



His Majesty King Abdullah on Monday offers condolences to the families of the victims of the terrorist attack that targeted a church in the village of Hmoud in Karak Governorate

King offers condolences to families of Karak attack martyrs

His Majesty hails security agencies for arrest of terrorists in Karak attack

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Monday offered condolences to the families of the victims of the terrorist attack that targeted a church in the village of Hmoud in Karak Governorate, affirming that the terrorists would not escape punishment.

Also on Monday, His Majesty praised security agencies for the arrest of the three terrorists that carried out the deadly attack in Karak on Friday which left nine people dead and more than 30 others injured.

In a post on X, the King said the security forces had pursued the terrorists and reaffirmed that those responsible would face justice.

Continued on page 5

King meets with Iraq PM, underlines deep Amman-Baghdad relations

- King stresses need for intensified international efforts to restore regional stability, protect security of Arab states, safeguard their sovereignty
- Hi Majesty warns of dangers posed by Israel's ongoing escalations in West Bank, Jerusalem
- Prime Minister Zaidi condemns terrorist attack that targeted church in Karak on Friday

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah on Monday held a meeting with Iraq Prime Minister Ali Zaidi at Basman Palace, during which they discussed ways to enhance cooperation.

His Majesty emphasised the depth of Jordanian-Iraqi relations and the importance of expanding cooperation across various fields, particularly energy, electricity interconnection, transport and security, in service of mutual interests, according to a Royal Court statement.

The meeting also touched on recent regional developments, with the King stressing the need to step up international diplomatic efforts to restore stability, protect the security of Arab states and safeguard their sovereignty.

His Majesty warned of the dangers posed by Israel's ongoing escalations in the West Bank, Hebron and Jerusalem,



His Majesty King Abdullah on Monday meets with Iraq Prime Minister Ali Zaidi at Basman Palace

underscoring the need for an immediate end to these violations.

For his part, Prime Minister Zaidi condemned the terrorist attack that targeted a church in Karak on Friday, reaffirming Iraq's solidarity with Jordan and expressing his condolences to the families of those martyred, and his wishes for a speedy recovery to the injured.

Continued on page 5

Jordanian Air Force strikes terrorist targets in southern Syria — JAF

AMMAN (JT) — The Royal Jordanian Air Force carried out an operation targeting "terrorist hideouts in southern Syria, in retaliation for the attack on mourners at a church funeral in Karak on Friday, the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) said.

The operation, named "Jordanian Deterrence-Hmoud", involved fighter jets striking several sites and destroying a number of vehicles belonging to the targeted groups, JAF said in a statement.



JAF photo

The army said that the strikes, carried out in coordination with the Syrian government, killed and wounded numerous members of the groups, which were linked to those responsible for the attack in Hmoud.

The statement reaffirmed the armed forces' commitment to protecting Jordanian citizens and confronting threats to national security.

It also pledged to continue efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, and safeguard the country and its holy sites.

The statement concluded with a tribute to the victims of the Karak incident, saying: "May God have mercy on the martyrs of Karak and keep Jordan strong and secure."

Crown Prince: Arrests in Karak attack fulfil promise to victims' families

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Crown Prince Hussein has said the rights of the martyrs in the attack on a church in the village of Hmoud, in Karak Governorate, would not be forgotten, following the arrest of the terrorists.

"We promised our people in Karak that the rights of our martyrs would not be lost," the Crown Prince said in a post on Instagram.

The Crown Prince praised security agencies for fulfilling their promise and apprehending those responsible for the attack.



"Their terrorism and crimes will not shake our resolve," he added.

The Crown Prince concluded his message by praying for mercy for the victims, a speedy recovery for the injured, and protection for Jordan.

SECURITY

Prime minister commends security forces for swift response to Karak attack

AMMAN (JT) — Prime Minister Jaafar Hassan on Monday praised security forces for carrying out a "high-precision" operation to arrest those responsible for a terrorist attack in Karak, saying the terrorists must face justice.

In a post on the social media platform X, Hassan commended the security forces for their professionalism and exceptional efforts, noting that the operation began in the immediate aftermath of the incident.

Hassan stressed that the fight against terrorism and extremist ideologies would continue, adding that the authorities would also confront anyone who sympathises with such groups.

He described the fight as primarily a battle of awareness and ideology, reaffirming that Jordan would show no leniency in confronting these threats.



"Mercy and eternal rest to the martyrs, and a terrible fate for the criminals and terrorists," Hassan said.

Karak attack terrorists acted alone, motivated by extremist ideology — police chief

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — Public Security Directorate (PSD) Director Maj. Gen. Obeidallah Maaytah on Monday said that the three suspected terrorists who attacked a church in Karak, killing nine people on Friday, acted alone.

"The three men did not plot the act and were behind the funeral when they decided to launch their attack," Obeidallah told reporters during a press conference at the interior ministry.

The police chief was talking during a joint press conference that was also attended by Interior Minister Mazeh Faraya and Government Communication Minister and Official Government Spokesperson Mohammad Momani.

Obeidallah told reporters that initial investigations indicated that the three suspects, including two brothers and a relative, "conducted the attack as a result of a convergence of ideas among them."

"It stemmed from their own beliefs, their deviation from the correct path, and their adoption of extremist ideology and terrorism," the police chief added.

Earlier in the day,



Government Communication Minister Mohammad Momani (left), Interior Minister Mazeh Faraya (centre) and Public Security Directorate Director Maj. Gen. Obeidallah Maaytah speak during a press conference on Monday at the Interior Ministry to unveil details related to Friday's terrorist attack in Karak

government and police officials announced the arrest of three suspects in connection with Friday's attack on a church in Karak that left nine dead and over 30 wounded.

On Friday, gunmen approached a church in the village of Hmoud and opened fire on people who were attending a funeral service.

Seven people were killed instantly and dozens were injured. Two more people died the following day.

Obeidallah told reporters that the three suspects left in one vehicle and "a special team from several security agencies was tasked with following up on the incident, and was able to locate them using sophisticated equipment and evidence from the scene".

Continued on page 5

SOLIDARITY



Citizens from across the Kingdom donate a total of 220,150 millilitres of blood in the initial hours following the Friday's attack against the church

Karak hospitals receive 629 blood units within 24 hours of church attack

AMMAN (JT) — Citizens from across the Kingdom rushed to donate blood for the victims of the Hmoud church terrorist attack in Karak, donating a total of 220,150 millilitres of blood in the initial hours following the incident.

Jordanians gathered outside Karak Public Hospital and Prince Ali Military Hospital to support the injured, responding to urgent calls for blood donations posted on social media platforms, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

On Friday, gunmen approached a church in the village of Hmoud and opened fire on people who were attending a funeral service.

Seven people were killed instantly and dozens were injured. Two more people died the following day.

The government and the police on Monday announced the arrest of three suspects in

connection with the Friday's attack on the church.

The government and the police on Monday announced the arrest of three suspects in connection with the Friday's attack on the church

Arabi Abu Qudeiri, head of the technical affairs at the Karak Health Directorate, said that citizens donated 629 blood units within the first 24 hours across both hospitals, where victims required 30 units to boost emergency med-

ical response.

Abu Qudeiri noted that the Karak Public Hospital received 397 blood units, while Prince Ali Military Hospital collected 232 units during the same period.

Buses carrying donors arrived from Salt, Tafileh, Jerash, and other governorates to participate in blood donation campaigns organised outside official blood banks nationwide.

Sanad Youth Association Chairman Sultan Khlaileh said that the national turnout demonstrates deep cohesion, unity, and solidarity among all segments of Jordanian society during times of crisis.

Politics and Society Institute Researcher Hussein Sarayrah noted that the response highlights the strength of national identity and mutual responsibility when facing threats to society.

Prince Feisal opens Middle East Special Operations Commanders Conference in Aqaba

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Prince Feisal on Monday attended the opening of the Middle East Special Operations Commanders Conference (MESOC), held in the presence of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj. Gen. Majdi Al Harasis and Public Security Directorate Director Maj. Gen. Obaidallah Maaytah.

The conference brought together senior officers from the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF), security agencies, and official figures from brotherly and friendly nations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

More than 400 official delegations representing 75 countries and 350 exhibiting companies from 38 nations are participating in the event to review defence technologies and security strategies.

Participants aim to address future security challenges, strengthen international cooperation, and exchange expertise across multiple operational fields.

Chairman of SOFEX Retired Maj. Gen. Ayman Batran said that hosting the conference highlights Jordan's international role as a trusted partner in combating terrorism and promoting global peace.

Batran added that this edition is particularly significant given



HRH Prince Feisal on Monday attends the opening of the Middle East Special Operations Commanders Conference in Aqaba, with the participation of more than 400 official delegations representing 75 countries

the rapid technological shifts, especially regarding unmanned aerial systems and counter-drone measures.

Commander of the special forces stressed that modern operational effectiveness depends on anticipating change and building international strategic partnerships to bolster regional resilience.

The conference featured three main panel sessions focusing on military-academic-industrial technical integration, uncrewed systems in asymmetric warfare, and joint inte-

JMD warns of flash floods as unstable weather intensifies

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Meteorological Department (JMD) forecast the impact of the unstable weather conditions that began on Monday to intensify on Tuesday, with showers expected in various parts of the Kingdom, including Aqaba and the Dead Sea.

The showers may be accompanied by lightning, thunder and occasional hail, while heavy rainfall is expected at intervals during the evening and night in some areas, potentially causing flash floods in valleys and low-lying areas, according to a JMD forecast.

The department added that unstable weather



The Jordan Meteorological Department forecasts the impact of the unstable weather conditions that began on Monday to intensify on Tuesday, with showers expected in various parts of the Kingdom, including Aqaba and the Dead Sea

er conditions would continue on Wednesday, with showers expected in several areas, potentially becoming heavy at times and accompanied by thunderstorms.

