



File photo

Jordan condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned the Houthi attacks on the Saudi cities of Khamis Mushait, Abha, and Taif as a "blatant" violation of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, a threat to its security, stability and territorial integrity.

In a statement on Tuesday, the ministry Spokesperson Fouad Majali denounced the attacks by the Iran-backed Houthi insur-

gents as a flagrant breach of international law and the UN Charter. Majali reiterated Jordan's absolute solidarity with Saudi Arabia, emphasising full support for all measures it takes to safeguard its security, stability, assets, citizens and residents.

Saudi Arabia warned Tuesday it will react "firmly" to Yemen's Houthis, after a series

of attacks carried out by the pro-Iranian rebels using ballistic missiles and drones wounded 13 civilians in the country's south.

The Riyadh-led coalition confirmed on Tuesday there had been missile and drone attacks the previous day on Khamis Mushait, Abha and Taif, reporting 13 wounded.

Continued on page 5

King receives France Parliament delegation, highlights deep Amman-Paris relations

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Tuesday received a delegation from the French Parliament, including representatives of the French-Jordanian Friendship Committee.

During the meeting, held at Al Husseiniya Palace and attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, His Majesty highlighted the long-standing relations between Jordan and France, as well as the importance of enhancing cooperation across various sectors, particularly in the political and parliamentary spheres, according to a Royal Court statement.

The King commended France for hosting the latest round of the Aqaba Process meetings, being held later this week, which will explore ways to support the Lebanese armed forces. His Majesty also emphasised Jordan's commitment to maintaining political coordination and consultation with France.

The meeting also touched on recent regional developments



Photo courtesy of Royal Court

His Majesty King Abdullah, accompanied by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, receives a delegation from the French Parliament, including representatives of the French-Jordanian Friendship Committee, and affirms the long-standing relations between the two countries

and the need to step up international efforts to achieve comprehensive and sustainable de-escalation that advances security and stability in the region.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh, President of the French-Jordanian Friendship Association Ibrahim Tarawneh and France's Ambassador to Jordan Franck Gellet attended the meeting.

Jordan, Germany sign 96.5m euro financing agreements for education, water sectors

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation on Tuesday signed two financing agreements with the German Development Bank (KfW) amounting to a total of 96.5 million euros to support Jordan's priorities in the education and water sectors.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan and Jan Wiegmann, representing KfW on the German side, signed the agreements, according to a ministry statement.

The signing took place in the presence of Director of the KfW Office in Jordan Matthias Schmidt-Rosen and German Ambassador to Jordan Bertram von Moltke.

The first agreement



Planning Ministry photo

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation on Tuesday signs two financing agreements with the German Development Bank euros to support Jordan's priorities in the education and water sectors

provides a grant of 36.5 million euros to finance the third phase of the programme Accelerating Access of Syrian Refugee Children to Formal Education in Jordan.

The grant will ensure the continued provision

of formal education opportunities for Syrian refugee children and alleviate pressure on Jordan's education system, the statement said.

The second agreement, for 60 million euros, supports the project Adaptation and Protection Against Climate Change Impacts: Azraq Wellfield and Main Transmission Line.

The project aims to enhance the sustainability and security of drinking water supply through the rehabilitation of the main transmission line from Azraq to Khou and its associated pumping station, in addition to implementing measures to reduce salinity in groundwater extracted from the Azraq wellfield.

Continued on page 5



Petra photo

The initial planning conference for "Dareb Al Aman 7" opens on Tuesday in partnership between the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management and NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre

Jordan, NATO begin preparations for 2027 disaster response exercise

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan and NATO have begun preparations for a multinational disaster response exercise scheduled to take place in the Kingdom in October 2027, aimed at testing emergency preparedness, international

coordination and civil-military cooperation in simulated natural disaster scenarios.

The initial planning conference for "Dareb Al Aman 7" opened on Tuesday ahead of the exercise, scheduled for October 3-8, 2027, in

partnership between the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management (NCSCM) and NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre.

Continued on page 5

327 investment projects secure incentives worth JD711m in H1 2026 — ministry

Development zone investment rises 18.8% to nearly JD6.9b

AMMAN (JT) — A total of 327 investment projects benefitted from incentives and exemptions during the first half of 2026, representing expected investments of around JD711.2 million, according to the Ministry of Investment's performance report released on Tuesday.

The projects, including new ventures and expansions and developments of existing operations, compare with 308 projects during the same period last year.

Investment facilitation transactions, including new investment decisions, exemptions, follow-ups and post-investment services, also increased to 3,801 dur-

ing H1 2026 from 2,992 in the same period of 2025, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Minister of Investment Tariq Abu Ghazaleh said the report reflects an approach based on transparency, performance measurement and clearly presenting results.

The ministry said that the results reflected progress under the second phase of the Economic Modernisation Vision (2026-2029), which focuses on accelerating implementation and directing investment towards value-added sectors and governorates.

Development zones recorded notable growth, with total investment rising 18.79 per cent

from JD5.819 billion to nearly JD6.9 billion during the first half of the year.

Employment in the zones increased from around 117,000 to nearly 123,000 jobs, while 46 new investment projects were registered, compared with 27 in H1 2025.

Expected investment from the new projects rose sharply from JD60 million to JD402 million, with the projects projected to create 1,841 jobs once fully operational.

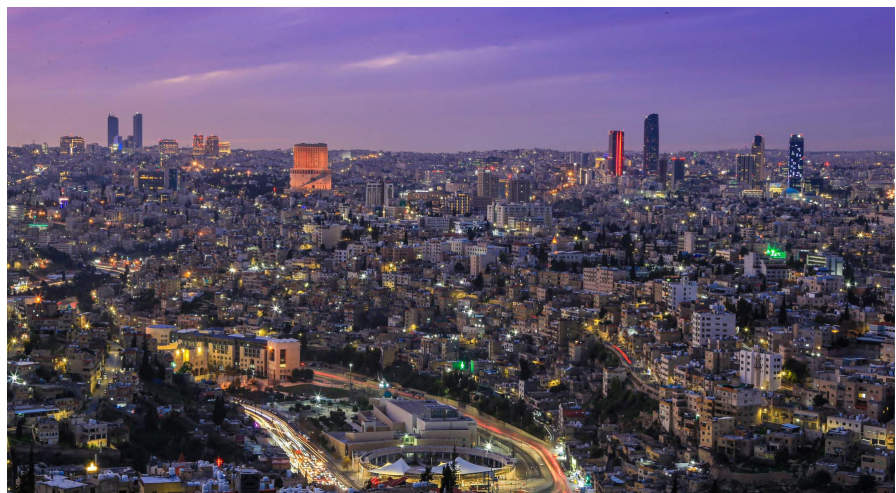
Jordan currently has 20 development zones hosting 1,676 active projects and companies, the ministry said.

The ministry said it introduced a fast-track

system for building permits and occupancy approvals, reducing building permit issuance times from 7-15 business days to around four days, while site plans can now be issued within one business day.

The measures contributed to an increase in licensed areas within development zones from around 85,300 square metres in H1 2025 to approximately 111,600 square metres in H1 2026.

On the legislative front, amended Investment Environment Regulation No. 30 of 2026 was issued to simplify procedures, reduce approval times and extend incentives to project



GAM photo

A general view of Amman

expansions, modernisation, technology integration and creative industries.

The ministry issued

or renewed 1,690 investor and family-member cards during the period and granted six five-year residencies through real

estate investments valued at JD1.38 million.

Jordanian citizenship was granted to 65 investors, compared with

29 in H1 2025, with approved applications representing around JD72.3 million in investments. Citizenship was also extended to 250 family members.

Government commissioners operating at the ministry processed more than 47,000 transactions covering residencies, visas, work permits, tax services, Civil Defence, health, food and drug regulation, and company registration.

The number of investment opportunities listed on the "Invest in Jordan" platform rose from 44 in H1 2025 to nearly 120 by the end of H1 2026.

Continued on page 5



Photo courtesy of unsplash.com

A recent World Bank report says that the number of newly registered women-owned or managed businesses reaches 2,026 by July 2026, more than double the final target of 1,000 scheduled for June 2028

Women-owned businesses in Jordan double project target — World Bank

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan has made significant progress in women's entrepreneurship, surpassing several key targets under the \$226 million Strengthening Economic Opportunities for Women Project, according to a recent World Bank report.

The report showed that the Kingdom continues to advance towards its development goals of expanding economic opportunities for women across employment, financial inclusion, transport and childcare, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Women's entrepreneurship achieved early targets, with the number of newly registered women-owned or managed businesses reaching 2,026 by July 2026, more than double the final target of 1,000 scheduled for June 2028.

In financial inclusion, basic bank accounts and e-wallets held by women reached 3,338,807, surpassing the target level of 3,197,375 set for December 2027.

The report noted that 122 companies implemented flexible working arrangements, exceeding the target of

100 firms, while the number of female beneficiaries reached 241 by July 2026 towards a final target of 300 by June 2028.

The report highlighted that over 256 Jordan-based companies adopted women's empowerment principles...

These results were driven by enhanced access to financial services, increased e-wallet ownership, easier financing access for women-led micro and small enterprises, and regulatory frameworks for remote and flexible work.

The enrolment rate of children in nurseries rose to 3.9 per cent by July 2026, nearing the 4 per cent target set for June 2028 following the enactment of updated nursery licensing regulations and the National Childcare Policy.

The report highlighted that over 256 Jordan-based companies adopted women's empowerment principles, while disbursements under the project reached 37.8 per cent of its total \$226 million funding.

The report also pointed to the adoption of the national code for safety standards at bus stops to ensure secure transport for women entering the labour market.

