraq, Libya and Palestine at the British Council Amira Manaa noted that the results achieved by Jordanian students year after year demonstrate a steadfast commitment to international standards, reinforcing Jordan's position as a leading hub for international education in the region.

The ceremony also highlighted the pivotal role of educators, school leaders and parents, whose continued support has been instrumental in achieving these results, reflecting genuine integration and collaboration within the

educational process.

Since its launch in 2003, the Queen Rania Awards for Academic Excellence have become an annual platform to celebrate creativity and achievement, in line with Her Majesty's vision for advancing education, promoting knowledge openness and positioning Jordan as a regional leader in education.

The British Council, an international organisation dedicated to building cultural relations and providing educational opportunities in the UK, aims to foster peace and prosperity through mutual understanding and trust among people via arts, culture, and English language education. Operating in more than 100 countries, its services reached nearly 599 million people during 2024 and 2025.

Cassation Court upholds 10-year sentence for drug dealer

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation has upheld a November 2023 State Security Court (SSC) ruling, sentencing a drug dealer to 10 years in prison after convicting him of possessing a variety of illegal narcotics in April 2023.

The court declared

the defendant guilty of obtaining illegal narcotics (hashish) with the intent of selling the drugs to an undercover agent on February 4.

The SSC handed the defendant 15 years in prison for the offence of possessing illegal narcotics and ordered him to pay JD10,000 in fines.

However, the court

decided to maintain the fine of JD10,000 and reduced the prison term to 10 years to give the defendant a second chance in life.

Court documents said the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) learned the defendant was in possession of illegal narcotics and sent one of its agents to pose as a buyer.

"The AND agent got in touch with the defendant and asked him for a small stash of Hashish and Captagon pills in return for JD20," court documents said.

When the two met, AND agents paid for the illegal narcotics and left, court papers added.

A few months later,

the court maintained, the law-enforcement agency arrested the suspect and seized his mobile, court papers said.

Upon searching his house, the personnel found dozens of Captagon pills and over 10 kilogrammes of Hashish hidden at his house, according to court papers.

The law enforcement officers also found a cell phone on him and discovered chats with various individuals related to illicit drug sales in the local market, according to court documents.

The defendant contested the SSC's ruling through his lawyer, who argued that the court "did not provide

solid evidence to implicate his client".

Meanwhile, the SSC prosecution office asked the higher court to uphold the sentence and the fine imposed on the defendant.

The higher court maintained that the SSC had followed the proper procedures in issuing the sentence against the defendant.

"It was clear to the court that the defendant confessed willingly to possessing the illegal drugs to sell in the local market," the higher court said.

The Court of Cassation judges were Yassin Abdullat, Hammad Ghzawi, Qassem Dughmi, Nayef Samarrah and Mohammad Khashashneh.

Wave of US-Israeli strikes hit key Iran sites

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian media reported Tuesday that a wave of US-Israeli strikes hit military bases, a religious site and a cancer drug plant in the more than month-old war rocking the Middle East and roiling the world economy.

US President Donald Trump has sent conflicting signals on whether Washington will further escalate the war, possibly by deploying American ground forces, or try to soon end it through negotiations with Tehran.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, speaking in Washington after he visited US troops in the Middle East, vowed that "the upcoming days will be decisive. Iran knows that, and there's almost nothing they can militarily do about it".

Asked about possible next steps, he said "you can't fight and win a war if you tell your adversary what you are willing to do, or what you are not willing to do, to include boots on the ground."

Trump threatened Monday that, if Iran doesn't agree to a deal, US forces would "obliterate" all of Tehran's oil wells, its main Kharg Island export terminal, power systems and possibly its water de-salination plants.

On Tuesday two massive explosions shook Iran's central city of Isfahan, seen in video footage verified by AFP, and Iranian state media reported damage to the Shia religious centre of Grand Husseiniyah in Zanjan in the northwest.

The Iranian govern-



Mockups of domestically-made Iranian missiles are displayed at an exhibition outside the Defence Museum in Tehran on Monday

ment also said air strikes had hit a plant making cancer drugs and anaesthetics, claims AFP could not independently verify.

Tehran residents spoke of life in a city during wartime still clinging to some routine, despite tight security and explosions that on Tuesday sparked power outages in parts of the capital.

"When I make it to a cafe table, even for a few minutes, I can almost believe the world hasn't ended," dental assistant Fatemeh, 27, told AFP journalists in Paris via a messaging app.

"And then I go back home, back to the reality of living through war, with all its darkness and weight."

'Go get your own oil'

Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched the war on February 28, killing Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamanei, just after a new round of talks between US and Iranian envoys.

Iran has denied Trump's claims of renewed direct talks and has kept firing at Israel and US allies in the Gulf region, joined in the regional war by Lebanon's armed group Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthis.

Explosions were heard Tuesday in Dubai and near northern Iraq's Erbil airport, and two people were wounded near the Saudi capital Riyadh when air defence inter-

cepted a drone, civil defence said.

Kuwait's state oil company said one of its oil tankers was on fire off Dubai after a "direct and malicious Iranian attack", with the crew unhurt and the blaze later extinguished.

Iran has also maintained its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of global oil passes, sending shock waves through the global economy.

The average gasoline price at US pumps soared past \$4 a gallon, the highest for nearly four years, while Indonesia announced fuel rationing and ordered civil servants to work from home one day a week to conserve en-

ergy stocks.

Trump in a Truth Social post lashed out at countries that have refused to help the United States secure the crucial waterway. "The USA won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us," he wrote. "Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil!"

Iran has let some Chinese container ships pass, and its parliamentary committee has voted to impose tolls on other vessels while completely banning US and Israeli ships.

China and Pakistan called for peace talks as soon as possible, as they agreed to boost their cooperation on Iran.

The two countries out-

Qatar says Gulf states 'unified' in calling for war de-escalation

DOHA (AFP) — The Gulf states are unified in calling for a de-escalation of the Middle East war, Qatar said on Tuesday as Tehran launched new strikes against its neighbours.

"Our understanding is that there is a very unified position in the Gulf on calling for the de-escalation and an end to the war," Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told a regular news briefing.

effectively closing to shipping the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which one-fifth of global oil usually passes.

On Monday an Iranian parliamentary committee voted to impose tolls on vessels in the strait and completely ban ships from the United States and Israel.

Ansari said the waterway was "closed due to a military operation", but added that "the future of the strait is something for all the region and the international partners to decide collectively".

"We have taken a decision collectively, I think, in the Gulf, to address this as a collective threat," he said.

Gaps have appeared between the Gulf states in their approaches to dealing with Iran since the war broke out, with the United Arab Emirates taking a more hawkish stance.

The Emirati ambassador to Washington, Yousef Al Otaiba, wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece this week that "a simple ceasefire isn't enough" to end the war.

"We need a conclusive outcome that addresses Iran's full range of threats: Nuclear capabilities, missiles, drones, terror proxies and blockades of international sea lanes," he said.

He also said the UAE was ready to join an international initiative to reopen the strait.

'We have taken a decision collectively, I think, in the Gulf, to address this as a collective threat'

Gulf countries have faced repeated drone and missile salvos from Iran over the past month in response to US and Israeli strikes that began at the end of February.

