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Thursday, June 11, 2026 | Dhu al-Hajja 25, 1447 Hijri



King departs on private visit

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah II departed Jordan on Wednesday, on a private visit. HRH Prince Feisal was sworn in as Regent, in the presence of Cabinet members, according to a Royal Court statement.

JAF says Iran targets Jordan with 5 missiles, all intercepted

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) on Wednesday said that air defence systems had intercepted and shot down five missiles launched from Iran towards Jordanian airspace.



The army added that no injuries or material damage were reported. JAF stressed that it remains at the highest level of operational

readiness to protect Jordan's airspace and safeguard the Kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also reaffirmed that Jordan will not allow any violation of its airspace by any party.

King attends JAF ceremony marking Accession to Throne Day, Great Arab Revolt anniversary, Army Day

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF), attended on Wednesday a ceremony held by the JAF at the Martyrs' Memorial to mark the occasions of Accession to the Throne Day, the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day.

His Majesty laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and recited verses from the Holy Quran, according to a Royal Court statement.

The King, accompanied by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti, signed the guestbook in which he expressed his great pride in the men and women of the armed forces and security agencies, and their ongoing efforts to protect the Kingdom and safeguard its achievements.

His Majesty bestowed medals on distinguished military and security personnel, in recognition of their efforts and dedication to service, the



His Majesty King Abdullah, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF), attends on Wednesday a ceremony held by the JAF at the Martyrs' Memorial to mark the occasions of Accession to the Throne Day, the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, and Army Day

statement said. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Feisal, Prince Ghazi, His Majesty's chief adviser for

religious and cultural affairs and personal envoy, and Prince Rashid, as well as Prime Minister and

Defence Minister Jafar Hassan, General Intelligence Department Director Maj. Gen. Ahmad Husni

and Public Security Directorate Director Maj. Gen. Obeidallah Maaytah attended the ceremony.

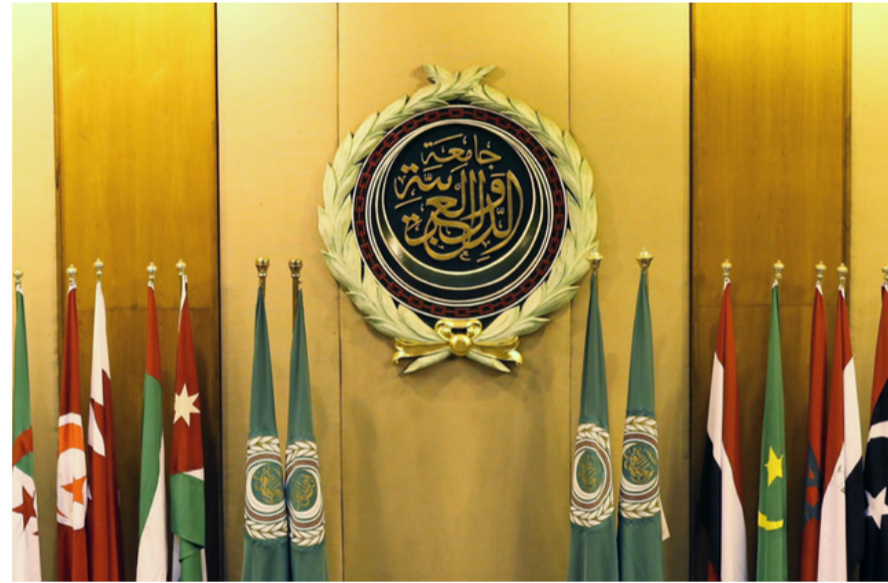
Arab countries condemn Iranian attacks on Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait

AMMAN (JT) — Arab countries have condemned Iranian attacks on Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait and voiced support for all measures the three countries take to safeguard their security and stability.

The United Arab Emirates has condemned in the strongest terms the "terrorist and unprovoked ballistic missile and drone attacks by Iran that targeted the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan".

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that the "terrorist attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the three brotherly nations and a threat to their security and stability". The ministry expressed the UAE's full solidarity with Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait support for all measures aimed at safeguarding their security and stability.

Saudi Arabia expressed its condemnation and denunciation in the strongest terms of "Iran's attacks and blatant vio-



lations of the sovereignty of Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan," considering them a threat to the security and safety of the territories and airspace of these sister nations.

The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that "the continuation of these attacks threatens regional and international security and undermines efforts aimed at de-escalation and restoring security and stability in the region".

Qatar has also strongly condemned the Iranian attacks targeting Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan, describing them as a serious violation of the sovereignty of the three countries and a breach of international law.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the attacks and called for efforts to shield the region from the consequences of what it described as unjustified escalation.

Qatar also reiterated its full solidarity with Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain, expressing support for all measures taken by the three countries to safeguard their sovereignty and security.

Also on Wednesday, Egypt condemned the Iranian attacks targeting Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait.

"These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of these sister nations

and represent a highly dangerous escalation that threatens the security and stability of the entire region," Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Egypt affirmed its full solidarity with Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait in confronting these "unacceptable attacks, and its support for all measures taken by these countries to preserve their security and stability, and protect their citizens and national assets".

The secretary-general of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, condemned the "blatant" Iranian attack on Jordan, Kuwait, and Bahrain using ballistic missiles and drones.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Aboul Gheit expressed his deep concern over Iran's continued attacks on Arab territories, stressing that Iran's "unacceptable approach reveals an attempt to de-stabilise Arab regional security while simultaneously exerting pressure on the international community".

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A group of children from Gaza returns on Wednesday through the King Hussein Bridge after completing medical treatment in hospitals across the Kingdom under the 'Jordanian Medical Corridor' initiative

34 Gaza children return home after treatment in Jordan under medical corridor initiative

AMMAN (JT) — A group of children from Gaza returned on Wednesday through the King Hussein Bridge after completing medical treatment in hospitals across the Kingdom under the "Jordanian Medical Corridor" initiative, which provides healthcare services for

Palestinians in the enclave.

The returning group included 34 children accompanied by 73 relatives, after receiving treatment in Jordanian hospitals in line with the highest medical standards during their stay in the Kingdom, according to a Jordan

Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) statement.

The patients were evacuated earlier by land and air in coordination between the JAF, the Ministry of Health, and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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People clean the street next to a burnt-out 'Glider city bus' after demonstrations turned violent the night before, burning vehicles and homes, in eastern Belfast, Northern Ireland, on Wednesday

Foreign Ministry urges citizens in Belfast to exercise caution amid protests

AMMAN (JT/AFP) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday urged Jordanian citizens in Bel-

fast, Northern Ireland, to remain cautious, avoid areas of demonstrations and gatherings, and comply with

instructions issued by the relevant local authorities.

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Trump vows 'hard' new Iran strikes as talks reach deadlock

By Mai Anati

AMMAN — President Donald Trump said the United States would launch fresh attacks on Iran on Wednesday, accusing Tehran's peace negotiators of "playing us for suckers".

Trump's remarks came after the two sides traded fire following the downing of a US helicopter, further straining a ceasefire that took effect in April, according to AFP.

"We hit them hard yesterday and we're going to hit them again hard today, in case you miss it, in case you don't turn on your



An F-35C Lightning II, attached to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314, prepares to make an arrested landing on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), May 25, 2026

television set," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"And we'll see what

happens with a deal. We were really close to a deal, but they keep tapping us along, they keep playing

us for suckers".

The United States said on Tuesday it had completed a series of mili-

tary strikes against Iran, marking a new escalation despite reports that negotiations to end the Middle East war had entered their final stages.

The strikes came a day after Iran downed a US Apache helicopter and only hours after President Donald Trump said negotiators were close to reaching an agreement aimed at ending months of regional conflict.

US Central Command said American forces launched "self-defence strikes against Iran at the direction of Trump".

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The Jordan Tourism Board on Wednesday launches the 'Jordan: Impossible to Match' campaign in conjunction with the national football team's historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup

JTB launches global marketing campaign ahead of World Cup

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) on Wednesday launched the "Jordan: Impossible to Match" campaign as part of a global marketing strategy aimed at boosting the Kingdom's position as a tourism destination.

The campaign was launched in conjunction with the national football team's historic qualification for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and aims to capitalise on the achievement by promoting Jordan's tourism sector and highlighting the country's attractions and visitor experiences, the Jordan News Agency,

Petra, reported. Jordan will begin their World Cup Group J campaign in San Francisco against Austria on June 17.

The Nashama will then face Algeria on June 23 before travelling to Dallas to meet reigning world champions Argentina on June 28 in their final group-stage match.

The initiative includes digital content across social media platforms and partnerships with international influencers and content creators to promote Jordan's tourism attractions, particularly Petra.

It also aims to raise

Jordan's profile in global digital conversations and attract new segments of visitors.

Public and media events will also be organised alongside the national team's participation, most notably the "Nashama Parade" in host cities and the establishment of "Jordan House" in Dallas and San Jose in the United States.

The venue will showcase Jordanian identity and culture as part of efforts to capitalise on the global event to strengthen the Kingdom's international presence and promote Jordan as a leading tourism destination.

Jordanian olive oil wins silver at Berlin, London competitions

AMMAN (JT) — The Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB) has secured the silver award for the quality of olive oil produced in the Sabha development group in the northeastern Badia at the 2026 Berlin Global Olive Oil Awards (Berlin GOOA) and the London International Olive Oil Competitions (LIOOC).

With this success, the fund recorded a new international achievement in two of the world's most prominent and important international competitions specialising in the quality of extra virgin olive oil, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Wednesday.

HFDJB won these awards for the third consecutive year and won the silver award in the Berlin competition in 2026, compared with winning the bronze award in the same competition in 2025.

HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali, chairperson of HFDJB's board of trustees, said that receiving these awards reflects the continuous excellence of the Jordanian product and its ability to compete and win in the most prominent international forums specialising in extra virgin olive oil.

The princess added that this global recognition underscores the exceptional quality of the Jordanian product and the success in applying the highest agri-



The Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia secures the silver award for the quality of olive oil at the 2026 Berlin Global Olive Oil Awards and the London International Olive Oil Competitions

cultural and production standards, reflecting the significant efforts exerted to develop the agricultural sector and enhance the competitiveness of national products in international markets and forums.

For his part, HFDJB Director Ayesha Qataneh said that this achievement has been officially documented on the specialised global platform Elite Olive Oils, in a step that enhances the international presence of the

fund's products and enhances their position among the elite of globally distinguished olive oil products.

To maximise the economic viability of the product, the director said that the necessary arrangements were made to participate in international competitions for extra virgin olive oil, leading to obtaining awards that maximise the product's value-added.