The project supports the Economic Modernisation Vision's target to raise female economic participation to 28 per cent by 2033.

The project is managed by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in cooperation with the ministries of labour, social development, and transport, alongside the Central Bank of Jordan and the Jordanian National Commission for Women.

Princess Muna attends panel on early diagnosis, support for Alzheimer's patients

AMMAN (JT) — In the presence of HRH Princess Muna, Global Ambassador for Alzheimer's Disease International, Al Oun for Alzheimer's Patient Care Association on Tuesday hosted a panel discussion on early diagnosis and ways to support dementia patients, their families, and caregivers, marking World Alzheimer's Month and World Alzheimer's Day.

HRH Princess Zein also attended the panel discussion, held under the theme "The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do – Early Diagnosis Makes a Difference," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Opening the session via a televised address, Princess Muna, honorary president of the association, highlighted the critical role of early diagnosis and intervention in improving the quality of life for dementia patients and their families, especially in light of various risk factors.

Leen Madanat, secretary of the association, said that raising awareness of dementia and supporting patients, their families, and caregivers is a collective responsibility.

She highlighted the



Petra photo

In the presence of HRH Princess Muna, Al Oun for Alzheimer's Patient Care Association on Tuesday hosts a panel discussion on early diagnosis and ways to support dementia patients

need for joint action involving the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, the healthcare and social sectors, academic institutions, the media, the Public Security Directorate, municipalities, the private sector, civil society and the public to combat stigma and foster an inclusive community.

Sawsan Majali, vice president of the association, presented an

overview of the organization's achievements, educational campaigns, caregiver support initiatives, and partnerships with public and private entities.

The event also featured personal testimonies from caregivers, who shared the challenges of supporting loved ones with dementia while underscoring the pressing need for family support.

Minister of Health Ibrahim Badoor outlined the ministry's role in caring for Alzheimer's patients and their support networks, while Minister of Social Development Wafaa Bani Mustafa detailed the social security system catering to the elderly.

On the sidelines of the event, a cooperation agreement was signed between the association and the Parkinson's Care Association – Jordan to unify efforts and

elevate services for individuals living with neurological conditions, particularly dementia and Parkinson's disease, alongside their families and caregivers.

Observed every September, World Alzheimer's Month serves as a global occasion to highlight the challenges faced by individuals living with dementia, promote public understanding and reduce associated stigma.

Suicide cases in Jordan fall by 6 per cent in 2025 to 156 — report

AMMAN (JT) — Suicides recorded in Jordan dropped to 156 cases in 2025 compared with 166 cases in 2024, reflecting a decrease of nearly 6 per cent, according to the annual report of the National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR).

The report, based on data from the Ministry of Health's National Centre for Forensic Medicine, revealed that

cases in 2025 involved 112 males and 44 females, compared with 136 males and 30 females in 2024, Al Mamlaka TV reported.

According to the data, the 19–24 and 25–34 age groups recorded the highest number of incidents during 2025, with 41 cases each, totalling 82 cases and representing more than half of all recorded suicides in 2025.

The 35–44 age group recorded 24 cases, the 15–18 group recorded 18 cases, while 11 cases were registered among individuals under 15 years old.

The 45–54 age bracket recorded 12 cases, the 55–64 group registered six cases, and three cases were recorded among individuals over 65 years old.

NCHR noted that the 18 suicide cases among

the 15–18 age group highlight the need to focus on youth through intensified mental health, preventive, psychological support, and behaviour modification programmes.

Regarding the methods used, data showed hanging as the most frequent at 84 cases, followed by falling from heights at 29, gunshot wounds at 25, burns at nine, and other methods at nine cases.

The centre reiterated its previous recommendations against criminalising suicide attempts, stressing the necessity of providing social, psychological, medical and economic support for individuals attempting suicide, while studying underlying causes including economic conditions, poverty and unemployment.



THE AFRICAN DAY

The African Group of Ambassadors in Amman holds a reception on Tuesday to celebrate the African Day



Photos courtesy of the Embassy of South Africa

Aqaba Digital Hub launches Jordan’s first AI computing platform

AMMAN (JT) — The Aqaba Digital Hub on Tuesday launched “Klstrai”, Jordan’s first AI computing platform, enabling government entities, private sector companies, startups and developers to access localised AI services from within the Kingdom.

Aqaba Digital Hub CEO Eyad Abu Khorma said that the platform will support the development of Jordan’s AI sector by providing organisations with domestic infrastructure to build and operate AI solutions while maintaining greater control over their data, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

“Through this platform, we look forward to supporting local innovation, and reinforcing Jordan’s status as a regional hub for artificial intelligence services and advanced computing,” Abu Khorma said.

He added that the platform enables institutions to use local processing facilities tailored to their opera-



The Aqaba Digital Hub on Tuesday launches ‘Klstrai’, Jordan’s first AI computing platform

tional needs without the capital costs associated with purchasing equipment or building and operating dedicated infrastructure.

The platform offers options for organisations at different stages of AI adoption, ranging from on-demand processing to full-scale development and integration.

Its applications include data analytics, document processing, process automation, digital assistants and customer support tools, he said.

The hub said the platform will also support digital and data sovereignty by enabling institutions to store and process data domestically.

The launch comes amid growing demand for high-performance computing driven by the

expanding use of AI applications, with the hub saying local capabilities can help Jordan deploy AI solutions domestically, support government and economic sectors, and reduce reliance on foreign infrastructure.

The initiative is part

of the hub’s efforts to expand Jordan’s digital infrastructure and connectivity to global telecommunications networks, while supporting the Kingdom’s capacity to host advanced applications and meet growing regional demand.

CRIME

Juvenile Court prosecutor questions two minors over stabbing brothers in Irbid

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Juvenile Court prosecutor on Tuesday began questioning two minors in connection with the alleged stabbing of two young brothers, including a soccer player, in Irbid Governorate last week, official sources said.

The two victims were allegedly stabbed by the two minors on September 8 following a brawl related to the two parties being neighbours, Police Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Amer Sartawi said.

The police official added that the stabbing incident in Irbid went viral.

The official was referring to reports that circulated on social media alleging that a Hussein Irbid Football Club player, who is under 18, and his brother were stabbed during a brawl in Irbid.

“Police officers were dispatched to the area where the brawl was

reported and controlled the situation,” Sartawi said.

Meanwhile, the two injured minors were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment, according to the police official.

Police opened a probe into the incident and concluded that two minors, including one who is an Arab national, “were the prime suspects in the stabbing incident”, Sartawi maintained.

The Juvenile Court prosecutor will summon the victims’ family members and individuals who were present during the brawl for further questioning, a senior judicial source said.

Meanwhile, the two suspects were ordered detained by the Juvenile Court prosecutor for 15 days pending further investigation.

Investigations are ongoing into the incident, according to a statement by the Public Security Directorate.

Malaysia allocates \$400,000 in aid for Palestinians refugees in Gaza, Jordan

AMMAN (JT) — Malaysia has announced \$400,000 in humanitarian aid for Palestinians through the Humanitarian Trust Fund for the People of Palestine (AAKRP), with the funding supporting healthcare services and food assistance for vulnerable and displaced Palestinians.

At a ceremony at the Malaysian embassy in Amman on Tuesday, Ambassador Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman handed over two \$200,000 cheques to aid organisations, according to a provided statement.

“Through the AAKRP, Malaysia continues to extend meaningful humanitarian assistance to Palestinian communities,” Nasri said, adding that the assistance



Malaysian Ambassador to Jordan Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman hands over two \$200,000 cheques to aid organisations

would support healthcare services for refugees in Jerash Camp and emergency food aid for vulnerable communities in Gaza.

The American Near

East Refugee Aid (AN-ERA) received \$200,000 to support its SHIFAA programme, which provides medical and social services to residents of Gaza (Jerash) Refugee

Camp in Jordan.

ANERA Deputy Country Director Nourhan Shuqman commended Malaysia for the contribution, saying the funding would strengthen

healthcare services and provide medical assistance to families in the camp.

A second \$200,000 grant was presented to World Central Kitchen (WCK) to support the preparation and distribution of hot meals to displaced people across the Gaza Strip.

WCK Financial Department Head Noor Deen Ramadan said the contribution would help expand daily hot meal operations for displaced families facing severe food shortages in Gaza.

Nasri reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts aimed at addressing urgent needs among Palestinians through cooperation with humanitarian organisations.

REPORT

Drug-related offences decline 34% to 25,776 in 2025 — NCHR

AMMAN (JT) — Drug-related offences in the Kingdom fell by around 34 per cent in 2025, with 25,776 cases recorded compared with 38,782 in 2024, according to the annual report of the National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR).

The report showed that offences involving drug possession and consumption fell by nearly 39 per cent to 15,720 in 2025 from 25,919 in 2024, according to Al Mamlaka TV.

Drug trafficking offences also declined by around 22 per cent, from 12,863 cases in 2024 to 10,056 last year.

The NCHR highlighted the continued implementation of the Na-

tional Strategic Plan for Drug Prevention and the Anti-Narcotics Department’s efforts in awareness, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in cooperation with civil society organisations.

The report noted the launch of the ‘Yes to Life... No to Drugs’ awareness campaign...

The report noted the launch of the “Yes to Life... No to Drugs” awareness campaign,

targeting young people and students at Yarmouk University to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs and ways to prevent their use.

It also monitored the opening of an expansion to the addiction treatment centre at the Berain Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre.

The expansion provides free intensive recovery programmes for inmates and aims to improve the centre’s capacity to treat addiction, with the NCHR describing it as a model in drug prevention and addiction treatment, according to NCHR.