The conditions are expected to ease on Thursday, bringing mild daytime temperatures to the highlands and plains, and moderate temperatures elsewhere, the JMD said, adding that it will be relatively cold at night in most areas.

The department warned of the risk of

to dust in desert areas, and fog over high mountainous areas.

The department urged citizens to stay away from flood channels and valley beds and not to risk crossing them, calling on motorists to exercise caution.

JMD stressed that unstable weather conditions can bring varying rainfall intensity and distribution across different areas.

Temperatures on Tuesday in Amman are expected to range between 26°C and 17°C, while both Aqaba and the Dead Sea area will register a high of 32°C and low of 22°C, according to the JMD forecast.

Columbia Centres Amman panel explores putting responsible AI into practice

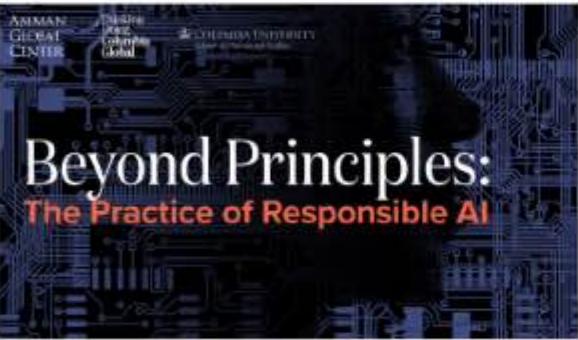
By Saeb Rawashdeh

AMMAN — Columbia Centres Amman on Wednesday organised a panel about perspectives on AI with the Columbia University School of Professional Studies.

While many organisations have articulated ambitious and principled commitments around AI, the challenge remains how to embed these principles into organisational strategy, decision-making, processes, incentives and technical implementation.

This virtual conversation examines the transition from ethical AI to responsible AI in practice, with particular attention to how responsibility and accountability can be lost, diluted, or overlooked as decisions move between organisational, managerial and technical levels.

The panel presented actionable concepts for deploying responsible AI across varied organisational settings, helping participants understand not only why responsible AI matters, but also how to implement it, measure progress, assign responsibility, and sustain accountability from organisational strategy through to technical deployment.



"This online event is part of the 'AI Imperative' series that addresses artificial intelligence from an interdisciplinary perspective. The series convenes experts from across Columbia University spanning disciplines such as business, public policy, engineering, journalism, public health and data science," said Director of Columbia Centres Amman Haniya Salah.

"It is not just an ethical commitment, it's also about managing legal and reputational risk, meeting emerging regulatory expectations and protecting people's data and rights," said Saba Kawas from the University of Jordan.

Kawas added that when the AI system fails, weather through bias, privacy violation, unsafe behaviour or even opaque decisions, the consequences can extend well beyond a technical error.

They can create legal exposure, damage public confidence and

make it harder for organisations to deploy AI in ways that benefit the people they are serving.

Kawas added that responsible AI is more than avoiding harm. It is about establishing a clear accountability.

"The challenge is that these commitments are easy to state and harder to operationalise," Kawas underlined.

Ansaf Salleb-Aouissi, a senior lecturer in the discipline of computer science at Columbia University, said that the principles of ethical AI should be addressed together because they interact.

Transparency can help fairness audits, but if you take for instance privacy and bias you should have access for private data like ethnicity, which organisation may not collect, Salleb-Aouissi said.

"Every organisation has to make decisions or trade-offs; whether they know it or not, they have to make this kind of choices," Salleb-Aou-

issi underlined.

Professor Nicole Alexander from Columbia University is the author of the book "Ethical AI in Marketing: Aligning Growth, Responsibility and Consumer Trust", and for her, responsible AI in practice is about closing that gap between what an organisation says it believes in and how it actually operates.

"I think the harder question is what happens when those foundational principles meet things like commercial pressure, competing priorities or something as simple as a deadline," Alexander said.

Responsible AI is an organisation's challenge for Alexander as much as it is a technical one.

One can build technically sophisticated system, Alexander continued, but that does not automatically make it appropriate for the context in which it is being used.

"Responsible AI is not how system works or even necessarily the system accuracy. It's weather it works appropriately for the people and the context involved, whether someone is responsible for its impact and whether the trust placed in that system is justified," Alexander said.

ASEZA chief, Canada ambassador discuss biodiversity protection in Aqaba

AMMAN (JT) — Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) Shadi Majali on Monday received Ambassador of Canada to Jordan Louis-Martin Aumais over avenues for enhancing cooperation in marine and terrestrial biodiversity protection.

They also discussed means to support sustainable development through the "Enhancing Marine Biodiversity and Resilience in Aqaba's Coastal Ecosystems" (EmBRACE) project, funded by the Canadian government, according to an ASEZA statement.

The meeting was attended by ASEZA Commissioner for Environment and Public Safety Nidal Ouran and Aqaba Project Manager at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan Sami Tarabieh.

Majali underlined the vital role of international partnerships in safeguarding Aqaba's natural resources and aligning environmental sustainability with economic opportunities to foster the growth of the blue economy and securing local livelihoods.

He stressed that biodiversity protection remains a cornerstone of Aqaba's development agenda, highlighting the value of collaborating with Canada and



Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority Shadi Majali and Ambassador of Canada to Jordan Louis-Martin Aumais on Monday discuss avenues for enhancing cooperation in marine and terrestrial biodiversity protection

the UNDP to preserve marine and coastal environments whilst building ecosystem resilience against climate change.

Aumais said that Aqaba's role as an economic driver for Jordan continues to grow, including through its contribution to regional development and tourism.

"With the recent inclusion of the Aqaba Marine Reserve on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the protection and management of Aqaba's coastal resources are more important than ever," the ambassador added.

He noted that Canada is proud to contribute to these efforts through an investment of JD6 million to support terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the Aqaba region, in partnership with the UNDP, ASEZA, local partners and communities.

UNDP Resident Representative in Jordan Randa Aboul-Hosn said

"This reflects our vision of leveraging environmental protection as a driver for lasting transformation that yields long-term environmental, social and economic benefits," Aboul-Hosn highlighted.

During his visit to Aqaba, the ambassador reviewed ongoing efforts to protect biodiversity.

His itinerary included visits to the ASEZA plant nursery, the Aqaba Bird Observatory and the Aqaba Marine Reserve to observe initiatives aimed at conserving terrestrial and marine habitats, restoring ecosystems and building resilience.

Implemented by the UNDP in partnership with ASEZA alongside national and local partners, the project aims to protect biodiversity, restore terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, promote nature-based solutions and support sustainable livelihoods.



King receives call from Oman sultan

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah received a phone call on Monday from Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik of Oman, who expressed his condolences over the loss of the victims of the terrorist attack on a church in Karak Governorate.

During the call, Sultan Haitham affirmed Oman's solidarity with Jordan, emphasising his country's rejection of terrorism and the targeting of places of worship and terrorising of innocent people. The sultan also offered his sympathies to the families of the martyrs, and wished a rapid recovery to those injured, according to a Royal Court statement.

CONDOLENCES

Safadi receives calls from foreign ministers condemning Karak church terrorist attack

AMMAN (JT) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi received phone calls from several foreign ministers expressing condemnation of the terrorist attack on Saint George's Greek Orthodox Church in Hmoud village, Karak Governorate and offering condolences for the martyrs.

The foreign ministers reiterated their countries' full solidarity with Jordan and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the attack, according to a ministry statement.

Safadi received calls from UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Al Nahyan, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Al Saud.

The foreign ministers reiterated their countries' full solidarity with Jordan...

Calls were also received from Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, Bahraini



Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Zayani, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Jarrah Al Sabah, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Al Sheibani and Yemeni Foreign Minister Afrah

Al Zoubi. Safadi also received calls from Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis, Cypriot Foreign Minister Constantinos Kombos, Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot and German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul.

Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, UK Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband, Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares, Dutch Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen and Maltese Foreign Minister Chris Fearn also expressed their condolences and solidarity with Jordan.

National exports rise 6% to JD6.46b in first eight months of 2026 — DoS

AMMAN (JT) — National exports rose by 6 per cent in the first eight months of 2026 to JD6.464 billion, up from JD6.098 billion in the same period last year, according to the Department of Statistics (DoS).

Exports of garments and related accessories increased by 4.6 per cent, chemical and nitrogenous fertilisers by 16.4 per cent, pharmaceutical preparations by 1.8 per cent and raw potash by 12.3 per cent.

Exports to China rose by 74.3 per cent, to Syria by 28.9 per cent and to the European Union by 11.4 per cent. Jordanian products also



The Department of Statistics says that national exports rose by 6 per cent in the first eight months of 2026 to JD6.464 billion

entered new markets in Singapore and South Korea.

Jordan and Amman Chambers of Industry President Fathi Jaghbeer attributed the growth to the industrial sector's resilience

and ability to adapt to challenging external conditions.

He stressed the importance of diversifying export markets and products to sustain growth and reduce production costs.

Jordanian Exporters Association Chairman Senator Ahmad Khudari said that exports contribute to strengthening foreign currency reserves and support the targets of the Economic Modernisation Vision.

He added that plans were under way to expand Jordanian exports into China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kenya.



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday expresses Jordan's support for the United Arab Emirates' nomination of Lana Zaki Nusseibeh for the position of secretary general of the United Nations

Jordan backs UAE nominee for UN secretary general post

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Monday expressed Jordan's support for the United Arab Emirates' nomination of Lana Zaki Nusseibeh for the position of secretary general of the United Nations.

The ministry commended Nusseibeh's diplomacy, extensive experience and distinguished career in multilateral diplomatic work, highlighting her contributions to fostering dialogue and international consensus,

according to a ministry statement.

The ministry commended Nusseibeh's diplomacy...

The ministry reiterated the Kingdom's commitment to supporting multilateral international action and strengthening the effectiveness

of the UN in addressing global challenges.

It also emphasised the importance of safeguarding international peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

The ministry expressed its full confidence in Nusseibeh's ability to enhance the efficiency of the international organisation and develop its performance.