Iran has targeted hydrocarbon infrastructure in the oil-rich Gulf nations while

Palestinians horrified by Israel's new death penalty law

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories (AFP) — Fear for her son's fate kept Maisoun Shawamreh awake through the night in the occupied West Bank following the Israeli parliament's approval of a law permitting the execution of Palestinians convicted of deadly terror attacks.

"The mothers of prisoners — none of us slept last night," Shawamreh told AFP as she joined a protest in Ramallah against the law on Tuesday.

Her son has been in detention for three years, awaiting sentencing on charges of attempted murder.

"He may or may not be subject to execution," she said, uncertain of what lies ahead.

Under the new law, passed in parliament late Monday, Palestinians in the West Bank convicted by military courts of carrying out deadly attacks classified as "terrorism" will face the death penalty as a default sentence.

Because Palestinians in the territory are automatically tried in Israeli military courts, the measure effectively creates a separate and harsher legal track.

In Israeli civilian courts, the law allows for either death or life imprisonment for those convicted of killing with intent to harm the state.

While the law does not provide for retroactive application, critics say the distinction underscores a system of unequal justice.

In Ramallah, dozens of activists, political factions and civil society groups gathered to protest the law.

Some held placards depicting a blindfolded prisoner flanked by two hanging nooses — a stark image of what they fear lies ahead.

"Stop the execution of prisoners law before it's too late," read the placards, held alongside portraits of imprisoned Palestinians. Abdullah Al Za-

ghari, director of the Palestinian Prisoners Club, condemned what he described as an openly discriminatory law.

"This fascist and racist legislation reflects the reality of the occupation," he said. "It applies to Palestinians — not to Israeli Jews who carry out daily violence against Palestinian civilians."

Haitham, a 28-year-old employee of an international humanitarian organisation, said the law was "horrible".

"But we expected it... What can you expect from a government with people like Netanyahu?" he told AFP, declining to give his last name.

After lawmakers approved the bill, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir celebrated its passage with a champagne toast in a parliamentary corridor, joined by some fellow legislators.

Doubt in Israel

The law "seriously jeopardises Israel's observer status with the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Council of Europe", said PACE President Petra Bayr on Tuesday.

It "distances Israel from the values of the Council of Europe, which stands strongly against the death penalty anywhere and in all circumstances", Bayr added, hoping Israel's supreme court would reject the bill.

Shortly after the law was passed, the council said its adoption "represents a serious regression".

Even within Israel some scepticism has emerged.

The legislation is "primitive and very stupid", said Meyir Lahav, a physician from Tel Aviv, adding that such measures were "deplorable and unacceptable in our society".

'We should be ashamed'

"What I don't like is that it doesn't apply to everyone," said Tom, a software engineer, who gave only his first name.

"If someone commits murder, it should apply to all — Jews, Arabs, Muslims alike."

Yves, a French resident of Israel, also op-

posed the measure.

"To decide that, once a person has been captured, they should be put to death — regardless of what they have done — and to entrust another with carrying out that act, is something I reject on principle," he said.

But others, like businessman Noah Levi, firmly backed the law.

"The death penalty is a very good thing; we should have implemented it a long time ago," Levi said.

According to him, Palestinians "have killed innocent people, which is why we must take measures to prevent a future catastrophe for Israel".

The death penalty exists in Israel but it has been applied only twice: In 1948, shortly after the state's founding, against a military captain accused of high treason, and then in 1962, when the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann was hanged.

Meanwhile, the new law is already facing legal challenges.

Several Israeli human rights groups, along with three members of parliament, filed petitions to the Supreme Court seeking to overturn the law.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel said the law created "two parallel tracks, both designed to apply to Palestinians", and should be struck down on constitutional grounds.

The bill appears to conflict with Israel's Basic Laws, which prohibit arbitrary discrimination.



Syria's President Ahmed Al Sharaa (left) is welcomed by Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer ahead of their meeting at 10 Downing Street in central London on Tuesday

Syrian president meets King Charles, Starmer on London visit

LONDON (AFP) — King Charles III on Tuesday hosted Syrian President Ahmed Al Sharaa at Buckingham Palace as the former Islamist rebel leader made his first official visit to London and met with Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

The UK monarch held an audience with Sharaa on Tuesday afternoon, Buckingham Palace said. Sharaa was making his first visit to Britain since ousting long-time ironfisted former president Bashar Assad in 2024.

Earlier on Tuesday, Sharaa discussed the war with Iran in talks with Starmer at Downing Street.

The leaders "discussed the need for a viable plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, in the face of the severe economic impact of prolonged closure, and agreed to work with others to restore freedom of navigation", a Downing Street spokesperson said.

Since Sharaa has been in power, sectarian ten-

sions have continued to cause repeated bloodshed in Syria, while the Daesh group remains at large.

Starmer said he welcomed the Syrian government's "action" against Daesh and noted progress on counterterrorism, the spokesperson said.

The British prime minister urged "closer work together on returns [of illegal migrants], on border security, and on tackling people smuggling networks".

Earlier in 2011 and 2021, nearly 31,000 Syrians were granted asylum in Britain after the civil war there sparked a refugee crisis, according to government statistics.

The president's visit came after London announced the resumption of diplomatic relations with Syria in July 2025.

It followed a visit by then foreign minister David Lammy to Damascus, the first visit to Syria by a British min-

ister in 14 years.

The British government said at the time that its engagement with Damascus was aimed at supporting the country's political transition and assisting economic recovery as well as reducing illegal migration, and addressing the issue of chemical weapons.

Sharaa met German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in Berlin on Monday, as he seeks to keep Syria insulated from the repercussions of the current Middle East war.

Europe's top economy is home to the largest Syrian diaspora in the European Union at more than a million, many of whom arrived during the peak of the migrant influx in 2015-2016.

Merz, who has made a tougher immigration policy a priority since taking office last year, said he and Sharaa had agreed eight out of 10 Syrians in Germany should go back "over the next three years".

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Jordan denounces 'illegal, discriminatory' Israeli law allowing execution of Palestinian prisoners

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned the Israeli Knesset's approval of a law permitting the execution of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, describing it as a "grave" violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

In a statement on Tuesday, the ministry spokesperson, Fuad Majali, said that Jordan unequivocally rejects the "illegal, racist and discriminatory" legislation, stressing that it violates the established principles of international law, which prohibit an occupying power from imposing its authority over occupied territory through unilateral legislative measures.

He added that the law is part of a broader, systematic Israeli policy



targeting the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent

Palestinian state of their own on the basis of the two-state solution.

Majali urged the international community to assume its legal and

moral responsibilities and take "immediate and effective" action to prevent the implementation of the law, and compel Israel to stop its "null

and void" decisions, unlawful legislation and illegal unilateral measures targeting the Palestinian people and their presence on their land.

Russian oil tanker docks in Cuba after US blockade relief

MATANZAS, Cuba (AFP) — A Russian oil tanker docked in a Cuban port on Tuesday to deliver the first crude shipment to the island since January after Washington gave the crisis-hit country a reprieve from a fuel blockade.

