



A photo shows a billboard bearing a portrait of Qatar's former leader Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani in Doha on Sunday, after the announcement of his death

Royal Court mourns passing of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, announces four days of mourning

AMMAN (JT) — The Royal Hashemite Court on Sunday announced four days of mourning following the death of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar. The Royal Court said in a statement that the mourning period was declared under the directives of His Majesty King Abdullah and takes effect on Sunday, July 12, 2026.

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King expresses condolences to Qatar emir over passing of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah sent a cable to Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani expressing condolences over the passing of his father Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, according to a Royal Court statement.

Also in a post on his official account of X platform, the King wrote, "I extend my deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and the people of Qatar on the passing of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

"May God rest his soul in peace and bless and protect Qatar and its people," the King said.

The father emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, has died at the age of 74, said the Amiri Diwan, the emir's office and bureaucratic centre of the Gulf country.

"With hearts steadfast in faith in God's decree and destiny, the Amiri Diwan mourns the great loss to the nation of the late — may God have mercy on him — His Highness the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, who passed away this morning," the Amiri Diwan said in a statement on Sunday.



Three Iranian missiles land in Jordan, cause minor damage — JAF

AMMAN (JT) — Three missiles launched from Iran landed in several locations across Jordan early on Sunday, causing only minor property damage and no casualties, according to a military source from the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF).

In a statement, the military source at JAF said that Royal Engineering Corps teams were immediately dispatched to the impact sites, where they secured the areas and safely handled the missile debris in accordance with established technical procedures.

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Lower House opens extraordinary session, refers five draft laws to parliamentary committees

Premier vows 'solid' partnership with Parliament on legislative reforms

By Ahmad Khatatneh

AMMAN — The Lower House on Sunday opened the first sitting of its extraordinary session, with six draft laws on its agenda, including the Local Administration Law, amendments to the Jordanian Universities Law, the Real Estate Ownership Law, the repeal of the Civil Consumer Corporation Law, the Regulation of Professional Practice Law and the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission Law.

The session was chaired by Lower House Speaker Mazen Qadi in the presence of Prime Minister Jafar Hassan and members of the Cabinet.

Hassan urged lawmakers to approve the draft laws his Cabinet referred to Lower House, describing the bills as "key steps in advancing Jordan's political, economic and administrative modernisation efforts".

Hassan also said that the government remained committed to working in partnership with Parliament to complete legislative reforms that serve the national interest.

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Photo by Ahmad Kheifati

The Lower House on Sunday opens the first sitting of its extraordinary session

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"The government will continue to work closely with the Parliament,

within the framework of the Constitution, in a manner that embodies cooperation, strengthens parliamentary oversight and enriches the legislative process," Hassan said.

During the session, the House referred the 2026 Local Administration Law to the Administrative Committee after an initial reading.

The Prime minister said that the Local Administration Law represents a key pillar of political modernisation, adding that the government had held extensive consultations with parliamentary blocs, independent MPs, senators, relevant institutions and experts before submitting the bill.

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Jordan condemns Iranian aggression against Gulf countries

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday condemned the Iranian attacks targeting the UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait as a blatant violation of the sovereignty of these countries.

In a statement, the

ministry said that the attacks pose a threat to the security, stability and territorial integrity of the targeted states, warning that they represent a dangerous escalation and a flagrant breach of international law and the UN Charter.

The ministry reiterated

ated Jordan's absolute solidarity with the Gulf Arab states, stressing that the Kingdom stands firmly with them and supports all measures they take to safeguard their sovereignty, security and the safety of their citizens and residents.

ESCALATION

US widens strikes as Iran closes Hormuz

Analyst says Washington has returned to 'negotiations under fire' as military pressure reshapes diplomacy

By Mai Anati

AMMAN — The United States sharply escalated its military campaign against Iran on Sunday, reportedly striking nearly 140 military targets after Tehran attacked a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz and declared the closure of the strategic waterway, a move that threatened the Memorandum of Understanding the two sides had signed to end the conflict.

The latest exchange marked one of the most serious confrontations between Washington

and Tehran in recent months, shifting the crisis from limited retaliation to a broader military campaign while placing one of the world's busiest shipping lanes at the centre of the conflict.

US Central Command (CENTCOM) said that American forces targeted missile and drone sites, naval capabilities, ammunition depots, communications networks and coastal surveillance facilities across Iran.

"The United States is imposing a heavy cost by continuing to degrade Iran's ability to attack

civilian mariners and commercial ships freely transiting the strait," CENTCOM said, adding that the strikes were being carried out at the direction of President Donald Trump.

The US military said that the operation was launched after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attacked a Cyprus-flagged container vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz, accusing it of using an unauthorised shipping route.

CENTCOM said that the strikes were carried out under the direction

of President Donald Trump and were intended to degrade Iran's ability to threaten civilian shipping and commercial navigation through the strategic waterway.

"We hit them very hard last night," US President Donald Trump told CNN by telephone after US strikes in response to Iran's latest attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the United States and Iran had been close to "a deal" on Saturday. "They were giving up everything, and then all of a sudden two hours after that they



Photo of US Navy

A US Navy fighter jet launches from aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea

hit a ship with a drone. These people, there is something wrong with

them," he said.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said Iran

had "made a poor choice" and was now "paying the price".

Iran responded by announcing the closure of the Strait of Hormuz "until further notice" and confirmed that it had struck a second commercial vessel, saying both ships had violated navigation regulations.

Iranian state media also reported explosions in Bandar Abbas, Sirik, Jask, Qeshm Island and Khuzestan province after the latest US strikes, while state television said an American strike targeted a military barracks in the southern province of Bushehr.

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Crown Prince praises rescue team after Venezuela humanitarian mission

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Crown Prince Hussein on Sunday praised the humanitarian efforts of the Jordanian International Search and Rescue Team of the Public Security Directorate's (PSD) Civil Defence Department, following its return to the Kingdom after concluding the humanitarian mission in Venezuela.

In a post on his Instagram account, the Crown Prince said: "May your hands continue to give in the service of humanity. May God protect you as a source of pride and honour for Jordan. Praise be to God for your safe return."

The mission was launched under Royal directives to assist in the response to a devastating earthquake that struck the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, and surrounding areas, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Qatari Air Force transported the team back to the Kingdom in coordination with the Qatari military attaché



The Jordanian international search and rescue team on Sunday returns to the Kingdom after concluding the humanitarian mission in Venezuela

in Amman, reflecting the "deep" bilateral relations and partnership between Jordan and Qatar in supporting humanitarian and relief efforts.

PSD said that the team, which includes highly specialised personnel trained to the highest international standards alongside a medical team from the Royal Medical Services, conducted complex search and rescue operations in the hardest-hit areas.

The team used advanced equipment and techniques and successfully rescued a three-year-old child alive from under the rubble six days after the earthquake, recovered 35 bodies, and provided technical and humanitarian support while working alongside Venezuelan and international rescue



teams.

PSD noted that the president of Venezuela honoured the Jordanian team in recognition of their exceptional humanitarian efforts and prominent role in the operations, praising the team's professional competence, rapid response, high discipline and adherence to international standards.

The directorate added that the team's achievements during this specialised mission reflect its advanced capabilities, accumulated experience and high operational readiness, which have solidified international trust in the team and boosted its status among elite globally classified search and rescue teams.



In the presence of HRH Princess Ghida Talal, the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company sign a cooperation agreement to implement a project aimed at enhancing early breast cancer detection in southern governorates

Princess Ghida attends KHCF, JPMC breast cancer partnership signing

AMMAN (JT) — The King Hussein Cancer Foundation (KHCF) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) signed a cooperation agreement to implement a project aimed at enhancing early breast cancer detection in southern governorates and improving access to screening and early diagnosis services through mobile screening units.

In the presence of HRH Princess Ghida Talal, chairperson of the board of trustees of KHCF and King Hussein Cancer Centre (KHCC), the agreement was signed by JPMC CEO Abdulwahab Rawad and KHCF Director General Nisreen Qatamesh, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

JPMC Chairman Mohammad Theibhat and KHCC Director General Asem Mansour also attended the signing ceremony.

Princess Ghida said: "We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company for its continued support of the King Hussein Cancer Foundation and Centre over the years, and for its recent generous donation, which will provide early screening services for women in southern Jordan through the mobile screening unit."

Theibhat expressed the company's pride in its partnership with

KHCF and its continued support for the foundation's pioneering humanitarian role in providing comprehensive healthcare services to cancer patients across the Kingdom.

He said that the support reflects the company's national and social responsibility and its belief in the importance of collective national efforts to assist cancer patients.

The agreement builds on JPMC's 'longstanding' support for KHCF and KHCC and their mission to combat cancer...

He stressed the company's commitment to continuing its support for the foundation's initiatives in a way that strengthens healthcare services and expands access to treatment nationwide.

Theibhat added that the KHCC is a national and humanitarian institution of which Jordanians can be proud, praising the advanced and specialised medical care

it provides in accordance with the highest standards, as well as the dedication of its management and staff in serving cancer patients.

Under the agreement, JPMC will provide support that includes supplying a mammography machine to be installed in the KHCC's mobile screening unit.

The project targets around 334,000 women in the southern governorates and is expected to enable some 700 women to undergo high-quality mammogram examinations through a mobile bus operating between Maan, Tafileh, Karak and Aqaba.

The project also includes awareness and community outreach activities aimed at increasing public understanding of the importance of early detection and encouraging greater use of screening services in the targeted areas.