The ministry wished her complete success in her candidacy for the leadership post of the international body.

Jordan, Turkey hold second round of political consultations

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan and Turkey on Monday held the second round of political consultations in Ankara to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations, expand cooperation and address regional and international developments.

The consultations were co-chaired by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Dhiefallah Al Faye and Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Musa Kulaklikaya, according to a ministry statement.



The consultations were co-chaired by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Dhiefallah Al Faye and Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Musa Kulaklikaya

Both sides stressed the strong Jordanian-Turkish relations and their commitment to expanding economic, trade and investment cooperation.

They also discussed developing partnerships in energy, water, infrastructure, transport and regional connectivity, as well as promoting ties between private sector institutions.

The two sides underscored the importance of strengthening political consultations and coordination to serve the mutual interests of both countries.

Jordan, Uzbekistan to sign trade agreement covering 300 commodities — minister

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan and Uzbekistan plan to sign a preferential trade agreement covering 300 commodities to boost bilateral trade and investment, Uzbek Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade Laziz Kudratov said on Monday.

Speaking at a meeting with industrial sector representatives at the Amman Chamber of Industry, Kudratov said that the agreement would grant preferential customs treatment to 150 goods from each country, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He said the agreement would help expand trade, strengthen industrial ties and create new opportunities for companies in both countries.

Kudratov said that the planned agreement reflected the commitment of both countries' leaderships to strengthening economic relations and creating a supportive environment for business growth.

He added that the coming period would see bilateral meetings, a business forum and a joint exhibition involving more than 100 representatives of Uzbek companies.

The agreement would also provide an opportunity to increase the presence of Jordanian products in the Uzbek market and expand economic cooperation, he said.



Uzbek Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade Laziz Kudratov on Monday meets with industrial sector representatives at the Amman Chamber of Industry

Food industry strategy targets JD1.61b in exports by 2029 — ministry

AMMAN (JT) — The National Strategy for the Food Industries Sector (2027-2029) targets food exports of JD1.61 billion by 2029, up from JD1.232 billion in 2027, according to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

The strategy also aims to raise the sector's value added to between JD2.2 billion and JD2.4 billion and annual production to between JD5.5 billion and JD5.8 billion by the end of the strategy period, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

It seeks to increase the share of high value added products in total production to between 32 and 35 per cent by 2029, compared with a baseline of about 25 per cent. Their share of total food exports is targeted to reach between 45 and 50 per cent.

Priority activities include processing and preserving fruit and vegetables, producing chocolate and confectionery, manufacturing ready-made meals and developing other food products to deepen domestic processing and increase value added.

To improve productivity and technology adoption, the strategy targets increasing the share of food industry establishments using digital operating and management systems to between 50 and 60 per cent by 2029, up from less than 20 per cent at baseline.

Proposed initiatives include establishing a national digital food traceability system from farm to factory, upgrading national food laboratories and modernising food inspection and compliance systems to help exporters meet the technical requirements of target markets.

The strategy also



The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply says that the National Strategy for the Food Industries Sector (2027-2029) targets food exports of JD1.61 billion by 2029, up from JD1.232 billion in 2027

seeks to expand contract farming to link farmers with food processing plants and develop agro-industrial hubs near farming areas to reduce post-harvest losses.

Other measures include improving logistics and cold-chain infrastructure for food exports, localising advanced packaging industries and developing pilot manufacturing facilities and a national export identity for Jordanian food products.

By 2033, the strategy aims to increase food exports to between JD2 billion and JD2.2 billion, raise the share of high value added products in total production to between 40 and 45 per cent and increase digital system adoption among food industry establishments to more than 80 per cent.



A handout photo provided by the Saudi Press Agency on Monday, shows a member of the civil defence assessing damage in south-western Saudi Arabia reportedly caused by debris from the interception of two ballistic missiles fired by Yemen's Houthis

Saudi coalition says intercepted missile after Houthis hit Riyadh airport

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — The Saudi-led military coalition said on Monday it intercepted a ballistic missile fired by Yemen's Houthis, after the Iran-backed group claimed a new attack on the international airport in Riyadh.

The Houthis have carried out waves of strikes on the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, including an attack this month that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade.

Coalition spokesman Turki Al Malki said on Monday that air defences "intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile" fired by the Houthis toward Riyadh, and destroyed two ballistic mis-

sile launchers in Yemen's capital Sanaa.

"We continue the process of dismantling the ballistic missile network of the terrorist Houthi militia," Al Malki wrote on X.

On Sunday, the Houthis said they had launched an attack on the airport in Riyadh, after the kingdom announced that flights had resumed.

The airport closure forced the postponement of the kingdom's flagship investment conference until 2027 and disrupting travel plans for thousands of passengers.

The Dakar Rally also joined a growing list of events that were cancelled, postponed or relocated amid the fallout from the war.

As operations resumed at Riyadh airport, Greek

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

During the meeting, Mitsotakis "responded favourably to the kingdom's request to keep the Patriot system in Saudi Arabia, given the current challenging circumstances", his office said.

Greece has deployed a battery to operate the US-made Patriot air defence system in Yanbu, a major oil export hub on the Red Sea coast.

On Sunday, the Saudi-led military coalition said it intercepted at least 10 ballistic missiles.

The kingdom's civil defence agency later said two people were injured in the south by falling debris, also reporting damage to several buildings and vehicles.

Kazakhstan marks Republic Day, highlights progress since sovereignty declaration

Country celebrates state-building, economic growth and growing international role

By Mai Anati

AMMAN — Kazakhstan marked Republic Day on Sunday, commemorating its 1990 Declaration of State Sovereignty and reflecting on more than three decades of state-building, economic transformation and international engagement.

Celebrated annually on October 25, Republic Day marks a key step towards independence, which Kazakhstan declared on December 16, 1991. Since then, the country has established national institutions, developed an independent foreign policy and become Central Asia's largest economy.

Kazakhstan joined the United Nations in March 1992 and introduced its national currency, the tenge, in November 1993. It has since built an international diplomatic presence, maintaining partnerships with Russia, China, the European Union, the United States and neighbouring Central Asian countries.

Nuclear disarmament remains a defining part of that record. Kazakhstan closed the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in 1991 and relinquished the nuclear arsenal inherited from the Soviet Union, with all nuclear warheads removed by 1995.

The country has also strengthened its role as a link between Asia and Europe. Its strategic location between China, Russia, Central Asia and the Caspian Sea supports regional trade, while investment in transport infrastructure is advancing the Middle



Kazakhstan marked Republic Day on Sunday, commemorating its 1990 Declaration of State Sovereignty and reflecting on more than three decades of state-building, economic transformation and international engagement

Corridor, an alternative route connecting Asian and European markets.

Economic diversification is now a key priority. Kazakhstan's gross domestic product reached \$306 billion in 2025, with real growth of 6.5 per cent. Although oil, mining and uranium remain important, manufacturing contributed 12.8 per cent of GDP in 2025, surpassing mining and quarrying at 11.7 per cent.

The country is also investing in digital transformation. Around 90 per cent of public services were available online by the end of 2025, while IT service exports reached \$1.142 billion.

Despite this progress, Kazakhstan faces challenges in reducing its reliance on natural resources, strengthening innovation and addressing environmental pressures, including water security and the legacy of the Aral Sea's decline.

As the country marks Republic Day, its next phase of development centres on building a more diversified economy, expanding technological capacity and translating economic growth into improved living standards.

The anniversary recalls the declaration that laid the foundations for sovereignty while highlighting the priorities shaping Kazakhstan's future.

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Exploration, Drilling, and Pumping Water from Wells to Ground Level in the Northern Governorates of Jordan.

Tender NO. 69/2026

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is among the most water scarce countries in the world, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation ("the Ministry") and the Water Authority of Jordan (the Employer) is pursuing an accelerated programme to secure additional groundwater volumes for municipal supply in the northern governorates, where demand growth, refugee related population pressure and declining yields from ageing production and over abstraction wells have created a persistent supply deficit, to deliver additional water supply capacity quickly and without drawing on public capital budgets, the Water Authority intends to procure the works for the "Exploration, Drilling, and Pumping Water from Wells to Ground Level in the Northern Governorates of Jordan".

2. Water Authority of Jordan (WAO) now invites sealed Expression of Interest ("EOI") from eligible interested bidders for the above mentioned tender.

3. Brief Description of the Works:

- Stage 1: Exploration, Survey, drilling and deepening of new and replacement wells, that shall not be contradicted with existing wells and not impacting existing wells product.
- Stage 2: Where water is found, well development and testing, supply and installation of all casing, screens, pumps, rising mains, electrical panels, transformers and connections, construction of well head civil works, guard rooms and fencing, and installation of water meters to the delivery point noting that the delivery point will be the ground level of the water well.
- Delivery: handover to the Water Authority, at the end of the contract term and at no additional cost, of all wells, equipment, machinery, installations and associated records, in sound, fully operational condition and capable of producing water in the quantity and quality specified in the contract.

4. Eligible Bidders:

- The bidder must be of a nationality of a country not be subjected to any international sanctions, prohibition, blacklisting or debarment.
- The bidder must not have a conflict of interest in relation to the tender.
- The bidder must have no contract terminated for default within the period specified in the bidding documents, and no pending litigation that would materially affect its financial position.
- The bidder must declare its history of environmental and social performance, including any judicial or administrative decision relating to environmental, health, safety or social matters.
- Government owned enterprises may participate only if they are legally and financially autonomous, operate under commercial law and are not dependent agencies of the Employer.

5. Classification:

- Sole Bidders: Local Bidders must be Jordanian classified specialist contractors qualified in Specialized Construction: Water Well Drilling, first grade as per Government Tenders Department (GTD) classification, or foreign firms of equivalent standing acting in association with such a classified contractor.
- Joint Ventures, and Consortia: A joint venture (JV) or consortium, of International Contractors, Local Contractors, or International and Local Contractors. Local Bidders must be Jordanian classified specialist contractors qualified in Specialized Construction: Water Well Drilling, first grade as per Government Tenders Department (GTD) classification, or foreign firms of equivalent standing acting in association with such a classified contractor.

6. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Expression of Interest document at the office of **Tender Department, Water Authority of Jordan**, for electronic copy bidders can find it on: <https://www.mwi.gov.jo/AR/Modules/tenders>

7. Expression of Interest document must be delivered (**only hard copy**) to the below office on or before: **25th of November 2026 at 12:00 PM (Jordan time)**, one (1) original copy, (1) hard copy and one (1) soft-copy USB Flash Drive.

Water Authority of Jordan
Shmeisani - Behind the Marriott Hotel
Tenders and Procurement Directorate 6th floor
P.O. Box 5012, Amman 11181
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Attention: Eng. Rua Alsoub

Interested Applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours, No later than **16/11/2026** :Rua_Alsoub@mwi.gov.jo and Walla_Alsamadi@mwi.gov.jo.

8. Qualification criteria are detailed in the Expression of Interest document Section (7) Evaluation and Qualification Criteria.

- **The awarded Bidder shall bear the costs of the advertisement in the gazette for one time.**

Secretary General / WAO
Eng. Sufyan T. Bataineh

Egypt parliament authorises defensive support to Saudi Arabia — state media

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's parliament authorised on Monday sending military support to Saudi Arabia to defend the kingdom from attacks by Yemen's Houthis, following a request from President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi.

The House of Representatives "approved authorising President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi to take the necessary measures to support the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia", state newspaper Al Ahram reported.

Sisi last week had asked parliament to authorise military sup-



This photo shows the Egyptian Parliament building in the New Administrative Capital on Monday

port to Saudi Arabia, "if requested".

It was not immediately clear what defensive support could be provided by Egypt, the

Arab world's largest military, which boasts hundreds of thousands of active personnel, fighter jets and complex air defences sourced from countries including the US, China, France and Russia.

Sisi said on Wednesday that his country's support would be to "defend Saudi territory, and does not include an attack on Yemen".

"We are talking about defending the land and borders of the kingdom," he said in a speech, adding that the top priority was for a diplomatic solution.

Brazil's Lula wins fourth term, Bolsonaro seeks to annul result

BRASÍLIA (AFP) — Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was reelected against all expectations on Sunday, but his conservative rival Flavio Bolsonaro refused to accept the loss and said he would seek to have the vote annulled.

Lula's dramatic comeback meant Brazil had not followed Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Peru, all backed by US President Donald Trump, in swinging to the right.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen hailed Lula's reelection as a triumph for "democracy and multilateralism", joining a slew of world leaders who welcomed the leftist figurehead's return for an unprecedented fourth term.

Lula, who turns 81 on Tuesday, defied projections to defeat Bol-



Brazil's President and presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva delivers a speech to supporters after winning the presidential runoff election in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Sunday

sonaro, a senator and the son of jailed former far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, and win an unprecedented fourth term.

According to official results, he won 51.8 per cent of the votes to 48.2 per cent for Flavio

"Long live democracy, the people of Brazil won," Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on X.

Right-wing governments in Chile, Ecuador and Peru said they wanted to work towards common goals with the region's economic powerhouse.

China echoed that sentiment, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also offered his friend Lula his "heartiest congratulations".

Fireworks and vuvuzelas rang out in Rio de Janeiro, while thousands of people dressed in red, the color of Lula's Workers' Party, streamed into the streets of Sao Paulo to celebrate.

"People went to vote because we managed to convince them that voting was very important for ensuring de-

mocracy in the country," Lula said in his first comments after the win.

Sunday's vote was marked by confusion after a Supreme Court ruling extended voting by two hours because some polling stations had already closed.

The move came at the request of Lula, who complained that buses had been pulled from circulation in various cities, barring citizens from voting.

Flavio Bolsonaro also requested an extension in some regions due to heavy rains, but he described the decision as "unacceptable" and a "dirty trick".

"It is impossible to recognise the results. I am going to request the annulment of these elections," he said, stone-faced, in a brief speech in Brasilia.

Jordan condemns Israeli far-right minister storming of Aqsa Mosque

AMMAN (JT) — Jordan on Monday condemned an incursion by far-right Israeli national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and groups of Israeli settlers into the Al Aqsa Mosque Compound/ Al Haram Al Sharif in occupied East Jerusalem, under the protection of Israeli occupation forces.

In a statement on Monday the Foreign Ministry warned against attempts to alter the historical and legal status quo of the Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

The ministry slammed the storming into the mosque as a violation of international law and international humanitarian law, and a desecration of the holy site.

Ministry spokesperson Fouad Majali reaffirmed Jordan's "categorical rejection of repeated incursions by Israeli ministers, officials and settlers, as well as their provocative practices".

He also condemned Israeli occupation forces for providing protection and facilitating access to the compound.

Majali said that the repeated incursions sought to impose a new reality at the site by attempting to di-



An aerial view shows Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque Compound, Islam's third holiest shrine, with the Dome of the Rock in the centre

vide it temporally and spatially.

He stressed that Israel has no sovereignty over occupied Jerusalem or its Islamic and Christian holy sites, warning that continued violations and provocative actions could have serious

consequences.

The ministry called on the international community to take a firm position and pressure Israel, as the occupying power, to halt unlawful practices against Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian holy sites. It also

urged Israel to end restrictions on worshippers' access to Al Aqsa Mosque.

Majali reiterated Jordan's position that the entire Al Aqsa Mosque Compound, Al Haram Al Sharif covering 144 dunums, is a place of worship exclusively for

Muslims.

He added that the Jerusalem Awqaf and Al Aqsa Mosque Affairs Department, which operates under Jordan's Ministry of Awqaf, has exclusive legal authority to administer the compound and regulate access to it.

In America's conservative heartland of Kansas, Democrats dream of victory

CHANUTE, United States (AFP) — Democrats in the largely rural, conservative US state of Kansas are hoping they can exploit voter discontent with President Donald Trump and send a Democrat to the Senate — a feat that hasn't been achieved since 1932.

"I'm really optimistic for the first time in a while," said Travis Falstad, 53, a rare left-leaning voter in Neosho County, in the heart of the Great Plains.

Two years ago, 73 percent of voters in this county supported the Republican Trump. But white yard signs bearing the name of Adam Hamilton, the Democratic candidate for Senate, can be seen here and there.

Kansas isn't the only state previously considered out of reach where the Democrats are daring to dream of winning in the mid-term elections on November 3.

Energised by favourable polls, the Democratic Party is working to mobilise voters, even in traditionally right-leaning areas, capitalizing on angst over soaring living costs, exacerbated by the Iran war, and low approval ratings for Trump.

"I think people are just desperate for a bit of normalcy," Falstad said, a baseball cap

perched on his head in front of a Walmart.

'A centrist is fine'

Beside him, his wife, Beth Ann, takes a pragmatic approach.

The Democratic candidates in Kansas "are pretty centrist", she noted, like Hamilton, the pastor of a megachurch who until recently was registered as a Republican and has emphasised his moderate stance on many issues — as well as a desire to bring decency back to Washington.

"A centrist is fine with us," she said, because "if we tried to field a progressive candidate, it would be a lost cycle because it will just ricochet back to where we are now", a reference to deeply polarised politics in America.

"And if we can salvage our democracy, fantastic," she added.

In a sign of Republican unease about Kansas, Trump travelled to the state last week, his first trip there since 2018, to rally support for the incumbent, Republican Senator Roger Marshall.

That rally was not intended to change anyone's mind, said Don Haider-Markel, a political science professor at the University of Kansas.

It was "meant to excite what are now un-

enthusiastic Republican voters and get them to turn out to vote", he said.

Frustrated by soaring prices, a significant portion of conservative voters may simply not vote, Haider-Markel said, while more moderate voters and independents who aren't registered with either political party may support a more centrist candidate like Hamilton.

Hamilton is a newcomer to politics, and this year there's a wave of anti-establishment sentiment across the country, the professor said.

Disillusioned

Although he hasn't made up his mind yet who he'll vote for, Daniel Dwire, a 52-year-old convenience store manager, doesn't hide his disappointment with Trump, whom he has supported since 2016.

"The first time Trump was in office, it was great," he said.

But Trump's second term in office and the war he started with Iran — "We should have never stuck our nose in it" — have left Dwire disillusioned.

With gas at \$4 a gallon, customers are becoming scarcer at the gas station attached to his store, as are sales of snacks and drinks, forcing him to reduce his staff.

King meets with Iraq PM, underlines deep Amman-Baghdad relations

Continued from page 1

The meeting also covered the two countries' commitment to maintaining coordination and consultation on issues of mutual interest, the statement said.

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, General Intelligence Department Director Maj. Gen. Ahmad Husni, Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Muhannad Shehadeh, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Oudah, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabshah, Interior Minister Mazen Farraya, and Jordan's Ambassador to Iraq Maher Tarawneh attended the meeting.

From the Iraqi side, Deputy Prime Minister Mohsen Al Mandalawi, Deputy Prime Minister

and Minister of Foreign Affairs Fuad Hussein, Oil Minister Basim Al Abadi, Electricity Minister Ali Saadi Waheeb, Minister of Industry and Minerals Mohammed Nouri, Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Omer Berzinji, and a number of officials attended the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the King received Prime Minister Zaidi at Marka Airport, where an official welcoming ceremony was held for the prime minister.

King offers condolences to families of Karak attack martyrs

Continued from page 1

"The Nashama [the brave ones] have chased them to the very end. We vowed the terrorists would not escape punishment, and no proponent of dark ideologies that divide Jordanians will be tolerated," he wrote.

"We pray that the

martyrs' souls rest in peace and wish the injured a speedy recovery. May God protect and watch over Jordan and its people," the King added.