The Anatoly Kolodkin, a tanker under US sanctions, entered the port of Matanzas, east of Havana, after sunrise to deliver 730,000 barrels of crude, AFP journalists said.

US President Donald Trump's decision to let Russia deliver the oil avoids a confrontation with Moscow and provides temporary relief to a country that has endured blackouts, fuel rationing and dwindling public transportation.

"It's great that the country is receiving oil because we need it for the crisis we are facing," Yoanna Rivero, a 49-year-old pharmacy worker who was exercising near the port, told AFP.

Felipe Serrano, a 76-year-old security guard, was waiting for the Russian ship to arrive.

"This is crucial for us to be able to survive because the country has paralysed," he said.

Analysts, however, said the shipment would only give Cuba a brief respite.

"It can offer temporary breathing room, but it does not come close to resolving the scale of the deficit the country is facing," Ricardo Torres, a Cuban economist at American University in Washington, told AFP.

"It is clearly not enough," he said, noting that Cuba's power problems are "struc-

tural rather than episodic".

Cuban Energy and Mining Minister Vicente de la O Levy thanked Russia for the support, saying on X that the "valuable shipment arrives in the middle of the complex energy situation that we are facing".

Trump, who has mused about "taking" communist-ruled Cuba, said on Sunday that he did not object to Russia or others sending oil to the island because Cubans "have to survive".

The White House denied that there was any change to US sanctions policy.

"We allowed this ship to reach Cuba in order to provide humanitarian needs to the Cuban people. These decisions are being made on a case-by-case basis," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said.

Driving Cuba 'to the brink'

Cuba was cut off from oil supplies in January after US forces ousted its main regional ally, Venezuela's socialist leader Nicolas Maduro, and Trump threatened tariffs on countries that send crude to the country.

While Trump has warned that "Cuba is next", President Miguel Diaz-Canel confirmed in March that Cuban and US officials had held talks.

Ricardo Herrero, executive director of the Cuba Study Group, a non-partisan policy group in Washington, said the aim of restricting oil was to force Havana "to make real concessions at the ne-

gotiating table." "The strategy here is to drive the system to the brink," Herrero told AFP. "But it's not to precipitate a full-blown societal or humanitarian collapse."

"It's all consistent with idea that the US holds all the cards and they'll decide when to hold, when to fold and when they go all in," he said.

Two weeks of diesel

Cubans have endured seven nationwide blackouts since 2024, including two in March, and fuel prices have soared.

The blackouts as well as persistent shortages of food and medicine have fuelled public frustration and some rare protests.

Experts said the Russian oil would buy the Cuban economy only a few weeks.

Jorge Pinon, an expert on Cuba's energy sector at the University of Texas at Austin, said the more urgent need is diesel, which could be used for backup power generators or for transportation systems to keep the economy running.

It would take a month to refine the oil and deliver the diesel, which would be enough to cover demand for about two weeks, he said.

Herrero said the shipment was just "another donation" by Cuba's Russian ally, but he doubted that Moscow wanted to subsidise the Cuban economy in the long term.

"This is not going to help the economy recover," he said. "This is just humanitarian aid."

UNRWA chief seeks probe into killing of hundreds of staff in Gaza war

GENEVA (AFP) — The outgoing head of the United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees said on Tuesday he wanted an investigation into the killing of nearly UNRWA staff during the war in Gaza.

"I believe that we need to have a panel... a high-level panel of experts to look into the killing of our staff," Philippe Lazzarini told reporters in Geneva.



UNRWA's outgoing Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini looks on during his end of mandate press briefing at the United Nations offices in Geneva.

agency's staff had been killed since the start of Israel's war on Gaza in October 2023.

"Many others have sustained life-changing

injuries or have been arbitrarily detained and tortured," he said.

He said an investigation was needed not just into the killing of

UNRWA employees but also of other UN staff, stressing: "There have been other UN colleagues who have been also killed."

"And we have to look also at the extraordinary, large-scale destruction of the agency, of UN premises in Gaza," said Lazzarini.

He has warned that Israeli attacks on the agency, coupled with swingeing funding cuts, have left UNRWA facing "collapse".

He said he had raised the issue of an investigation with the office of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and with UN member states

in New York.

The question, he said, was "when is the right time to start this, as... everything in this context is polarised".

"The more time goes, the more difficult the task for the commission will be in the future."

Israel and Palestinian group Hamas continue to accuse each other of violating the ceasefire in place since October 10 designed to halt two years of war in the occupied Palestinian territory.

At least 72,000 people have been killed in the Israeli war on Gaza, according to the Strip's health ministry.

Malaysian ships to be spared from Iran's Hormuz toll- minister

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysian tankers permitted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz will be exempt from paying any prospective tolls imposed by Iran, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said on Tuesday.

Iranian state media reported on Monday that a parliamentary commission had approved plans to impose tolls on vessels transiting the vital waterway that Tehran has effectively closed due to the Middle East war.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan said on Saturday the tankers, owned by petroleum giant Petronas, Sapura Energy and maritime firm MISC, were awaiting clearance to safely sail through the strait.

"No, this is a complete no... The Iranian ambassador [to Malaysia] has mentioned this, no toll being imposed on Malaysian vessels," Loke told reporters on Tuesday.



Malaysian tankers permitted to pass through the Strait of Hormuz will be exempt from paying any prospective tolls imposed by Iran, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said on Tuesday.

"We are a friendly party. We have a good diplomatic relationship with the Iranian government."

Iran has indicated that it will allow vessels from nations it deems friendly to pass through the strait.

Loke said it would take time for Malaysian vessels to pass through Strait of Hormuz as "there are many ships that are stranded and anchored there".

"But I think that the

Iranian government has given their commitment and we think that our vessels will be able to pass through," he added.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, in a televised announcement last week, thanked Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian for giving way to Malaysia and "releasing the oil tankers and the workers involved so that they can continue their journey home".

UN security source tells AFP Israeli fire killed peacekeeper on Sunday

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AFP) — A UN security source told AFP on Tuesday that Israeli fire had killed an Indonesian peacekeeper at the weekend, after the UN force said it was investigating the incident.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon had said that the peacekeeper was killed on Sunday evening when a projectile of unknown origin "exploded in a UNIFIL position near Adchit al Qusayr".

The source told AFP on condition of anonymity that investigations had shown the fire came from an Israeli tank, adding that "debris from a tank round has been recovered" at the site.

On Monday, UNIFIL said another "explosion of unknown origin" destroyed a peacekeeping vehicle, killing two more Indonesian troops, and that an investigation had also been launched into that incident.

The UN security source said the origin of that explosion may have been a mine.

Israel's military said on Tuesday that it was investigating the two deadly incidents to "determine whether they resulted from Hezbollah activity or from IDF [Israeli army] activity".

"It should be noted these incidents occurred in an active combat area," the military said, adding that "it should not be as-

sumed that incidents in which UNIFIL soldiers were harmed were caused by the IDF".

UNIFIL numbers some 8,200 peacekeepers and patrols Lebanon's de facto southern border area, where Israel and Hezbollah have been fighting since war erupted this month as Israeli troops pursue a ground offensive.