REPORT

9,586 dog bite cases recorded nationwide in 2025 — NCHR

AMMAN (JT) — Dog bite cases in Jordan increased to 9,586 in 2025, compared with 9,345 cases recorded in 2024, marking a rise of 241 cases, or 2.6 per cent, according to the National Centre for Human Rights (NCHR).

The annual report issued by the centre, a copy of which was seen by Al Mamlaka TV, showed that dog bite incidents in 2025 were distributed between 6,917 males and 2,669 females, compared with 6,780 males and 2,565 females in 2024.

NCHR highlighted the continued presence of stray dogs in residential neighbourhoods across all governorates of the Kingdom, which it noted poses an ongoing danger to the safety and health of citizens, particularly children.

Following up on a complaint submitted by a resident of Karak regarding stray dogs in residential areas and public facilities, the centre contacted the Royal Marine Conservation Society and Environmental Protection Department.

The department reported that several tenders have been floated to construct animal shelter centres across vari-

ous governorates in the Kingdom.

According to the report, these tenders included one specifically awarded for Karak, which is currently under implementation.

To reduce dog bite incidents, NCHR stressed the need to accelerate the operation of shelters...

The shelter is scheduled to be completed and equipped within a maximum of two months to begin operations, in accordance with the national plan aimed at mitigating the risks of stray dogs while adhering to established international standards.

The report noted that NCHR held a national dialogue session on October 22, 2025, titled “The

Spread of Stray Dogs and its Impact on Human Rights”, which concluded with a set of recommendations and measures.

It added that the Prime Ministry shared details from a letter issued by the Ministry of Local Administration regarding steps taken to address the issue.

These included preparing a national plan in coordination with relevant entities, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), as well as implementing a programme to control the stray dog population and establishing a centralised database.

The measures also encompassed establishing 19 shelters, as well as training personnel on dog capture and care techniques in collaboration with municipalities and concerned authorities to ensure a sustainable resolution and reduce health risks.

HISTORY

Jerash pottery offers insights into pre-Islamic trade, culture — scholar

By Saeb Rawashdeh

AMMAN — Pottery and soft-stone vessels are commonly encountered at the site of Jerash while some of the forms and decorations exhibited by the pottery enable immediate time period assignment, while others are more difficult to assess.

Some Islamic soft-stone vessels were also recovered, said Professor Emeritus William Glanzman.

“The pre-Islamic exemplars are mostly of South Arabian types. The only certain import from the north is one sherd of Nabataean painted ware collected on the first day of fieldwork by Professor David Graf. A few examples of probable pre-Islamic cooking wares have also been recovered,” Glanzman said.

In general, many of the potsherds and fired brick recovered from both the surface survey and the excavations at Jerash are worn, especially the organic-tempered wares; fewer sherds have some kind of material adhering to them.

A few have been altered in an attempt to repair them, or in the case of potsherds, recycle them into another functional object once they



The Macellum of Gerasa

have broken.

A number of potsherds in specific archaeological contexts have also been subjected to burning, or contact with an ashy soil, staining the piece, the scholar said.

He added that some of the fired brick, in particular, is very crumbly and this seems to be due to

two factors: Composition of the clay body used to make the brick and possibly post-depositional alteration.

Archaeologists anticipated the presence of major concentrations of soluble salt accumulation in the porous fabric of the potsherds from the excavations at Jerash.

“An initial soak and test were conducted on the potsherds, and the results demonstrate that the potsherds are in danger of considerable soluble salt damage,” Glanzman said.

In conservation, the most efficient way to achieve this removal is through soaking the pot-

sherds in a liquid that does not contain ions of soluble salts.

This is easily achieved by repeatedly soaking in a bath solution of de-ionised water.

A change of the water bath solution should occur at least once to three times per week, if possible. Over time, the bulk of concentrated soluble salts will be removed by dissolving the crystals that have accumulated within the pore structure of the potsherds, Glanzman elaborated.

“There are two basic forms encountered among the pre-Islamic pottery corpus in Area B at Jerash.”

“One of the easiest to recognise is the ‘Wavy Rim Bowl’.

The second category of pre-Islamic pottery encountered in Area B in some quantity is also represented by several body sherds: A large store-jar, often in a yellowed fabric, with thick rim modelled to emphasise an internal trough,” said the professor.

“A third form also occurs, the distinctive South Arabian cooking vessel known formally as the ‘Hemispherical Cooking Bowl’, but only several examples were recovered at Jerash in 2008,” Glanzman noted.



AFP photo
A boy walks with crutches at a temporary shelter for internally displaced people (IDPs) at the Shawkani school, north of Aden in southern Yemen, on Tuesday

More than 100,000 flee fighting in Yemen — UN

GENEVA (AFP) — Flaring fighting between government forces and Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen has displaced more than 100,000 people inside the country, while thousands more have fled abroad, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Tens of thousands have taken flight in the wake of a week-long Houthi offensive that culminated in the group capturing the remainder of Yemen's Red Sea coast and cementing their hold on the strategic Bab Al Mandab Strait, which has become vital as the wider US-Iran war chokes the Strait of Hormuz.

The UN refugee agency warned in a statement that "rapidly escalating hostilities along Yemen's western coast have displaced more than 100,000 people inside the country and forced thousands more to seek safety" in Djibouti.

The fighting had uprooted families across a wide area, "raising concerns about further displacement inside Yemen and additional refugee movements if hostilities intensify", it said.

Already, the UNHCR said that more than 2,400 people had made the sea crossing from Yemen to Djibouti in the past four days alone, with women, children and the elderly making up more than 60 per cent of those arriving.

"People are arriving after a difficult sea journey, many exhausted, distressed and carrying what little they could take with them," Sandrine Desamours, UNHCR's representative in Djibouti, said in the statement.

"The response is already under pressure. We urgently need more support before more families arrive."

Displaced families inside Yemen "fled at short notice with few belongings", UNHCR said, pointing to the urgent need for shelter, food, clean water, healthcare and protection services.

The agency also voiced concern over increased risks faced by more than 65,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers inside Yemen, mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

Humanitarian access remains a major challenge, it said.

"Insecurity, damaged roads, telecommunications disruptions and movement restrictions are affecting operations," it said.

The escalation had raised broader concerns over the impact on global humanitarian logistics, which have already been strained by the ongoing disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran war has cost US military \$38 b — Congressional Budget Office

WASHINGTON, United States (AFP) — The war with Iran cost the US military around \$38 billion as of August 1, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said on Tuesday, with billions more potentially added to the price tag each month the conflict wears on.

"As of August 1, 2026, the armed conflict with Iran has cost [the Department of Defence] approximately \$38 billion," said the CBO in a report, referring to the war that started after US-Israeli strikes targeting Iran from late February.

It added that depending on the intensity of violence, costs per month could range between \$2-\$3 billion or more if the conflict continued.

The overall figures reflect the cost of replacing expended munitions and equipment lost in battle and increased fuel costs for the military, among other factors, the report said.

The price of replacing munitions used through August 1 was estimated at \$21.7 billion, with CBO noting that such replacements have been the largest single component of costs incurred by the Defense Department in the conflict.

The "main opportunity cost" for the department meanwhile has been the depletion of missile defense interceptors, leaving the United States with reduced inventory for several years.

Comparing the reported expenditures of missile defense interceptors with total numbers the department has bought suggests the United States "has probably used between one-half and two-thirds of its inventory of those munitions since June 2025," the CBO warned.

The analysis was prepared following a request by Brendan Boyle, the top Democrat on the House Budget Committee, along with other Democratic lawmakers.

In July, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth estimated the Iran war had cost \$37.5 billion.

The CBO estimated that the main impact on the US economy from the Iran conflict has been inflationary pressure due to oil and natural gas disruptions.

Iran had retaliated in the war by blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for oil shipments, sending costs soaring.

The CBO now estimates that inflation in the first quarter next year would be 0.5 percentage points higher than earlier predicted.

The higher inflation will also boost interest rates on Treasury securities, the report said.



AFP photo
F-15 Eagle fighter jets fly over the race course during the 129th Boston Marathon on April 21, 2025, in Boston, Massachusetts

OCCUPATION

Palestinians say Israeli army killed man in West Bank raid

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories (AFP) — Israel's military shot and killed a Palestinian man during a raid in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, Palestinian health officials said.

The health ministry announced the death of 54-year-old Ziad Mohammad Jaber by "Israeli army gunfire in Umm Al Sharayet, in the city of Al Bireh", near Ramallah in the central West Bank.

In the early hours of Tuesday, the Palestine Red Crescent Society said its crews were treating someone who sustained "a critical live-fire gunshot wound to the abdomen and thigh" during a military raid in Umm Al Sharayet.

It said the casualty was being transferred to hospital.

When contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said it was checking the reports.



AFP photo
Israeli military vehicles roll during a raid in Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank on December 1, 2025

Jaber's brother, Ramadan Mohammad Jaber, told AFP that the military raided his home at around 4 am after blowing up the front door.

He said soldiers handcuffed him and held him with his daughter in a room before arresting his son.

He added that soldiers had also blown up the door of the adjacent apartment where his brother lived.

"I heard him screaming but I did not hear the sound of gunfire," he said, adding that his brother "was left bleeding in the apartment for about an hour and a half before the army allowed ambulance crews to take him to the hospital".

A spokesperson for the Palestinian health ministry confirmed that Jaber was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

The West Bank, occupied by Israel since 1967, has seen a surge in violence since the outbreak of war in the Gaza Strip following Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

At least 1,109 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers, according to an AFP tally based on Palestinian official figures.

Settler attacks against Palestinians have soared, often with little or no legal consequence.