In addition, it will support the capacities of local healthcare and community workers and provide reliable data to assist health planning and policymaking.

The agreement builds on JPMC's "longstanding" support for KHCF and KHCC and their mission to combat cancer, while reflecting the company's commitment to social responsibility and creating a lasting positive impact on society.

Prince Mired receives Saudi, Turkish, Japanese ambassadors at HCDS

AMMAN (JT) — HH Prince Mired, Chief Chamberlain and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers (HCDS), on Sunday received Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Prince Mansour Bin Khalid Bin Farhan Al Saud.

During a tour of the commission's facilities, the ambassador was introduced to the health, rehabilitation, social and psychological services provided to disabled military personnel, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He also checked on HCDS empowerment, training and rehabilitation programmes aimed at improving their quality of life and promoting their integration into society.

Prince Mired said that the commission is committed to developing its services and expanding



HH Prince Mired, Chief Chamberlain and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers, on Sunday receives Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Prince Mansour bin Khalid bin Farhan Al Saud

cooperation and the exchange of expertise with relevant institutions to enhance the level of care provided to disabled military personnel.

For his part, Prince Mansour expressed ap-

preciation for HCDS's national and humanitarian role, commending the quality of its services and programmes for wounded military personnel, which reflect the care and attention accorded to this segment.

The ambassador signed the visitors' book, expressing appreciation for the commission's efforts and wishing it continued success in carrying out its national and

humanitarian mission.

Also on Sunday, Prince Mired held separate meetings with Turkish Ambassador Yakup Caymazoglu and Japanese Ambassadors to Jordan Asari Hideki, at the commission's headquarters, according to Petra.

Touring HCDS's venues, the two ambassadors learnt about the "comprehensive" medical, rehabilitative, social, and psychological services provided to injured military personnel.

Prince Mired stressed the importance of expanding international cooperation and sharing expertise to "continuously" upgrade care and rehabilitation standards.

For their part, the Turkish and Japanese envoys praised HCDS's "advanced" facilities and the Kingdom's humanitarian approach to supporting wounded veterans.

WAJ wins 2026 Institutional Energy Management Award

AMMAN (JT) — The Water Authority of Jordan's (WAJ) Energy Unit on Sunday won the 2026 Institutional Energy Management Award for the Middle East and North Africa, presented by the Association of Energy Engineers, in recognition of its efforts to institutionalise energy management and improve energy efficiency across the water sector.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Raed Abu Saud described the achievement as a "major milestone" that showcases Jordan's regional leadership in sustainable energy management across its water infrastructure, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He noted that the award reflects the sector's success in building a pioneering institutional model that operates according to the best global practices and standardises energy governance across all facilities.

He said that the award supports the goals of Jordan's National Water Strategy 2023-2040, which identifies energy efficiency as a priority



since the water sector accounts for about 15 per cent of the country's total electricity consumption.

Abu Saud added that the Kingdom aims to increase renewable energy's share of the sector's power use to 40 per cent by 2040 while advancing the Water-Energy-Food-Environment Nexus approach.

Several core initiatives drove the recognition, starting with the establishment of a sector-wide energy management system grounded in in-

ternational ISO 50001 standards.

The system includes policies, procedures, governance frameworks, internal audits, performance indicators and continuous improvement mechanisms, making energy management an integral part of the sector's administrative and operational processes.

To support this framework, the unit rolled out the Water and Energy Data Management System, a digital platform that monitors power consumption to enable data-driven operational decisions.

Beyond data tracking, the unit has spearheaded critical technical advancements to boost strategic energy planning across the water sector.

This includes developing comprehensive, investment-ready roadmaps for both solar energy implementation and energy efficiency, as well as conducting a sectoral study on load management and time-shifting to take advantage of optimal electricity tariffs.

By introducing energy storage applications and updating technical specifications for water and wastewater equipment, the ministry has integrated international Measurement and Verification methodologies and transitioned to Life Cycle Cost assessments to maximise the financial and operational value of all future infrastructure investments.

To sustain these institutional capabilities, the minister noted that specialised training and qualification programmes were introduced to upskill utility personnel.

This effort has "successfully" certified WAJ and water company staff with accredited international professional credentials in energy auditing, management, and verification from prestigious global bodies.

Abu Saud also highlighted the role of cross-sector collaboration in advancing sustainable resource management, noting that the unit's efforts have enhanced coordination between the water and energy sectors and supported partnerships with national institutions, donors and international organisations.

He said that these efforts have reinforced the integration of national water and energy policies, supported Jordan's transition towards a green economy and digital transformation, and contributed to enhancing water and energy security, reducing carbon emissions and improving the sustainability of strategic projects in line with the best international practices.



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabsheh and Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Karim Badawi on Sunday discuss ways to expand cooperation in energy and mining, and strengthen strategic partnerships through joint investments

Energy minister, Egyptian counterpart discuss cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabsheh and Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Karim Badawi on Sunday discussed ways to expand cooperation in energy and mining, and strengthen strategic partnerships through joint investments.

Kharabsheh said that Jordanian-Egyptian relations represent an advanced model of Arab cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, noting that previous achievements provide a strong foundation for strategic projects with sustainable economic benefits, in line with the directives of both countries' leaderships.

The two ministers discussed mechanisms to further develop their natural gas partnership, building on the success of the Jordanian-Egyptian Fajr Company for Natural Gas Transmission and Supply and cooperation with the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), according to an Energy Ministry statement.

They also highlighted the importance of utilising the advanced infrastructure available

in both countries to enhance energy security and support development projects.

Kharabsheh reviewed the ministry's projects to expand natural gas networks to industrial cities, saying Jordan will soon sign two agreements with Egyptian companies to supply gas to the Maan and Muwaqqar industrial cities.

He added that work is also under way to extend gas supplies to the Mafraq and Zarqa industrial cities, which would help reduce energy costs and improve industrial competitiveness.

The discussions also covered cooperation in green hydrogen, ammonia production and natural gas-related industries.

Badawi said that Egypt has extensive expertise in these fields, with eight operating ammonia plants and ongoing efforts to adopt advanced production technologies, creating opportunities for joint ventures.

Both sides stressed the importance of maximising the economic value of natural gas through value-added industries and developing an integrated infrastructure vision. They also highlighted

the role of pre-purchase agreements in ensuring the sustainability of projects.

The ministers also discussed cooperation in phosphate-based industries, the exchange of geological exploration expertise and the establishment of joint mining ventures to increase the contribution of natural resources to the economies of both countries.

They also explored the creation of partnerships between national companies to combine technical, engineering and managerial expertise, enabling the implementation of energy and infrastructure projects in Jordan, Egypt and the wider region.

Badawi praised the ongoing coordination between the two countries, saying the next phase will witness expanded cooperation between national companies in energy, infrastructure and mining to enhance regional energy security.

The two sides agreed to establish joint technical working groups to follow up on the proposals and develop mechanisms for cooperation in natural gas, mining, infrastructure and investment partnerships.

Safadi, Saudi counterpart, Arab League chief discuss regional de-escalation efforts

AMMAN (JT) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi on Sunday discussed regional developments, particularly efforts to restore security, de-escalate tensions and ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Safadi, Arab League chief discuss regional de-escalation efforts.

Also on Sunday, Safadi received a phone

call from Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Fahmy, during which they discussed efforts to end regional escalation and achieve lasting security and stability.

Fahmy expressed the Arab League's full solidarity with Jordan in confronting Iranian attacks.

They also discussed Arab action to serve Arab causes and in-

terests, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Safadi congratulated Fahmy on assuming his post as Arab League secretary-general and wished him success in his new duties.

He reiterated Jordan's commitment to supporting and strengthening the role of the Arab League in promoting Arab solidarity and advancing Arab causes.



Ayman Safadi

Foreign minister, The Elders delegation hold talks on regional developments

AMMAN (JT) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi on Sunday received a delegation from The Elders, an independent group of global leaders working for peace and human rights.

The delegation included former president of Ireland Mary Robinson, former prime minister of New Zealand Helen Clark, Deputy Chair of The Elders Graça Machel, and human rights activist Hina Jilani, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Safadi briefed the delegation on regional developments and the ongoing efforts to restore security and stability while ending the escalation in the region.

Reviewing developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, Safadi stressed the necessity of sustaining the ceasefire in Gaza and fully implementing all components of US President Donald Trump's plan.

He also warned



The delegation included former President of Ireland Mary Robinson, former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark, Deputy Chair of The Elders Graça Machel, and human rights activist Hina Jilani

against illegal Israeli measures in the occupied West Bank, which undermine the two-state solution and the chances of achieving a just and comprehensive

peace, stressing the need for collective action to stop these actions.

Safadi outlined Jordan's consistent efforts to anchor security and stability in the region,

noting the Kingdom's commitment to resolving crises through dialogue, peaceful means and adherence to international law.

Founded by Nelson

Mandela in 2007, The Elders is an independent group of global leaders working together to promote peace, justice, human rights and a sustainable planet.

Fayez reiterates Kingdom's commitment to strengthening ties with Oman

AMMAN (JT) — Senate President Faisal Fayez on Sunday highlighted the depth of Jordan-Oman relations, describing them as historic and rooted in mutual respect and shared interests.

During a meeting with members of Oman's State Council Legal Committee, headed by Sheikh Sultan Bin Matar Al Azizi, Fayez said bilateral ties have reached an advanced level across political, economic, investment and parliamentary fields.