The UN Security Council was holding an urgent meeting on

Tuesday at the request of France after the peacekeepers' deaths.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot on Monday accused Israel of unspecified "security breaches and intimidation" experienced by the French UNIFIL contingent in Naqura, where the mission's headquarters are located.

Barrot said that anger had "been conveyed with the utmost firmness to the Israeli ambassador in Paris".

FDI inflows to Kingdom exceed \$2 billion in 2025, highest since 2017 — CBJ

Continued from page 1

By sector, the financial and insurance sector attracted the largest share of inflows at 27.6 per cent, followed by manufacturing at 11.6 per cent, real estate at 8.8 per cent, mining at 7.5 per cent, and information and communications at 6.1 per cent.

Investments by non-Jordanians in land and real estate reached \$296.9 million, accounting for 14.7 per cent of total FDI inflows in 2025.

Minister of Investment Tareq Abu Ghazaleh said the figures reflected "positive" indicators for the national economy, noting that foreign direct investment (FDI) exceeding \$2 billion in 2025 "demonstrates investor confidence".

In remarks to Al Mamlaka TV, Abu Ghazaleh said the results were achieved despite ongoing regional challenges, underscoring that Jordan remains an attractive destination for

investors.

He added that projections for 2026 indicate a further increase in FDI inflows, supported by the Kingdom's high-quality investment opportunities across key sectors, particularly energy, water, transport and infrastructure.

"These sectors represent major drivers for attracting investment, contributing to economic growth and enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy," he said.

Here's what we know: What's in the bill?

The lower house national assembly in January passed legislation demanding all social media platforms refuse new users under 15 and suspend accounts belonging to children under that age.

Authorities want the bill — which also provides for a ban on mobile phones in high schools — to be enforced from September.

France eyes ban on social media for under-15s

PARIS, France (AFP) — President Emmanuel Macron is hoping France will become one of the first European Union countries to ban social media for under-15s, following similar moves in Australia and Indonesia.

Both houses of parliament seem to have different visions for the ban, meaning they will likely need to reach a compromise before it can become law.

But even if the legislation is adopted, questions remain over whether it could be enforced.

But the right-leaning Senate, which examines the bill on Tuesday, has expressed some reservations, which could delay the bill being adopted by both houses.

Indonesia began enforcing a social media ban for users under the age of 16 on Saturday..

of the bill excludes online encyclopaedias and educational platforms.

Why now?

First Lady Brigitte Macron has been campaigning against cyberbullying for years.

France's public health watchdog last year said platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram were detrimental to adolescents, particularly girls, though it was not the sole reason for their declining mental health.

The president has said the emotions of children and teenagers should not be "for sale or manipulated by American platforms and Chinese algorithms".

After Macron's government suspended a flagship pensions reform last year, a social media ban could be his last major domestic change before he steps down in April 2027.

What do critics say?

There are still opponents

to any ban.

Nine child protection associations in January said lawmakers should hold the platforms responsible, not ban children from social media.

Could a ban be implemented?

Even if the French law passes, putting it into place will be tricky.

Work on an effective age verification system is under way at the EU level, but is not due to be introduced until early 2027.

While backing France's right to impose such a ban, the European Commission in January said that any enforcement would lie with the European Union, provided the bill conforms to the bloc's laws.

There are also concerns that under-15s will

get around the age verification system by using virtual private networks or switching to newer platforms.

What are other countries doing?

In December, Australia became the first country in the world to require TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and other top sites to remove accounts held by under-16s, or face heavy fines.

Indonesia began enforcing a social media ban for users under the age of 16 on Saturday, and has already issued summons letters to Google and Meta over their failure to comply with the law.

Austria announced last week it would soon ban social media for children up to the age of 14, with a plan to present a new law "as early as this summer".

Spain and Denmark have also announced their intention to introduce a digital age of majority for social networks.

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Jordan's moment to choose: Talent exporter or tech producer

By Mwaffaq Ootom

For decades, Jordan has quietly fuelled the growth of the digital economy in the region, not through capital or scale, but through people. Jordanian engineers and entrepreneurs are building systems and solutions across regional and global markets.

This success poses an important question: Will Jordan remain a supplier of talent, or become a producer of technology-driven value?

Today, the country is at a crossroads. This moment presents a unique opportunity, driven by a rare alignment between national vision, institutional coordination and growing demand for technology solutions. Under the direction of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hussein, and his ongoing engagement with the National Council for Future Technologies, this shift reflects a move away from fragmented initiatives toward a coordinated national framework aligning policy, talent, and investment.

This alignment is already translating into action. Recommendations from the council are being incorporated into reforms led by the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission (AQAC), strengthening IT programmes across Jordan's higher education institutions. The increased emphasis on embedding practical and project-based skills, micro-credentials, professional certifications and structured field training into IT programmes, alongside continuous faculty upskilling and increasing recognition of practice qualifications, marks a decisive shift toward an industry-aligned, outcomes-driven model of education. This shift is further reinforced by the adoption of BTEC pathways across secondary and higher education, strengthening technical and vocational tracks and aligning the talent pipeline with industry needs from an earlier stage.

In parallel, Jordan is investing in enabling technology infrastructure. The Aqaba Digital Hub is a strategic initiative to position the Kingdom as a regional centre for data, connectivity and digital services, while growing emphasis on technical and vocational education ensures a workforce that is not only qualified, but deployment-ready. These efforts reflect a broader national approach linking vision, strategy, education, infrastructure, and economic development.

Jordan's economy remains stable, with a GDP estimated between \$50 billion and \$53 billion and growth near 2.5 per cent. The ICT sector contributes roughly 3 per cent of GDP and is expected to expand significantly in the coming decade.

Yet, a structural imbalance persists. Jordan produces world-class talent, but much of the value generated by that talent is captured elsewhere.

There are clear examples of both success and the gap. One prominent case demonstrated that globally relevant ventures can emerge from Jordan. More recently, a Jordanian entrepreneur built a globally recognised AI-powered software development platform. Yet, like many such successes, it was developed and scaled outside the Kingdom, highlighting a persistent gap in capturing value locally.

The next phase must focus on retaining this value within Jordan.

A key opportunity lies in the upcoming European-Jordanian Investment Conference at the Dead Sea. As a continuation of Jordan's engagement with the European Union, the conference offers a platform to reposition Jordan as a technology partner and innovation gateway for Europe into the region.

However, this transition requires deliberate and sustained action. First, the National Council for Future Technologies must ensure that its recommendations translate into measurable outcomes. Second, Jordan must strengthen its scale-up ecosystem to support growing startups and retain them locally. Third, international partnerships must evolve from short-term engagements into long-term platforms for investment and innovation.

Jordan's greatest asset has always been its people. What is changing today is the emergence of a coordinated system designed to ensure that this talent not only succeeds globally, but builds locally.

The choice facing Jordan is clear and the time to act is now. Because in the global digital economy, nations that export talent participate. Those that build technology lead. Jordan has both the capability and the opportunity to do both, but must now prioritise the latter.

'Torture and degrading treatment' — The case of Dr. Abu Safiya and Gaza's broken medical system

By Ramzy Baroud

Israel must immediately release Gazan doctor Dr. Husam Abu Safiya," UN experts said in a recent statement, in unequivocal terms.