AFP photo
A general view shows a tugboat and vessels at the port of Salalah in southern Oman on Monday

Oman says searching for two crew members after tanker hit

MUSCAT, Oman (AFP) — Oman on Tuesday said it was searching for two missing crew members who were aboard a tanker targeted in the Strait of Hormuz that was now being towed.

Vessels in the vital strait have come under repeated attack as Tehran seeks to maintain a stranglehold on the waterway in its war with the United States. Washington has also kept up a counterblockade of Iranian ports.

The Omani Maritime Security Centre said it was overseeing a towing operation for the Panama-flagged oil tanker ELGAIA to a port in Oman after a fire was extinguished in its engine room following an attack northeast of Musandam.

The centre, which is affiliated with Oman's ministry of defence, added in a statement on X that "a Royal Navy of Oman vessel evacuated 23 crew members from the tanker and provided them with the necessary medical care".

A search continues for two crew members who remain missing, it added.

Oman did not say when the ship was attacked.

However, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, a marine monitor, said a vessel had been on fire on Saturday after it was struck by an "unknown projectile" in the Strait of Hormuz.

British maritime security firm Vanguard Tech also reported that a Panama-flagged tanker had been struck that day and that the Omani navy was evacuating the crew.

DR Congo Ebola outbreak still spreading fast in key province — WHO



AFP photo
Health workers stand in a new Ebola treatment centre in Bunia, DR Congo

GENEVA (AFP) — The worst Ebola outbreak to hit the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has killed more than 3,400 people, is still spreading in a key province despite an improvement in other regions, the World Health Organisation said on Tuesday (WHO).

The huge African nation's government indicated at the weekend that the outbreak may have peaked in August, but the WHO said that while the national figures were better, there were still Ebola hotspots to battle.

The WHO expert said it remained a 'vast' outbreak

Olivier le Polain, head of the WHO's epidemiology and analytics response unit, said

that as of September 12, authorities had recorded 7,200 cases in seven provinces with 3,475 deaths.

"We are seeing some progress, particularly in Ituri province and its capital Bunia, some areas are under control," le Polain told a Geneva press conference.

"However, there are other areas like Butembo in North Kivu where we're seeing the numbers come up."

Le Polain said the number of new cases

and deaths per week had doubled in the past two weeks in North Kivu.

The province accounts for about 45 per cent of the new cases recorded last week.

The WHO expert said it remained a "vast" outbreak.

He said there were signs of a slower transmission in some parts of Ituri province, where the DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak was first recorded in May.

Le Polain added that

no new case had been registered in South Kivu province since the end of May.

But a case in South Ubangi province meant Ebola was now in seven provinces.

He also said that 30-40 new cases were being reported each week in Upper Uele province.

The expert said that the indicators were not yet showing the improvement that the WHO and other agencies fighting the outbreak wanted to see.

US ambassador visits Lebanon army-held ‘pilot zone’ near Israel

ZAWTAR AL GHARBIYAH, Lebanon, (AFP) — The US ambassador to Lebanon, visited the country’s south on Tuesday, his embassy said, where he went to a village that recently came under the control of the Lebanese army following a deal with Israel.

The US-backed June agreement states that the Israeli military will withdraw from areas of south Lebanon it occupied in parallel with the deployment of the Lebanese army, starting with so-called pilot zones, under the condition that militant group Hizbollah disarms.

An AFP correspondent saw a convoy carrying the US envoy, Michel Issa, entering the village of Zawtar Al Gharbiya, where he visited a church, according to Lebanon’s official National News Agency (NNA).

The US embassy said that Issa “visited southern Lebanon today to assess conditions on the ground, and see firsthand the progress and challenges in the pilot zones”.

It quoted him saying that his visit to the south allowed him “to witness firsthand the challenges facing its communities”.

“I deeply sympathise with residents who have endured displacement and uncertainty, and I understand their urgent desire to return home and rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.”

The NNA said an Is-



People attend a demonstration organised by the Committee of Residents of Occupied and Affected Villages in southern Lebanon protesting the destruction of the villages and heritage sites by Israeli forces, outside the Supreme Islamic Shiite Council in Haret Hreik, in Beirut’s southern suburbs, on Tuesday

raeli drone surveyed the area during the visit and reported Israeli military vehicle movements in the neighbouring town.

Israeli troops remain deployed in what it calls a “security zone”, a stretch of Lebanese territory about 10 kilometres deep along the border.

It recently blew up a strategic Hizbollah

location in the Ali Al Taher ridge in the Nabatieh region, creating a blast so powerful that a 4.1 tremor was registered.

Fresh talks between Israel and Lebanon over the implementation of the framework agreement were due to be held this month, but were postponed to October.

A source from the

Lebanese presidency told AFP that during the last round of talks in August, Israel refused to discuss new “pilot zones” without ensuring that the Lebanese army had full control of the first ones.

The Israeli and Lebanese ambassadors to Washington are due to meet this week to discuss the implementation of the agreement.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun also visited Zawtar Al Gharbiya on Saturday, where his office said he inspected army units and observed nearby Israeli military positions.

Violence declined following the June framework agreement and a wider US-Iran deal, but Israel has pressed its attacks on Lebanon.

Hizbollah, which pulled Lebanon into the war in March with strikes on Israel, rejects the negotiations with Israel and refuses to disarm, but has not claimed any recent attacks.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 4,300 people since the hostilities began in March, according to Lebanese authorities.

Macron hails ‘collective endeavour’ at meeting with military volunteers

ORANGE, France (AFP) — President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday met with young military volunteers, praising the “spirit of collective endeavour” as European countries struggle to recruit troops in the face of Russia’s aggression.

Frightened by US security disengagement and Moscow’s war against Ukraine, European countries have debated reinstating some form of national service — compulsory or voluntary — to boost their defences.

Studies show that many Europeans are not prepared to defend their countries on the battlefield.

Macron has been looking for ways to encourage young people to serve, and in November last year announced the introduction of a voluntary military service.

Meeting with the first intake of volunteers at an airbase in the south-eastern town of Orange, Macron on Tuesday said freedom should not be taken for granted and invoked the Charles de Gaulle-led fight against Nazi troops during World War II.

“What brings you together today is the desire to serve something greater than yourselves and to make yourselves useful to France,” Macron said.

“You will train for a profession, acquire skills, discover life within a military unit and contribute to its missions,” he added.

“But you will also learn something even more valuable: The sense of collective endeavour, meaning being able to rely on others,

lean on them for support and be worthy of their trust.”

Volunteers, mostly aged 18 to 19, are to be deployed only on national soil, Macron has said.

Compulsory military service ended in 2001, and France does not intend to reestablish it.

Germany is struggling to recruit soldiers and will have to decide by July 2027 at the latest whether to reintroduce compulsory service, a senior parliamentarian has said.

‘What brings you together today is the desire to serve something greater than yourselves...’

The voluntary military service programme is seen as a way of bolstering the army with recruits, but also of providing a large pool of potential reservists, who could be called up in the case of a war.

Macron said the first intake of the recruits would be named after Henri Fertet, a member of the French Resistance who was executed by the Nazis in 1943 at the age of 16.

“The choice he made, to serve France and defend its freedom, resonates with your own commitment, the choice to serve rather than submit,” Macron added.

Jordan condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

Continued from page 1

The coalition said it would deal with the attacks “firmly to protect the sovereignty of the

Kingdom” and would take “all necessary operational measures to deter this... hostile and extremist approach”, according to AFP.

In the early hours of Tuesday, Saudi civil defence issued air-raid alerts in six regions, before lifting them.

Jordan, NATO begin preparations for 2027 disaster response exercise

Continued from page 1

NATO member states and partner countries are expected to participate in the exercise alongside Jordanian institutions involved in crisis and disaster response, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

NCSCM Deputy Chairman Brig. Hatem Zoubi said that the exercise would test the ability of participating agencies to coordinate responses to large-scale emergencies, while providing an opportunity to exchange expertise and apply international best practices in disaster management.

He said that disasters can transcend na-

tional borders, making cooperation between countries and response agencies essential to strengthening preparedness and the ability to manage different types of emergencies.

Zoubi stressed that cooperation between the NCSCM and NATO has contributed to strengthening response capabilities and exchanging expertise in crisis and disaster management at the regional and international levels.

Director of the Operations Division at NATO’s Directorate for Defence and Security Cooperation Piers Cazalet highlighted the importance of cooperation with the NCSCM, the Jordan Armed

Forces-Arab Army and security agencies, particularly in civil-military coordination during disasters.

He said “Dareb Al Aman 7” would allow participating countries to test response mechanisms, refine crisis management concepts and strengthen international coordination.

Cazalet also praised the capabilities of Jordan’s search and rescue team.

Jordanian specialists and representatives of national institutions are participating in the planning conference to develop exercise scenarios and coordinate the roles of agencies taking part in the 2027 drill.

Germany’s Merz plans high-stakes party meet after Sunday’s state polls

BERLIN (AFP) — German Chancellor Friedrich Merz plans an executive committee meeting of his centre-right CDU on Sunday, straight after two state elections are held, to seek assurances he has his party’s continued support.

The high-stakes meeting will come amid growing speculation Merz, 70, could face a challenge from within his CDU/CSU camp after the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) defeated his party in a recent state poll.

Merz on Tuesday scrapped a planned trip to New York, where he was due to take part in the UN general debate, so he could attend the party meeting.

The Christian Democratic Union’s (CDU) executive committee will get together after Sunday’s votes in the city-state of Berlin and the northeastern state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a party spokeswoman said.

Polling suggests the CDU is tightly matched with the far-left Die Linke in Berlin, and could score as little as



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz (right) welcomes Iraq’s Prime Minister Ali Falih Kadhim Al Zaidi on Tuesday at the Chancellery in Berlin

7 per cent in the other vote, while the AfD is expected to surge again in both elections.