The Public Security Directorate announced on Monday the arrest of three suspects in connection with the attack on a church in

the village of Hmoud in Karak.

On Friday, gunmen opened fire on people attending a funeral service at the church, killing seven people at the scene and injuring dozens. Two more victims died the following day, bringing the death toll to nine.

The three suspects were taken to the hospital for further medical intervention, Obeidallah said.

No one was injured from the arresting force, according to Obeidallah.

The police chief identified the suspects as: Hazaa Zeidan Mohammad (the plotter), Mashal Zeidan Mohammad and Ahmad Sami Hussein.

"They are all from the same area and lived next to the attacked church," he added.

Iran holds talks with Mecca pact countries in Tehran

TEHRAN, Iran (AFP) — Iran began talks on Monday with the three countries of the Mecca security pact, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey, to discuss regional issues as the months-long Middle East war remains locked in a stalemate, state television reported.

The meeting, requested by Pakistan, opened in capital Tehran and focused on "regional cooperation, the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and its consequences", Iran's state broadcaster said.

"As agreed, Saudi Defence Minister Khalid bin Salman, Pakistani army chief General Asim Munir and Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin will participate in this meeting," said Ali Bagheri Kani, deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

In an interview with state television, Bagheri Kani said the meeting will also include Iran's security chief Mohsen Rezaei. He was also to be present at all the meetings.

The representatives of the pact met with Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian, according to the photos shared by the presidential website.

The talks come after nearly eight months of



This handout photo provided by the Iranian presidency shows (from left to right) Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Khalid Bin Salman Al Saud, Pakistan's army chief General Syed Asim Munir, and Turkey's intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin during their meeting with Iran's President, Foreign Minister, and National Security Council head in Tehran on Monday

war following US-Israeli attacks on Iran in late February, prompting Tehran to blockade the Strait of Hormuz. The conflict has roiled global markets and energy trade.

An April ceasefire brought an end to the initial phase of intense bombardment, but the two sides have continued to vie for control of the strait, through which around a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas used to travel.

The war has since spread across the region to include fighting between Saudi Arabia

and the Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen, who have attacked airports and oil facilities in the kingdom.

Saudi Deputy Minister for Public Diplomacy Dr Rayed Krimly confirmed that the kingdom's defence minister was heading a delegation to Tehran on Monday.

"The visit comes as part of the continued efforts by the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement countries for de-escalation between parties involved in the ongoing crisis," Krimly said in a post on X.

It is aimed at "pro-

moting dialogue and diplomatic solutions, in support of the mediation efforts carried out by the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan", he added.

Iran claims control over the Hormuz strait and regularly targets vessels that attempt to cross without its authorisation, while the United States has imposed a naval counterblockade on Iranian ports.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis remain stalled, especially since the collapse of a June deal which laid

out a pathway to a permanent settlement.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said Monday it was "essential to stop any escalation" in the Middle East, as senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan hold talks in Iran.

"The risk to have the combination of an overwhelming military attack on Iran, and an overwhelming military attack by Iran on the countries of the Gulf, needs to be avoided at all costs," he said at a press conference in Cairo, in response to a question about the possibility of an Iran deal and escalating threats from the United States.

"The consequences would be unimaginable. It would have an impact far beyond the region," Guterres said at the joint press conference with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, after earlier meeting President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi.

Abdelatty said Cairo is "talking daily with the Iranians, we are talking with the Americans, we are working with our regional partners".

He singled out the so-called R4 — which includes Riyadh, Ankara and Islamabad who have sent officials to Tehran.

Karak attack terrorists acted alone, motivated by extremist ideology — police chief

Continued from page 1

He added that security forces took the necessary measures to isolate the area and secure its perimeter by establishing checkpoints, deploying patrols, and utilising drones.

"Our security teams worked continuously for three days to comb the area of the attack, including small villages as well as rugged mountainous terrain and valleys, until they were able to locate them in a deserted

building," the police chief said.

"The three suspected terrorists barricaded themselves inside the abandoned building and refused to surrender, opening fire on the security force that surrounded them," Obeidallah said.

The security force applied the rules of engagement, eventually gaining control of the situation and apprehending all three individuals, who sustained injuries during the encounter, he added.

The three suspects were taken to the hospital for further medical intervention, Obeidallah said.

No one was injured from the arresting force, according to Obeidallah.

The police chief identified the suspects as: Hazaa Zeidan Mohammad (the plotter), Mashal Zeidan Mohammad and Ahmad Sami Hussein.

Upon searching their hideout, the arresting force found a collection of firearms and ammunition, he maintained.

The arrest of the three suspects does not mark the end of the operation, Obeidallah said, adding that "the state remains committed to completing the investigations, uncovering all the circumstances surrounding the crime, and holding accountable — in accordance with the law — anyone proven to have been involved in planning,

inciting, assisting, or facilitating it".

Also speaking during the press conference, Faraya said that His Majesty King Abdullah said during his visit to the injured in the hospital by saying: "We shall show them."

Today, Faraya maintained, "our response was: 'We have shown them, Your Majesty.'"

Faraya said Jordan lived three difficult days that ended with arresting the perpetrators.

"Today we are strong

with the arrests and can assure our citizens that justice will prevail in the end and the attackers will get their appropriate punishment under the law," the interior minister stressed.

Faraya added that the "church attack was the product of an extremist ideology that is alien to the values and morals of the Jordanian people".

"We need to work on addressing the root cause of extremist ideologies so we do not

experience a similar incident in the future," Faraya said.

Momani also spoke during Monday's press conference, saying that Friday's attack is a "major turning point for Jordan in terms of efforts to fight and confront takfiri [extremist] ideology through security, intellectual, and societal means".

"Under the directives of King Abdullah, during a meeting of the National Security Council, the campaign to root out such ideology and

extremism across all sectors remains ongoing," Momani stressed.

This, Momani maintained, "will be achieved by reviewing policies to combat extremist ideology and eliminating its root sources through a systematic plan", Momani said.

"Confronting extremism is a comprehensive and ongoing national responsibility, one shared by government, religious, educational, media, and societal institutions," Momani added.

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 Like our facebook page: thejordantimes Youtube: thejordantimes
Hasan Jazzazi	National Library registration number: D/1998/2062
Editor-in-Chief	Telephone: 5600800 ext. 2392 Facsimile: 5696183
Raed Omari	Advertising facsimile: 5696183 Circulation Department: 5600800 ext. 2383
Editorial and advertising offices Jordan Press Foundation	
The Jordan Times is published daily except Saturdays	

Flavio Bolsonaro: Heir to Brazil's far-right dynasty

By Fran Blandy
Agence France-Presse

RIO DE JANEIRO — Flavio Bolsonaro may cut a more affable, measured figure than his fiery far-right father, but he has taken pains to insist that the Bolsonaro name, and all it represents, runs through his veins.

At certain angles, the physical resemblance between Flavio Bolsonaro, 45, and his father, Jair Bolsonaro, is almost jarring.

With fewer rough edges and a jovial smile, Flavio easily inherited his father's powerful conservative base while winning over less ideological voters who are fed up with Brazil's leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

This gave him a shock lead over Lula after the first round, sending him into Sunday's runoff as a narrow favorite.

"You will see Jair Messias Bolsonaro place the presidential sash on his own son," Flavio told a crowd of over 70,000 supporters in Sao Paulo on Sunday.

The senator has vowed to free his father, who is serving a 27-year sentence under house arrest over a botched coup attempt after he lost a re-election bid to Lula in 2022.

"I may be calmer, more prone to smiling, more relaxed and moderate. But I have the blood of a Bolsonaro in my veins," said the senator, who is often referred to only as Flavio.

Despite his absence, Jair Bolsonaro has loomed large over the campaign, with his image appearing on T-shirts and posters at rallies.

"Come back Bolsonaro!" chanted the crowd in Sao Paulo on Sunday.

After the first round, Flavio Bolsonaro related that his father was delighted with the results and "very happy to have been heard by the majority of the Brazilian people".

The candidate said in an interview that a government post for his father was "not on the radar".

But "he continues to act as an avatar for his father. I have no doubt who will have the final say should Flavio Bolsonaro be elected", political analyst Thomas Traumann told AFP.

Funk and fury

Born in Rio de Janeiro state, Flavio Bolsonaro is the eldest of the former president's four sons.

Cementing the family political dynasty, Jair Bolsonaro's second son Carlos was elected to the Senate, as was the former president's wife Michelle. His youngest son Jair Renan was elected to the lower house of Congress along with the ex-leader's brother.

Flavio Bolsonaro has two daughters with his wife Fernanda, a dentist, and presents himself as a devout family man, saying "God is using me to save Brazil."

He was elected to the Rio de Janeiro state legislature at age 21 and became a senator at age 37. He holds a law degree.

On the campaign trail, Flavio Bolsonaro displayed the relaxed Carioca style and language that the city of Rio is known for, dancing to funk music along with young right-wing influencers.

During the only debate between the candidates so far, the president described Flavio as a "Carioca hustler".

It emerged during the campaign that the senator was under investigation for alleged corruption and money laundering linked to the financing of a biopic, "Dark Horse", about his father.

When he was a Rio legislator he was accused of taking a portion of his aides' salaries in a kickback scheme, but the case was dismissed.

He has also faced scrutiny over alleged ties to Rio de Janeiro's violent and shadowy militia figures. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Who is Flavio, really?

Flavio Bolsonaro's speeches center on attacks on Lula, plans to get tough on crime, creating 500,000 more spots in prisons, and slashing government spending.

Critics say he has yet to explain how he would finance this while keeping his promise not to cut social benefits.

Flavio has promised closer ties with the United States, and his rallies have featured giant US flags and blow-up dolls of his ally President Donald Trump.

But it can be hard to pin down Flavio Bolsonaro's beliefs.

Before the runoff, after fiercely criticising Lula's proposal to shorten Brazil's workweek, the senator ultimately voted in favor of the measure. He has also taken greater pains than his father to address women's issues.