Dr. Abu Safiya was "subjected to torture and other cruel and degrading treatment", they said. His health condition is "dire".

Many are already familiar with the iconic Palestinian doctor from Gaza. But the deserved and urgent focus on his case should not end with him. Rather, it should illuminate the broader catastrophe afflicting Gaza's health sector, one deliberately dismantled as part of the ongoing genocide that began on October 7, 2023.

Deprived of care, stripped of infrastructure, and denied the means to survive, Palestinians were left with fewer options...

Palestinians and others continue to refer to the genocide as "ongoing". This is not hyperbole. Though the rate of killing by bombs has decreased, the genocide remains in effect because the destruction of Gaza, and of all civilian infrastructure necessary for survival, continues to produce the same outcome: Palestinians are still dying as a direct result of the same policies.

This has affected every aspect of Palestinian life in Gaza that guarantees survival, from water and food to medical care.

Speaking at a World Health Organisation (WHO) press brief-

ing in Cairo on October 8, 2025, Dr. Hanan Balkhy, the WHO top regional health official for the Eastern Mediterranean, laid it all on the table.

Though she spoke in institutional terms, outlining Gaza's urgent healthcare needs, her account confirmed the scale of devastation caused by Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Over 1,700 health workers have been killed in Gaza since the start of the genocide, she said. The majority of Gaza's hospitals have been destroyed or rendered non-functional, with only a few partially operating. At least 455 Palestinians have died due to hunger, including 151 children, within months.

In all of the grim numbers the Gaza genocide has produced, and continues to produce, one constant stands out: For every growing number of victims, there is a corresponding number of those meant to save them who have also been killed.

Thousands of doctors, health workers, humanitarian workers, civil defence personnel, emergency responders, volunteers, charity workers and municipal officials have been swept into the same cycle of destruction.

It could be argued that these numbers correspond to the overall scale of death in Gaza. Official figures state that over 72,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 172,000 wounded, while independent research, including estimates published in *The Lancet*, suggests the true death toll may be far higher.

This argument may appear defensible. But the targeting of hospitals, the killing and wounding of doctors, and the unlawful detention and torture of health workers cannot be dismissed as a mere reflection of mass killing.

From the earliest days of the genocide, Israel placed Gaza's hospitals at the centre of its assault. On October 17, 2023, Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza was struck in one of the most horrific early massacres, followed by systematic assaults on major medical facilities, including Al Shifa Hospital, Al-Quds Hospital, the Indonesian Hospital, and Nasser Medical

Complex.

But why hospitals? Because hospitals were not only places of treatment. They were places of refuge. As tens of thousands of Palestinians sought shelter within their walls, hospitals became the last spaces where survival was still possible. To destroy them was to sever that final lifeline.

The killing of doctors, the bombing of hospitals and the detention of medical personnel were not incidental. They formed part of a broader strategy: To render Gaza uninhabitable by dismantling the systems that sustain life.

Deprived of care, stripped of infrastructure, and denied the means to survive, Palestinians were left with fewer options, first to flee south, and ultimately, to be pushed beyond Gaza altogether.

This is why Dr. Abu Safiya has become so vital to this story.

In the final days before his detention on December 27, 2024, he was among the last senior doctors still operating in the hospital...

Every Gazan doctor who refused to leave his or her post during the genocide is a hero. Every health worker who risked his or her life to save others represents a model of courage that should be emulated everywhere. And every doctor killed, wounded, or detained deserves to be remembered as the highest expression of human commitment to life.

'We miss the simplest things': Tehran residents on edge after month of war

Agence France Presse

PARIS, France — For Tehran resident Fatemeh, the highlight of her day in a city beset by deadly daily US-Israeli strikes in the now month-long war is to make the short journey to her local cafe.

"When I make it to a cafe table, even for a few minutes, I can almost believe the world hasn't ended," said Fatemeh, 27, a dental assistant.

"It feels like stepping out of this damn war and into an ordinary day, or at least imagining a world that isn't filled with the constant fear of losing your life, or where you stay alive but lose a loved one or everything you have," she told AFP.

If a lull in the bombing allows a better night's sleep, Fatemeh said she will put on make-up and dress up to make her visit to the cafe extra special.

"And then I go back home, back to the reality of living through war, with all its darkness and weight," she said.

Residents of Tehran who spoke to AFP's team covering the war in Paris painted a picture of a city that is still clinging to some routine, with cafes and restaurants open, no shortages reported in supermarkets or petrol stations and people trying to keep up some vestige of a social life.

But they know that life is anything but normal with the US and Israel maintaining a relentless pace of bombardment on the capital since the war started on February 28 with the killing of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other top officials.

There are security checkpoints on what were peaceful streets, the internet has been blocked or drastically slowed for everything except domestic services, and windows are taped up to prevent them shattering in case of attack.

As well as fear of being killed or losing a loved one in an attack, people are gripped by anxiety over the future, over what kind of country they will live in and how they will make ends meet amid a collapsing economy.

The people who agreed to share messages with AFP gave only their first names for fear of the consequences were they to be identified by authorities.

'And then I go back home, back to the reality of living through war, with all its darkness and weight'

'Only thing left'

"These days, I mostly stay at home and only go out if I absolutely have to. The only thing left from my life routine before the war that helps me keep my spirit up is cooking," said Shahrzad, 39, a housewife.

But she added: "Sometimes I find myself crying in the middle of it. I miss ordinary days... A life where I didn't have to constantly think about explosions, death, or losing my loved ones.

"I try to stay strong for my daughter... But when I think about the future, I can't form any clear picture in my mind that I can hold on to with hope."

People in Tehran have over the last week been trying to make

Dr. Abu Safiya embodies all of them.

He is not unique, and that is precisely the point. He is the collective face of a medical community that refused to abandon its people, even as the system around it collapsed.

At Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, Abu Safiya remained at his post as Israeli forces advanced on the facility, already overwhelmed by waves of wounded and displaced civilians. Despite shortages of fuel, medicine and staff, he continued to treat patients while helping to protect those sheltering inside the hospital compound.

In the final days before his detention on December 27, 2024, he was among the last senior doctors still operating in the hospital, overseeing care under conditions that defy any conventional understanding of medical practice.

One image came to define him. Standing amid the ruins outside Kamal Adwan Hospital, surrounded by destruction, he walked alone in his white coat toward advancing Israeli armored vehicles, a lone doctor facing a war machine. The image circulated widely because it captured, in a single frame, the reality of Gaza: Those who heal standing unarmed before those who destroy.

That destruction remains in effect today, even as global attention has shifted elsewhere, compounding the danger facing a besieged Gaza. "Israel must release Dr. Abu Safiya and all healthcare workers," said UN experts. Israel should also release all Palestinian prisoners, lift the siege, and end the genocide in its entirety.

"States have the power to end his torment," they said. They are not wrong, and there can be no moral or legal justification for their inaction.

Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the editor of *The Palestine Chronicle*. He is the author of six books. His latest, "Before the Flood", was published by Seven Stories Press. His other books include "Our Vision for Liberation", "My Father was a Freedom Fighter" and "The Last Earth". Baroud is a non-resident senior research fellow at the Centre for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA)

tense it feels like "all of Tehran is shaking".