According to a Forsa institute poll this week, only 10 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the chancellor’s performance.

Merz, who is also CDU chairman, took power in May last year, vowing to reboot the stagnant

economy, rearm Germany against a hostile Russia, limit irregular immigration and push other reforms to halt the rise of the AfD.

But the far-right party now outpolls his CDU at the national level and demolished it by a margin of almost 44-17 per cent in September 6 elections in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

‘Difficult’ position

Merz has long faced poor personal approval ratings and, more recently, growing internal party criticism, fuelling speculation that influential CDU state-level politicians might be plotting to oust him.

Names of hopefuls for the top job that have been floated include Hendrik

Wuest, state premier of populous North Rhine-Westphalia and Markus Soeder, the Bavarian state premier and head of the CSU, the regional sister party of the CDU.

In a speech on Tuesday, Merz reiterated that — despite the strong headwinds — he is determined to push on with sweeping economic and social welfare reforms agreed with junior coalition partners the Social Democrats.

“The bitter election result of September 6 in Saxony-Anhalt changes nothing in this regard,” Merz said.

Political scientist Oliver Lembcke of Ruhr University Bochum told AFP that the recent developments inside the CDU show that even Merz himself “apparently regards an early end to his chancellorship as a real possibility”.

“That is why Merz is trying to rally support, particularly from influential state premiers,” Lembcke said.

“If they do not demonstratively express their confidence in him after the elections, his position will become very difficult.”

Jordan, Germany sign 96.5m euro financing agreements for education, water sectors

Continued from page 1

Toukan commended the strategic partnership between Jordan and Germany, noting that the cooperation reflects Germany’s continued support for Jordan’s

development priorities. The minister stressed that these agreements embody Jordan’s commitment to implementing the Economic Modernisation Vision, which places water security and quality education at

the core of national priorities, reinforcing the comprehensive modernisation pathways pursued by the Government.

Moltke said, “With the two agreements signed today, we are proud to support Jordan

in two of its main challenges: To provide quality education for all children and to sustain the drinking water supply for the country. Germany continues to be a strong and reliable partner to Jordan.”

“In July 2026, we underscored the importance of our partnership, consolidating our development cooperation with a total commitment of up to 684 million euros over the next two years,” he added.

327 investment projects secure incentives worth JD711m in H1 2026 — ministry

Continued from page 1

The ministry also expanded its public-private partnership portfolio from eight projects in 2025 to 11 during H1 2026, covering transport, energy, water, education, health and logistics.

As part of its international promotion efforts, the ministry conducted activities in China, the UK and several EU countries and held meetings with investors, companies, investment funds and financial institutions.

The Investment Promotion Directorate received 34 investment requests and assisted in registering six companies, representing expected investments of \$97.8 million and potential employment of 2,165 people.

THE JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily, established in 1975	Published by the Jordan Press Foundation
Chairman of the Board	Queen Rania Al Abdullah Street P.O. Box 6710 Amman 11118
Samih Maaitah	E mail: editor@jordantimes.com jotimes@jordantimes.com Website: jordantimes.com
Director General	Follow us on X Platform: @JordanTimes.com Like our facebook page: thejordantimes Youtube: thejordantimes
Hasan Jazzazi	National Library registration number: D/1998/2062 Telephone: 5600800 ext. 2392 Facsimile: 5696183 Advertising facsimile: 5696183
Editor-in-Chief	Circulation Department: 5600800 ext: 2383
Raed Omari	
Editorial and advertising offices Jordan Press Foundation	
The Jordan Times is published daily except Saturdays	

Tiny English village holds ‘independence’ vote over asylum seeker housing

By Helen Rowe
Agence France-Presse

A small English village of just 350 people has found itself on the front line of a national debate on the housing of asylum seekers, holding an “independence referendum” on Tuesday to protest plans to house over 1,200 migrants in a nearby facility.

Piddington in central England, 25 kilometres from the university city of Oxford, doesn’t even have a shop but it has grabbed headlines with its tongue-in-cheek breakaway vote.

The vote, which is entirely symbolic with no real legal basis, is Piddington’s response to plans to house asylum seekers in a nearby disused military site.

“It’s all about how do we get our voice heard in a different way to the way others have gone about it,” villager Ian Darby, 63, told AFP.

Darby stressed that the village was happy to take a share of migrants but felt that 1,200 was excessive.

Residents arriving at the village hall received “bal-lots” asking them to vote “Yes” or “No” to the state-ment: “I support Piddington seeking to secede from the United Kingdom and pursuing self-determina-tion.”

“I voted to leave the United Kingdom,” said 76-year-old local resident Herbert Owen, who said it felt like the government didn’t “care” about the bucolic vil-lage in the Oxfordshire countryside.

Around the UK, towns and villages have regularly staged protests against the housing of asylum seek-ers in hotels and other facilities.

‘Ground zero’

The so-called referendum is a play on the British comedy film “Passport to Pimlico”.

In the 1949 classic, a small group of south Lon-doners discover treasure and declare independence making them exempt from post-war rationing and other bureaucratic restrictions.

“What we’re doing is a very British thing — we’re voting,” said chair of the local parish council Tim McNally.

“Because this is a really important topic... not just in this region, [but] across the whole of the United Kingdom. We’re just ground zero,” he said.

McNally said the community’s fears were not about the majority of asylum seekers who may be housed at the base.

What worried people was a “small minority of in-dividuals who will be a nuisance that we cannot pre-dict or control”, he said, adding that the sheer scale of the plans were “unimaginable”.

“And we are going to have to change our way of life to facilitate what’s coming.”

Plans were afoot, he said, for CCTV and a security audit of the village.

‘Disproportionate’

According to a government factsheet, the proposed site would be used for a minimum of 10 years to house single adult male asylum seekers.

The “safety and security” of the migrants, staff at the base and the local community would be “of the utmost importance”, it said.

But villagers in Piddington said the government proposals are impractical.

“We have a village hall, a 12th-century church and a playing field — and that’s it,” said Darby, question-ing how the migrants would spend their time.

“This is so disproportionate. It is a takeover of our village, it’s four times the people of this village. They are going to want to get out and about [locally] and that raises serious issues,” he said.

Women in the village said they feared for their safety.

In an open letter to parliament’s 266 women MPs, 133 female villagers wrote that they were “facing a crisis”.

“Life as we know it will be destroyed. We will not feel safe walking our streets. We are already living in fear,” they said.

Safety fears

Seventeen-year-old student and part-time stable-hand Dita Jackson said she found the proposals “worrying” and was taking self-defence classes.

“I’ve lived here, my whole life... I won’t really feel safe enough to walk around anymore,” she said.

“It’s going to change it completely,” added farmer Jennifer Owen, 76.

Immigration, in particular irregular migration, has become a major political issue in recent years, boosting support for hard-right parties in the UK.

Just this month, masked men dressed in black clashed with police near two southern coast ports over the arrival of undocumented migrants on small boats.

The government is phasing out the use of hotels, turning instead to military bases.

There was “no imaginary place these people can go”, senior government minister Jonathan Reynolds told ITV, adding: “None of this is pleasant, none of this is easy.”

The result of the village’s symbolic vote is due to be announced Wednesday morning.

The global economy: Resilience under pressure

Dr Raad Mahmoud Al Tal

Over the past six months, the global economy has shown remarkable re-silience in the face of war and a major energy shock. Despite disruptions to oil and gas sup-plies, the global economy has avoided recession, with growth expected to remain around 3 per cent in 2026. Several factors have helped absorb the shock, including the use of oil and gas inventories, diversification of energy supplies, greater reli-ance on alternative sources, and continued investment, particu-larly in technology and artificial intelligence. Yet this resilience should not be mistaken for the end of the crisis. It reflects the ability of the global economy to absorb part of the shock while postponing some of its broader effects.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects global growth to reach around 3 per cent in 2026, compared with an average of approximately 3.5 per cent in 2024 and 2025. Growth is projected to improve to 3.4 per cent in 2027. This slowdown reflects a combina-tion of factors, including the war, higher energy costs, weak-er global trade, tighter financial conditions and elevated levels of public debt. The 3 per cent growth rate therefore tells only part of the story. The global economy is still expanding, but at a slower pace and with sig-nificantly greater risks.

The energy shock is particu-larly important because its impact extends far beyond oil and gas markets. Higher en-ergy prices raise transportation and production costs, increase electricity prices, and push up the cost of fertilisers and food. In June 2026, oil prices were around 30 per cent higher than their pre-war levels. The use of inventories, higher production and refining outside the Gulf region, and measures to reduce demand have helped limit the initial impact.

The problem is that what is not counted cannot be protected — and policymakers rarely price the value of healthy soil

However, inventories can only provide temporary relief. Every barrel withdrawn from storage today will eventually need to be replaced. This creates a poten-tial second wave of pressure on energy markets. Many countries will need to rebuild their oil and gas stocks before winter, poten-tially generating additional de-mand even if there is no further escalation in the war.

Raising interest rates to contain inflation can weaken economic growth and increase the cost of servicing public debt

If this coincides with the nor-mal seasonal increase in en-ergy consumption, prices could come under renewed upward pressure.

The scale of available reserves provides some protection, but also illustrates their limits. OECD countries hold around 2 billion barrels of commercial and strategic oil stocks, while China’s inventories are estimat-ed at approximately 1.3 billion barrels. Collectively, strategic and commercial stocks in oil-importing countries could theo-retically cover around 40 to 45 days of global supply shortages under current disruption con-ditions. These reserves provide valuable time for adjustment, but they cannot permanently replace lost supplies.