The meeting was attended by Senate Legal Committee Chairman Senator Ahmad Theishat and Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Sheikh Fahd Bin Abdulrahman Al Ajili, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Fayez stressed the importance of strengthening parliamentary cooperation between the Jordanian Senate and Oman's State Council, including through enhancing the role of parliamentary



Senate President Faisal Fayez on Sunday meets with members of Oman's State Council Legal Committee

friendship committees and increasing the exchange of expertise and visits among specialised committees.

The Senate president and members of the Omani delegation discussed ways to further develop bilateral relations in a manner that serves the interests of the two countries and peoples, as well as Arab and Islamic

causes.

They also reviewed regional developments and the repercussions of ongoing conflicts on security and stability in the region.

Fayez warned that expanding the scope of wars and conflicts would result in further instability and destruction, stressing the need for efforts to restore security

and achieve lasting peace.

He reiterated Jordan's rejection of Iranian attacks against Jordan and Arab Gulf states, noting that His Majesty King Abdullah has stressed that the security and stability of Gulf countries are an integral part of Jordan's own security and stability.

Fayez said that the King has called for an end to

the war and for achieving a comprehensive and sustainable de-escalation that would help restore security, stability and peace.

He also called for strengthening Arab solidarity and economic integration to safeguard Arab interests and maintain unity, while addressing regional challenges and policies that threaten stability.

For their part, the head and members of Oman's State Council Legal Committee praised the strong relations between Jordan and Oman, stressing the importance of continuing joint efforts to expand cooperation in various fields.

They also commended King Abdullah's efforts to address regional challenges, promote peace and defend Arab causes, stressing that greater Arab cooperation is essential to preserving the security and stability of Arab countries.

Army chief, US military official discuss cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti on Sunday received US Colorado National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Davis and his accompanying delegation at the General Command headquarters.

During the meeting, Huneiti and Davis discussed military cooperation and coordination between the armed forces of Jordan and the US, as well as ways to enhance ties in various military fields in a manner that serves shared interests and addresses current security challenges.

The two sides also discussed expanding cooperation in training, capacity building and the exchange of expertise, with the aim of enhancing the efficiency, readiness and operational capabilities of the armed forces of both countries, according to a Jordan



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Yousef Huneiti on Sunday receives US Colorado National Guard Commander Maj. Gen. Robert Davis

Armed Forces Arab-Army (JAF) statement.

Huneiti reaffirmed the JAF's keenness to strengthen cooperation and partnership with the Colorado National Guard and benefit from mutual expertise in support of security and stability and on issues of common interest.

Davis commended the advanced capabilities of the Jordan Armed For-

ces and their high level of professionalism in military training and qualification, stressing the importance of continued cooperation and the exchange of expertise to further strengthen bilateral ties and serve the interests of both countries.

The meeting was attended by several senior JAF officers and the US defence attaché in Amman.

CRIME

Cassation Court upholds 1-year sentence for drug dealer



By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation has upheld a June 2023 State Security Court (SSC) ruling, sentencing a man to 12 months in prison for possession of a small stash of Crystal meth in Amman in April 2022.

The court declared the defendant guilty of possessing Crys-

tal meth in Tabarbour neighbourhood on April 19 and handed him a one-year prison term.

Court documents said the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) learnt the defendant was in possession of illegal narcotics and placed him under surveillance.

"The AND agents arrested the defendant

while walking in the street and found the illicit drug on him," court documents said.

Crystal meth is the common name for crystal methamphetamine, a strong and highly addictive drug that affects the central nervous system, according to WebMD.

The defendant contested the SSC's ruling through his law-

yer, who argued that the court "did not provide solid evidence to implicate his client".

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

The higher court maintained that the SSC had followed the proper procedures in

issuing the sentence against the defendant.

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

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



US Senator Lindsey Graham (right), Republican of South Carolina, speaks to the press alongside US President Donald Trump, surrounded by members of Congress, after Trump signed a funding bill to end a partial government shutdown in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, February 3

US senator and Trump ally Lindsey Graham dies aged 71

WASHINGTON, United States (AFP) — Prominent US Senator Lindsey Graham, a key ally of President Donald Trump, died aged 71 following a “brief and sudden illness”, his office said on Sunday.

Graham, known for his foreign policy work, was a staunch supporter of the Iran war and in recent years urged both Trump and the Biden administrations to back Kyiv’s fight against Russia.

The Republican senator from South Carolina’s office said in a statement on his official X account that he “passed away from a brief and sudden illness” on Saturday evening. Graham turned 71 on Thursday.

“Senator Graham’s family appreciates prayers at this time and asks for privacy during this incredibly difficult period,” the statement said.

NBC News reported that emergency services responded to a call for “cardiac arrest” at Graham’s Capitol Hill home on Saturday night, according to police scanner audio obtained by NBC and other outlets.

Trump paid tribute to the influential senator on Sunday, calling him “one of the greatest people” in a post on his Truth Social site.

“Senator Lindsey Graham, one of the greatest people and Senators I have ever known, is dead! He was always working, and was a true American Patriot. Lindsey will be greatly missed!!!”

Graham made a failed bid for the presidency in 2016, warning at the time that Republicans should not back Trump because he was a “race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot”.

Their relationship

was then strained by the January 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection, with Graham saying his Republican colleagues should “count me out, enough is enough” — although he later voted against convicting Trump in his impeachment trial.

Graham reconciled their relationship after Trump returned to office and supported his reelection bid.

A hawk

Graham was also a strong supporter of Israel and a hawkish backer of the Iran war.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: “Lindsey is a great friend of Israel and a cherished friend of mine.”

Israeli President Isaac Herzog said the news left him “shocked and heartbroken”.

“Senator Graham was a beacon of moral clarity and a true leader of the US-Israel partnership,” he said in a post on X.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also said he was deeply saddened by the death of Graham, whom he met in Kyiv as recently as Friday.

“He visited Ukraine ten times during the years of Russia’s full-scale invasion and was here with our people when it was most needed... America and the world have lost a determined leader,” Zelensky said in a Facebook post.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen applauded Graham’s fight to support Ukraine, calling him a “determined and fearless leader”.

‘Irreplaceable’

Graham’s death comes as the weeks-long hospitalisation of former

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell rattles the party over the final months of his long congressional career.

Republicans hold a narrow 53-47 majority in the Senate, but will have little room for missing votes or defections. McConnell was admitted to hospital last month and has not voted since June 11.

Graham was first elected to the US House of Representatives in 1994, before being elected to the Senate in 2002.

He was later re-elected to the Senate in 2008, 2014 and 2020 and most recently served as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster described Graham as “irreplaceable”.

“The fiercest of fighters for South Carolina and America — and a loyal and steadfast friend,” McMaster said on X.

Raised in the town of Central, South Carolina, where his parents ran a restaurant and pool hall, Graham was the first in his family to go to college, according to his biography on the Senate website.

He served as a military lawyer and attained the rank of Air Force colonel, an experience that informed his interventionist stance in foreign policy.

In 2002, he voted in favour of military action against Iraq in the wake of the September 11 attacks, and later supported a long-term US presence in Afghanistan.

Graham was a frequent critic of President Barack Obama’s foreign policy, calling him a “weak opponent of evil” in 2015 over his negotiation of a nuclear deal with Iran.

Gaza health officials say Israeli strike, gunfire kill five

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories (AFP) — Gaza’s civil defence and hospitals said an Israeli drone strike and gunfire killed five people and injured several others on Sunday.

A ceasefire remains in place between Israel and Hamas, but it has not halted violence in Gaza and efforts to secure a lasting agreement to end the war have stalled.

Civil defence officials said a drone targeted a metal workshop in a southern district of Gaza City, the territory’s main urban centre, killing four people and injuring others.

Al Shifa hospital said it had received the four bodies.

The Israeli military confirmed carrying out the strike, saying it hit “terrorist infrastructure”, without providing further details.

In a separate incident, Israeli machinegun fire killed a girl in Al Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza, according to the civil defence agency, which operates as a res-



A projectile lands amidst other explosions during an Israeli strike on an industrial area in Gaza City on Sunday

cue service under Hamas. Her body was taken to Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital.

Before Sunday’s deaths, at least 1,098 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza since the cease-

fire took effect in October last year, according to the territory’s health ministry.

The ministry operates under Hamas authority, and its figures are con-

Restrictions imposed on media outlets and limited access in Gaza prevent AFP from independently verifying tolls or freely covering the violence there.

Hundreds return home as deadly Spain wildfire nears control

GARRUCHA, Spain (AFP) — A wildfire that has killed at least 12 people in southern Spain was close to being brought under control on Sunday, allowing hundreds of evacuated residents to return home as firefighters worked to fully stabilise the blaze, officials said.

Regional emergency chief Antonio Sanz said late Saturday that about 600 of the nearly 1,500 people evacuated from the fire zone in Almería province had been allowed to return after firefighters made significant progress containing the blaze.

“The attack carried out today and the stabilisation of much of the perimeter have made it possible to adopt these measures and continue moving, always with the utmost caution, toward a return to normality,” Sanz said in a statement issued by the regional government of Andalusia.

The improved outlook followed a day of



A house damaged by fire from a wildfire that killed at least 12 people, is seen in Almocaizar, Almería Province, on Sunday

better weather conditions with calmer winds and higher air humidity that allowed firefighters to mount a direct assault on the fire.