"Everything goes back to one state, survival. Thinking only about staying alive with all the people I love. My friends, my family, and the people of my city, who look kinder than ever in this difficult time," she said.

Kaveh, 38, a visual artist, said a piece of a missile struck about 50 metres from his house a few days ago.

"I brought it home with me. I want to make something out of it when I get the chance," he said, recalling that dust was falling from the sky and several windows shattered immediately.

He described how at night in some areas, groups of people who back the clerical system drive around, honking and gathering, "while just a few streets away, there are checkpoints where cars and phones of normal people are being searched".

"If you have something to do in the city, you'll likely pass through multiple checkpoints in a single day, each run by different groups. Cars are searched, phones are checked, and months of accumulated frustration are taken out on people at these checkpoints.

"These are just parts of our daily reality under these circumstances," he said.

The morose atmosphere, residents say, has been compounded by unseasonably rainy weather that contrasts with the spring sunshine people are used to enjoying at Nowruz.

Portraits of children killed in attacks are displayed in squares, while giant flags of the Islamic republic cover buildings that have been reduced to ruins.

"In the end, for many people, the most important concern is the future of Iran and its people, and what might actually improve the situation," said Kaveh.

BUSINESS

Wednesday, April 1, 2026



The Jordan Free Zones Investors Commission on Tuesday discusses vehicle conformity procedures and challenges facing the import of used vehicles from South Korea to the Zarqa Free Zone

JFZIC, Korean delegation discuss vehicle conformity procedures

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Free Zones Investors Commission (JFZIC) on Monday discussed vehicle conformity procedures and challenges facing the import of used vehicles from South Korea to the Zarqa Free Zone and the local market during a meeting with a delegation from the Korean embassy in Amman.

The meeting reviewed the latest developments related to the issue, as well as measures taken in cooperation with relevant authorities in both countries, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

JFZIC Vice President

Amer Jayousi said that the meeting was held at an "important" time, in light of the challenges facing the vehicle import sector.

He noted that the discussions went over the steps taken by the embassy, the Korean trade office and the commission, including consultations with the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organisation and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, to examine the possibility of recognising the Korean certificate of conformity for imported vehicles.

Speaking during the meeting, Jayousi said that the Korean side presented the re-

sults of technical work comparing the specifications of Korean vehicles with those of vehicles imported from the US and Europe, in a move that could support their recognition under Jordan's existing regulatory framework.

He added that the discussions also addressed the main obstacles affecting the smooth flow of imports, most notably high shipping costs, supply chain disruptions, and visa-related challenges facing traders wishing to travel to South Korea, all of which have contributed to higher operational costs.

Air traffic in Jordan 'recovering', reaches 59% of pre-war levels — CARC

Commission says major airlines resume services at QAIA

AMMAN (JT) — Chief Commissioner of the Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC) Daifallah Farajat highlighted a "notable recovery" in air traffic over Jordanian airspace and at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), as international and Arab carriers gradually resume scheduled operations.

Farajat said that flight numbers have shown "sustained growth", surpassing levels recorded at the onset of the war, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Farajat noted that several major airlines have resumed services to and from QAIA following temporary suspensions, including Air Arabia (Abu Dhabi and Sharjah), Emirates, Etihad Airways, flynas, Air Cairo, Egypt Air, Ethiopian Airlines, Romania's TAROM, and Oman Air, in addition to the Royal Jordanian (RJ), Jordan Aviation, Fly Jordan, and Arab Wings.

Farajat highlighted aircraft movements at QAIA, noting that on February 27, before recent regional developments, the airport handled around 220 flights daily.

"Currently, the daily average stands at 130



Planes that belong to Royal Jordanian (RJ) and other airlines are parked at Queen Alia International Airport in Amman

flights, with 27 March recording a peak of 170 flights, the highest since operations were disrupted," he added.

He added that air traffic has now rebounded to 59 per cent of normal levels, reflecting a clear and sustained upward trend".

Farajat also commended CARC's air traffic teams for their professionalism. "Personnel are working around the clock to manage aircraft transiting Jordanian airspace or operating through local airports, maintaining strict coordination with relevant

authorities to ensure the highest aviation safety and security standards."

He stressed that the Commission continues to monitor regional developments closely, reiterating that Jordanian airspace is managed in full compliance with interna-

tional standards.

Farajat added that the readiness and expertise of Jordanian aviation personnel remain the primary guarantee for the continued flow of air navigation, tourism, and trade through the Kingdom's air gateway.

Jordanian economy resilient, yet caution, long-term planning required — economists

By Dana Alzyadat

AMMAN — As the military confrontation between Iran, the United States and Israel continues to escalate across the Middle East, analysts have raised the alarm over the war's damaging repercussions on the region's economies.

In remarks to The Jordan Times, economists cited the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the disruption in global oil supply as well as the destruction to energy facilities as the major factors that will have their "deep" impact of the region's economies.

Economic expert Mufleh Akel warned that the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz cannot be overstated. "With 20 per cent of the world's gas supply and significant oil volumes transiting this chokepoint, any disruption could prove catastrophic."

"The importance of the Strait of Hormuz lies in Qatari gas, which represents 20 per cent of the world's supply, with 80 per cent of it heading to the Far East. A closure, or even a selective blockade by Iran in response to the escalating confrontation — would send gas prices soaring by 50 to 60 per cent," Akel said.

He outlined a worst-case scenario involving direct strikes on production and refining infrastructure. "If the United States strikes Kharg Island and destroys oil assets, Iran will undoubtedly retaliate by hitting production hubs across the Gulf. Oil prices could realistically jump to \$200 per barrel. Even vessels currently permitted to pass are suffering



Jordan petroleum refinery is located in Zarqa, Jordan, and owned by the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company

under insurance costs reaching 5 per cent of their total value."

For Jordan, the crisis strikes close to home. Some 400,000 Jordanian expatriates living and working in the Gulf remit nearly \$4 billion annually to the Kingdom, while bilateral trade with Gulf partners and Iraq exceeds \$7 billion.

Former deputy prime minister Jawad Anani highlighted a specific structural vulnerability: Electricity generation.

"Jordan is not a gas producer, yet relies on gas as its cheapest and most efficient fuel for power plants," he said.

"We have a problem generating electricity. During peak times, load on grid reaches between 3,888 and 4,000 megawatts per hour, the maximum. Switching to heavy fuel oil or diesel is possible but expensive and far less efficient," Anani warned.

Anani urged the government to brace for what he described as a "bone-crushing" phase of the conflict, in which Iran's infrastructure becomes a direct target.

"This may require

implementing cuts in public expenditure, or even rationing fuel. Decisions must be taken now to reassure citizens and signal a commitment to austerity."

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan on Monday issued a directive mandating tighter control of public spending and resource use across all government institutions, official departments and public bodies, citing current economic conditions.

Under the directive, the use of government vehicles has been restricted strictly to official duties and banned outside working hours, with all previous exemptions revoked.

The order also suspends all official travel abroad by government delegations and committees for two months, effective immediately, except in cases of urgent necessity and with prior approval from the prime minister. Hosting of foreign delegations has likewise been put on hold for the same period.