He noted that these two awards will have a

positive impact on the reputation of Jordanian olive oil, increase its competitive value locally, regionally, and internationally, and open new markets for its promotion and export, thereby supporting the national economy.

Qataneh expressed his appreciation to HFDJB's staff for the qualitative and distinguished efforts they have made and continue to make to advance the fund's work, translating its devel-

opment programmes, plans and projects into a tangible reality across various fields within its competence.

The 2026 editions of Berlin GOOA and LIOOC awards witnessed wide international participation that reflected the scale of competition and the value of these awards globally, with hundreds of brands and specialised producers of extra virgin olive oil from various countries around the world competing.

RMS treats over 5 million patients in 2025 — director-general

AMMAN (JT) — The Royal Medical Services (RMS) treated more than 5 million patients in 2025, accounting for some 38 per cent of the Kingdom's population, RMS Director-General Brig. Gen. Sahil Hamouri said on Wednesday.

Speaking to Al Mamlaka TV, Hamouri emphasised that RMS services are not restricted to military personnel and their families, but extend to all segments of the Jordanian society.

The RMS currently operates 17 hospitals and several specialised centres deployed across the Kingdom, Hamouri said, noting that the institution has witnessed significant development since its establishment in 1941, with accelerated growth in infrastructure and specialised medical services over recent decades.

The director-general noted that the RMS has introduced several advanced therapeutic technologies, most notably CAR T-cell therapy for cancer patients who did



An aerial view of the King Hussein Medical City affiliated with the Royal Medical Services

not respond to conventional treatments.

He noted that the success rate of this technique exceeded 90 per cent, leading to the recovery of cases previously deemed incurable.

Hamouri also highlighted the RMS's success in treating multiple sclerosis (MS) patients through autologous bone marrow transplant, in addition to using advanced techniques to treat epilepsy and Parkinson's disease.

RMS has advanced transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedures

and pacemaker implantations performed under local anaesthesia.

The institution has also expanded its organ transplant programmes to include adult and paediatric liver transplants, as well as kidney, bone marrow and cornea transplants, the director general said, pointing out a successful corneal transplant performed on a 104-year-old patient.

Hamouri stressed that the RMS continues to provide medical care in Palestine through its field hospitals, noting that Khan Younis field hos-

pital has received more than 760,000 patients.

Additionally, more than 1,000 prosthetic limbs have been fitted for amputees in Gaza, accompanied by specialised training and rehabilitation programmes for the beneficiaries.

He also revealed ongoing development projects, including the construction of the Princess Muna Maternity Hospital within the King Hussein Medical City, and the establishment of new specialised centres for ophthalmology, dermatology, and otolaryngology.

Ministers review progress of Foreign Ministry housing maintenance project

AMMAN (JT) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Maher Abu Saman and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nancy Namrouqa on Wednesday inspected the maintenance project for the housing units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs employees.

The visit aimed to assess the progress of work and implementation phases, as well as the main obstacles and challenges, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The two ministers reviewed the ongoing work, which includes interior and exterior maintenance, civil and architectural upgrades,



Minister of Public Works and Housing Maher Abu Saman and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nancy Namrouqa on Wednesday inspect the maintenance project for the housing units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs employees

and electromechanical works, aimed at improving the housing environment and providing suitable living

conditions for staff.

Abu Saman stressed the importance of accelerating the project's completion in accord-

ance with the required quality standards, directing that the project must be completed before the end of the current year.

For her part, Namrouqa praised the joint efforts between the two ministries, highlighting the project's significance in enhancing the stability of employees and their families, which in turn positively reflects on their job performance.

The project is part of a series of initiatives aimed at upgrading the infrastructure of official housing to meet the needs of employees in vital government institutions.

Amman-Dallas route records 'strong demand, robust passenger traffic' — RJ

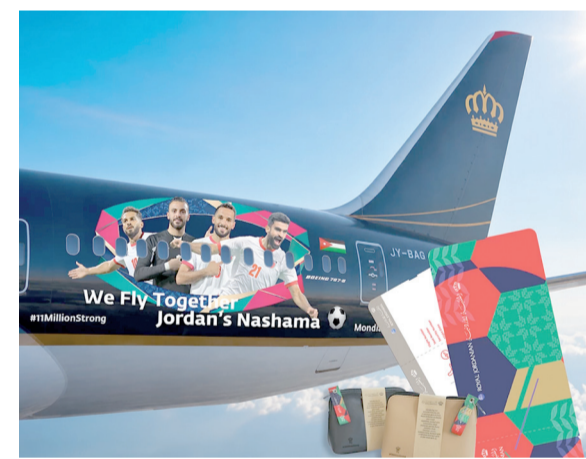
AMMAN (JT) — Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ) CEO Samer Majali said the carrier has recorded "strong demand and robust passenger traffic" in both directions on the Amman-Dallas route, prompting the airline to gradually increase flight frequencies to meet growing demand.

The US city of Dallas is set to host Jordan's national football team, the Nashama, in a World Cup match against Argentina on June 27, Al Mamlaka TV reported.

Majali said that the RJ had launched the route with four weekly flights before increasing the number to five.

The airline is operating six flights a week this month and plans to introduce daily service starting next month.

Asked about the reasons behind the notable



Royal Jordanian Airlines CEO Samer Majali says that the carrier has recorded 'strong demand and robust passenger traffic' in both directions on the Amman-Dallas route

increase in demand and whether it was linked to specific events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Majali said that the airline does not classify passengers according to the purpose of their travel.

"We do not distinguish

between passengers travelling to attend matches and those travelling for any other reason. Therefore, we do not have precise information about the nature of their final destinations. What we can say is that there is ex-

cellent traffic and strong demand on the Dallas route in both directions," he said.

RJ announced the launch of the direct route between Amman and Dallas, Texas, in US, on May 10, making it the national carrier's fifth destination in the United States, besides Washington, Chicago, New York and Detroit.

During the launch ceremony, RJ said that the Amman-Dallas route further boosts the national carrier's position as a key link between the Middle East and North America.

This expansion in RJ's network is in line with its strategic plan aimed at reaching around 60 global destinations, in addition to expanding its fleet to some 40 aircraft over the coming years, further enhancing the national carrier's competitiveness.

Mexican embassy showcases Mexico's commitment to gender equality at Women's Film Festival

AMMAN (JT) — The Mexican embassy on Wednesday participated in the 14th edition of the Women's Film Festival, organised by UN Women in Jordan, with a special screening of the Mexican documentary *Tan Cerca de las Nubes* (So Close to the Clouds) at the Rainbow Theatre in Amman.

The event brought together representatives of international organisations, women's groups, diplomats, journalists, students, and members of the Mexican community, according to an embassy statement.

The event formed part of the embassy's ongoing efforts to strengthen cultural ties between Mexico and Jordan and to promote dialogue on issues of shared social importance.

In his remarks, Mexican Ambassador Jacob Prado reaffirmed Mexi-

co's commitment to advancing gender equality and creating opportunities for girls and women through cultural diplomacy, education, and international cooperation.

The film was introduced by Yulixa Houkayem, 16, winner of the annual "Mexican Ambassador for a Day" competition.

Organised as part of Mexico's Feminist Foreign Policy, this embassy's programme seeks to empower young Jordanian women, foster leadership skills, and introduce participants to Mexican culture, traditions, and diplomacy.

As this year's winner, Houkayem yesterday served symbolically as ambassador of Mexico to Jordan with a full agenda.

Directed by Manuel Canibe, the documentary tells the inspiring



The Mexican embassy on Wednesday participates in the 14th Women's Film Festival with a special screening of the Mexican documentary *Tan Cerca de las Nubes* (So Close to the Clouds)

story of Mexico's first women's national football team, whose members overcame social prejudice and gender barriers to compete on the international stage.

Through archival footage and personal testimonies, the film highlights the determination and resilience of these

pioneering athletes, underscoring the importance of equal opportunities for women and girls, according to the statement.

Its screening formed part of the broader objectives of Women's Film Festival to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.



Petra photo

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, in cooperation with the EU, on Wednesday hold a closing workshop to present and discuss the findings of a study on 'Electric Vehicle Use Options for Power System Applications in Jordan'

Workshop highlights EVs as emerging tool for power system flexibility

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, in cooperation with the EU, on Wednesday held a closing workshop to present and discuss the findings of a study on "Electric Vehicle Use Options for Power System Applications in Jordan", conducted under the EU-funded Technical Assistance to Support the Green Economy project.

Director of the Energy Transition Directorate Yacoub Murar stressed the importance of supporting initiatives that increase the share of renewable energy in Jordan's energy mix, noting that energy storage technologies based on electric vehicles (EV's) represent a promising opportunity to enhance the efficiency and flexibility of the power system.

EU delegation to Jordan Representative Omar Abu Eid said such initiatives help introduce innovative concepts that support the transition to green energy, describing them as promising solutions for improving the efficiency and sustainability of the electricity sector, according to an Energy Ministry statement.

Participants underscored the importance of leveraging electric vehicles and vehicle-to-grid charging technologies as innovative tools to enhance grid flexibility, optimise the use of renewable energy and advance Jordan's energy transition goals.

The workshop also reviewed the study's key findings and international experiences in using electric vehicles as mobile energy storage units, alongside the technical and regulatory opportunities and challenges associated with their implementation in Jordan.

Participants recommended launching pilot projects and developing the necessary regulatory frameworks to facilitate future deployment.

ICCA Middle East Summit opens at Dead Sea, highlights growing role of meetings, events sector

By Ahmad Khatatneh

DEAD SEA — The ICCA Middle East Summit opened at the Dead Sea on Wednesday, bringing together tourism officials, convention bureau representatives and industry experts from 11 countries to discuss the future of the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE) sector and its role in driving economic growth.

Speaking on behalf of Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Emad Hijazeen, Director General of the Jordan Tourism Board (JTB) Ramzi Maaytah said that Jordan's hosting of the summit reflects growing international confidence in the Kingdom as a destination for business tourism, citing its stability, advanced infrastructure, strategic location and experience in hosting regional and international events.

"The MICE tourism sector is no longer just a specialised tourism activity; it has evolved into a strategic economic sector," Maaytah said, noting that the industry contributes to economic growth, investment attraction, knowledge exchange and job creation.

Maaytah added that the sector has been identified as one of the growth engines under Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision, underscoring its role in supporting sustainable development.

He also highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen infrastructure supporting the sector, pointing to the Aqaba Exhibition and Convention Centre and development projects planned within the New Amman City.