In a 2017 book, Flavio Bolsonaro presents himself as fiercely anti-leftist and defends many of Jair Bolsonaro's ideas.

Flavio Bolsonaro sees Brazil's 1964 military coup as a necessary intervention to prevent a communist takeover and describes military rule, which lasted until 1985, as a "period some like to call a dictatorship."

He praises Colonel Carlos Alberto Brilhante Ustra, a convicted torturer, as a "national hero" and "upright, principled man" who helped preserve democracy.

It is also an attack on Jordan's economy

By Raad Mahmoud Al-Tal

The tragedy that took place at Hmoud Church in Karak is a painful loss for Jordan. It affected a place of worship and left a deep impact on the people of Jordan. Churches are an important part of the country's religious and national heritage. The strong ties between Muslims and Christians are also a key part of Jordan's identity and social unity.

This crime appears to have aimed at more than one target. It threatened Jordan's security and stability and could also harm its economic interests, especially religious tourism, which depends on visitors feeling safe and confident.

Attacking a church is not simply an attack on a specific place or a group of people. It also threatens the spirit of unity that Jordan is known for. Anyone seeking to weaken Jordan's social unity is also threatening one of the country's greatest strengths.

Jordan is a safe and stable country with many important religious sites. One of the most significant is the Baptism Site. It is an important destination for Christian pilgrims and attracts visitors from around the world. The planned commemoration in 2030, marking two thousand years since the baptism of Jesus Christ, is expected to bring further attention to Jordan and strengthen its position as a glo-

bal destination for Christian pilgrimage.

Any attempt to create fear among pilgrims or raise doubts about their safety could damage Jordan's image. This is where the economic risk becomes clear. If visitors lose confidence in a destination, tourism businesses may suffer, investment opportunities may decline and jobs may be affected. The impact could extend to hotels, restaurants, transport companies, tour operators and local communities that depend on tourism.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, Jordan continues to protect its security, strengthen national unity, and promote its religious and cultural heritage. The Kingdom

also continues to develop the Baptism Site as an international destination for Christian pilgrimage. These efforts, supported by the unity of the Jordanian people and confidence in national institutions, help protect the country's economic interests and future opportunities.

Jordan will remain strong under its Hashemite leadership and through the unity of its people. Its social cohesion is a source of strength, and its stability is an important foundation for economic growth. The stronger Jordanians stand together, the better equipped their country will be to face challenges, protect its achievements, and safeguard its future.

The rich world's climate distraction

By Indermit Gill and Bjorn Lomborg

The last 75 years have brought the greatest improvement of human welfare in history. But over the past decade, much of that progress has stalled. This happened at the same time that the rich world shifted its attention to climate change. This is not a coincidence, and it has to change.

Consider extreme poverty, long defined as living on less than a dollar a day. In 1950, more than half of humanity was that poor. Today the share is 7.6 per cent, the lowest ever recorded. Average schooling has almost tripled, from 3.2 years to nearly 9. Electricity access has soared. Problems remain, but the gains have been spectacular.

Now development has slowed to a crawl. After almost two centuries of declining poverty, the number of poor people hasn't budged since 2016. Global progress is at its slowest pace since 1950, according to the World Bank.

There are many causes but one stands out. In 2016, the world retired its Millennium Development Goals — a short list of mostly efficient, targeted aims: cut poverty, disease, and maternal and child deaths, and get every child into school. In their place came the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change became the rich world's obsession.

Nowhere is this obsession clearer than in the rich world development aid. Its core purpose is to help development, yet increasingly money is instead spent on climate. Across the rich world, \$49 billion or nearly a quarter of all develop-

ment commitments is climate. Global development banks now spend half their development money on climate, at about \$103 billion for low- and middle-income countries.

Both development agencies and banks seem to have convinced themselves that because poor people are more vulnerable to climate change, climate policy is crucial for development.

None of this requires abandoning climate, with both adaptation and green innovation delivering strong returns

The logic is seductive but wrong. Poor people are more vulnerable to everything — disease, hunger, broken infrastructure, economic shocks. The real question is whether climate policy is the best way to help them. Examined rigorously, development generally wins decisively.

Sustained economic growth is the surest predictor of a country's ability to withstand climate shocks. A 10 per cent rise in per capita gross domestic

product can cut the number of people most exposed to climate disruption by 100 million. Prosperity is the ultimate climate adaptation strategy. A hurricane kills hundreds in poor Haiti; the same storm merely inconveniences wealthy Florida. Resilience runs through development — not through a solar farm that raises power prices and slows industrialisation.

The core problem is opportunity cost. Every dollar subsidising solar panels or carbon accounting is a dollar not spent on schools, maternal health or clean water. Research by the Copenhagen Consensus, with more than 100 economists and several Nobel laureates, compared the returns. Investments in nutrition, health and education routinely deliver \$40 to \$110 in social benefits per dollar. Climate-mitigation investments — funding emissions cuts in poor countries — often deliver much less back.

The trade-offs are concrete. For \$2.50, an expectant mother can receive micronutrient supplements that prevent stunting and lifelong cognitive damage in her child — returning nearly \$100 of long-term benefits. Expanding diagnosis and treatment for tuberculosis and malaria, which still kill more than a million people a year, returns more than \$45 for each dollar invested.

The energy dimension is starkest. Much of Africa uses less electricity per person than a single refrigerator in a Western home. The rich world built its wealth on cheap, reliable fossil fuels, which still supply over 80 per cent of global energy. Yet, most rich world de-

velopment agencies and most development banks now refuse to finance new fossil-fuel projects in poor countries. Germany has spent over 700 billion euros on its energy transition since 2002; power prices more than doubled and its economy is still almost four-fifths fossil fueled. To demand that African nations achieve what Germany cannot — with a fraction of the resources — isn't climate leadership. It is hypocrisy.

None of this requires abandoning climate, with both adaptation and green innovation delivering strong returns.

But the rich world's development institutions must overcome their climate fixation. They should learn from Norway's official analysis: an expert group has recommended the government separate climate financing and other global public goods from the development budget. This would mean the money set aside for the world's poorest would go to actually help them.

Most of humanity is still quite poor. To help, the rich world should spend billions on tackling urgent, cheaply solved problems before spending trillions to nudge the thermometer in a century. Tellingly, Africans ranked climate change 31st among 34 priorities in a recent Afrobarometer survey. We must rediscover the smart, focused development solutions that transformed the world in the past 75 years — and put the best development policies first.

By Indermit Gill, former chief economist of the World Bank, and Bjorn Lomborg, president of the Copenhagen Consensus.

Economic planning in Jordan: From vision to achievement

By Ahmad Abdelbaset Rjoub

Over recent decades, Jordan has worked steadily to improve its economic and investment environment through legislative reforms, infrastructure development, and programs designed to stimulate growth and create jobs. These achievements provide a valuable foundation. Yet, changing economic conditions call for stronger planning mechanisms and a more determined shift from drafting strategies to implementing productive projects with lasting impact.

Today, Jordan needs closer cooperation between government and the private sector, guided by clear priorities, efficient use of resources and greater investor confidence. Three interconnected priorities deserve particular attention.

First, indicative planning and government leadership. Jordan follows an indicative planning approach within a market economy, leaving substantial room for private initiative. For this model to succeed, government must identify promising sectors, coordinate institutions, provide appropriate incentives and monitor implementation.

Comprehensive planning should not be confused with centralised state management. The goal is to connect economic sectors within a coherent national vision, not to place most business activities under government control. Public institutions should enable investment and strengthen competitiveness while businesses lead production and innovation.

The experience of industrial

economies, including Japan, demonstrates the value of coordination between public policy and private enterprise in advancing technology, manufacturing and exports. Jordan can adapt relevant lessons to its own circumstances, drawing on its strategic location, international partnerships and skilled workforce.

A practical step would be to prepare a portfolio of investment-ready projects in industry, agriculture, energy and technology. Each project should have a credible feasibility study, financing requirements, implementation milestones and measurable targets for jobs, added value, and exports. Universities, business chambers, and financial institutions should participate in developing these opportunities.

A unified national investment platform could present this information transparently to local and international investors. Priority should go to projects that use resources across governorates, connect small and medium-sized enterprises to major industrial supply chains, and create opportunities for young people. Well-designed public-private partnerships, with clearly allocated responsibilities and risks, can help turn promising proposals into sustainable enterprises. Publishing implementation results would strengthen accountability and public confidence.

Second, connecting plans to results. Jordan's progress in infrastructure, education, and public services offers a strong basis for a more productive economy. To realise its potential, sectoral strategies must be

linked more closely to public budgets, realistic financing and executable programmes.

Economic growth and economic development are related but distinct. Growth measures increases in output; development also considers employment, living standards, regional balance and sustainability. Policy success should therefore be judged not only by national indicators but by tangible improvements in people's lives and businesses' capacity to expand.

Lessons from earlier development plans underline the importance of matching ambitions with available funding and institutional capabilities. They also highlight the need to avoid duplicating projects or concentrating investment in limited locations without adequately assessing local needs and market demand.

Better economic databases, common monitoring standards, and publicly available performance indicators for major projects would make progress easier to assess. Regular reviews should identify obstacles early and allow timely corrective action. Stronger coordination between institutions can accelerate delivery, improve the value of public spending, and encourage long-term private investment.

Third, investment security and judicial specialisation. Investment decisions depend not only on incentives and infrastructure, but also on confidence in laws, institutions, and the timely resolution of disputes. Jordan has modernised elements of its investment framework, but further improvements in procedur-

al clarity and efficiency would enhance its attractiveness.

One option worth examining is a specialised investment and commercial court, or the further strengthening of existing specialised judicial divisions. Any reform should follow a careful legal and institutional assessment to establish actual needs and avoid overlapping jurisdictions.