Justice Minister Félix Bolanos, said Saturday that crews had taken advantage of favourable wind and

humidity conditions to move closer to bringing the wildfire under control.

The burned area remained at about 6,600 hectares after the fire made no further advances Saturday, he said.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is scheduled

to visit the devastated area on Monday.

Burned-out vehicles still line some roads where people were trapped as the fast-moving fire swept through the area at speeds of up to 100 metres per minute.

Authorities have kept the death toll at 12 and cautioned that the number of missing people remains uncertain until autopsies and the identification of recovered bodies are completed.

Officials have said many of the victims could be foreign nationals.

The identification process has been slowed because collecting DNA samples from relatives has proved difficult, with family members traveling from other countries.

Despite the improving conditions, the Civil Guard police planned another search of the affected area Sunday to ensure no victims remain unaccounted for.

“The Civil Guard has entered more than 250 homes to verify that no one was inside, and it will now carry out one final sweep of the area to make a complete check that no one else remains,” Virginia Barcones, secretary-general for Civil Protection, told Spain’s public broadcaster on Sunday.

Typhoon makes landfall in China, downgraded to severe tropical storm

BELJING (AFP) — Typhoon Bavi was downgraded to a severe tropical storm on Sunday after making landfall in eastern China, where authorities had evacuated nearly two million people in its path.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Before reaching China, the storm lashed northern Taiwan and Japan’s remote southwestern islands, toppling trees and leaving tens of thousands without power.

Extreme weather already wreaked havoc on southern and central China in the past week, with storms leaving at least 39 dead and causing dozens of rivers to overflow and a reservoir to burst.

Bavi first made landfall at around 11:20pm on Saturday (15:20 GMT) in Zhejiang province with winds of 144 kilometres



A person looks on as large waves crash against the coast as Typhoon Bavi passes off northeastern Taiwan, in Keelung on Saturday

an hour, state news agency Xinhua said, quoting the provincial meteorological observatory.

“The core impact zone experienced fierce winds and heavy rain, with rapid runoff forming on the ground and roadside trees being uprooted,” national TV station CCTV reported as Bavi struck the city of Yuhuan.

It then hit Yueqing city, where CCTV said firefighters, rescue workers

10am (02:00 GMT) on Sunday with force 10 winds of around 108kmh, the China Weather Administration said.

Zhejiang provincial officials forecast torrential rain in coastal regions and the possibility of flash floods, Xinhua said, warning of transport disruptions, rivers overflowing and farmland being inundated.

Around 1.72 million people had been evacuated to safe places by Saturday, Xinhua said.

Classes, work, transport and outdoor activities were suspended ahead of the storm’s arrival, and more than 300 flights were cancelled in Zhejiang province.

Another 684 flights and 1,620 train services have been cancelled in Shanghai, media outlet The Paper said.

Images shared online on Sunday showed

streets in Zhejiang’s Wenzhou city, a metropolis of nearly 10 million people, submerged in floodwaters.

The Wenzhou government said in a statement it was “sparing no effort or cost... to guard against the [worst-case] scenario”.

Residents used planks to reinforce metal shutters protecting shops and taped windows, CCTV footage showed.

Torrential rain further north prompted the evacuation of more than 100,000 people from their homes in Fujian province and around 34,000 people from Shanghai’s coastal areas and high-risk areas, state media reported.

Bavi had been downgraded to a typhoon as it moved across the Pacific Ocean after hitting Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands on Monday as a super typhoon.

The storm is now forecast to move northeast while “gradually weakening”, before reaching the Yellow Sea on Tuesday and transforming into an extratropical cyclone, the Chinese weather service said.

The provinces in its path across China’s east are likely to experience heavy downpours until Monday, it said.

In the Philippines, at least 18 people were killed in landslides and other incidents triggered by heavy rains driven by Bavi, most on the southern island of Mindanao.

Nearly 11,000 people across the archipelago fled their homes, and dozens of ports remain closed.

In northern Taiwan,

more than 14,000 people were evacuated from their homes and hundreds of flights were cancelled. More than 170,000 households across the island were hit by power outages.

In Japan, thousands of households and facilities across Okinawa also lost power.

Oceans have experienced their hottest June on record and could set fresh highs in the months ahead, the European Union’s Copernicus Marine Service said last week.

Warmer oceans intensify tropical storms and add more moisture, which can fall as heavy rain.

Adding to the mix is the return this year of El Nino, a natural climate phenomenon that warms Pacific Ocean surface temperatures and typically occurs every two to seven years.



Philippines’ Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro (left) and Thailand’s Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow attend a press conference following an informal meeting with ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Myanmar’s Foreign Minister in Bangkok on Sunday

ASEAN ministers push stalled peace plan in Myanmar talks

BANGKOK (AFP) — Southeast Asian foreign ministers pressed their Myanmar counterpart for “concrete” progress on a stagnant ASEAN peace plan for the country during a meeting in Bangkok on Sunday, top Thai and Philippine diplomats said.

The meeting between foreign ministers of several members of the 11-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Myanmar’s Foreign Minister Tin Maung Swe was the first such gathering since a 2021 military coup in the country.

Myanmar has been diplomatically sidelined within the regional bloc since the country’s military ousted the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi more than five years ago, triggering a civil war.

But junta chief Min Aung Hlaing was installed as civilian president in April following highly restricted elections, and neighbouring Thailand has been

leading attempts at normalising relations.

Thai Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuanketkeow told a press briefing on Sunday that his government supported “calibrated engagement” with Myanmar in an effort to implement ASEAN’s “five-point consensus” plan aimed at ending the war between the military and a coalition of pro-democracy rebels and ethnic minority armed groups.

But he said it required Myanmar to address the concerns of ASEAN and the international community.

“We have some concrete expectations” with regard to humanitarian assistance, reduction of violence, especially against civilians and promoting inclusive political dialogue, Sihasak told reporters.

He also urged “further release of political prisoners and further positive development” with regard to 81-year-old Suu Kyi, who remains detained after she was moved from

prison to house arrest.

“We want to see progress, step by step,” Sihasak said.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Myanmar’s civil war, according to monitor group ACLED

‘Concrete actions’

But ASEAN has made little headway with its initiative to end Myanmar’s civil war through dialogue with all sides.

Myanmar lawmakers — elected in a vote that did not include rebel-controlled areas or Suu Kyi’s party — blasted the bloc’s

plan in parliament last week, calling for it to be “reviewed and reconsidered”, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar said.

The plan “undermines Myanmar’s equality within ASEAN and is inconsistent with ASEAN’s fundamental principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a member state”, they said, according to the outlet.

Still, Philippines’ Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro said she and the bloc stood behind the plan.

Lazaro, who is also the Myanmar special envoy of the ASEAN chair, told reporters that ministers at the meeting in Bangkok hoped Myanmar would take the “opportunity to make concrete and demonstrable progress or benchmarks on the core points of the five-point consensus” — although no timeline was set.

“ASEAN called for concrete actions towards the cessation of hostilities,” she said,

adding that she intended to visit Myanmar this year in an effort to expand access to humanitarian assistance in the country.

The five-point plan, which Myanmar and the rest of ASEAN agreed to in 2021, calls for an immediate halt to hostilities and for dialogue between all parties, mediated by the ASEAN envoy.

But consensus among ASEAN members is fraying, analysts say, between those open to seizing on small concessions to bring Myanmar back into the fold — a group led by Bangkok — and those maintaining a firmer stance.

Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam confirmed their foreign ministers’ attendance on Sunday, while Malaysia’s foreign minister told AFP he could not attend but sent other representatives.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Myanmar’s civil war, according to monitor group ACLED.

Ramaphosa honours ‘ignored’ WWI service of black S. Africans at France memorial

LONGUEVAL, France (AFP) — South Africa’s President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday called for recognition of black South Africans’ service on the Allied side in World War I during a visit to a memorial in France.

Ramaphosa laid a wreath at the South African National Memorial in Longueval in northern France and commemorated the 110 years since the Battle of Delville Wood — one of the most significant battles involving South African soldiers in the war.

But he emphasised the need to also honour the contributions of non-white South Africans to the war, which drew fighters from countries from across the then-British Empire.

“We remember all those whose contribution was diminished, ignored or deliberately excluded from the official history of our country. We gather to affirm that the memory of a nation cannot be divided according to race,” Ramaphosa said according to remarks shared by the presidency.

“For too long, South Africa remembered only part of this history. Today, we remember it in full.”

He paid tribute to South African soldiers who fought at the Bat-

tle of Delville Wood — one of the battles of the Somme — in July 1916, during which hundreds were killed and thousands wounded, captured and reported missing.

“Their sacrifice deserves the eternal gratitude of our country,” he said.

‘Above all, we must teach them that a nation is strengthened when it has the courage to confront all of its history’

He also honoured the more than 600 members of the South African Native Labour Contingent — a unit of workers sent to Europe to support the Allied war effort — who died in the sinking of the SS

Mendi in 1917 in the English Channel.

He denounced the treatment of the tens of thousands of black South Africans who were willing to serve but were “denied the status, recognition and dignity afforded to white combatants”.

“Their service was obscured by a political system that could accept their labour and their sacrifice, but refused to recognise their equality,” he said.

“This was not merely an omission. It was an injustice,” added the president, who was on a three-day official visit to France.

He called for building a “common memory” and “to tell the full story” of both Delville Wood and the Mendi in teaching future generations.

“Above all, we must teach them that a nation is strengthened when it has the courage to confront all of its history,” he said.