These projects, he said, are expected to



Photo by Ahmad Kheifit

The ICCA Middle East Summit opens on Wednesday to discuss the future of the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions sector and its role in driving economic growth

enhance Jordan's ability to host major exhibitions, conferences and events, while increasing its competitiveness in attracting regional and international gatherings.

Maaytah also highlighted the role of the Jordan Tourism Board's specialised MICE and conventions unit, which works with public and private sector partners to promote Jordan as a destination that combines modern facilities with unique cultural and tourism experiences.

In a statement to The Jordan Times, ICCA Middle East Chapter Chair and Director of the Oman Convention Bureau Khalid Al Zadjali said the summit provides Jordan with an important opportunity to showcase its capabilities as a host of major international events.

"It is a great opportunity for us as leaders

of this sector in the region to see how Jordan has the infrastructure and the experience to host such a prestigious congress and major events," Al Zadjali said.

'The MICE tourism sector is no longer just a specialised tourism activity; it has evolved into a strategic economic sector'

He noted that the summit brings together key decision makers and stakeholders from the meetings and congress industry, making it a valuable platform for promoting

Jordan's facilities and strengthening regional cooperation.

On cooperation between Jordan and Oman, Al Zadjali said the Oman Convention Bureau works closely with the Jordan Tourism Board and the Jordan Convention Bureau to exchange knowledge, business opportunities and industry expertise.

He added that the congress and conference industry is highly international in nature, creating opportunities for companies operating in Jordan and Oman to collaborate across markets and support the development of business tourism in both countries.

The summit's agenda also focused on the growing importance of resilience and risk management in the global meetings industry. In a keynote address, EarthCheck

Principal Consultant for Sustainable Meetings and Events Melissa Hamilton discussed how operational efficiency and strategic planning can strengthen organisational resilience and long-term business performance.

Participants also heard findings from the Copenhagen Risk Navigator initiative, presented by Gaining Edge CEO Steen Jakobsen, which examined practical tools and strategies for managing risks throughout the event lifecycle and improving preparedness in an increasingly uncertain environment.

A regional panel featuring representatives from Jordan, the UAE and Oman explored how destinations across the Middle East are addressing emerging challenges and strengthening resilience within the business events sector.

Public Prosecutor charges MP Wissam Erbeihat over money laundering allegations

AMMAN (JT) — The Public Prosecutor has charged MP Wissam Erbeihat with money laundering and the illegal collection of donations.

The Public Prosecutor's Office, following witness testimony and confessions, ordered the seizure of the accused's assets and imposed a travel ban, the Jordan News Agency (Petra) reported.

summon him for questioning regarding the charges.

The Public Prosecutor also detained one of the other defendants in the same case pending investigation.

Authorities had been investigating the case for several months before bringing charges against several individuals over the alleged receipt of funds and transfers via the "CliQ" payment system in violation of the law.

The illegal collection of funds without a licence constitutes a felony under Jordanian law, particularly when such activities are deemed suspicious and the funds are not linked to legitimate economic or commercial activity, nor consistent with the declared professions or income sources of those involved.

INITIATIVE

FAO launches AGRI-FIT innovation project to promote inclusive agriculture in Jordan

AMMAN (JT) — The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Jordan on Wednesday launched the AGRI-FIT innovation project, "promoting inclusive agriculture in Jordan through accessible soilless farming and economic empowerment for persons with disabilities", a pioneering initiative aimed at promoting inclusive and accessible agricultural practices for persons with disabilities.



Photo courtesy of FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in Jordan on Wednesday launched the AGRI-FIT innovation project

Held at the Al Mustaqbal Club for Persons with Motor Disabilities, the launch event took place under the patronage of Minister of Social Development Wafaa Bani Mustafa and brought together key stakeholders, national partners and beneficiaries.

The AGRI-FIT project focuses on advancing innovative, soilless farming solutions designed to increase accessibility and enable persons with disabilities to actively participate in agricultural production, according to a FAO statement.

By promoting inclusive agricultural systems, the initiative seeks to enhance economic empowerment, improve livelihoods, and strengthen social inclusion in line with national priorities and

the Sustainable Development Goals.

A key highlight of the launch was the practical demonstration of innovative farming systems, including a guided greenhouse tour that showcased how adapted agricultural solutions can provide persons with disabilities with independent and sustainable income opportunities.

Ministry of Social Development secretary-general said, "This initiative is consistent with the high Royal directives, Economic Modernisation Vision and the Kingdom's commitments to promoting rights and providing a dignified

life for all its citizens, including persons with disabilities."

'This pioneering project underscores that disability does not limit capability...'

He reaffirmed the ministry's continu-

ous support for initiatives that enhance the economic empowerment of persons with disabilities and open wider horizons for them to participate effectively in the journey of development.

FAO Representative Paul Opio emphasised the transformative power of inclusive innovation, saying, "This initiative is more than a technical solution. It is proof that when we listen and co-create with persons with disabilities, we can unlock their potential and transform lives."

"Agriculture is a cornerstone of livelihoods, yet too often it remains inaccessible. Through AGRI-FIT,

we are demonstrating that innovation can make agriculture open to all, ensuring no one is left behind," he said.

President of Al Mustaqbal Club for Persons with Motor Disabilities Mohammad Sirhan said, "Today, we are not just opening an agricultural nursery. We are opening a space for hope, empowerment and independence, laying a new brick in the journey towards building a more inclusive and equitable society.

This pioneering project underscores that disability does not limit capability and that providing the right environment enables persons with disabilities to be active partners in development," he said.

The AGRI-FIT initiative also underscores the importance of collaboration between national institutions, civil society organisations, and international partners to support inclusive development and expand opportunities within the agricultural sector.

Through AGRI-FIT, FAO aims to scale up innovative models that remove barriers to participation and empower persons with disabilities to contribute meaningfully to Jordan's agricultural economy.



JAF photo

The Northern Military Region command on Wednesday thwarts an attempt by two people to illegally cross the border

Army thwarts infiltration attempt

AMMAN (JT) — The Northern Military Region command on Wednesday thwarted an attempt by two people to illegally cross the border.

Border Guard units spotted the individuals as they were attempting to cross, according to a Jordan Armed Forces Arab Army statement.

The forces applied the rules of engagement, arrested them, and handed them over to the relevant authorities for necessary legal action.

Cassation Court upholds 10-year sentence in domestic violence killing case

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation has upheld a July 2023 Criminal Court ruling sentencing a man to 10 years in prison after convicting him of beating his wife to death in Amman in March 2023.

The Criminal Court declared the defendant guilty of beating his 35-year-old wife to death following a domestic dispute while at their home on March 8.

The defendant was given the maximum sentence.

Court papers said the defendant was married to the victim since 2022.

Almost a month into their marriage, the court maintained, "the defend-

ant discovered some unknown numbers on his wife's mobile".

"The defendant asked the victim about the numbers and an argument ensued," court documents said.

"The defendant grabbed a water hose and beat his wife with it and also used his hands to beat her," according to court papers.

The victim fell to the ground, and when the defendant tried to wake her up, discovered that she had died, the court papers added.

A government autopsy indicated that the victim received bruises with a blunt object to almost 40 per cent of her body, which caused internal bleeding

that caused her death, the court maintained.

The defendant contested his ruling via his lawyer, arguing that "the sentence was harsh since my client does not have a criminal record", court transcripts said.

The Criminal Court's attorney general asked the higher court to uphold the 10-year sentence ruling.

The higher court ruled that the Criminal Court proceedings were accurate and that the defendant was given the appropriate punishment.

The Cassation Court bench comprised judges Mahmoud Ebtoush, Rizeq Abulfool, Fawzi Nahar, Mohammad Shreiri and Qassem Dughmi.



A police officer walks past logos of the G-7 summit in Evian, central-eastern France, on Wednesday

Zelensky, Arab states invited to G-7 for talks on Ukraine, Mideast wars

PARIS, France (AFP) — French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday said his Ukrainian counterpart would attend the G-7 summit next week in France to “rebuild consensus” on support for Ukraine, while leaders of four Arab states would be invited for talks on the Middle East conflict.

The invitees would attend sessions on Tuesday at the summit of the Group of Seven leading economies — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — to be held in the French lakeside resort of Evian on June 15-17.

President Volodymyr Zelensky's participation “is very important for us because we need to rebuild consensus within the G7 in support of Ukraine on the various aspects of the war” with Russia, including the need for “negotiations”, Macron said, a reference to

differing opinions between European leaders and US President Donald Trump.

To address the war launched by the United States and Israel against Iran in late February, leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates would also be invited to a separate session on Tuesday.

The talks would focus on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which has “a real impact on our economies” due in particular to soaring fuel prices, and on “negotiations on Iran”, Macron said.

He made the comments during a discussion with civil society representatives at the Elysee presidential palace.

Following a dinner for the G-7 leaders on Monday and the two sessions focused on the crises in Ukraine and the Middle East, the “North-South partnership” will be on the

agenda, Macron added.

“In addition to the IMF, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, we will bring into this session partners with whom we have built this agenda, in particular South Korea, India, Kenya” and Brazil, he said.

On Wednesday, the summit will end with a session “on global imbalances” and “the issue of growth”, preceded on June 11 by a video conference called “World Convergence Summit for Growth”, which will include China and several other emerging countries, Macron said.

The summit will also include discussions with tech companies from the United States and other countries,

“to talk both about our agenda of protection and regulation and to address questions of sovereignty” and cybersecurity, the president added.

Gunmen shoot dead 12 near Johannesburg — S.African police

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Gunmen stormed an informal settlement in Johannesburg and shot dead 12 people overnight, South African police said on Wednesday, in the latest mass shooting in the crime-weary country.

The shootings happened before midnight on Tuesday in an impoverished shantytown of metal and wooden shacks near where illegal miners were living and working, police said.

Around 10 attackers were driven to the Jumpers settlement and dropped off before storming the area, a police spokeswoman said.

“The suspects allegedly entered the informal settlement through both entrances and moved through the area, opening fire on residents and community members at multiple locations before fleeing the scene in the same vehicle,” she said.

“Preliminary investigations reveal that 12 people died as a result of the attack,” Col. Dimakatso Nevhuhulwi said.

“Eight adult males and three adult females were declared dead at the scene,” she said. One person died in hospital.

South Africa is awash with legal and illegal firearms, and shootings are common, often fuelled by gang rivalry and competition between informal businesses.

The attack was in



Residents react and South African Police Service (SAPS) officers stand guard at Jumpers informal settlement in Cleveland, east of Johannesburg, on Wednesday

an area about 6 kilometres east of the Johannesburg city centre and near abandoned gold mines.