Additional judicial training in commercial and financial matters, greater use of digital systems, and simpler litigation and enforcement procedures could support faster resolution of disputes. These improvements must preserve judicial independence, due process, and fairness. Predictable and effective dispute resolution helps protect businesses, reassure investors, and support continued capital flows.

As Jordan advances into its second century, regional and global changes make it essential to sharpen economic priorities and identify sectors where the country can compete successfully. The central challenge is to translate plans into viable projects, productive employment, and benefits that reach communities throughout the Kingdom.

Building on existing achievements, deepening government-private sector cooperation, and improving planning and judicial institutions are complementary paths toward sustainable growth. Jordan's next phase should place practical initiatives at the centre of economic policy, combining ambition with realism and keeping citizens' welfare and national economic resilience firmly in view.

BUSINESS

Tuesday, October 27, 2026



Jordan, Libya sign MoU to launch seven weekly flights on Misrata-Amman route

AMMAN (JT) — A delegation from the Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission, led by Daifallah Farajat, met on Monday with a Libyan Civil Aviation Authority delegation headed by Mohamed Shlibek to discuss cooperation in air transport.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the eighth meeting of directors general of civil aviation in the Middle East, held in Doha, Qatar, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to add the Misrata-Amman route, in both directions, to their schedule of air routes.

The agreement authorises designated air carriers from both sides to operate seven scheduled weekly flights on the route, carrying passengers, cargo and mail, in accordance with the third and fourth freedoms of the air.

Both sides stressed their commitment to continued coordination to strengthen cooperation in the civil aviation and air transport sectors.

The talks highlighted the longstanding relations between the two countries and addressed the need to review the air services agreement in line with recent developments in the air transport industry.

Trade Unions, ILO launch workshop to strengthen crisis communication skills

AMMAN (JT) — The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU), in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), on Monday launched a three-day workshop aimed at strengthening trade unions' communication effectively during and after crises.

The workshop, which is organised in partnership with the ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV), brings together union representatives and experts to develop strategic communication skills, improve media engagement and strengthen advocacy for workers' right, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

According to a GFJTU statement issued on Monday, the training focuses on developing institutional communication strategies that support trade union objectives and improve the delivery of messages to workers, policymakers and the public.

GFJTU President Khaled Fanatseh said rapid technological developments, the growing use of artificial intelligence and the spread of misinformation have created new challenges for



The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation on Monday launch a three-day workshop aimed at strengthening trade unions' communication effectively during and after crises

trade unions, requiring them to modernise their communication practices.

He stressed the need to strengthen digital communication capabilities and adopt clear strategies to protect workers' rights and ensure their concerns are effectively represented.

Fanatseh said the workshop provides an opportunity for union representatives to improve their skills in digital communication, media campaign management and message development, helping trade unions communicate workers' demands more effectively.

Mustapha Said, the ILO Bureau for Workers' Activities' official for the Arab region, emphasised the importance of continued cooperation with the federation to strengthen trade unions' communication and media capabilities.

He said effective communication is essential to trade union work, noting that messages should primarily address workers and their concerns while also reaching other relevant stakeholders.

Said added that well-designed communication strategies can help promote social and economic stability, advance social justice and support decent work standards.

The workshop features sessions on crisis communication, misinformation, artificial intelligence, reputation management and the development of communication plans for emergency situations.

Participants will also receive training in writing trade union stories and press releases, communicating during strikes and labour disputes, and responding to cyberattacks.

The sessions are being delivered by ILO/ACTRAV Communications Officer Mamadou Souare, GFJTU Adviser Nizam Qahoush, Journalist Abdullah Rbeihat and technology expert Qusai Shaheen.

Study highlights Malaysian market for Jordanian food, pharma exports

AMMAN (JT) — A targeted market study has identified promising export opportunities for Jordanian products in Malaysia across the agri-food, confectionery, olive oil and pharmaceutical sectors, tapping into the country's \$339.5 billion import market last year.

The study, which is prepared by Trade First Jordan in partnership with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, found that Jordanian exports to Malaysia reached \$55.35 million last year, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Fertilisers accounted for nearly 78 per cent of the total, while combined exports of halal food, agricultural products and pharmaceuticals stood at \$4.58 million, highlighting scope for greater diversification.

Malaysia imported \$68.1 million worth of fresh and dried dates, \$104.5 million in sugar confectionery, \$53 million in tahini and sesame preparations, and \$21.4 million in olive oil and its derivatives last year.

Jordan ranked ninth among Malaysia's date suppliers, with a 3.07 per cent market share, while its tahini and sesame product exports totalled



\$705,000, accounting for 1.33 per cent of the market.

Jordan ranked third among suppliers of non-virgin olive oil to Malaysia, with a 7.2 per cent market share.

The study noted that Malaysia's official recognition of halal certificates issued by the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organisation (JSMO) streamlines export procedures, allowing producers to complete halal certification locally before shipment.

In the pharmaceutical sector, Malaysia's imports under HS Chapter 30 exceeded \$2.7 billion last year, including \$898.5 million in packaged medicaments, \$65.2 million in antibiotics and \$19.5 million in vitamin preparations.

In order to access Malaysian pharmaceutical market, it requires a partnership with a locally registered entity to facilitate product registration with the relevant regulatory authorities.

The process typically takes up to 18 months, although expedited procedures are available for eligible products.

The study recommends that Jordanian exporters secure local import partners, verify the relevant customs classifications and calculate landed costs at Port Klang, taking into account freight, insurance, tariffs and taxes.

Thousands of trucks stuck as partial Iran-Pakistan trade resumes

QUETTA, Pakistan (AFP) — Thousands of trucks remain stranded on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border despite the resumption of limited overland trade between the two countries, southwest Pakistan business representatives told AFP on Monday.

Mir Naveed Jan Kalmati, president of the chamber of commerce for Gwadar city on Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast, said the frontier with Iran was "only partially open" to trade, with a vast backlog of vehicles at the border.

There were "three to four thousand trucks on the Iranian side and two to three thousand trucks on the Pakistani side", Kalmati said.

Only certain vehicles were being allowed across the border to clear the backlog after a week-long closure.

He blamed the closures on "changes in the implementation of Pakistan's E-Form procedure for imports from Iran", which he said "have created a situation in which traders are effectively and literally unable to

dispatch cargo from Iran to Pakistan".

Pakistan's interior and foreign ministries did not respond to a request for comment from AFP.

Kalmati said companies on both sides of the border were urging authorities to allow the complete resumption of trade.

He said his members and drivers were "frustrated, they want to go back home, they want to continue their business".

Fida Ahmad Dashti, a businessman in Kech district in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province, said he had been told that only vehicles with paperwork prepared before October 16 were being allowed to cross the border.

Two other businessmen based in Balochistan confirmed their drivers had said only vehicles with documents prepared before October 16 were being allowed across the frontier.

The Gwadar Chamber

of Commerce said in a statement on Saturday the suspension of the import of LPG and the "abrupt closure of the border" had led to "disrupting the national LPG supply chain, and causing prices to skyrocket".

Pakistan has attempted to mediate a peace deal in the Middle East war with Iran, and its army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, visited Tehran on Monday, the Pakistani military said, his second visit to the Islamic republic in less than a week.

Senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan were to hold talks on regional security with Iranian officials in Tehran on Monday, Iranian and Saudi authorities said.

Saudi Arabia and Turkey signed the so-called Mecca Joint Defence Agreement in August, committing the three countries to mutual defence in the event of any of them being attacked.

Thailand launches \$1.5b household solar push

BANGKOK, Thailand (AFP) — Thailand offered subsidies worth up to \$1.5 billion on Monday to help households install solar panels, as it seeks to boost renewable energy and reduce dependence on costly imports.

The government offered almost \$1,500 (50,000 baht) towards installation costs for up to one million households, while also promising low-interest loans and tax benefits for those fitting

panels to their homes or land.

"Today, we import a lot of our energy, we're among the top buyers globally," Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas told reporters.

But he said this "was not a sustainable solution".

The solar panel subsidy is expected to be approved at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, with applications to open soon after, Ekniti said.

It will be funded out of a 400 billion-baht emergency borrowing package announced earlier this year to cushion the economic impacts of the Middle East war.

Around 60 per cent of electricity production in Thailand comes from natural gas, with renewables making up almost 11 per cent, according to government data from January to July 2026.

Much of the gas has historically come from

offshore production or via pipeline from Myanmar, but declining production has forced Bangkok to step up liquid natural gas (LNG) imports.

Imported LNG made up 32 per cent of its natural gas in the January-July period.

Qatar was a major supplier but its gas infrastructure has been hit by the US and Israeli war with Iran, as has energy production across the region.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Monday amounted to JD15.9 million spread over 5.072 million shares that traded through 5,072 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 0.79 per cent, closing at 4150.16 points.

Out of 103 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 49 companies rose while the share price of another 18 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Jordanian Expatriates Investment Holding by 7.14 per cent, Ad-Dulayl Industrial Park and Real Estate Company Plc. by 4.69 per cent, Shira Real Estate Development and Investments by 4.17 per cent, Jordan Poultry Processing and Marketing by 4.17 per cent, and Jordan French Insurance by 4 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Jordan Dairy by 4.69 per cent, Babelon Investments Company Plc. by 3.80 per cent, Jordan Industrial Resources by 3.70 per cent, Petra Education Company by 2.84 per cent, and Al-Zarqa Educational and Investment by 2.58 per cent.



FOOTBALL

CAF Cup favourites Ahly cruise into group stage

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Hussein El Shahat scored twice as CAF Confederation Cup title favourites Al Ahly of Egypt hammered Kitara of Uganda 4-0 to reach the group stage. Mohamed 'Afsha' Magdy and Taher Mohamed also scored for the Cairo Red Devils in the Egyptian capital. They led 2-0 at half-time. Ahly triumphed 6-1 on aggregate having won the first leg of the final round qualifier 2-1 in east Africa last weekend. They will join 14 other clubs in the mini-league draw on Wednesday. An appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) by first-round losers Hafía of Guinea leaves one place open. After competing in the CAF Champions League each year since 2004, Ahly failed to qualify for the premier African club competition this season having come third in the Egyptian league. Only the top two finishers in Egypt go into the Champions League. The club finishing third has to settle for the Confederation Cup, the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League. While Ahly are the team to beat, they can expect tough opposition from title-holders USM Alger of Algeria and Moroccan duo Raja Casablanca and FAR Rabat.