The Delville Wood memorial, long associated mainly with the sacrifice of white South African soldiers, since the end of apartheid has evolved into a place of commemoration for all South Africans who served during the First World War.

“This transformation is an important act of historical justice,” Ramaphosa said.

Royal Court mourns passing of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, announces four days of mourning

Continued from page 1

The Royal Hashemite Court also conveyed the deepest condolences of His Majesty King Abdullah and the Jordanian people to Qatar’s leadership and people, expressing solidarity with them during this time of grief.

The government on Sunday mourned the passing of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan declared four days of official mourning across the Kingdom, with flags

to be flown at half-mast starting Sunday, according to a Prime Ministry statement.

The government also expressed its deepest condolences to the government and people of Qatar, as well as to the family of the late Sheikh Hamad.

Three Iranian missiles land in Jordan, cause minor damage — JAF

Continued from page 1

Relevant authorities were continuing to monitor the situation on the ground, the statement said.

The source stressed that Jordan will not al-

low its airspace or territory to be used as a theater of conflict in a manner that threatens the Kingdom’s security and stability.

The armed forces, the source added, will respond decisively to any

threat against Jordan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, or the safety of its citizens, emphasising that all military formations and units remain at the highest level of readiness to address any potential threat.

US widens strikes as Iran closes Hormuz

Continued from page 1

According to American news website, Axios, the container vessel targeted by Iran had been sailing through the southern shipping corridor that Oman had proposed as an alternative route for commercial traffic.

The latest escalation threatens to further undermine already fragile diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran, with the future of the Strait of Hormuz remaining one of the principal obstacles to any comprehensive agreement.

Tehran insists on controlling maritime traffic through the waterway, while Washington continues to demand unrestricted freedom of navigation.

Political analyst Amer Sabaileh said that Washington appears to have returned to a strategy of “negotiations under fire”,

using military pressure to reshape the diplomatic process rather than replace it.

In remarks to The Jordan Times, Sabaileh said that the United States is likely to increase both the scale and scope of its strikes on Iranian military assets to alter Tehran’s negotiating position, while Iran is expected to respond by escalating pressure across the region through allied actors and strategic flashpoints.

“We are entering a phase in which military force is being used not only for deterrence but also to redefine the conditions of negotiation with the Iranian regime,” Sabaileh said.

Despite the rapid military escalation, diplomatic contacts continued.

Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar urged “de-escalation” and restraint during a phone call with his Iranian counter-

part Abbas Araghchi, stressing that dialogue remains the only viable path to resolving the crisis and achieving lasting regional peace and stability, according to a foreign ministry statement.

He also reiterated Pakistan’s readiness to continue playing a constructive role in promoting and maintaining regional peace and stability, the ministry said.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the United States and Iran Sunday to halt their new outbreak of fighting in the Mideast war and resume talks to end it.

Guterres specifically mentioned US attacks on Iran and the latter’s strikes on ships in the Strait of Hormuz and US allies in the Gulf region. “These attacks must stop,” Guterres spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement, cited by AFP.

Lower House opens extraordinary session, refers five draft laws to parliamentary committees

Continued from page 1

Hassan said that the proposed law aims to empower municipalities to carry out their responsibilities while introducing mechanisms for oversight, evaluation and accountability to ensure better practices that serve citizens and enhance their participation.

The prime Minister also said that the 2026 amendments to the law are centered around strengthening

municipal governance by clearly defining the relationship between municipal councils and executive administrations, improving financial and administrative discipline through oversight and evaluation mechanisms, and enhancing the quality and fairness of services while supporting local development.

He added that the bill gives priority to digital transformation in municipal work by expanding automation, accelerating service

delivery and enhancing transparency through the publication of periodic financial, administrative and service performance reports.

Lawmakers welcomed efforts to improve municipal governance, calling for further review of provisions related to decentralisation and the powers of elected councils.

Meanwhile, others MPs raised concerns over the role of the executive director in municipalities, saying

the law should clearly define the relationship between elected municipal councils and executive administrations to prevent overlapping responsibilities and ensure accountability.

They also called for reconsidering the mechanism for forming provincial councils, arguing that expanding direct public participation would better reflect the objectives of decentralisation and political modernisation.

The Lower House also referred the draft amendments to the Jordanian Universities Law to the Education and Youth Committee, the draft law repealing the Civil Consumer Corporation Law to the Economy and Investment Committee, the Regulation of Professional Practice Law to the Labour and Social Development Committee, and the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission Law to the Education and Youth Committee.

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Director General	Follow us on X Platform: @jordantimes Like our facebook page: thejordantimes Youtube: thejordantimes
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Negotiations under fire : Washington's strategy to reshape pressure on Iran

The U.S. administration's return to a strategy of "negotiating under fire" suggests that Washington has begun to view negotiations with Iran through a fundamentally different lens. The military strikes carried out in response to Iranian attacks on natural gas tankers in the Strait of Hormuz were not merely tactical retaliation. They coincided with a noticeably tougher political tone from President Donald Trump, who repeatedly referred to Iranian attempts to assassinate him, signaling a broader shift in his perception of the confrontation with Tehran.



Amer Al Sabaie

This change indicates that Washington no longer sees the crisis solely in Iran's regional behavior, but increasingly in the structure of political decision-making inside the Islamic Republic itself. Military pressure is therefore no longer simply a deterrent, it has become a tool for reshaping the political environment by increasing the cost for those factions that continue to obstruct negotiations on new terms.

From Tehran's perspective, prolonging the negotiations reflects the country's growing internal political dilemma. The faction that still dominates the decision-making process understands that any meaningful compromise with Washington threatens the very legitimacy on which it has built its authority for decades. That dilemma has become even more visible following the assassination of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. The absence of a decisive Iranian response, together with growing questions surrounding the transition of power, has exposed a leadership increasingly challenged both domestically and internationally.

For that reason, escalation has become as much about preserving internal legitimacy as it is about confronting the United States. At the same time, however, Tehran is fully aware that continued confrontation carries mounting political, economic and strategic costs. Delaying negotiations has therefore become less a pathway towards a better agreement than an attempt to buy time while preserving internal cohesion.

Iranian escalation has remained calculated, ranging from attacks on maritime navigation to attempts to widen the confrontation by targeting Gulf states and Jordan. Washington has interpreted these actions as crossing clear red lines, prompting a response designed not only to punish Iran but also to raise the cost of any future escalation.

The American strikes are therefore intended to achieve more than deterrence. They seek to reduce Iran's ability to threaten international shipping by targeting ports, logistics hubs, military infrastructure and operational facilities connected to activities in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. At the same time, they send a clear message that attacks against Gulf states or Jordan will no longer be tolerated as part of Iran's regional pressure strategy.

Although the sixty-day negotiation framework officially remains in place, it increasingly resembles a period of strategic testing rather than conventional diplomacy. Every passing day raises the possibility of further military escalation, demonstrating that military pressure has become an integral part of the negotiating process itself, reshaping the balance of power while diplomatic channels remain open.

This is where the broader strategic shift becomes evident. The negotiations are no longer limited to the nuclear issue, sanctions, or maritime security. Increasingly, they revolve around the future of Iran's political decision-making structure. The combination of military and political pressure appears designed to encourage a redistribution of power within the Iranian system, creating conditions for a leadership capable of making strategic decisions regarding relations with the United States and Iran's future regional role.

In this sense, military escalation and diplomacy should not be viewed as separate tracks, but as complementary instruments serving the same objective. The central issue is no longer simply Iran's nuclear program or freedom of navigation. It is the future architecture of power inside Iran itself. The more relevant question today is therefore not whether negotiations will succeed or fail, but what kind of Iran will ultimately emerge from them if military and political pressure continue along their current trajectory.

Turkey's power shift

By Mohammad Abu Rumman

The latest NATO summit in Turkey was not merely a military gathering. It was an announcement of Ankara's major transformation within the international order. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose relations with Washington and Europe were burdened by deep tensions during Joe Biden's presidency, emerged in a markedly different position: A partner courted by Donald Trump's administration and a regional power that neither Europe nor the United States can afford to overlook in Ukraine, the Black Sea, Syria, or the broader Middle East.

The summit attracted exceptional attention in Israel. A review of the Israeli press, particularly right-wing platforms close to the security establishment such as Israel Hayom, reveals a clear shift in focus: Away from Iran as the sole regional threat and towards Turkey as an emerging strategic challenge.

In an article titled "How Erdogan Is Turning Turkey into a Regional Superpower", foreign affairs editor Neta Bar argues that Turkey is no longer merely a state with political ambitions. It is building a military and industrial base capable of altering the regional balance of power. She describes the Turkish army as NATO's second largest after that of the United States, while Turkish defence exports have surpassed \$10 billion following successive leaps in recent years. This is a sign that Ankara is no longer dependent on the West to build its military strength, but has become a producer and exporter of defence capabilities in its own right.

No less significant is Shahar Kleiman's article, "Erdogan 2.0", which presents Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan not simply as a possible successor to Erdog-

an, but as the embodiment of a new phase in Turkey's political development. According to the article, Israeli concern is no longer centred on the personality of the Turkish president. It is increasingly about the trajectory of an entire state that is expanding its defence industries, widening its regional influence, and adopting a more confrontational policy towards Israel.

The central question today, then, may not be whether Turkey is heading towards direct confrontation with Israel. A more important question is whether the region is witnessing the birth of a new balance of power...