Police said the motive was not yet known and no arrests had been made, but there were suspicions it was related to competition over illegal mining in the area.

“As you know, this area is adjacent to the illegal mining area. We are having those suspicions,” provincial commissioner Lt. Gen. Tommy Mthombeni told reporters at the scene.

“One can term this incident to be insane, to be heartless and to an extent, it is barbaric,” he said.

Mthombeni said police had swept the area three weeks ago and confiscated guns and ammunition for AK-47 rifles, also arresting three people.

Police did not give details about who was killed but a resident told the eNCA broadcaster that people from the neighbouring country, Lesotho, lived in the settlement.

A local ward councillor who visited the scene said the attackers first opened fire on a shack built over an informal mine shaft before moving on to nearby taverns, the Sunday World media site reported.

“It looked like a well-planned ambush that

was very targeted,” Neuren Pieterse was quoted as saying.

After the attack, authorities were seen hauling away equipment believed to be linked to illegal mining activities.

Illegal mining in South Africa draws people from across southern Africa and has been linked to organised crime, assassinations, extortion and other illegal activities.

Clandestine artisanal miners have become an entrenched presence around Johannesburg and its satellite settlements along the gold reef.

Driven by poverty and unemployment, the zama zamas — which

means “those who try” in the Zulu language — descend deep into still gold-bearing shafts abandoned by mining companies.

In a mass shooting linked to rivalry between illegal mining gangs, nine people were killed in December when gunmen opened fire at a bar in the impoverished Bekkersdal township southwest of Johannesburg.

In March, soldiers moved into violence hotspots in Johannesburg to support police efforts to tackle rampant crime, described by President Cyril Ramaphosa as one of the biggest threats facing the country.

EU agency says ‘forever chemical’ TFA toxic for human reproduction

HELSINKI (AFP) — The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) said on Wednesday that it was recommending that the so-called forever chemical TFA should be designated as toxic for human reproduction.

The agency said in a statement to AFP that following a meeting last week its risk assessment committee “recommends for TFA a classification as toxic to reproduction”.

Trifluoroacetic acid [TFA], which is widely used in industrial applications, is a substance that “can cause very long-lasting and diffuse contamination of water resources”, the agency said.

According to the ECHA's recommended classification, TFA “may impair fertility” and “may cause harm



A pedestrian walks past the Berlaymont building, the EU Commission headquarters, in Brussels on Tuesday

to the unborn child”.

TFA is a type of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS), often called forever chemicals as they take an extremely long time to break down.

The agency's opinion will next be sent to the European Commission to decide on proposing potential restrictions on the chemical across the 27-nation bloc.

The NGO Pesticide

Action Network Europe said in a statement that the agency's conclusion “confirms what scientists and civil society have warned over the past two years”, calling TFA

a “planetary” threat.

“The announced decision confirms what we have been warning since 2023- TFA is not a harmless PFAS metabolite. It can be toxic to humans and the harm is greatest during life's most vulnerable periods, pregnancy and early childhood,” said Angeliki Lysimachou, the NGO's head of science and policy.

The group noted that TFA was the “most widespread PFAS contaminant in Europe's water resources, food and environment”.

In 2025, TFA was detected in 24 out of 30 samples taken, particularly in Paris, according to a survey carried out by consumer rights organisation UFC-Que Choisir and the environmental group Future Generations.

Army helicopter crashes in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, killing all on board

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AFP) — A Pakistani army helicopter crashed near the city of Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir due to a technical fault, the military said on Wednesday, adding there were no survivors.

Kashmir is considered highly sensitive by the Pakistani military and government after years of frequent skirmishes and full-blown wars with India.

“An Mi-17 helicopter of Pakistan Army Aviation crashed near Muzaffarabad today during take-off due to technical fault,” the military's media wing said in a statement.

“All personnel on board embraced Shahadat [martyrdom],” the military added, without specifying the number of people killed.



A Russian Mil Mi-17 military helicopter flies by soldiers and military vehicles during a joint Russian-Turkish patrol in the eastern countryside of the town of Darbasiyah near the border with Turkey in Syria's north-eastern Hasakah province, December 7, 2020

There has been a heavy security presence in recent days in Muzaffarabad after members of a protest movement said they would hold demonstrations shortly after the local government

banned the group under anti-terror laws.

Muslim-majority Kashmir is claimed in full by both India and Pakistan but has been divided between them since their independence from British rule.

KIDNAPPING

S. Sudan graft whistleblower abducted in Kenya

NAIROBI (AFP) — A South Sudanese whistleblower has

been abducted in Kenya, his wife and Amnesty International

said on Wednesday, with fears he could be forced back to his country and killed for exposing corruption.

Athorhey Al-Gaddhaffy-Dit, 51, also has Kenyan citizenship and lives in Nairobi, where he had repeatedly warned his life was in danger because he was revealing corruption linked to South Sudan's ruling elite.

Multiple activists and opposition figures from neighbouring countries have been abducted in Kenya and taken back to their

home nations in recent years.

Police told Al-Gaddhaffy-Dit's wife on Tuesday that he had been abducted at gunpoint in the early morning by men in masks driving a white vehicle as he walked out of a casino in Nairobi.

“They blocked him, seized him and bundled him into the vehicle,” according to the statement she gave police, seen by AFP.

South Sudan is one of the world's poorest and most corrupt

countries.

A United Nations report last year detailed how government officials had stolen billions of dollars in oil money while leaving the population with hardly any essential services.

“Amnesty International Kenya is gravely concerned by the reported abduction of Kenyan citizen Athorhey Al-Gaddhaffy-Dit,” the rights group said in a statement.

“We believe that he may be detained at Jomo Kenyatta Airport

and soon be deported to South Sudan. This constitutes a serious and urgent threat to his life, safety, and fundamental rights,” it added.

Kenyan activist and presidential candidate Boniface Mwangi said on X that Al-Gaddhaffy-Dit was “likely to be murdered for exposing corruption in [South Sudan]”.

Amnesty has previously warned that Kenya, long considered a refuge for dissidents in a repressive east African region, was in-

creasingly complicit in allowing neighbouring countries to abduct their citizens.

‘They blocked him, seized him and bundled him into the vehicle’

In November 2024, Ugandan opposition leader Kizza Besigye was kidnapped in

Kenya and taken to a military court in Uganda, where he is facing treason charges.

The previous month, four Turkish refugees were abducted in the Kenyan capital and forcibly returned to Turkey.

Tanzanian activists have also been kidnapped on Kenyan soil. “Kenyan authorities must demonstrate, without delay, their commitment to upholding the rule of law and safeguarding human rights,” Amnesty said on Wednesday.

Extension of Tender Invitation

The General Headquarters of the Jordan Armed Forces/Royal Medical Services hereby announces extension Tender **P45/2026/A/4** (مستهلكات الارتبطة والضمادات العامة)

Bidders 75JD non-refundable, provided that they bring along a valid trade licence.

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Macron says trust in France institutions 'at stake' after girl's killing

PARIS, France (AFP) — President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday said he feared for trust in France's institutions after a botched investigation into the main suspect in an 11-year-old girl's likely murder triggered public outrage.

The body of the girl, named as Lyhanna, was found last week after she went missing on May 29 in the southwestern town of Fleurance.

The suspect, a 41-year-old father of a school friend of the victim, had twice before been formally accused of raping a child, but investigations had been dropped or had stalled.

"It is trust in our institutions that is at stake," Macron told a cabinet meeting, according to government spokeswoman Maud Bregeon.

But he called for calm after nationwide anger over alleged failings in dealing with cases of sexual abuse of children, adding: "We do not respond to a tragedy with shouting."

"It is obvious that there have been clear malfunctions. We must now understand what falls under individual responsibilities and what concerns systemic lapses within all the public services involved," Macron said.

Around 60,000 people protested across the country on Monday, some demanding the resignation of Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin.

Darmanin has refused to step down, but apologised for what he called a "huge failure" in the Lyhanna case.

Authorities have not



France's President Emmanuel Macron (centre) and Head of the Pact for Prosperity, People and Planet (4P Secretariat) Bathylle Missika (R) attend a meeting with leaders of the G7 Engagement Groups involved on social and economic issues ahead of the upcoming G-7 summit in Evian, at the Elysee Palace in Paris Wednesday

yet announced the results of a forensic examination of the girl's body or charged the suspect, who has been named as Jerome B.

'I called every Monday'

One woman had filed a legal complaint against the suspect in August last year, accusing him of repeatedly raping her daughter, who was born in 2014, between September 2024 and May 2025.

The case was backed up by a medical report, according to the justice minister.

But police had not

questioned him by the time Lyhanna went missing nine months later.

"The justice system did not do its job," the mother, who wished to remain anonymous, told the press on Tuesday.

"I called every Monday morning, while my daughter was with the psychologist. I called the police," she added. "The last time I rang them, they told me that if I kept harassing them, they would press charges."

Jerome B., who lived with his family in the neighbouring village of

Montestruc-sur-Gers, had previously worked as a staff member in schools.

Only 7 per cent of complaints for sexual assault of a minor in France result in a conviction, according to an independent commission called CIIVISE.

A 2022 government report signalled limited staff and time to properly investigate allegations of child abuse.

In 70 per cent of cases, after hearing the suspect, investigators did not carry out a further search for evidence, such as checking

phone records, security camera footage or computers, according to the report made public by investigative media Mediapart on Tuesday.

Kindergarten aides

Lyhanna's case is the latest in a series of high-profile incidents linked to the protection of children in France.

In recent months, parents in Paris have accused some school monitors of sexually abusing pupils in their care.

Since the start of the year, the city has suspended 52 monitors

suspected of "sexual or sexist abuse", the mayor said on Tuesday.

Last year a court sentenced a retired surgeon to 20 years in jail, after he confessed to sexually assaulting or raping 299 patients between 1989 and 2014.

He had practiced for decades despite a conviction for owning abusive images of children.

An estimated 160,000 children suffer rape or sexual assault each year in France, most by a man within their family or acquaintances, according to CIIVISE.

WHAT'S ON

Jordan Cultural Agenda:
11–17 June 2026

ONGOING THROUGHOUT JUNE

Music Month | Various governorates
The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' flagship programme continues through the end of June, bringing outdoor concerts to public spaces and heritage sites across multiple governorates. Artists including Tareq Al Nasser, Alaa Al-Maaytah, Moataz Abdo and Sameh Sobhi have performed at the Roman Theatre, Paris Circle, Faisal Square, and Rainbow Street — check local listings for this week's schedule.