At the same time, the global economy is benefitting from a powerful new source of invest-ment: Artificial intelligence

and advanced technologies. Investment in these sectors is supporting economic activ-ity and growth in several major economies. Yet this creates an-other challenge. The expansion of artificial intelligence and data centres is increasing de-mand for electricity and energy. Technology is therefore both a source of economic strength and a potential driver of higher energy demand.

Perhaps the greatest vulner-ability is the level of global public debt, which is approach-ing 100 per cent of global GDP. This is a historically high level and significantly limits govern-ments’ fiscal room to respond to new shocks. Higher interest rates also increase debt-serv-icing costs, making additional borrowing more expensive. Governments could therefore find themselves under pres-sure to support households and businesses in response to high-er energy prices while simulta-neously facing rising financing costs.

This creates a difficult policy dilemma. Raising interest rates to contain inflation can weaken economic growth and increase the cost of servicing public debt. Increasing government spending, on the other hand, can protect households and productive sectors in the short term but may widen fiscal defi-cits and push debt even higher.

For Jordan, these global de-velopments are particularly significant. As an energy-im-porting economy, Jordan is directly exposed to higher oil prices through the import bill, transportation and production costs, the current account, and domestic prices. Under a sce-nario of continued war-related disruptions for a limited pe-riod, the IMF estimated that Jordan’s growth could decline to 2.7 per cent, compared with 3 per cent before the war. Infla-tion could rise to around 2.3 per cent, while the current account deficit could widen to 6.9 per cent of GDP.

Jordan’s resilience will there-fore depend not only on main-taining exchange-rate stability, but also on preserving adequate foreign reserves, managing public debt carefully, strength-ening fiscal discipline and ex-panding exports, tourism and investment.

The broader lesson is clear. The global economy has not overcome the energy shock; it has so far managed to absorb it. But the longer the shock lasts, the greater the risk that tempo-rary buffers will be exhausted. Higher energy prices, persistent inflation, rising financing costs, and elevated public debt could reinforce one another and cre-ate a much more difficult eco-nomic environment.

The broader lesson is clear. The global economy has not overcome the energy shock; it has so far managed to absorb it

Global growth of 3 per cent is therefore evidence of resilience, but it should not create a false sense of security. True economic resilience is not simply the abil-ity to maintain growth during a crisis. It is the ability to pre-serve sufficient fiscal, monetary and external buffers to with-stand the next shock.

The real question is no longer whether the global economy has survived the first six months of the crisis. The more im-portant question is whether it can maintain its resilience if the shock lasts much longer.

The strategic asset Europe has overlooked

By Adrien Geinger, Brune Poireso and Bertrand Badre

GENEVA/PARIS — When the European Union de-termines which assets are strategic, it tends to focus on those where a rival already dominates production (or could one day). That is why we hear so much about semiconduc-tors, batteries, rare earths and hydrogen. But we almost never hear about an EU asset that cannot be replicated elsewhere: Europe’s soil.

centimetres of fertile topsoil to form, continuing down this path could have severe conse-quences.

The problem is that what is not counted cannot be protect-ed — and policymakers rarely price the value of healthy soil. When a country’s soil ecosys-tem collapses, its GDP barely moves, although it is undoubt-edly poorer. Europe, in particu-lar, knows the risks of unac-counted-for dependencies: After gas supplies from Russia were cut following the Kremlin’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, European governments had to allocate roughly 500 billion eu-ros to shield their citizens and industries from soaring energy prices.

The degradation of soil is dif-ferent because it is a gradual process for which we are wholly responsible. Because this is not a case of a foreign adversary deciding overnight to withhold a critical input, policymak-ers often fail to recognise that healthy soil builds robustness — the ability to continue func-tioning in the face of perturba-tions.

Encouragingly, the EU has many of the tools it needs to act. The Soil Monitoring Law, in force since December, sets out a common framework for assessing carbon content, ero-sion, biological activity, and the capacity to retain and infiltrate water. A 2024 regulation re-quires member states to com-pile accounts for seven specific ecosystem services (although the services provided by soil, chief among them water reten-tion, remain marginal). And in July, the European Commission adopted certification method-ologies that will help farmers access financial rewards for measurable soil outcomes.

What the bloc lacks, how-ever, is an overarching plan for connecting these measures and turning healthy soil into an advantage for those who maintain it. The Common Ag-ricultural Policy pays for sus-tainable practices, but not for verifiable improvements in soil health and water retention. The

Commission has an opportunity to change that with its frame-work for European climate re-silience and risk management, expected later this year.

As business leaders, inves-tors, and advisers across these value chains, we believe that the framework, which aims to make resilience a guiding prin-ciple for investment, should include three commitments. For starters, it should expand mandatory ecosystem account-ing to the services provided by healthy soil, starting with wa-ter retention and call for their inclusion in national economic accounts. It should also extend outcome-based rewards beyond carbon to soil health and water retention, so that farmers and land managers can gain from measurable results. Lastly, it should ensure that these indi-cators guide public support and investment decisions, just as carbon metrics do today.

ing climate disasters, we must abandon the fiction that de-grading soil has no real costs.

Europe is not alone. In Au-gust, the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification convened in Ul-aanbaatar, Mongolia, with a fo-cus on restoring degraded land. While governments agreed to mobilise new funding initia-tives for land restoration and drought resilience, they failed to reach a binding global frame-work on drought, underscor-ing the persistent gap between scientific urgency and political action. But there is still hope. Many countries in the Global South, especially producers of coffee, cocoa and fruit, have begun to treat soil health as a strategic asset.

Despite this progress, efforts on soil degradation remain fragmented. Europe should pro-mote a soil alliance, backed by governments that agree on the importance of measurement and the need for rules that re-ward soil restoration. It should also pursue this agenda at Oc-tober’s UN Biodiversity Confer-ence in Yerevan, Armenia and November’s UN Climate Change Conference in Antalya, Turkey, and make it a cornerstone of its new resilience framework.

As the French poet René Char wrote, “Our inheritance was left to us by no testament.” Soil passes from one generation to the next, and yet it does not ap-pear in our economic accounts. Instead, for decades, Europe has counted only what it produces, not what it possesses. Unless and until that changes, the slow death of the continent’s soil will continue.

Soil passes from one generation to the next, and yet it does not appear in our economic accounts

Some will argue that Europe cannot afford these commit-ments. Quite the contrary: Dead soil leads to lower yields, high-er food prices and greater ex-posure to drought and flood, all of which are expensive. Worse, this form of fragility is a re-gressive hidden tax. To prevent the people with the least from being squeezed by higher food prices and subject to intensify-

Adrien Geiger is CEO of L’Occitane en Provence. Brune Poirson, a former French secretary of state to the minister for the ecological and inclusive transition, is the founder of Udaan Advisory. Bertrand Badré, a former managing director and CFO of the World Bank, is chair of the Project Syndicate Advisory Board, founder and managing partner of Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital, and the author of “Can Finance Save the World” (Berrett-Koehler, 2018).



Jordan has reached an understanding with the United States that will keep more than 60 per cent of Jordanian exports to the US market subject to zero tariffs, says Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Qudah

Jordan secures zero-tariff treatment for over 60% of exports to US market

AMMAN (JT) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Qudah said Jordan has reached an understanding with the United States that will keep more than 60 per cent of Jordanian exports to the US market subject to zero tariffs, while the remaining exports will face an additional tariff of just 10 per cent.

Speaking at the regular business meeting hosted by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) on Monday, Qudah said the rate is among the lowest imposed under the United States' new tariff measures.

He added that the arrangement preserves the competitive advantages of Jordanian exports and strengthens their market positioning in the US, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The minister said the apparel and garment sector secured full zero-tariff treatment, alongside key commodities including pharmaceuticals, fertilisers and phosphate, giving Jordanian products a clear competitive edge over those of many compet-

ing countries.

Qudah stressed that the new arrangement does not replace the Jordan-US Free Trade Agreement, but operates within its framework and is grounded in its provisions.

The process involved a series of intensive meetings and negotiating rounds over several months...

The agreement remains in force and continues to provide the legal framework governing trade relations between the two countries.

He explained that the tariffs announced by the US are additional duties imposed on top of the standard customs duties applied to other countries.

Jordan, meanwhile, continues to benefit from the exemptions provided under the free trade agreement, reinforcing the comparative advantage of national exports.

The minister noted that the government began negotiations with the US immediately after Washington announced its new tariff policy.

The process involved a series of intensive meetings and negotiating rounds over several months, with the aim of safeguarding Jordan's economic interests and maintaining the competitiveness of national products in the US market.

He said the negotiations took place amid rapidly changing developments, including successive US decisions and measures as well as legal and regulatory developments related to the implementation of tariffs.

This required a flexible negotiating approach focused on maximising economic gains while mitigating potential risks to Jordanian exports.

Qudah highlighted the apparel and gar-

ment sector as one of the main beneficiaries of the arrangement, noting that it retained full exemption from the additional tariffs at a time when exports from several competing countries are facing new duties.

This, he said, strengthens the competitive position of Jordanian products and creates greater potential for expanding their market share in the United States.

He added that the positive impact of the agreement extends beyond the apparel sector to other industrial and export-oriented sectors that have retained their preferential advantages, supporting national exports and strengthening prospects for growth and expansion in international markets.

Qudah stressed that the government will continue working in partnership with the private sector to capitalise on these gains and build on them, contributing to higher national exports, attracting investment and supporting economic growth in the coming period.