These articles may appear to be part of the familiar Israeli tendency toward exaggeration, or an attempt to reinforce Benjamin Netanyahu's narrative that Israel is surrounded by existential threats that justify its military and expansionist policies. There is some truth to that interpretation. Yet it does not negate another equally important reality: Turkey itself has

changed.

The Turkish transformation did not begin with the latest war. It is the result of an accumulated process that stretches back nearly a quarter of a century, to the rise of the Justice and Development Party. The process was neither linear nor smooth. It was marked by tensions with the West, painful reassessments following the failed coup, and severe economic crises. Yet, its broader outcome was the construction of a different model of the Turkish state, one based on reducing military dependence on external powers, developing domestic defence industries and linking economic power to military and diplomatic influence.

Today, Ankara appears intent on converting that power into political leverage. It is not seeking to break with the West, but to redefine its relationship with it: To become a partner rather than a subordinate and a negotiating power rather than merely another member of the Atlantic alliance.

This helps explain Erdogan's recent statements expanding the meaning and geographical scope of Turkish national security to include Syria and Lebanon. These remarks should not be dismissed as passing political rhetoric. They reflect a broader vision of Turkey's place in the region.

The same applies to Ankara's growing ties with influential middle regional powers such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Pakistan. These partnerships form part of a broader policy aimed at constructing a network capable of producing greater regional balance in response to the shifts generated by the latest US-Iranian war and by Israel's rise as the region's most assertive military power.

At the same time, Ankara understands that a direct military confrontation with Israel is not a realistic option in the fore-

seeable future, given Turkey's membership in NATO and the strategic nature of its relationship with the United States. Competition between the two countries is therefore likely to remain focused on influence, alliances, defence industries, and the emerging architecture of regional security.

This helps explain Erdogan's recent statements expanding the meaning and geographical scope of Turkish national security to include Syria and Lebanon

The central question today, then, may not be whether Turkey is heading towards direct confrontation with Israel. A more important question is whether the region is witnessing the birth of a new balance of power, in which Turkey is moving from a state searching for a role to one seeking to shape the rules of the game itself.

That, more than anything else, appears to be what is beginning to unsettle decision-making circles in Tel Aviv.

The trade in academic research and theses: An industry threatening future of global education

By Hasan Dajah

In recent years, the world has witnessed an unprecedented surge in the trade of scientific research papers, master's theses and doctoral dissertations. What began as limited, individual practices has evolved into a cross-border industry that capitalises on digital advancements and the proliferation of social media platforms. The scope of this activity has expanded far beyond legitimate academic services—such as proofreading or research consultation—to include the complete drafting of theses, dissertations, and research papers on behalf of students and researchers in exchange for payment. This practice constitutes a flagrant violation of academic integrity and undermines the very essence of the educational and research process.

Estimates from various international market research firms indicate that the global market for academic writing services ranges between \$8 billion and \$16 billion USD, with an annual growth rate of approximately 7 per cent. This growth is driven by the rising number of international students, the expansion of e-learning, and an increasing demand for research services. Although these figures are estimates rather than official statistics, they reflect the scale of economic activity within this sector—a multi-billion-dollar industry that thrives amidst regulatory disparities and weak oversight in many countries. Geographically, North America accounts for approximately 38 per cent of market revenue, driven by advanced higher education institutions and high student spending. Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region leads global growth with a market share exceeding 36 per cent, as certain countries emerge as major hubs for academic writing agencies.

In Arab countries and the Middle East, these services have become widespread, offered through offices and online platforms providing varying levels of academic support. The services range from proofreading, editing, and academic re-

view to full-scale ghostwriting of theses and research papers—or the drafting of specific chapters. Pricing depends on the field of study, academic level, and turnaround time, increasing with the complexity of the work and the urgency of completion.

The danger of this trade lies in how it undermines the very foundation of universities: The creation of knowledge, the development of critical thinking, and the cultivation of professionals capable of innovation and problem solving. A university thesis is not merely a degree requirement; it is a genuine test of a researcher's ability to generate new knowledge, apply the scientific method, analyse data, and defend their findings. When these theses are written by, a third party for a fee, the degree loses its true meaning, and education transforms into a purchasable commodity rather than an achievement earned through effort and competence.

Furthermore, these practices erode the principle of academic fairness; diligent students find themselves in an unequal competition against those who can simply buy a ready-made thesis or research paper. Consequently, academic opportunities shift from being based on excellence and hard work to financial means. This undermines confidence in the higher education system and diminishes the motivation of students committed to academic integrity.

The impact of this phenomenon extends beyond universities to society as a whole. A researcher or official who obtains an academic qualification without possessing genuine knowledge poses a risk to the institutions where they work and to the society that relies on their competence. Thus, academic dishonesty is not merely an educational infraction; it is an issue that affects intellectual security and the quality of human capital, with potential long-term repercussions for development, the economy, administration and public services.

From a legal standpoint, having theses or research papers written on a student's behalf is—in most university systems worldwide—considered a form

of academic dishonesty and the misappropriation of scholarly work; it is a practice that contravenes the academic integrity codes adopted by universities and research institutions. Furthermore, many countries are moving towards imposing stricter penalties on individuals and entities that engage in or promote this activity, recognising the threat it poses to the credibility of higher education institutions.

The impact of this phenomenon extends beyond universities to society as a whole. A researcher or official who obtains an academic qualification without possessing genuine knowledge poses a risk to the institutions where they work and to the society that relies on their competence...

Ethically, this trade undermines one of the fundamental pillars of scientific research: Honesty and intellectual integrity. A researcher who claims credit for work produced by another deceives not only their university but also the entire scientific community, while also infringing upon the rights of genuine researchers who have dedicated years of effort to generating original knowledge. Moreover, such practices erode trust in scholarly output, diminish the value of university degrees and damage the reputa-

tions of universities at both national and international levels.

With the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence, there is an increasing need to distinguish between the legitimate use of modern technologies—as tools to assist in organising ideas, refining language, or analysing data—and their use to generate entire theses and research papers falsely attributed to their supposed authors. Technology should serve to support the researcher, not replace them; any use that conceals the work's true origin constitutes a violation of academic integrity standards.

Addressing this phenomenon requires a comprehensive response that goes beyond conventional solutions. Universities must develop more effective systems to verify the authenticity of theses and dissertations, subjecting them to confidential external academic review before approving them for defense. Furthermore, they must maintain continuous oversight of students throughout the research process, rather than relying solely on text-similarity detection software. Legislative and regulatory bodies are also called upon to explicitly criminalise the trade in academic work and to prosecute entities that engage in or promote such activities via digital platforms.

The future of higher education is measured not by the number of universities or graduates, but by the integrity of the knowledge those universities produce. If the trade in theses and research papers continues to expand unchecked, the world will face a crisis of confidence regarding academic degrees and qualifications; obtaining an academic degree will become a matter of purchasing power rather than merit and competence. The resulting loss will not be confined to universities but will extend to society as a whole, for development cannot be built on counterfeit credentials, but rather on genuine scholarship and researchers who possess knowledge, competence, and academic integrity.

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

Circular economy key to strengthening Jordan's resource security, experts say

AMMAN (JT) — Experts and government officials on Sunday stressed that adopting circular economy principles is essential to strengthening Jordan's resource security, reducing dependence on imported raw materials and building a more resilient economy.

The remarks came during an "Energy Breakfast" organised by EDAMA Association for Energy, Water and Environment in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation. The event, titled "Securing Critical Raw Materials and Strengthening Supply Chain Resilience: Circular Economy as Part of Jordan's Resource Security Strategy", was attended by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Qudah, Minister of Environment Ayman Suleiman, policymakers, private-sector representatives, international organisations and experts in sustainability and the circular economy.

Participants discussed the role of the circular economy in improving resource security, mitigating risks associated with raw material supplies and global supply chains, and advancing policies and practical solutions to support a more sustainable and resilient economy, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Qudah said that the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply has integrated circular and green economy principles into its industrial policy strategy to support the transition towards more environmentally friendly and resource-efficient production.



EDAMA Association for Energy, Water and Environment organised on Sunday 'Energy Breakfast' in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation, under the patronage of Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Qudah

He added that the Economic Modernisation Vision, particularly its high-value and green growth pillars, includes pioneering projects designed to serve as models for other industrial enterprises.

Qudah also stressed that circular economy principles should extend beyond economic growth to strengthen national resilience through closer cooperation between the public and private sectors.

EDAMA Chairperson Dureid Mahasneh said that the circular economy should be viewed not only as an environmental approach but also as a strategic tool for enhancing resource security and economic resilience.

He called for stronger public-private partner-

ships to accelerate the adoption of circular economy practices across different sectors.

Sustain MENA Chief Executive Officer Shada Sharif, co-author of the policy paper "Closing the Loop through the Circular Economy: Key Recommendations for a More Resilient Economy", presented the paper's main recommendations, describing the circular economy as a strategic response to Jordan's vulnerability to disruptions in critical raw material supplies.

Sharif said adopting circular economy principles would diversify supply sources, create greater local value and enhance competitiveness by reducing reliance on imports.

Participants also em-

phasised the importance of strengthening institutional coordination, securing sustainable financing, implementing existing policies and shifting from donor-funded pilot initiatives to commercially viable business models.

They noted that the circular economy offers significant economic and development opportunities by creating jobs, improving competitiveness and increasing resource efficiency, rather than serving solely as a waste management approach.