Cinema 3ayn | Amman, Jerash, Karak, Umm Al Jimal & Qatranah
Jordan's first independent mobile cinema brings open-air film screenings to public spaces across the country as part of Music Month. A lovely way to experience cinema under the stars.

Image Festival Amman 2026: Mexican Photography | Various venues, Jabal Amman & Jabal Lweibdeh
Still open throughout June, this exceptional programme showcases three prominent Mexican photographers exploring themes of culture and daily life.

Art and Beauty Forum(closing) | Petra
The five-day cultural gathering combining arts, exhibitions, and cultural activities closes on Monday 15 June. Last chance to catch it.

THURSDAY 11 JUNE

Saliah in Concert | El Masnaa, Jabal Amman
British-Lebanese producer Saliah headlines alongside Keena and Rish at one of Amman's most vibrant venues. Tickets approximately 35 JOD.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY — 12 & 13 JUNE

Fada't Amman Music Festival | Greater Amman Municipality parks
The summer series continues its weekly rhythm with dabke folk dance, puppet shows, and local bands in parks across the city. Free and family-friendly.

Looking ahead: the week of 19 June picks up significantly, with the Jordan Cultural Festival (19–20 June) at King Hussein Business Park and the Fête de la Musique returning to Amman on 19 June.

Arab countries condemn Iranian attacks on Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait

Continued from page 1

The Arab Parliament has voiced strong support for Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait following the Iranian attacks, warning that such actions threaten regional stability and undermine the sovereignty of Arab states.

Arab Parliament Speaker Mohammed Bin Ahmed Al Yamahi said in a state-

ment that the attacks represent a serious escalation that runs counter to international norms governing relations between neighboring countries.

The statement reaffirmed the Arab Parliament's backing for the measures being taken by Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait to protect their borders, national interests and internal stability.

34 Gaza children return home after treatment in Jordan under medical corridor initiative

Continued from page 1

Families of the children expressed gratitude to His Majesty King Abdullah and the JAF for their humanitarian efforts in supporting Gaza's residents and facilitating access to healthcare. They also commended the quality of medical services provided to their children in the

Kingdom. The Jordanian Medical Corridor, launched by His Majesty King Abdullah, provides care for sick children from Gaza and forms part of Jordan's wider humanitarian efforts aimed at alleviating the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza.

Under the programme, patients and their companions are

returned to the enclave upon completion of their treatment.

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

Besides the field hospitals in Gaza, the JAF established the Jordanian field hospital in Nablus in late November 2023. Other humanitarian programmes include the mobile bakery and the Restoring Hope Initiative, which provides prosthetics for amputees.

Foreign Ministry urges citizens in Belfast to exercise caution amid protests

Continued from page 1

The ministry issued the advisory in light of the developments in Belfast and as part of its efforts to ensure the safety of Jordanian citizens.

Anti-immigration protesters torched a building and vehicles in Belfast on Tuesday evening and blocked roads, a day after a stabbing allegedly by a Sudanese refugee, captured in a graphic video that shocked the country, AFP reported.

Hundreds of protesters, many masked, gathered at several locations across Belfast, AFP journalists saw. A bus and several cars were set alight, while a building fringing the city centre caught fire and its residents had to be evacuated.

"By 7:30pm [18:30 GMT] they started fire in the bins... we heard police cars and sirens," said one resident, Eemran, an engineer of Indian origin.

"More and more peo-

ple started coming, they started throwing petrol bombs."

Police helicopters patrolled above the city and shops were also closed early, according to AFP.

"Sporadic pockets of disorder have broken out in a number of locations across Northern Ireland this evening, including incidents in which a number of vehicles have been set on fire," Assistant Chief Constable Ryan Henderson said, urging calm.

Crowds also gathered in Antrim, around 25 kilometres west of Belfast.

US tech billionaire Elon Musk had earlier retweeted a post by anti-immigration activist Stephen Yaxley-Lennon — also known as Tommy Robinson — adding: "Only by protesting REPEATEDLY and LOUDLY will there be any change!!"

The suspect in the knife attack, whose name has not been released, was charged

late Tuesday with attempted murder, possession of a bladed weapon in a public place and making threats to kill. The 30-year-old man is due to appear in court on Wednesday.

As anti-immigration figures, including Reform Party leader Nigel Farage and Restore Britain leader Rupert Lowe, demanded details about the attacker, the interior ministry confirmed he was a Sudanese refugee with a residence permit valid until 2028.

Northern Ireland police chief Jon Boutcher said he had arrived in the UK in 2023 via Paris and Dublin.

'Living in fear'

Police have ruled out a "terrorist-related" incident at this stage, Henderson said.

Tensions were already high in Britain after violent skirmishes last week in Southampton, southern England, over the police

handling of the murder of a young white student stabbed to death by a British Sikh man.

On Tuesday, dozens of demonstrators also gathered there outside a hotel housing asylum seekers, carrying banners reading "no racism, just patriotism" and "enough is enough".

The video from Belfast shows a man straddling another man lying in a street and slashing him several times in the head and neck with a knife, in what far-right figures claimed was an attempted beheading.

Several people can then be seen intervening, one wielding a hurling stick, and tackling the perpetrator as police arrive.

The victim, a man in his 40s, "was taken to hospital with significant injuries to his eyes and serious slash wound injuries to his back and face", he told reporters.

Officers recovered what is believed to

be a kitchen knife at the scene, Henderson confirmed.

A 31-year-old mother-of-one who lives nearby said the incident had terrified the neighbourhood. "We're just living in fear now," she told AFP.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the incident "horrific" and "sickening" on X.

The leaders of Northern Ireland's five main political parties issued a joint statement condemning the incident, saying "there is no place in our society for this kind of brutality".

"We call for calm and for space to allow justice to take its course," it added.

The leaders and police urged people not to share the video, noting its "graphic nature would only serve to retraumatise those involved".

But numerous social media accounts linked to so-called "patriots" were sharing the footage, urging people to "protest against mass

immigration into their communities".

'Profound implications'

The UK interior ministry confirmed the Sudanese suspect entered the country in 2023 and acquired refugee status the same year, allowing him to remain until 2028.

"There is no trace of this suspect on any of our national security databases and he was not known to the Police Service of Northern Ireland," police chief Boutcher said.

Northern Irish MP Gavin Robinson, from the pro-UK Democratic Unionist Party, said in parliament the incident "will have profound implications for community cohesion in this country".

He urged the government to "recognise that uncontrolled immigration needs to end". Immigration has become a hot-button issue in Britain, and helped fuel the rise of the hard-right Reform UK Party in the polls.

Trump vows 'hard' new Iran strikes as talks reach deadlock

Continued from page 1

The military said that the operation was a proportional response to what it called an unprovoked Iranian attack.

Iranian media later reported fresh air strikes near the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical energy corridors, but provided no further details.

According to Axios, citing a US official, a third wave of strikes was under way, targeting Iranian air defence and radar systems near the strategic waterway.

The latest escalation came despite diplomatic efforts to secure a broader agreement following months of conflict across the region.

Trump said on Tuesday that negotiations over a peace deal were in their final stages after Iran and Israel halted attacks that had threatened to reignite the war.

At the same time, he warned of the possibility of renewed conflict with Iran, underscoring the fragile nature of the diplomatic track despite ongoing negotiations.

Tensions nevertheless remain high. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that Iranian forces would not leave any attack or threat unanswered.

He also warned that those seeking security

should leave the region and accused Washington of testing Iran's resolve despite battlefield setbacks.

Political analyst Amer Sabaileh said that the latest developments suggest Washington remains committed to a dual-track strategy that combines diplomacy with sustained military pressure.

"The United States continues to keep Iran under pressure through sanctions and military presence, while presenting its actions as defensive responses to Iranian behaviour," he said.

"There are two parallel tracks. The first is maintaining negotiations, even if they become long-term. The second is keeping the American military machine in place, but under the framework of responding to Iranian actions," Sabaileh added.

"This means Washington is still following the strategy it has pursued from the outset: maintaining pressure, preserving military leverage and leaving Iran with one option — returning to negotiations under American terms."

The developments highlight the uncertainty surrounding ongoing diplomacy, with military escalation continuing even as efforts intensify to reach a broader agreement and prevent a return to wider regional conflict.

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Iran and Lebanon: Intertwined fronts in the Mideast war

By **Léon Bruneau**

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON, United States — President Donald Trump's administration has sought, with very limited success, to separate Iran and Lebanon peace talks, while Tehran insists the two are linked, complicating efforts to resolve the intertwined conflicts.

The Iran war began with a joint US-Israeli attack, though the interests of those two countries' leaders have since diverged, while Lebanese militant group Hizbollah struck Israel shortly thereafter, sparking a devastating Israeli military response.

"Trump's strategy has been to compartmentalise the conflicts," said Sina Toossi of the Center for International Policy. "The problem is that Iran has never accepted that separation."

The US president is striving to negotiate with Iran, prevent a wider regional war, stabilize energy markets and contain the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz, all while allowing Israel to pursue its military campaign in Lebanon, Toossi said.

Tehran has demanded that Lebanon be part of any agreement to end the war with Israel and the United States, which began on February 28.

Iran and Israel resumed striking each other over the weekend, albeit on a limited scale, for the first time since a fragile ceasefire took effect on April 8, with Tehran saying it was retaliating because Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hizbollah stronghold.

Trump had urged Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to retaliate, seeking to avoid jeopardising peace efforts the US president says are nearing fruition, but Israel hit back anyway.

Lebanon was dragged into the Middle East war on March 2 when Hizbollah fired rockets at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

Israel has since carried out a massive campaign of strikes that have killed more than 3,600 people in Lebanon, while also occupying a large chunk of the country's south.

Elisa Ewers, of the Council on Foreign Relations, said that Trump's effort to delink Lebanon from Iran "has not been all that successful".

"Iran is testing President Trump's resolve by continuing to demand that Lebanon be part of any initial negotiation," and "testing whether Trump would continue his backing for Israeli strikes", Ewers said.

She also noted that "Iran is trying to preserve Hizbollah capabilities as much as possible".

'Irony'

The United States has hosted four rounds of Israel-Lebanon talks in Washington, the first direct negotiations in decades between the two countries, which do not have diplomatic relations.

From the beginning, Washington has insisted on keeping the two peace tracks, Lebanese and Iranian, separate.

The talks have so far failed to end the violence, despite ceasefire announcements that have been rejected by Hizbollah and ignored by Israel.