CRICKET

South Africa select 'enforcer' Coetzee for Australia decider

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — Fast bowler Gerald Coetzee will replace injured fellow paceman Anrich Nortje in the South African team for the series-deciding third Test against Australia, starting at Newlands on Tuesday. Australia, meanwhile, are waiting on the fitness of key batsman Steve Smith, who is recovering from a neck injury. "He's the closest we've got to a like-for-like replacement for Anrich Nortje," South African captain Temba Bavuma said of Coetzee at his pre-match press conference on Monday. Like Nortje, Coetzee is capable of bowling at speeds of up to 150km/h. And, like Nortje, bowling at high pace has led to lengthy periods on the sidelines because of injuries. Nortje played in the first two Tests against Australia after a three-year lay-off — and was ruled out of the third Test by a groin injury. Coetzee last played in the Test team two years ago but played in two of the three One-Day internationals between South Africa and Australia last month. "

Hussein, Faisali resume Asian matches

By Aline Bannayan

AMMAN — AFC Champions League Two round 3 matches resume on Tuesday when Hussein face Iraq's Shorta in an away Group D match in the second-tier club competition organized by the Asian Football Confederation.

Jordan's reigning Pro League champs Hussein kicked off their matches with a disappointing 2-2 draw with East Bengal, before beating Oman's Al-Seeb 3-0 in an away encounter in Round 2. Hussein are now second in the group behind Shorta who beat Al Seeb 1-0 and East Bengal 3-2.

In Group C, Pro League runner-up Faisali host group leaders Saudi Arabia's Taawoun at Amman International Stadium on Wednesday. Faisali are second in the group after their opening 4-3 defeat to Qatar's Al-Rayyan before beating Saudi Arabia's Nahda 2-0. Earlier, Taawoun beat Al-Rayyan 2-1 and Nahda held Taawoun 1-1.

UAE's Al-Wahda lead Group A which includes Kuwait's SC, Uzbekistan's Nasaf and Bahrain's Khaldiya, while UAE's Jazira lead Group B which includes Bahrain's Muharraq, Turkmenistan's Arkadag and Iran's Gol Gohar Sirjan. After group-stage matches end December 3, the top two teams from each group will move to the Round of 16. The knockout stage begins on February 9, 2027, with the final scheduled for May 15, 2027.

Earlier in the season, Hussein played their preliminary round match in the top tier Asian competition — the ACL Elite — losing to Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor 3-0. The early



Hussein FC photo

Hussein train ahead of their match against Iraq's Shorta

elimination moved Hussein to play in the ACL Two alongside Faisali.

In the 2025/26 season, Hussein had an exceptional season winning their first-ever triple titles: the Jordan Cup, the Super Cup alongside their third consecutive Pro League crown while Faisali won the JFA Shield. This year, Hussein started competitions on a sour note, losing to

Faisali in the Super Cup. Faisali currently lead the league and have a confident stride after their season opening Super Cup and league results. Faisali now lead the Jordan Pro League while holders Hussein are 6th after fluctuating results.

Regionally, Hussein and Wihdat represented Jordan last season in the Asian Champions League Two for the second year

running. Wihdat, failed to advance past Round 1 while Hussein reached the quarterfinals bowing out to Qatar's Ahli. Saudi Arabi's Nassr beat Ahli 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.

Group C	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Taawoun	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Faisali	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Rayyan	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Nahda	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group D	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Shorta	2	2	0	0	4	6	6
Hussein	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
E. Bengal	2	0	1	1	4	5	1
Seeb	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

LIFE

THE JORDAN TIMES

Bosideng joins the official Paris Fashion Week Calendar

PARIS — Bosideng presented its 50th anniversary collection with "The Bloom", a show staged at the Hôtel Pozzo di Borgo, Karl Lagerfeld's former Paris residence.

Featured in the Paris Fashion Week Events Programme, the show marked an important milestone for the brand, following earlier presentations in New York, Milan and London. The collection, designed by Creative Director Pietro Ferragina, moves the down jacket beyond its functional roots and firmly into fashion, bringing a distinctly Chinese aesthetic to an international audience. For Gao Dekang, Founder of Bosideng, Chairman of the Board, and CEO, staging the show in such a historic Parisian setting brings half a century of expertise into focus, while furthering fashion and cultural exchange between China and France.

East and West, woven together

Taking 'bloom' as its starting point, the show looks both West and East. From Art Deco come geometric order and architectural lines, given tension by the natural volume of down. From Chinese dress and craft come the construction of the Haipai qipao (the



Photo courtesy of Bosideng

Today, Bosideng products are sold in 72 countries and worn by more than 200 million people, with a global flagship on London's Oxford Street anchoring the brand in Europe

Shanghai-style fitted dress with a mandarin collar) and the weaving of Song brocade (a figured silk from Suzhou dating back to the Song dynasty), both worked into the silhouettes.

Song brocade and silk, finished with feathers, are set against geometric volumes and quilted relief. Each piece is made to exacting standards, bringing together vintage references, heritage craft and function, and challenging the image of the down jacket as "bulky"

and "unfashionable".

Four lines, one design languageThe show brought together four lines — Extreme Cold, Outdoor, Business and Puff — each designed for a different side of winter life, all drawn in the same hand.

Extreme cold

Polar-grade protection is the starting point. Evening gowns supply the volume and sense of occasion. Down, tulle and satin are layered

into sculptural winter silhouettes, combining the loft of one, the haze of another and the liquid sheen of a third. Hand-shaping and panel cutting refine the rugged lines of workwear, so that even the fullest volumes keep their precision and depth. Warmth remains the foundation, with eveningwear proportions and finishing taking it into fashion.

Outdoor

Here the references are

natural landscapes and the decorative geometry of Art Deco. Mountaineering technologies, from hardshell systems to dynamic moisture management, are built into fashion silhouettes. The cut sheds the hard edge of technical wear in favour of the fluid, draped lines of Haipai style, while leaving room to move. Matt fabrics form the base, with touches of Song brocade and silk adding fine texture and a soft sheen.

The qipao's side slits and overlapping front panel are reworked into functional garments, taking the line from trail to city.

Business

Made for today's working city life, the line keeps the volume of down in check with clean, near-architectural silhouettes and precise cutting. Tailoring gives it structure, while lace and other supple materials temper it, adding a delicate femininity to an otherwise restrained look. The result keeps the polish of formalwear while providing warmth for the office, the commute and formal occasions.

Puff

Bosideng's signature line is named Puff — paofu in Chinese, which also

means cream puff — and is built around lightness. It plays on the natural loft of down, pairing the brand's hallmark O-shape with 3D moulding to create rounded, fluid, architectural silhouettes that look generous but feel light. Art Deco geometry meets a reworked qipao stand collar. The finale was a sequence of down evening looks in pink from head to toe. Soft and romantic, the colour steps outside the usual palette of the down jacket and reveals the care taken over every detail. At 50, Bosideng shows an energy the decades have not dimmed.

Once home to Karl Lagerfeld, the Hôtel Pozzo di Borgo, which Vogue has called "a dreamlike Versailles", is one of the Left Bank's great fashion addresses and has witnessed many defining moments in Parisian fashion.

For the show, an immersive garden was created within its 18th-century setting of gilding, crystal chandeliers and period paintings, in keeping with the theme of "The Bloom". Guests from culture, the arts and fashion included supermodel Coco Rocha, actresses Mao Xiaotong, Michelle Chen and Ouyang Didi, and actor Chen Tianxiang.

Also in attendance were Sherry Lang, Man-

aging Director of Condé Nast China; Giampietro Baudo, Global Executive Director of L'Officiel France, L'Officiel Italia and L'Officiel USA; Nicolas Delarue, Director of Communications and Development of the Fédération de la Haute Couture et de la Mode (FHCM); Hervé Huchet, International Director of PROMAS; and Nathalie Dufour, Founder and General Manager of the Association Nationale pour le Développement des Arts de la Mode, among other leading names in fashion and culture from China and beyond.

Alongside the show, an anniversary exhibition traces Bosideng's story through key pieces: collaborations with Jean Paul Gaultier, Kenzo Takada and MSGM, the trench-style down coat, the ultralight down jacket and, more recently, the Puff down jacket. Seen together, the changing materials, silhouettes and techniques chart 50 years of rethinking how the down jacket is designed and worn.'

A gala at the Eiffel Tower

After the show, the celebrations moved from the Left Bank to the Eiffel Tower, where Bosideng hosted "The Next Great Chapter", its 50th Anniversary International

Gala, in the Gustave Eiffel Hall. The evening was a chance to look back on 50 years of history, at the brand's current work and ahead to its next steps.

It has been China's best-selling down jacket brand for 31 consecutive years and, for 30 years, the only brand to represent China at the international presentation of cold-weather apparel trends.

Today, Bosideng products are sold in 72 countries and worn by more than 200 million people, with a global flagship on London's Oxford Street anchoring the brand in Europe. On the fashion stage, Bosideng has shown in New York, Milan, London and Paris, and its runway shows and designer collaborations have helped establish the down jacket as a fashion piece in its own right. A year ago, Bosideng showed its Master Puff collection on the sidelines of Paris Fashion Week.

In 2026, Bosideng's 50th anniversary was featured in the Paris Fashion Week Events Programme, marking how far the brand has come since. True to the name of its gala, "The Next Great Chapter", Bosideng enters its second half-century with a clear ambition: to give the down jacket a lasting place in international fashion.



DOWNLOAD OUR APP NOW

Available on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google Play