Levant Agricultural Exports Conference calls for stronger agricultural integration

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan's exports of vegetables and fruits rose by 18.6 per cent during the first eight months of 2026, reaching around 448,000 tonnes, compared with 378,000 tonnes during the same period last year, Agriculture Minister Saeb Khreisat said on Tuesday.

Vegetable exports increased by 19.1 per cent, while fruit exports rose by 17.8 per cent, Khreisat said, noting that the figures reflect confidence in the sector's capabilities and underscore the need to expand value-added production and diversify markets.

The minister made the remarks during the opening of the Levant Agricultural Exports Conference, held under the theme "One Agricultural Power, Borderless Markets" and organised by the Jordanian Association of Vegetable and Fruit Producers and Exporters.

Jordan's geographical location provides an economic and logistical advantage in connecting national agricultural production with regional and international markets, Khreisat said, noting that the conference comes amid growing competition and rising requirements for quality, safety, traceability and sustainability.

He stressed that export success depends not only on increasing production, but also on developing competitive products, ensuring consistent quality and supply, and improving transport and marketing.

Khreisat called for shifting from exporting products to exporting value through food processing, sorting, packaging, storage, cooling, traceability and branding.

He added that the Levant has significant potential for agricul-



The Levant Agricultural Exports Conference, is held under the theme 'One Agricultural Power, Borderless Markets' and organised by the Jordanian Association of Vegetable and Fruit Producers and Exporters

tural integration, given its diverse climates, seasons and crops, as well as its strategic position linking production areas with Gulf, European and international markets.

Agricultural exports must also be developed alongside food security, with policies that balance food availability, fair returns for farmers, product competitiveness and access to export markets, he said.

Khreisat expressed hope that the conference would result in practical cooperation, including information exchange, stronger links between producers and buyers, investment and export opportunities, and solutions to logistical and regulatory challenges.

He reaffirmed the ministry's support for farmers, producers and exporters, as well as efforts to diversify markets and attract investment.

Jordanian Association of Vegetable and Fruit Producers and Exporters President Mazen Hamarneh stressed the importance of regional integration in production and marketing to expand opportunities and open new markets for Jordanian products.

Hamarneh said do-

mestic agricultural production is high compared with neighbouring markets, where competition is strong, adding that the association is seeking partnerships to open larger markets capable of absorbing Jordanian produce.

He praised government support for helping the sector access new European markets, noting that the opening of land routes has improved access to those markets.

Hamarneh stressed that relations with neighbouring countries should be based on integration rather than competition, and called for using existing frameworks to advance the shared interests of the agricultural sector.

Lebanese Agriculture Minister Nizar Al Hani called for reactivating the quadrilateral agricultural cooperation agreement between Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Syria and transforming it into an implementation programme with specific projects, timelines and measurable outcomes.

He said agricultural integration has become a strategic necessity amid supply chain disruptions and growing food, water, energy and climate challenges, express-

ing appreciation for Jordan's continued support for Lebanon and its readiness to strengthen cooperation in trade, transport and joint investment.

Palestinian Agriculture Minister Rizq Salimieh, speaking via video-conference, called for leveraging the different resources and comparative advantages of Levant countries to build an integrated agricultural and food system and strengthen regional food security.

The region's combined energy and water resources, favourable climate, human capital and private-sector capabilities provide a strong basis for cooperation, he said, calling for a shift from countries seeking to secure their food needs independently towards greater regional food integration.

Meanwhile, Syrian Deputy Agriculture Minister Mohammad Maqdadi said major challenges are threatening agricultural production and supply chains, stressing Syria's readiness to cooperate and its productive capacity.

He expressed hope that the conference would produce recommendations that could serve as a roadmap for the agricultural sector.

Stocks drop, oil climbs and Treasury yields hit 19-year high

HONG KONG (AFP) — Asian stock markets sank on Tuesday, US Treasury yields hit a 19-year high and oil prices extended gains as rising Middle East tensions fuel inflation fears, while investors bet on a Federal Reserve interest rate hike this week.

With the crisis in the Middle East showing few signs of abating and Yemen's Houthi rebels taking control of a crucial outlet for shipping, crude has spiked this month to more than \$100 a barrel, ramping up global inflation worries.

Both main contracts climbed more than two per cent on Tuesday.

The Houthis, fighting the Saudi-backed, internationally recognised government, seized control of Yemen's Red Sea coast last week and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which has become vital as the wider US-Iran war chokes the Strait of Hormuz.

Riyadh shut its East-West pipeline at the weekend following drone attacks by the Houthis.

The rally in crude prices was pared slightly on Monday when US President



People walk past an electronic quotation board displaying the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange in Tokyo on Monday

Donald Trump said on Truth Social: "The failing Nation of Iran wants to make a deal, quickly and badly."

"I will determine whether or not the USA will choose to engage - The concept of which we are open to."

The surge in energy costs — US diesel used in transport and agriculture hit \$6.27 a gallon on Tuesday — has ramped up pressure on central banks to temper a surge in inflation.

The 10-year US Treasury yield hit 5.02 per cent Tuesday, its highest level since 2007 just before the global financial crisis.

With the European

Central Bank lifting rates last week, focus is now on the Fed, with traders pricing a more than 90 per cent chance that it will also hike.

Asia extended the retreat after a selloff on Wall Street's three main indexes.

Seoul, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore, Wellington, Taipei, Mumbai, Bangkok and Manila all dropped, while Tokyo was marginally lower.

London, Paris and Frankfurt continued the selling.

Breakneck growth A small bounce in tech firms at the start of the day petered out following Monday's

losses that came in response to Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei advocating for a coordinated slowdown of AI development to better understand the risks.

The comments got support from other industry leaders, including Elon Musk and OpenAI's Sam Altman.

The latest AI upheaval comes after a healthy run-up in August following July's rout, which had been fuelled by worries about returns on the vast sums invested in the sector as well as extended valuations.

And analysts said it forced traders to reassess their outlook for the speed of devel-

opment in the industry following years of breakneck growth.

"Hedge funds had spent recent weeks climbing back aboard the technology trade, with positioning rebuilding toward levels seen before the summer washout," said Stephen Innes at Quintex Intel.

"Hyperscalers had attracted much of that

buying, while the supply chain remained one of the cleanest expressions of the belief that the AI capex machine would keep running at full throttle," he added.

"That works beautifully as long as everyone agrees the accelerator stays pinned to the floor. It becomes more complicated when the top dogs run-

ning the biggest AI engines start discussing speed governors."

Amodei's remark sent shudders through chipmakers particularly, with the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index tumbling 5.9 per cent — its biggest drop in more than two months, according to Bloomberg.

Fiona Cincotta at FOREX.com said:

"There are some questions surrounding the motive behind such announcements, with some investors suggesting that it could be a way to stifle smaller competitors."

"Still, the market wasn't thinking twice. Losses in tech stocks are setting the tone for markets ahead of a potential Fed rate hike this week."

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

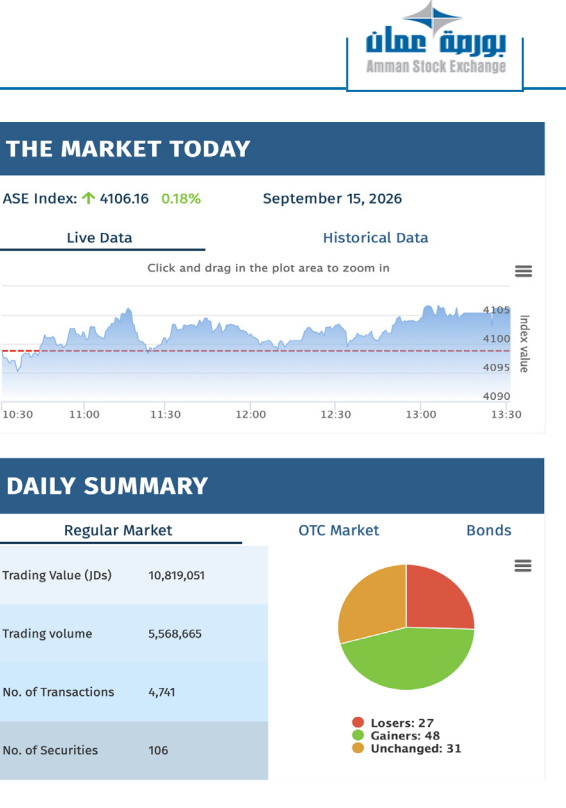
AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Tuesday amounted to JD10.8 million spread over 5.6 million shares that traded through 4,741 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 0.18 per cent, closing at 4106.16 points.

Out of 106 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 48 companies rose while the share price of another 27 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Century Investment Group by 5 per cent, Latent Energies for Investments by 4.90 per cent, Jordan Poultry Processing and Marketing by 4.76 per cent, Jordanian Company for Developing and Financial Investment by 4.72 per cent, and Philadelphia International Educational Investment Company by 4.65 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Jordan Investment and Transport Company by 4.59 per cent, Amoun International for Investments by 4 per cent, Middle East Insurance by 3.33 per cent, Real Estate and Investment Portfolio Company by 2.65 per cent, and Jordan Express Tourist Transport by 2.34 per cent.



FOOTBALL

Flick supporting 'self-confident' Yamal Ballon d'Or bid

BARCELONA (AFP) — Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said on Tuesday he will support teenage winger Lamine Yamal's bid to win the Ballon d'Or, noting the player's "self-confidence" on and off the pitch. The 19-year-old forward, who won the World Cup with Spain and La Liga with Barca last season, said on Sunday he believes he deserves the individual accolade. Yamal claimed in an interview with Movistar that he and Real Madrid striker Kylian Mbappe were the two best players in the world and that his teams' success should put him first, when the award is decided on October 26. "I think he's honest, has the self-confidence and shows in the beginning of the season how good he is," Flick told reporters. Yamal has scored seven goals in Barca's last four games, helping the Catalan giants maintain a 100 per cent start to the season. Flick said although he would have preferred the teenager not to have spoken about it, he accepts it as part of the winger's self-belief. "He's exceptional and it's a part of this... I would not prefer this, but he's doing this. He has self-confidence, he wants to win the Ballon d'Or".