In a further cost-cutting measure, the directive prohibits the use of air conditioning and other heating devices

in ministries, public institutions and government offices.

Economic expert Husam Ayesh offered a more technical assessment, noting that Jordan maintains multi-tiered reserves covering both energy and essential food commodities.

"The Kingdom's gas reserves are sufficient for approximately 30 days, while crude oil stocks can last roughly 45 days, forming a core component of the national strategic energy reserve system. On food security, Jordan holds wheat reserves for up to 12 months and barley stocks for around eight months," Ayesh said.

He said that strategic reserves for basic foodstuffs could sustain the country for up to six months, warning that such reserves offer no absolute immunity should the conflict prove prolonged.

Akel noted that while food and medicine can still reach Jordan via alternative routes, including through the Mediterranean, via Latakia or the Port of Aqaba, the tourism sector, a major contributor to GDP and a vital source of foreign currency, faces a significant decline that would further stoke inflationary pressures.

Chairman of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Fathi Jaghbir said, "National industries cover between 60 and 65 per cent of local needs. Our factories have built up experience in switching energy sources, including renewables, and in diversifying raw material suppliers in order to maintain production and prevent sharp price increases."

UN warns of huge cost of Mideast war to Arab countries

AMMAN (AFP) — The war sparked by the joint US-Israeli attack on Iran and which has spread across the Middle East has cost Arab countries \$186 billion, a top UN official said Tuesday, as he called for an immediate halt to the fighting.

"We hope the fighting will stop tomorrow, as every day of delay has negative repercussions on the global economy," UN assistant secretary-general Abdullah Al Dardari told reporters in Amman.

"We estimate that the loss to the Arab region's GDP as a result of one month of fighting will be around six per cent... Six per cent of GDP means the region has lost around \$186 billion from its economy in a single month," he said.

Dardari, who is also a top UN official for the Arab region, said the countries of the oil-rich Gulf were shouldering the heaviest burden.

"The impact on GDP



This photo taken on Tuesday shows the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) complex in the Saudi capital Riyadh

is very significant in the Gulf region, where it could reach \$168 billion, and in the Levant region, where it could reach around \$30 billion," he said.

The war that erupted with a US-Israeli attack on Iran on February 28 spread quickly across the region, as Iran launched retaliatory attacks targeting Gulf countries and Israel.

Lebanon and Iraq have been drawn into the fighting, with pro-Iran groups launching

attacks of their own on Israel and US interests.

Dardari warned against the Gulf's economic dependence on oil, saying the crisis around the vital waterway of the Strait of Hormuz had proved the need to diversify.

He also said there was a need to seek out routes other than the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flowed pre-war.

"The Arab economy

relies on virtually a single commodity; even countries that do not export oil depend on remittances from expatriates in oil-exporting countries and on aid from those same countries, while the oil-exporting countries themselves rely on a single product," he said.

"This fragility in the Arab economy is demonstrated by recent events, which prove that it is unsustainable."

Dardari sounded the alarm over the expected impact on jobs in a region already wracked by inequality.

"We estimate that the number of jobs we will lose as a result of this conflict is around 3.7 million," he said.

"As for the impact on poverty, we expect that around four million more people in the region will fall, or have already fallen, below the poverty line this month as a result of the hostilities."

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Tuesday reached JD20.2 million while 3.9 million shares were traded through 3,628 transactions.

The ASE shares price index closed at 3641.25 point, an increase of 0.04 per cent.

The shares of 93 companies were traded, the shares prices of 24 companies rose, and the shares prices of 40 declined.

At the sector level, the Services index increased by 0.42 per cent, the Industrial index increased by 0.35 per cent and the Financial index decreased by 0.26 per cent.

The top five gainers were, the The Arab International For Education & Investment, by 7.10 per cent, Jordan Masaken For Land & Industrial Development Projects by 4.62 per cent, Latent Energies For Investments by 4 per cent, Afaq For Energy Co. P.l.c by 3.8 per cent and Arab Jordan Investment Bank by 3.19 per cent.

The top five losers were, Union Tobacco & Cigarette Industries by 10 per cent, Irbid District Electricity by 7.38 per cent, Al Quds Ready Mix by 6.82 per cent, Al Dawliyah for Hotels & Malls by 4.44 per cent and Jordanian Real Estate Company For Development by 4.41 per cent.

THE MARKET TODAY

ASE Index: ↑ 3641.25 0.04% March 31, 2026

Live Data Historical Data

Click and drag in the plot area to zoom in

DAILY SUMMARY

Regular Market		OTC Market	
Trading Value (JDs)	20,213,277		
Trading volume	3,922,112		
No. of Transactions	3,628		
No. of Securities	93		

THE JORDAN TIMES SPORTS AT A GLANCE

FOOTBALL

San Siro sale to Inter and AC Milan probed for bid rigging

MILAN, Italy (AFP) — The sale of the San Siro stadium by the city of Milan to Italian football giants Inter Milan and AC Milan is being investigated for bid rigging, Italian news reports said on Tuesday. Nine people are under investigation after Italy's financial police carried out searches at Milan City Hall and the company owned by Inter and AC Milan which manages the San Siro, according to media reports. Those being investigated include the former CEO of Inter, Alessandro Antonello, representatives from both clubs and the city of Milan's general manager, Christian Malangone, who has been described as Mayor Giuseppe Sala's right-hand man. Accusations of bid rigging centre on the manner in which the 197 million euros (\$227 million) sale of 28 hectares of public land on which the San Siro sits was approved in late September. Inter and AC Milan are planning to knock down the San Siro after having built a new 70,000-capacity arena on the land immediately to the west of the current stadium. City council officials are alleged to have favoured private interests to the detriment of the public good and by using a law designed to simplify the process of stadium building to favour certain construction companies.

Tottenham appoint De Zerbi in battle for Premier League survival

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham appointed Roberto De Zerbi as the club's third manager of the season on Tuesday as they battle to avoid relegation from English football's top-flight for the first time in nearly 50 years. Former Brighton and Marseille boss De Zerbi has reportedly been handed a lucrative five-year deal to convince him to take the job immediately rather than waiting to see which division Spurs are in next season. Tottenham sit just one point outside the relegation zone with seven games of the Premier League season remaining. De Zerbi replaces Igor Tudor, whose interim reign lasted just seven games after Spurs crashed out of the Champions League and fell ever closer to the Premier League drop zone. "I am delighted to be joining this fantastic football club, which is one of the biggest and most prestigious in the world," said De Zerbi in a club statement. "I am here because I believe in that ambition and have signed a long-term contract to give everything to deliver it. Our short-term priority is to climb the Premier League table, which will be the complete focus until the final whistle of the last game of the season."



Photo courtesy of AFC

Jordan's Arwa Batayneh (right) named one of Group B and 12 overall players to watch at the upcoming U-20 Asian Cup

Jordan starts U-20 Women's Asian Cup

By Aline Bannayan

AMMAN — Jordan faces reigning champs North Korea on Thursday at the 2026 AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup kicks off in Bangkok, Thailand, a tournament serving as a qualifying competition for the 2026 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup.