Speakers added that circular economy practices can strengthen value chains, support local manufacturing and maximise the use of national resources, enhancing Jordan's competitiveness in regional and interna-

tional markets.

They also highlighted the government's role in supporting the energy and mining sectors, maximising the value of natural resources and addressing technical challenges associated with expanding renewable energy projects through infrastructure upgrades and electricity grid modernisation as part of Jordan's transition to a green economy.

The "Energy Breakfast" is part of a series of events organised by EDAMA to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors, bring together decision makers and stakeholders, and foster partnerships that support sustainable development and green growth in Jordan, according to Petra.

JCI welcomes government-ILO cooperation to promote decent work in garment, textile sector

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Chamber of Industry (JCI) has welcomed the signing of a letter of intent between the government, represented by the Ministry of Labour, and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to launch a technical cooperation programme that supports and promotes decent work in the garment and textile sector.

The JCI said the agreement reflects the commitment of all partners to improve working conditions while enhancing the sector's competitiveness and sustainability, according to a JCI statement.

The chamber described the leather and textile manufacturing industry as one of Jordan's strategic industrial sectors, noting that it has helped establish the Kingdom as a regional manufacturing and export hub.

It noted preserving such position requires continued cooperation between the government, the private sector and international partners to strengthen compliance with international labour standards, improve working conditions, protect workers' rights and support the stability and growth of industrial enterprises.

"The chamber appreciates the efforts of the Jordanian government and the ILO to launch this programme, which supports the sector and strengthens confidence in it at both the local and international levels," said Ihab Qadri, JCI representative for the leather and textile industries



The Jordan Chamber of Industry welcomes the signing of a letter of intent between Ministry of Labour and the International Labour Organisation to launch a technical cooperation programme for decent work in the textile sector

sector.

He said dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders remain essential to addressing challenges and ensuring the sector's long-term sustainability.

Qadri reaffirmed the chamber's support for initiatives that promote decent work across industrial facilities, stressing that a safe, healthy, motivating and fair working environment plays a key role in raising productivity, improving product quality and enhancing the competitiveness of Jordanian industry in global markets.

He urged industrial facilities to continue complying with national legislation and decent work standards while adopting best practices in occupational safety and health, fair employment and respect for workers' rights.

JCI representative added that fostering a workplace culture based on dialogue, co-operation and shared responsibility would support the sector's

sustainability and preserve its strong reputation among international partners and importers.

Qadri said the JCI would continue working with the Ministry of Labour, the ILO and other stakeholders to support programmes and initiatives that improve working conditions, build the capacity of industrial enterprises and raise awareness of best practices.

He said these efforts would strengthen sustainable compliance while balancing workers' rights with the competitiveness of Jordanian industry.

Qadri said promoting decent work is not only a legal obligation but also a strategic investment in human capital that boosts productivity, supports sustainable economic growth, and reinforces Jordan's position as a reliable and responsible industrial destination that upholds international labour standards and offers an attractive investment environment.

Japan eyes 'deeper' strategic economic partnership with Jordan — ambassador

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Economic Forum (JEF) hosted recently a dialogue under the title "Understanding Geo-economics Realities: What Lies Ahead for Jordanian-Japanese Relations?" attended by Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Hideki Asari.

The ambassador said that Japan sees Jordan as a strategic gateway for expanding its economic engagement in the Middle East and seeks to deepen bilateral cooperation beyond traditional development assistance towards investment, technology, logistics and regional connectivity.

Asari noted that the global economy is undergoing profound geopolitical and geo-economics shifts, prompting Japan to strengthen its role not only as one of the world's leading exporting nations, but also as a strategic partner in trade, technology and supply chain resilience.

"Although exports remain a cornerstone of Japan's economy, the country's global competitiveness increasingly relies on trusted supply chains, high-quality infrastructure, technological innovation and secure access to critical minerals," he added.

The ambassador warned that the international order that has supported global prosperity for decades faces unprecedented pressure from rising geopolitical tensions and growing economic fragmentation, according to a JEF statement.

Despite these challenges, greater cooperation,



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dialogue and inclusiveness among countries remain the most effective path to preserving stability and sustainable growth, he said, warning that further division and confrontation would ultimately weaken the global economy.

Asari commented that Jordan has emerged as one of Japan's key regional partners due to its political stability, strategic location and highly educated workforce.

He said the Kingdom is an "anchor of stability" in a region facing persistent challenges, such advantages provide a strong foundation for expanding bilateral economic and investment cooperation.

"Jordan's greatest asset remains its investment in human capital," Asari said, noting that the expansion of higher education over recent decades has created a skilled workforce capable of supporting economic development and attracting international investment.

He said future cooperation should focus increasingly on investment and private-sector partnerships (PPPs), with Jordan serving as a regional platform for manufacturing, logistics and services targeting neighbouring markets rather than the domestic market alone.

Asari also highlighted Japan's Free and Open Indo-Pacific initiative, describing it as a framework that strengthens a rules-based international order while promoting connectivity through quality infrastructure and closer economic integration.

"With the Middle East serving as a bridge between Asia and Europe, Jordan stands well placed to play a central role in emerging regional connectivity initiatives, particularly as interest grows in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor," he said.

He stated that Jordan should be viewed not only as a source of regional stability and hu-

manitarian support, but also as an economic and logistics platform capable of attracting investment and connecting regional and international markets.

Reviewing decades of Jordanian-Japanese cooperation, Asari highlighted projects implemented through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), including support for the Jordan Museum and Petra Museum, describing them as successful examples of preserving and showcasing Jordan's cultural heritage.

He also pointed to joint regional training programmes in electricity, infrastructure, community policing and water management, saying they reflect Jordan's growing role as a regional centre for knowledge transfer and technical capacity building.

Another example is the NINJA initiative, which provides Jordanian startups with seed funding and mentoring to help entrepreneurs attract investors expand their businesses and strengthen innovation-led economic cooperation.

Asari said future cooperation could expand across water, energy, food security, smart agriculture, high-quality infrastructure, cyber security, healthcare, pharmaceuticals and information and communication technology, creating opportunities for Japanese investment, technology transfer and long-term economic partnership.

For his part, Jordan Economic Forum President Khair Saalik said

Jordanian-Japanese relations represent a longstanding model of mutual respect and political understanding that should now translate into stronger economic and commercial ties.

"While Jordan highly values Japan's decades-long support for development projects across the Kingdom, the next stage of the relationship should place greater emphasis on investment, trade and private-sector cooperation," Saalik said.

He noted that bilateral trade, estimated at around \$400 million annually, does not reflect the strength of political relations between the two countries and called

for broader economic cooperation.

Saalik described Japan as a strategic partner with globally recognised expertise in manufacturing, technology, innovation and management, stressing the importance of drawing on Japanese experience to improve Jordan's business environment and competitiveness.

Moderator of the session, JEF board member Malak Akieli said geo-economics has become a defining force shaping trade routes, investment flows, technology partnerships, supply chain resilience, energy security, cyber security and food security.

She said Jordanian-

Japanese relations have entered a new phase that extends beyond traditional development cooperation towards a broader strategic partnership focused on investment diversification, energy transition, supply chain security and stronger private-sector engagement.

Akieli highlighted the momentum generated by His Majesty King Abdullah's visit to Tokyo in November 2025, which led to expanded cooperation in financial support and cyber security, as well as the establishment of a public-private joint committee to improve Jordan's investment climate.

She added that the

inaugural meeting of the Japan-Jordan Joint Committee in Amman in February 2026, attended by representatives from Japanese ministries, JETRO, JICA, JBIC and Japanese companies operating in Jordan, created a practical framework for implementing projects and strengthening business partnerships.

The session concluded with discussions on expanding economic cooperation through greater investment, trade, technology transfer and knowledge exchange, while reinforcing Jordan's role as a regional hub for business and investment, according to the statement.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Sunday amounted to JD8.1 million spread over 3.1 million shares that traded through 3,102 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 0.2 per cent, closing at 3891.61 points.

Out of 95 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 22 companies rose while the share price of another 34 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Amwaj Properties by 5.26 per cent, Jordan Poultry Processing and Marketing by 5.26 per cent, Philadelpha Pharmaceuticals by 4.79 per cent, Arab Phoenix Holdings by 3.95 per cent and Specialised Jordanian Investment by 3.92 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Al Shamekha for Real Estate and Financial Investments by 5 per cent, Jordan Insurance by 4.49 per cent, National Aluminium Industrial by 3.85 per cent, Jordanian Company for Developing and Financial Investment by 3.39 per cent, and Safwa Islamic Bank by 3.21 per cent.



CRICKET

McCullum stand downs as England Test cricket coach

LONDON (AFP) — Brendon McCullum has left his role as England's Test head coach but will remain in charge of the national white-ball set-up, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Sunday. England has lost seven of their last nine Tests under the former New Zealand captain. This includes a woeful 4-1 Ashes defeat in Australia in 2025/26 and last month's 2-1 loss at home to New Zealand, with both series overshadowed by allegations of a team drinking culture."I've absolutely loved coaching the Test side and I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together," said McCullum in an ECB statement, adding: "Of course I'm gutted not to be continuing, but I respect the decision." Former England captain Ben Stokes announced his international retirement midway through what turned out to a crushing defeat in the third and final Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge — the final match of McCullum's red-ball reign.