ATHLETICS

Nairobi to host 2029 world athletics championships in African first

PARIS, France (AFP) — Nairobi will host the 2029 world outdoor athletics championships, beating off competition from London, Munich and Rome to become the first African hosts, World Athletics announced on Tuesday. The 2031 championships will be held in Munich, track and field's governing body said after a council meeting in Budapest, host to the recently-concluded Ultimate Championship. "We were fortunate to have four outstanding bids for 2029 and 2031, and this was not an easy decision for the Council," World Athletics President Sebastian Coe told a press conference. The 2027 event has already been awarded to Beijing. "This council decision today means we're able to deliver our World Athletics Championships in Asia, Africa, and Europe over its next three editions," the Briton added. "Taking our championships to Africa for the first time will be historic. Nairobi has presented a compelling and an emotional bid."

By Aline Bannayan

AMMAN – The 2026-27 AFC Champions League Two kicks off with Jordan's League champs Hussein and runner-up Faisali starting their Asian journeys with higher competitive expectations after many players on both lineups represented Jordan at the World Cup.

Hussein kick off their Group D matches hosting India's East Bengal while Oman's Al Seeb play Iraq's Shorta. On the other hand, Faisali have a tough away match against Qatar's Al Rayyanin Group C as Oman's Nahda play Saudi Arabia's Taawoun.

The second-tier club competition organised by the Asian Football Confederation will see Group A matches grouping Uzbekistan's Nasaf, Kuwait's SC, UAE's Al-Wahda and Bahrain's Khaldiya, while Group B includes Bahrain's Muharraq, UAE's Jazira, Iran's Gol Gohar Sirjan and Turkmenistan's Arkadag.

The group-stage matches run until December 3 before the knockout stage begins on February 9, 2027, with the final scheduled for May 15, 2027.

Last month, Hussein played a preliminary round match in the top tier Asian competition — the ACL Elite — losing to Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 3-0. The early elimination moved Hussein to play in the second tier competition alongside Faisali.

Hussein started the local season on a sour note, losing to Faisali in the Super Cup. Two weeks into the league,



(Photo courtesy of the Jordanian Pro League (CPI))

Hussein Irbid talent Yousef Qashi with the ball on his feet against Faisali in the Super Cup

they lost their opening match 5-0 to Jazira before tying Baqa'a 0-0 leading to the departure of their coach Ahmad

Hayel who had secured three titles for the team last year.

Faisali have started the season on a more

confident note, winning the season opening Super Cup. As the league kicked off they tied Wihdat 0-0 before beating

newcomers Doqarah 2-0.

In the 2025/26 season, the Jordanian league champs, combined a

first-time triple titles: Jordan Cup, the Super Cup alongside their third consecutive Pro League crown while Faisali won the JFA Shield.

Regionally, last year saw Hussein and Wihdat representing Jordan in the Asian Champions League Two for the second year running. Wihdat, failed to advance past Round 1 while Hussein reached the quarterfinals losing 3-1 to Qatar's Ahli. Saudi Arabia's Nassr beat Ahli 5-1 in the semis and moved to play the final against eventual champs Japan's Gamba Osaka. Both Hussein and Wihdat were eliminated from the Round of 16 in 2024/25 when UAE's Sharja were crowned champions.

Hussein were the first Jordanian club to reach the quarters of the ACL Two in 2025/26. It was their 2nd and Wihdat's 14th time in the Asian Champions League Two which was won by Faisali twice in back-to-back seasons in 2005-2006 and Shabab Urdun once in 2007 when it was called the Asian Champions League Cup. Wihdat reached the semis in 2006, 2007 and 2011. No Jordanian clubs played in 2022.

In the Asian Champions League, Wihdat played the group stages of the competition in 2021 and 2022, before it was renamed the Asian Champions League (ACL) Elite. None of the other Jordanian clubs had ever made it past the ACL preliminary round where Faisali played in 2020 and 2018, Wihdat in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019 and Shabab Urdun in 2014.

LIFE

THE JORDAN TIMES

Doomers and boosters: Who's who in the AI wars

NEW YORK (AFP) — The furious debate over artificial intelligence has hardened into warring camps — and a cautious middle.

Here is a look at the battle lines in the war over a technology that is now the backbone of the economy and could decide the future of the planet.

The doomers

Fear of technology's dangerous consequences for society goes back far in history.

OpenAI was founded in part because its backers, including first investor Elon Musk, feared that AI's development would end up in the hands of Google, which they believed could not be trusted with the technology.

Today, most of the doomers warning against the impact of artificial intelligence come from inside the companies themselves, from academia, or both.

Those inside the industry are best represented by Dario Amodei, who co-founded Anthropic, now a major AI giant heading toward a historic IPO. He left OpenAI because he felt the Sam Altman-led company was not taking the technology's potential and dangers seriously enough.

His stance is decried as hypocritical, coming



AFP photo

Fear of technology's dangerous consequences for society goes back far in history

from a company that is itself pushing out cutting-edge technology.

Former Google researcher Geoffrey Hinton and fellow computer scientist Yoshua Bengio led the warnings about AI's threats in the months after the release of ChatGPT in 2022, which kickstarted the latest AI frenzy.

MIT physicist Max Tegmark, who heads the Future of Life Institute, organised the open letter in 2023 that called for a six-month pause in the development of the most advanced AI systems, drawing thousands of signatures, including Musk's.

Further outside the industry is Eliezer Yudkowsky, a self-taught theorist who has spent two decades arguing that a sufficiently powerful AI would wipe out humanity.

Build, build, build

Diametrically opposed to the doomers are the accelerationists, who believe in technology's advancement, its inevitability and its fundamental benefit for society — and who also make their fortunes on its success.

The ethos is widespread in Silicon Valley, but it is best represented by venture capital figures with considerable sway in the White House, such as Marc Andreessen, the influential head of venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, and David Sacks, the former White House AI czar.

Personally and philosophically aligned with tech figure Peter Thiel, the group is fundamentally opposed to regulation and battles behind the scenes and on X against what it calls a

well-financed doomsday "cult".

They accuse doomers of being a front for companies seeking to use regulation to crush rivals.

Garry Tan, who runs the startup incubator Y Combinator, is among the loudest of those voices, casting safety-driven regulation as a threat to the small companies that cannot absorb its costs.

Andreessen and his allies lavishly fund political action committees that donate to Republican and Democratic lawmakers promoting AI growth, with Anthropic now leading an effort to match that spending through its own fundraising.

In the same go-faster camp is Jensen Huang, the CEO of Nvidia, whose chips are the bricks and mortar of the AI revolution — housed in the

gargantuan data centers now meeting opposition across the United States.

Also worth noting is Yann LeCun, who shared the Turing Award with Hinton and Bengio and has spent years dismissing their warnings of existential danger as overblown.

Proceeding with caution

Many big tech companies try to proceed carefully, in a positioning more typical of large corporations that do not want to be caught on the wrong side of a political fight.

At its founding in 2015, OpenAI was structured to ensure that researchers, and not investors, would have the final say on how the technology was deployed, with safety for humanity the guiding philosophy.

But under Altman, who survived an in-house coup in 2023 led by safety-focused colleagues, the company now toes a more complicated line, speaking to AI's dangers while still accelerating and cozying up to a no-holds-barred White House.

Google, Microsoft and Amazon are veterans of talking about safety in tech while navigating Washington successfully to keep regulation to a minimum. With AI, they are still walking that fine line.



Photo Instagram/Bob Mackie

Bob Mackie leaves behind a legendary legacy of Hollywood glamour

US designer Bob Mackie, known for Hollywood glamour, dies at 87

LOS ANGELES, United States (AFP) — American fashion designer Bob Mackie, whose eye-catching dresses were worn by Cher, Tina Turner, Sabrina Carpenter and countless others in Hollywood's glitterati, died on Monday. He was 86.

"It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Mr. Bob Mackie passed away today," said a post on his Instagram account. "His genius and extraordinary designs will live on forever, continuing to bring beauty into this world."

Known for his flair with sequins and sparkle, Mackie's designs were in demand in Hollywood for decades, from the set of "The Carol Burnett Show" to

the resurgent popularity of his archives with a younger audience, including stars Zendaya and Miley Cyrus.

Throughout Cher's career, Mackie designed the revealing outfits she wore onstage, to awards shows and in music videos, adorning her svelte figure with ornamentation befitting a Vegas showgirl. He won a Tony Award for best costume design for Cher's musical "The Cher Show".

In a post to X on Monday, the "Turn Back Time" singer wrote: "My dear Bob has gone up to heaven. Knowing him, he's bringing sequins, beads and his sketch pad. Good nite sweet Prince."

Born in Monterey Park, California, in

1939, Mackie got his start working for Hollywood costume designer Jean Louis — where he sketched the dress Marilyn Monroe wore to alluringly sing "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy.

Diana Ross, Madonna, Bette Midler were among the stars Mackie dressed during his career.

The New York Times noted that Mackie tried and failed to gain acceptance for his designs "from the frosty corridors of high fashion", but Mackie said he had no regrets for embracing glitz.

"Maybe what I do wasn't for everybody, but that's fine," Mackie told the newspaper last year. "I could only ever be true to myself."

DOWNLOAD OUR APP NOW



Available on the App Store



ANDROID APP ON Google Play