Jordan was drawn to play in the tough Group B against North Korea on April 2, South Korea April 5 and Uzbekistan April 8. It will be the Kingdom's second time at the competition after they reached the Asian Cup in 2006 exiting Round 1.

12 teams have qualified to the April 1-18 event, playing in 3 groups, with the top two teams from each group and two best second-placed sides advancing to the quarter-finals and the top four finishers will move to the U20 World Cup.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has listed Jordan's

Arwa Batayneh among the players to watch.

The AFC website described the young player as "having a knack for finding the back of the net - a quality she showcased in the Qualifiers against Northern

Mariana Islands and Bahrain. The Amman FC forward will be aiming to carry that form into Thailand 2026 as she looks to lead Jordan's attacking charge."

This week, Jordan lost 2-0 to Bangladesh in their final friendly ahead of the event. They earlier lost to Russia 3-0 and Thailand 1-0 before leaving home.

Defending champions North Korea are two-time winners, while Japan have won a record 6 titles, South Korea twice and China once.

The women's U-20 qualification made up for the senior team's exiting qualifiers for

the 2026 Women's AFC Asian Cup which Jordan reached twice before: in 2014 as group winner, and in 2018, as host. In addition, the women's U-17 team exited qualifiers for the AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2026.

The senior men's team's success has raised the bar for all teams after Jordan secured a historic qualification to the 2026 World Cup where they will play in Group J alongside soccer greats Argentina, Algeria and Austria.

By finishing runner-up at the 2023 Asian Cup, followed by a historic first-time quali-

fication to the World Cup in their 7th time in qualifiers since 1986, Jordan booked a spot in the next edition of the 2027 Asian Cup as well.

The Kingdom also finished runner-up to champions Morocco at the 2025 FIFA Arab Cup in Qatar, despite missing many key players on the injury list or club duty.

Jordan's U-23 squad exited the 2026 AFC U23 Asian Cup quarters after losing to eventual and reigning champs Japan. Jordan's best performance came in the inaugural 2013 edition, finishing 3rd. In 2025 year, Jordan lost

to Oman in the final of the 6th U23 West Asia Championship in their fifth time at the competition which they won in 2021.

The U-20 squad had the 4th WAFF U-20 Championship postponed for now. The team still has the U20 Arab Cup as well as qualifiers for the 2027 U-20 Asian Cup on their agenda.

The U-17 men's squad has been inactive since they lost their qualifying chance to the 2026 U-17 AFC Asian Cup from which the top eight finishers will represent Asia at the 2026 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

LIFE

THE JORDAN TIMES

Blazes cloak northern Thailand in hazardous air pollution

BANGKOK (AFP) — Swathes of northern Thailand choked under a blanket of haze caused by crop burning and forest fires, putting the country's second city atop global air pollution rankings on Tuesday.

Seasonal air pollution is a feature of life for much of Asia, associated with agricultural burning and weather patterns that trap pollutants.

The issue has become a political and economic headache for tourist-dependent Thailand, and prompted lawsuits and a legislative push by clean air activists.

Despite the efforts, northern Thailand's Chiang Mai tourist destination topped the global rankings for world's most polluted major city for part of Tuesday, according to the IOAir monitor.

The level of PM2.5 pollutants — cancer-causing microparticles small enough to enter the bloodstream through the lungs — hit 110 microgrammes per cubic metre.

The World Health Organisation recommends 24-hour average exposures should not be more than 15 micrograms for most days of



AFP photo

The Wat Arun Buddhist temple is pictured illuminated before its lights are turned off to mark the Earth Hour in Bangkok on Saturday

the year.

Even worse hit was Pai, a usually verdant destination for backpackers and nature lovers in Mae Hong Son province, where PM2.5 levels topped 600, according to some monitors.

Dao, a cafe worker who declined to give her family name, has lived through years of seasonal air pollution in Pai but said this year was especially bad.

"I've never seen this much pollution in Pai before," she told AFP.

She shared photos showing the usually green, hilly vista from

the cafe obscured by grey-brown haze.

"I feel suffocated. How are we going to live like this?"

Another long-time Pai resident, organic farmer George Wolstencroft, also declared the haze "probably the worst I've ever seen it".

The Brit, who has lived in the region for 22 years, called the situation a "humanitarian disaster".

"In any direction, the smoke is visible less than 50 metres away... Even homes that are fully sealed are unable to stop the smoke infiltrating the air."

Chiang Mai's governor and other senior provincial officials were meeting with the national government to discuss the situation on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Chiang Mai governor's office said illegal burning and forest fires in national parks were causing the hazardous haze.

The interior ministry issued a statement urging stepped up monitoring and enforcement against those carrying out illegal burning.

Local media said one subdistrict in Chiang Mai was preparing a

disaster declaration over the situation, a move that would speed up deployment of emergency spending and compensation for those affected.

Thailand's Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency, a government body, said it had recorded a "new high" for 2026 of 4,750 fire hotspots across the country on Monday.

It said more than 5,000 hotspots were detected across the border in Myanmar, with thousands more combined across Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia.

The spike in air pollution comes as clean air activists warn a bill to enshrine the right to breathable air and to tax emitters is in danger of dying in parliament.

The bill was put on hold when parliament was dissolved last year, and if it is not picked back up within a limited window, the process will go "back to the drawing board", the Thailand Clean Air Network has said.

More than 10 million people required treatment for pollution-related health problems in Thailand in 2023, according to the health ministry.



AFP photo

This handout photo taken on February 8, 2020 and released by the International Fund for Animal Welfare on March 25 shows Bear, an Australian Koolie

'Hero' Australian dog who saved 100 koalas retires

SYDNEY (AFP) — An Australian dog credited with saving over 100 koalas from bushfires is retiring after a decade of service.

Bear, an 11-year-old Australian Koolie, was one of the first dogs in the country to be trained on the scent of koala fur.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare called using dogs to detect koalas a "novel" approach.

"No one knew if it could be done," IFAW head of programmes Josey Sharrad wrote in a statement about Bear on Monday.

As a pup, the four-legged hero's boundless energy made it tough to stay indoors, but he found his true potential in the bush.

"He literally went from chewing the walls of a Gold Coast apartment to roaming through the Aussie bush on a mission to save our most iconic species," Sharrad said.

Bear's skills saved over 100 koalas as the Black Summer bushfires raged across Australia's eastern seaboard from late 2019 to early 2020, razing millions of hectares, destroying thousands of homes and blanketing cities in noxious smoke.

The tail-wagging detective with a "joyful and goofy" personality retires with an extensive list of accolades — including an Animal of the Year award and Puppy Tales Photos Australian Dog of the Year

award. He also features in a "dogumentary" called "Bear: Koala Hero", and in a book, "Bear to the Rescue".

Bear will embark on a slower-paced chapter on the Sunshine Coast with one of his former handlers, getting belly rubs and playing his favourite game, fetch.

One of his former handlers, Romane Cristescu, said Bear had been a "tireless ambassador for koalas for a decade".

"He melted hearts all around the world, and opened many doors so we could have critical and difficult conversations about climate change and its impacts on the threatened koalas, as well as so many other species."



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