According to Toossi, Tehran wants to demonstrate that "regional stability cannot be separated from Iran's security concerns or those of its allies".

The relationship between Trump and Netanyahu has meanwhile become increasingly tense.

"The real tension is that Israeli actions in Lebanon repeatedly risk undermining Trump's larger objective of stabilising the region and reaching a broader 'end-of-war' framework deal with Iran that can reopen transit through the Strait of Hormuz," said Toossi.

Richard Haas, the former president of the Council on Foreign Relations, sees a certain "irony" in the situation, given that Trump launched the war against Iran at Netanyahu's urging.

"The 'peace' is near certain to drive a wedge between the two leaders and the two countries because it is unlikely to deal meaningfully with many of the issues Israel cares most about," Haas wrote in his newsletter last week.

Mona Yacoubian, of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said that "ultimately, the Lebanon and Iran conflicts will proceed along separate tracks".

"While interconnected, each conflict is driven by its own set of dynamics related to conditions of the ground," she said.

"Unfortunately, this intersection more often will result in unpredictable conflict escalation transmitted from one arena to the other, rather than mutually reinforcing de-escalation," Yacoubian added.

The wise Hashemite leadership: Jordan and balance in a time of change

By **Hasan Dajah**

The celebration of the anniversary of His Majesty King Abdullah's Accession to the Throne, the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day comes at a highly complex regional and international juncture. The Middle East is witnessing rapid transformations that are redrawing the balance of power and alliances, compelling countries to reassess their policies and strategic choices. Amidst these changes, Jordan stands out as a unique model in managing challenges through a balanced diplomacy that combines steadfastness to principles with flexibility in dealing with evolving realities.

The wise leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah has played a pivotal role in consolidating this approach. He has guided the Kingdom with political acumen and a far-sighted strategic vision amidst a turbulent regional environment characterised by multiple crises and intertwined international interests.

Through a keen understanding of the changing circumstances and an exceptional ability to foresee the future, His Majesty has successfully shielded Jordan from the repercussions of numerous regional crises, preserving its security, stability and international standing. Jordan has also strengthened its presence as a voice of wisdom and moderation, steadfastly defending just Arab causes, foremost among them the Palestinian cause. It has emphasised that a nation's strength is measured not only by its material resources but also by the wisdom of its leadership and its ability to balance national interests with pan-Arab and humanitarian obligations.

The Great Arab Revolt launched in 1916, constituted an Arab renaissance project based on the values of freedom, unity and dignity. The establishment of the Jordanian state was a practical extension of that historical message. Since then, Jordan has maintained a political

approach based on moderation, openness and dialogue, an approach that has solidified its position as a pivotal state capable of building bridges between different parties in a region rife with conflicts and crises.

Under the reign of His Majesty King Abdullah, Jordanian diplomacy has witnessed a qualitative leap, making it more prominent and influential at both the regional and international levels. Jordan has managed to maintain balanced relations with various international and regional powers and has avoided involvement in the politics of axes and sharp polarisation that have characterised the regional landscape over the past two decades. This policy was not an expression of passive neutrality, but rather a strategic vision recognising that Jordan's stability and national security are linked to its ability to build a broad network of balanced relationships and partnerships.

The importance of this approach is underscored by the profound transformations the region is witnessing today. Protracted wars and conflicts, competition among regional powers, the rise of new international actors, and rapid economic and technological shifts have all created a new reality in which traditional alliances alone are no longer sufficient to provide stability or guarantee national interests.

In this context, Jordan has played a significant role in supporting de-escalation efforts and dialogue, and in advocating for political solutions to conflicts, based on a firm conviction that security cannot be achieved through military force alone, but rather through addressing the root causes of crises and building more sustainable regional cooperation frameworks. This has been clearly demonstrated in its stances on various regional crises and in its ongoing efforts to support security and stability in the region.

The Palestinian cause has also occupied a central position in Jordanian policy, as it is the pivotal issue in the Middle East.

Jordan has continued to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, emphasising that the two-state solution and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, represent the only path to achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. At the same time, Jordan has maintained its historical role in the Hashemite custodianship of the Islamic and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem, considering it a religious, historical, and political responsibility with strategic dimensions that transcend geographical boundaries.

The wise leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah has played a pivotal role in consolidating this approach

Domestically, Jordan has recognized that a nation's strength abroad begins with a strong home front. Therefore, it has continued its political, economic, and administrative modernisation efforts to enhance the state's ability to meet future challenges, raise the level of national competitiveness, and create a more attractive environment for investment and development. The state has also focused on investing in future-oriented sectors, particularly technology, the digital economy, artificial intelligence and renewable energy, thereby contributing to strengthening economic security and achieving sustainable development.

As for the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Jordanian Armed Forces, whose day is celebrated with pride and honour by all

Jordanians, have always been the nation's safeguard and its impregnable fortress against various challenges. Since the founding of the state, the Jordanian Armed Forces have been linked to the values of the Great Arab Revolt and its national and humanitarian message, remaining a model of a national institution that combines military competence with national loyalty and a commitment to peace and stability.

An analysis of the current regional landscape indicates that the Middle East is moving towards a new phase characterised by multiple centres of power, the increasing importance of economic diplomacy, and the growing role of technology and artificial intelligence in shaping the balance of influence. In such a reality, Jordan's policy of balance, moderation, and openness appears more crucial than ever, as it provides the state with the ability to adapt to changes without compromising its national principles and strategic interests.

On the anniversary of His Majesty King Abdullah's Accession to the Throne, the anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt, and Army Day, Jordanians reflect on the journey of a nation that has successfully transformed challenging geography into opportunities, challenges into sources of strength, and crises into catalysts for innovation and renewal. They also cite a leadership model that has proven wisdom, moderation and strategic vision can be effective tools for protecting nations and enhancing their standing in a rapidly changing world.

Jordan, with its Hashemite leadership, its Arab Army, and its aware people, remains a model of a state that has managed to maintain its balance and stability and continue to play its regional and international role with confidence and competence, despite the unprecedented challenges and transformations surrounding it.

Hasan Dajah is a professor of strategic studies at Al-Hussein Bin Talal University

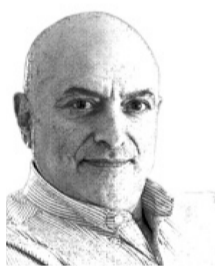
Twenty per cent domestic preference: Industrial policy or protectionism

The Jordanian government's decision to increase the domestic preference margin in public procurement from 15 per cent to 20 per cent has sparked an important economic debate. Supporters view it as a necessary measure to strengthen the domestic industry, while critics see it as a policy that could increase the cost of government purchases. As with most economic policies, the answer is not black and white. It depends on how one views economic development and the role of government in fostering productive capacity.

At first glance, increasing the preference margin may appear to mean that the government will pay higher prices for some goods and services. If a foreign supplier submits a bid worth JD100,000 and a Jordanian company submits a bid worth JD 120,000, the new preference margin may allow the contract to be awarded to the domestic producer. Critics, therefore, argue that public funds should always be spent at the lowest possible cost.

However, this analysis stops at the point of purchase and ignores what happens afterward within the economy. The government is not simply another buyer in the marketplace; it is often the single largest purchaser in the national economy. When the government buys locally produced goods, a substantial portion of the contract value is transformed into wages for Jordanian workers, profits that are reinvested domestically, purchases from local suppliers, and tax revenues that flow back to the Treasury. By contrast, when a government agency purchases imported goods, a significant share of the value leaves the country immediately, with only a limited portion remaining in the local economy through transportation, warehousing, or distribution services.

The importance of this policy becomes even greater in a relatively small economy such as Jordan's. Jordanian firms do not compete against foreign firms operating under similar conditions. Instead,



ECONOMIC REVIEW

Yusuf Mansur

they compete against companies based in much larger economies that benefit from what economists call economies of scale. A multinational manufacturer producing for tens or hundreds of millions of consumers can spread its fixed costs over enormous production volumes, significantly reducing the cost per unit. This creates a structural advantage that most Jordanian firms simply cannot match.

As a result, many companies considered large by Jordanian standards remain small when compared with regional or global competitors. It is therefore unrealistic to expect firms operating in a relatively limited domestic market to compete immediately and on equal terms with multinational corporations that enjoy larger markets, greater financial resources, extensive distribution networks, and, in many cases, direct or indirect government support.

This is precisely where public procurement assumes a developmental role. Governments do not use procurement solely to acquire goods and services; they also use it as a tool to strengthen domestic productive capacity expand industrial activity and support employment. When local manufacturers receive additional government orders, they increase production, hire more workers, invest in new equipment, and accumulate technical expertise and know-how.

Importantly, this approach is far from unique to Jordan. It reflects the development strategy adopted by many countries that successfully built strong industrial bases. South Korea's economic transformation was driven by a combination of selective protec-

tion, targeted financing, industrial policy, and government procurement designed to nurture national champions capable of competing globally. China similarly relied on industrial policy, government procurement, directed finance and export incentives to build its manufacturing base before emerging as the world's second-largest economy.

Even countries that today present themselves as champions of free trade did not achieve their industrial leadership through free trade alone. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the United States relied heavily on protective tariffs and industrial policies to shield its emerging industries from foreign competition. Likewise, the United Kingdom, often regarded as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, employed a variety of trade and navigation policies that favored domestic producers throughout much of its rise. The Netherlands and other European commercial powers also benefited from policies designed to support national enterprises and strengthen domestic markets.

Moreover, the modern global economy is far from a pure free-market system. The United States continues to implement "Buy American" provisions and provides substantial support to strategic sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing, and clean energy. The European Union has adopted industrial policies and subsidy programmes aimed at strengthening domestic industries. China, despite being the world's largest exporter, grants significant preferences to domestic firms in many public procurement activities.

It is also noteworthy that the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) is not mandatory for WTO members. It is a plurilateral agreement, meaning that countries choose whether to join. Consequently, the majority of developing countries have not become full members. Large emerging economies such as India have

deliberately remained outside the agreement because they view government procurement as a critical instrument for industrial development, employment creation and technology transfer rather than merely a mechanism for obtaining the lowest price.

In Jordan's case, raising the domestic preference margin from 15 per cent to 20 per cent does not represent a departure from international practice. Rather, it reflects a growing recognition that government purchasing power can be used strategically to support domestic production. Every additional dinar directed toward local industry strengthens not only individual firms but also the broader ecosystem of suppliers, workers, service providers and supporting industries connected to production.

Of course, this does not mean that domestic preference should become permanent or unconditional protection. Its purpose should be to enhance competitiveness, not replace it. Preference margins should be linked to product quality, local content, value added, and the ability to create employment within the national economy. Successful protection is protection that ultimately leads to competitiveness rather than sheltering inefficiency.