RUGBY

Rennie says All Blacks must improve with 'smart' Ireland awaiting

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Coach Dave Rennie gave New Zealand a "pass mark" after surging past Italy but says the All Blacks will need to be better to beat Ireland in the clash of two unbeaten Nations Championship teams next weekend. Trailing after half-an-hour in Wellington on Saturday, the hosts powered home 47-17 against the 10th-ranked Italians, boosted by a hat-trick by wing Will Jordan that took him to a record 50 tries for New Zealand. Much like the 32-30 win over France a week earlier, in Rennie's first match in charge since taking over from the sacked Scott Robertson, New Zealand mixed imperious attacking play with a high error count. Rennie said the period when his side scored four tries in 14 minutes just after half-time showcased what they can do when their execution is firing. New Zealand then became too loose over the closing stages, much of which was against 14 Italian players following the red card shown to lock Niccolo Cannone for a head-butt. "I thought we were pretty passive defensively in the first 10 or 15 minutes," Rennie said.

England, Argentina set up World Cup showdown after quarter-final wins

LOS ANGELES, United States (AFP) — England and Argentina set up a blockbuster World Cup semifinal showdown on Saturday after battling past Norway and Switzerland to book their passage to the last four.

In sweltering Miami, two goals from Jude Bellingham gave England a nervy 2-1 extra-time victory over Norway to send the Three Lions into the semifinals for only the fourth time in history.

Defending champions Argentina later sealed its place in the last four after a nail-biting 3-1 win over 10-man Switzerland at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium.

Julian Alvarez and Lautaro Martinez scored in extra time for Argentina, who had been on the ropes after a second-half equaliser from Switzerland's Dan Ndoye cancelled out Alexis Mac Allister's early opener for the holders.

The two results mean that England and Argentina will renew one of the World Cup's most iconic rivalries when they face each other in the semifinals in Atlanta on Wednesday.

The winner of that game will take on the victor of France's semifinal with Spain, which meet in Texas on Tuesday, in the final on July 19.

Angry Tuchel

Furious England manager Thomas Tuchel said his team would need to make a drastic improvement if they were to have any



England's midfielder #10 Jude Bellingham celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the 2026 World Cup football tournament quarter-final match between Norway and England at Miami Stadium in Miami on Sunday

chance of progressing beyond the semifinals.

In intense Florida heat and humidity, a shaky England fell behind on 36 minutes through Andreas Schjelderup's rasping shot from the left.

But England got a huge slice of luck in first-half stoppage time when Bellingham equalised after an attack that began when a goal kick from Norway goalkeeper Orjan Nyland appeared to hit an overhead camera cable.

Norway's players protested to no avail and the

goal stood. The Norwegians also had a goal controversially disallowed before Bellingham then bagged England's winner in extra-time.

"We made life very, very difficult for ourselves today," Tuchel said afterwards.

"The result is fantastic. The last four is amazing, but not happy with the performance... we were very lucky today."

While FIFA later issued a statement saying there was "no evidence" the ball had hit the cable before England's first goal,

Norway coach Stale Solbakken was adamant.

"That was unlucky for us," Solbakken said. "The ball fell straight down from the sky, so it changed its direction. But we can't do anything about that. I don't think we will play the game again. So, that's how it is."

Argentina dig deep

In Kansas City, Argentina were taken to extra time for the second time this tournament before battling to a 3-1 win over Switzerland.

The world champions took the lead after just 10 minutes, with Lionel Messi's out swinging corner finding the head of Mac Allister.

The Liverpool midfielder leapt up behind Switzerland defender Manuel Akanji and steered his header past Switzerland goalkeeper Gregor Kobel.

Yet, Switzerland rallied after that early setback, with their physicality and well-organised defence frustrating the Argentina attack.

As the match wore on, Switzerland grew in confidence and enjoyed their best period of pressure in the second half against increasingly weary-looking opponents.

On 67 minutes the Swiss breakthrough came.

Ndoye worked a deft one-two with Ricardo Rodriguez down the left and then shot past Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez to make it 1-1.

But with Argentina rocking the momentum swung back in the South Americans' favour when Swiss forward Breel Embolo was shown his second yellow card and sent off in tears after a VAR review.

Switzerland bravely held out to take the match to extra-time, and looked to be poised to take the game to penalty shoot-outs.

But Alvarez curled a magnificent screamer into the top corner in the 112th minute to break the deadlock, and then in the dying moments Martinez finished a counter-attack to complete the win.

"Obviously you have to suffer, you have to know how to suffer," said Alvarez after scoring his first goal of the tournament. "That's how the matches are playing out right now."

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni admitted his team had had "many many difficulties".

He added: "Sometimes we couldn't find the solutions, but today we had luck on our side because one of their players was sent off."

Breaking the cycle

By Rania Saadi
Rapid Transformational Therapist & Clinical Hypnotherapist
Expert Contributor/Family Flavours Magazine



Sometimes, the emotional burdens we carry are not entirely our own. Generational trauma, also known as intergenerational trauma, refers to the emotional wounds and unhealthy patterns that are quietly passed from one generation to the next.

They often begin with painful experiences such as abuse, neglect, addiction, violence, loss, poverty or war, and can continue to shape the way families think, feel and relate to one another long after the original events have passed.

When family members leave it unaddressed, trauma can continue to affect relationships, parenting styles, communication and emotional well-being across generations.

Breaking these cycles is not easy, but it is possible. It begins with awareness, healing and the decision to create healthier patterns for future generations.

Continuing Across Generations

Trauma does not affect only the person who experiences it directly. Its emotional impact can influence family relationships and behaviours for many years. Children often learn coping mechanisms, be-

liefs and emotional responses from the adults around them.

For example, a parent who grew up in a highly critical environment may unknowingly become overly critical of their own children. Likewise, unresolved anxiety, anger or emotional distance may continue across generations if left unaddressed.

These patterns are usually passed down unintentionally, not because families do not care, but because the behaviours become normal over time.

Recognising harmful cycles

The first step towards breaking generational trauma is recognising unhealthy cycles. Some common signs include:

- Difficulty expressing emotions
- Poor family communication
- Fear of closeness
- Constant criticism or conflict
- Emotional neglect
- Controlling or toxic

behaviours

Unhealthy coping behaviours or addictions

Awareness allows individuals to question patterns that may have existed in the family for many years.

Acknowledging painful experiences

Healing from generational trauma often begins by acknowledging painful experiences rather than ignoring them. Many people grow up believing they should simply "move on" without talking about emotional pain. However, unaddressed trauma can continue to affect mental and emotional health.

Healing may include:

- Therapy or counselling
- Open and honest conversations
- Learning emotional regulation skills
- Setting healthy boundaries
- Building supportive relationships
- Seeking help is not a

sign of weakness. It is a step towards growth and emotional freedom.

Parenting with awareness

One of the main principles of conscious parenting is looking inward and understanding ourselves rather than trying to fix our children. Parents and caregivers play an important role in preventing harmful cycles from continuing. Emotionally aware parenting helps children feel safe, valued and heard.

This involves:

- Listening without judgement
- Allowing children to express their emotions openly
- Avoiding harsh punishment or shaming
- Teaching healthy coping skills instead of reinforcing unhealthy behaviours
- Modelling respectful behaviour

No parent is perfect, but making a conscious effort to respond differently can have a lasting positive impact on children.

Breaking the silence

In many families, difficult topics such as trauma, mental health and emotional struggles are rarely discussed. Silence can prevent healing and reinforce shame.

Creating safe spaces for honest conversations

helps family members feel understood and supported. Talking openly about emotions and experiences reduces stigma and strengthens connection.

Creating a healthier future

Breaking generational trauma is a gradual process that requires patience, courage and self-reflection. It may involve making choices that differ from previous generations and learning healthier ways to communicate, cope and connect.

Although healing can be challenging, it also creates opportunities for stronger relationships, greater emotional resilience and healthier family environments.

Generational trauma can shape families for years, but cycles of pain do not have to continue. By developing awareness, seeking healing and choosing healthier patterns, individuals can create positive change for themselves and future generations.

Breaking generational trauma is ultimately an act of strength, compassion and hope that can transform families and build a healthier emotional legacy.

You can contact Rania Saadi at raniasaadi75@gmail.com

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Publisher and Managing Director of Family Flavours and Nakahat 'Ailiyeh magazines Hind-Lara Mango at the signing ceremony last week

Family Flavours & Nakahat 'Ailiyeh Join ISCAC to empower youth

AMMAN (JT) — Youth empowerment, training and community development are at the core of a cooperation agreement signed between the Islamic Scientific College Alumni Club (ISCAC) and Family Flavours and Nakahat 'Ailiyeh magazines.

The agreement focuses on creating opportunities to build life skills, encourage volunteerism and support young people in contributing to their communities in Jordan.

launched by ISCAC, which brings together institutions and individuals to contribute their time, expertise and resources towards projects that benefit society, the environment and sustainable development," says Nashwa Obeidat, ISCAC secretary general.

The cooperation agreement forms part of the Alumni Club's vision of expanding its national network of partners and strengthening its role as a platform that brings together institutions and individuals to implement sustainable community initiatives with

measurable impact.

"We are proud to join the One Hour Makes a Difference initiative, which provides an inspiring model for transforming time, knowledge and expertise into lasting impact," states Publisher and Managing Director of Family Flavours and Nakahat 'Ailiyeh magazines Hind-Lara Mango.

Through partnerships such as this, she adds, corporate social responsibility translates into meaningful action that supports young people and strengthens community engagement.

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