Ultimately, raising the domestic preference margin to 20 per cent appears to be a reasonable policy choice under current economic conditions. It represents more than a simple increase in protection; it reflects an effort to use public procurement as an instrument of industrial and developmental policy. While some government purchases may become marginally more expensive, the broader economic returns — in terms of employment, investment, income generation, tax revenues, and domestic value added — may well outweigh these costs. International experience teaches us that countries that successfully built strong industrial sectors did not simply advocate competition; they first invested in building the capacity to compete.

BUSINESS

Thursday, June 11, 2026



Jordan Chamber of Industry and an economic delegation from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on Tuesday discuss ways to explore investment opportunities and build sustainable partnerships

JCI, Kurdistan Region discuss economic cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan Chamber of Industry (JCI) and an economic delegation from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on Tuesday discussed ways to organise visits for businesspeople and investors to explore investment opportunities and build sustainable partnerships.

The talks, held at the JCI's headquarters, brought together JCI Chairman Fathi Jaghbir and a delegation led by President of Kurdistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Gaylan Haji Saeed.

Speaking at the meeting, Jaghbir said Iraq is an "important economic partner" for Jordan, citing the "strong, historical" ties between the two countries' leaderships, according to the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) statement.

He noted Jordan's investment environ-

ment and "strategic" location qualify it to serve as a "regional hub" for industry, trade and services.

The two sides discussed means to enhance economic, trade, and investment cooperation, increase trade exchange...

Haji Saeed also affirmed the chamber's commitment to ex-

panding cooperation with the Kurdistan Region's private sector, strengthening direct communication between businesspeople and industrialists, and building partnerships that support trade and investment growth.

For his part, Saeed said the Kurdistan Region is keen to strengthen economic cooperation with Jordan and benefit from Jordanian expertise across several sectors.

He added that the region offers "promising" investment opportunities and seeks to further develop its economic ties with the Kingdom.

The two sides discussed means to enhance economic, trade, and investment cooperation, increase trade exchange, promote joint investments and open new prospects for private sector cooperation, according to ACI statement.

CBJ issues JD150m in Treasury bonds

AMMAN (JT) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), on behalf of the government, on Wednesday issued the 25th treasury bonds issue for 2026, valued at JD150 million.

According to CBJ data, the maturity date for this issue is set for June 11, 2041, while the settlement date will be on June 11, 2026.

Treasury bonds are long-term financing instruments with maturities ranging from two to 20 years, including both government treasury bonds and corporate bonds.

Treasury bills are short-term govern-



JT file

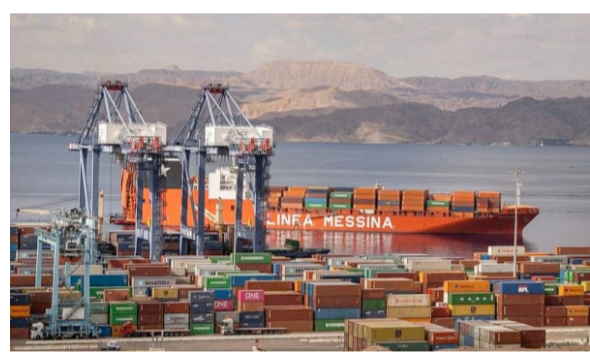
ment debt instruments ranging between three to 12 months, they are low-risk financial tools traded through buying and selling in financial markets.

Industrial exports grow 5.1% till May despite regional challenges — ACI

AMMAN (JT) — The Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) exports grew by 5.1 per cent during the first five months of 2026, which shows the ability of Jordanian industry to adapt to unstable regional conditions.

According to an ACI report, Jordanian exports grew to JD2.996 billion in the past five months, up from JD2.849 billion in 2025, highlighting diversification into non-traditional markets in Africa, Europe and non-Arab Asia.

Almost all industrial sectors recorded export growth, except for engineering and IT, leather and garments and plastics and rubber, which dropped by 18.9 per cent, 3.1 per cent, and 0.4 per cent, respectively, according to an ACI statement.



JT file

The Amman Chamber of Industry exports grow by 5.1 per cent during the first five months of 2026

The packaging, paper, carton, and office supplies sector grew the most by 48.3 per cent, while construction industries recorded the lowest growth at 1.3 per cent.

India, the US, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq topped the list of countries receiving ACI exports, importing goods valued at

JD1.502 billion.

ACI exports to India remained steady at JD394 million, while exports to Saudi Arabia decreased by 3 per cent, reaching JD342 million compared to JD352 million during the same period in 2025.

Exports to Iraq rose by 6 per cent to JD404 million, up from JD381 mil-

lion in 2025, making it the top destination for ACI exports.

Exports to the US dropped by 28.5 per cent to JD362 million, compared to JD506 million in the same period in 2025.

The data also showed that exports to Syria jumped by 52.2 per cent to JD173 million, while exports to Palestine grew by 29.5 per cent to JD89 million.

Arab countries topped the list at JD1.515 billion, followed by non-Arab Asian countries at JD671 million, and North American countries at JD387 million.

ACI exports to European Union countries reached around JD222 million, while non-EU European countries accounted for JD106 million. Exports to African

countries stood at JD31 million, South American countries at JD25 million, and other nations at JD40 million.

By sector, mining industries led with JD663 million, followed by chemicals and cosmetics at JD633 million, and food, agriculture and livestock at JD444 million.

Engineering, electricity, and IT exports reached JD360 million, medical supplies stood at JD278 million, and leather and garments at JD240 million.

Packaging, paper, and office supplies accounted for JD151 million, plastics and rubber for JD129 million, construction for JD88 million, and wooden industries and furniture for JD9 million, according to the chamber statement.

Jordan launches 1st national pavilion at Seoul food, hotel 2026 expo

AMMAN (JT) — The first Jordanian national pavilion at the Seoul Food and Hotel (SFH) 2026 exhibition opened at the KINTEX convention centre in Goyang, South Korea to promote domestic food industries across East Asian markets, according to a Jordan Exporters Association (JEA) statement on Wednesday.

The association organised the pavilion with operational backing from the Enterprise Export House, featuring several domestic firms specialising in processed foods, olive oil, dates, sweets and health food products. The global trade show runs to the end of the week.

During a tour of the pavilion, Jordanian Ambassador to South Korea Asal Al Tal discussed export expansion plans with participating company representatives and emphasised the utility of broadening bilateral trade ties.

She noted that the exhi-



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Exporters Association

The first Jordanian national pavilion at the Seoul Food and Hotel 2026 exhibition opens at the KINTEX convention centre in Goyang, South Korea to promote domestic food industries across East Asian markets

tion serves to showcase the quality standards of Jordanian food manufacturing to prospective Asian distributors, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

JEA Deputy Chairman Ahmad Khudari, stated that this participation aims to secure direct export routes and build trade partnerships with commercial importers in South Korea.

He added that the South Korean market

presents growth opportunities for Jordanian agricultural and food exports, especially following the bilateral Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement that entered into force on Tuesday.

Khudari highlighted that East Asian markets show consistent demand for high-quality food imports, allowing Jordanian enterprises to diversify their international consumer bases.

He commended the

ongoing coordination between the association and the Enterprise Export House to provide technical and promotional support for local industrial firms seeking global market access.

JEA Director General Halim Abu Rahmeh, stated that the Seoul exhibition represents a strategic entry point into East Asian networks due to the high purchasing power of the South Korean consumer base.

He added that the pavilion enables local exporters to hold direct business matches with procurement managers from major retail chains and wholesale distribution networks.

The Seoul Food and Hotel exhibition is among the prominent food and beverage trade exhibitions in Asia, historically drawing over 45,000 trade visitors and 1,600 exhibiting corporations from 45 countries, Petra reported.

China inflation stabilises in May as energy costs ease

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese consumer prices remained stable in May, as official data Wednesday showed the impact of soaring energy prices had started to fade, while increased demand for AI-linked tech goods pushed factory gate costs up for a third straight month.

The continued pick-up in inflation comes as figures on Tuesday revealed a surge in imports and exports fuelled by demand for tech components and machinery.

The consumer price index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, came in at 1.2 per cent last month, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS),

the same as April and just slightly lower than the forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

It remained far below the government's two-per cent target for the year.

On a monthly basis, CPI dipped 0.1 per cent month-on-month, reversing a 0.3 per cent rise in April, "mainly due to changes in energy and service prices", NBS statistician Dong Lijuan said in a statement.

He said the "12.6 per cent rise in domestic gasoline prices from the previous month turned into a 0.3 per cent decrease". That, he added, saw energy prices dip 0.1 per cent

in May, compared with a 5.7 per cent jump in April.

The producer price index, which measures wholesale inflation, hit 3.9 per cent — up from 2.8 per cent in April and in line with Bloomberg's forecast.

The figure marked the quickest pace since July 2022, when the PPI came in at 4.2 per cent.

The gauge had been in negative territory since that October and did not reverse until March this year.

The steady rise was due to "factors such as increased demand in some domestic industries and the transmission of fluctuations in international commod-

ity prices", said Dong.

"The acceleration of electrification, the deep integration of artificial intelligence in various fields, increased demand for computing power among others have driven up prices in... computing-related industries."

Zhiwei Zhang, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, tied China's future export growth to the growing AI sector.

"As the momentum of the AI boom is likely to continue in the foreseeable future, China's export growth and PPI inflation will likely stay strong as well," Zhang said.

EU pledges extra 300m euros for farmers hit by fertiliser price hikes

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) — The EU said on Wednesday it is planning to make another 300 million euro (\$346 million) in emergency funds available to farmers hit by soaring fertiliser costs caused by the Iran war.

Brussels has been under pressure to take action to blunt the impact of the Middle East crisis on agriculture, as the increase in fertiliser prices risks pushing up food costs across the bloc.

"We propose to increase the agricultural reserve for 2026 by 300

million euro," the European Union's budget commissioner Piotr Sierafin told lawmakers.

The sum would go to "support the most affected farmers already this year" and add to 200 million euro the European Commission had already announced it was to disburse to that end, Sierafin said.

The proposal needs approval from the bloc's 27 member states and the European Parliament.

About a third of fertilisers shipped by sea reach the global mar-

ket through the Strait of Hormuz, which has been effectively closed by the US-Israeli war against Iran.

That has sent prices up for farmers which in Europe were already contending with high tariffs Brussels slapped on fertilisers from Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

The price of nitrogen fertilisers, which are derived from gas, has risen to about 460 euros a tonne in the bloc, from 380 euros last winter.

"We hope that the Eu-

ropean Parliament will quickly approve this measure," Italy's agricultural lobby Confagricoltura said, adding the sector was being "stifled by rising costs".

The group and other farming associations in Europe have also called for a pause in the application of the EU's carbon border tax on fertilisers — something the EU has so far ruled out.

The EU imports between 30 per cent and 70 per cent of the fertilisers it needs, depending on the type.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Wednesday amounted to JD22.6 million spread over 6.2 million shares that traded through 6,561 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 1.24 per cent, closing at 3927.60 points.

Out of 104 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 19 companies rose while the share price of another 54 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Northern Cement Company by 6.92 per cent, Jordanian Company for Developing and Financial Investment by 4.72 per cent, Rumm Financial Brokerage by 4.72 per cent, Real Estate Development by 4.48 per cent, and Arab Company for Investment Projects by 4.46 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Jordan Phosphate Mines by 7.45 per cent, General Investment by 7.22 per cent, Arab International for Education and Investment, by 6.91 per cent, Ready Mix Concrete and Construction Supplies by 6.02 per cent and Arab Phoenix Holdings by 4.84 per cent.

THE MARKET TODAY

ASE Index: ↓ 3927.60 1.24% June 10, 2026

Live Data Historical Data

Click and drag in the plot area to zoom in

DAILY SUMMARY

Regular Market	OTC Market	Bonds
Trading Value (JDs)	22,606,221	
Trading volume	6,228,801	
No. of Transactions	6,561	
No. of Securities	104	

Smoke and Mirrors: Jordan's Battle Against a Generation Hooked on Tobacco

By Hadeel El Bis

At just twelve years old, Sharifa had no idea that a fleeting moment of peer pressure from a classmate would mark the beginning of years spent smoking. She recalls feeling dizzy and abandoning the experiment almost immediately — yet she could not have known that this single moment would find its way back into her life through friends, curiosity, and the pull of new social circles, gradually becoming a daily habit by the time she reached university. By eighteen, she was buying cigarettes herself.

Sharifa's story is far from unique. Specialists say it reflects a reality experienced by thousands of young Jordanians who take up smoking at an early age. Data from the Higher Population Council indicates that 83 per cent of tobacco users in Jordan began before the age of 24, whilst 38 per cent started before they turned 18.

These figures have become a rallying point for anti-smoking organisations, particularly around World No Tobacco Day — observed annually on 31 May — which this year carries the theme Exposing the False Allure. The statistics paint a stark picture: more than half of Jordanians aged 15 and over use tobacco in some form, placing the country among the highest-consuming nations in the region.

A change of scene, a change of mind

The turning point in Sharifa's life came during travels abroad. At Bangkok's airport, she found smoking confined to sealed glass booths — thick with smoke and stale air. For the first time, she truly understood the burden her habit placed on others, and the lengths to which smokers must go for a single cigarette. In Japan, strict public smoking bans and on-the-spot fines reinforced the same message: smoking was not the source of comfort she had long believed it to be, but a constraint that made her a prisoner of her own habit.

These experiences gave her the conviction to quit. Long-haul flights — during which she managed hours without a cigarette — helped dismantle her belief that stopping was impossible. She later discovered practical aids such as nicotine replacement therapy, medicated chewing gum, and patches, which helped her through the initial withdrawal. Her advice is clear: quitting demands more than willpower alone. It requires a compelling reason and a structured plan, whether the motivation is health, social, or financial.

How tobacco companies target the young

Dr Larissa Al Wawr, Secretary General of the No Smoking Association, explains that this year's World No Tobacco Day theme shines a light on the tobacco industry's evolving tactics to recruit younger users. As traditional smoking rates among young people have declined globally — driven by growing awareness of health risks — tobacco companies have treated this as a direct threat to their business model, which depends on continuously attracting new users to replace those who quit or die from smoking-related illnesses.

In response, these companies have turned to products such as e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and oral nicotine pouches, marketing them as supposedly less harmful alternatives. Yet Dr Wawr is clear: they still keep users dependent on nicotine. These products are deliberately designed to appeal to young people, arriving in bright colours and sleek, tech-inspired designs that reframe addiction as a modern lifestyle choice.

Young people are particularly susceptible, she

notes, because the brain does not fully mature until the mid-twenties — the very period when decision-making and behavioural regulation are still developing. This makes adolescents significantly more vulnerable to addiction than adults, and it is precisely why tobacco companies focus so intently on this age group.

The financial and human cost

The economic toll of smoking falls hardest on those least able to bear it. Data reveals that smokers from low-income households spend the equivalent of 25 times more on tobacco than on healthcare, ten times more than on education, and roughly one and a half times what they spend on food — deepening cycles of poverty and tying smoking to long-term financial hardship.

The average Jordanian smoker spends around 78 dinars per month on cigarettes — a sum whose annual impact is considerable, especially against a backdrop of rising living costs.

The health consequences are equally alarming. Three of Jordan's most common cancers are linked to smoking. In 2022 alone, 10,755 cancer cases were recorded, with treatment costs projected to exceed 500 million dinars by 2030.

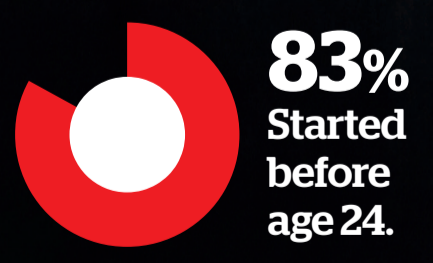
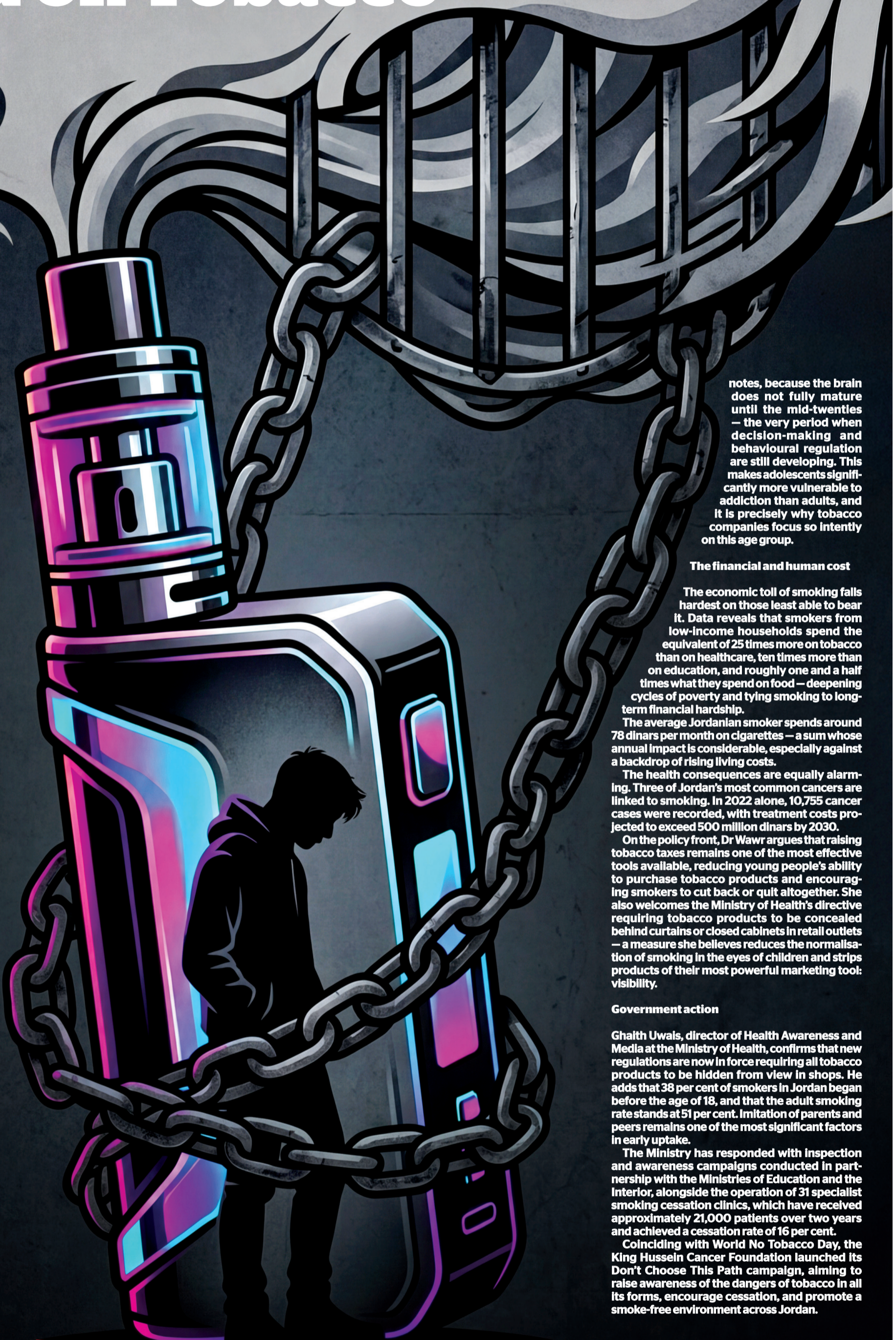
On the policy front, Dr Wawr argues that raising tobacco taxes remains one of the most effective tools available, reducing young people's ability to purchase tobacco products and encouraging smokers to cut back or quit altogether. She also welcomes the Ministry of Health's directive requiring tobacco products to be concealed behind curtains or closed cabinets in retail outlets — a measure she believes reduces the normalisation of smoking in the eyes of children and strips products of their most powerful marketing tool: visibility.

Government action

Ghalth Uwais, director of Health Awareness and Media at the Ministry of Health, confirms that new regulations are now in force requiring all tobacco products to be hidden from view in shops. He adds that 38 per cent of smokers in Jordan began before the age of 18, and that the adult smoking rate stands at 51 per cent. Imitation of parents and peers remains one of the most significant factors in early uptake.

The Ministry has responded with inspection and awareness campaigns conducted in partnership with the Ministries of Education and the Interior, alongside the operation of 31 specialist smoking cessation clinics, which have received approximately 21,000 patients over two years and achieved a cessation rate of 16 per cent.

Coinciding with World No Tobacco Day, the King Hussein Cancer Foundation launched its Don't Choose This Path campaign, aiming to raise awareness of the dangers of tobacco in all its forms, encourage cessation, and promote a smoke-free environment across Jordan.





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