Published by the Jordan Press Foundation
www.jordantimes.com
500 Fils
Volume 51 | Number 15347

THE JORDAN TIMES



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Photo courtesy of Royal Court

HRH Crown Prince Hussein on Wednesday visits Tehnopol Science and Business Park in Tallinn, Estonia

Crown Prince visits Tehnopol Science and Business Park

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Crown Prince Hussein on Wednesday visited Tehnopol Science and Business Park in Tallinn, Estonia, according to a Royal Court statement.

The Crown Prince held a meeting with Head of Tehnopol Accelerator Anne-Liisa Elbrecht, during which they discussed prospects for cooperation and exchange of expertise in the fields of business start-up incubators, research commercialisation and connecting start-ups in both countries, as well as the latest developments in the sectors of artificial intelligence, digital health and cyber security.

His Royal Highness also observed a demonstration of specialised technological defence systems.

Tehnopol Science and Business Park is the largest science and business park in the Baltic States, home to more than 200 companies specialising in artificial intelligence, advanced technology, cyber security, defence technologies and digital health.

Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Sami Smeirat, and Director of the Office of the Crown Prince Zaid Baqain accompanied the Crown Prince on the visit.

Crown Prince meets with Estonia president in Tallinn

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Crown Prince Hussein on Wednesday met with Estonia President Ülle Madise in Tallinn.

The Crown Prince conveyed His Majesty King Abdullah's regards to President Madise, and congratulated her on being elected. His Royal Highness also highlighted the strength of relations between the two countries and peoples, as well as Jordan's readiness to enhance cooperation in various sectors, particularly economic ones, according to a Royal Court statement.

The Crown Prince emphasised the importance of building on shared potential, noting key areas for cooperation, particularly in defence systems, technology, education and tourism. He also expressed Jordan's keen interest in leveraging Estonia's expertise in digitalising government services and developing policy.

His Royal Highness discussed the Kingdom's religious tourism offerings, and shared details on Jordan's preparations for the 2030 millennium celebrations commemorating two thousand years since the baptism of Jesus Christ, to be held at the Baptism Site of Jesus Christ (Bethany Beyond the Jordan).

The meeting also touched on recent developments in the region and ways to support efforts to de-escalate tensions and restore stability, in order to safeguard the sovereignty of Arab states and the security of their people.

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Photo courtesy of Royal Court

HRH Crown Prince Hussein on Wednesday meets with Estonia President Ülle Madise in Tallinn

Prime minister, Lower House speaker stress cooperation to advance national priorities

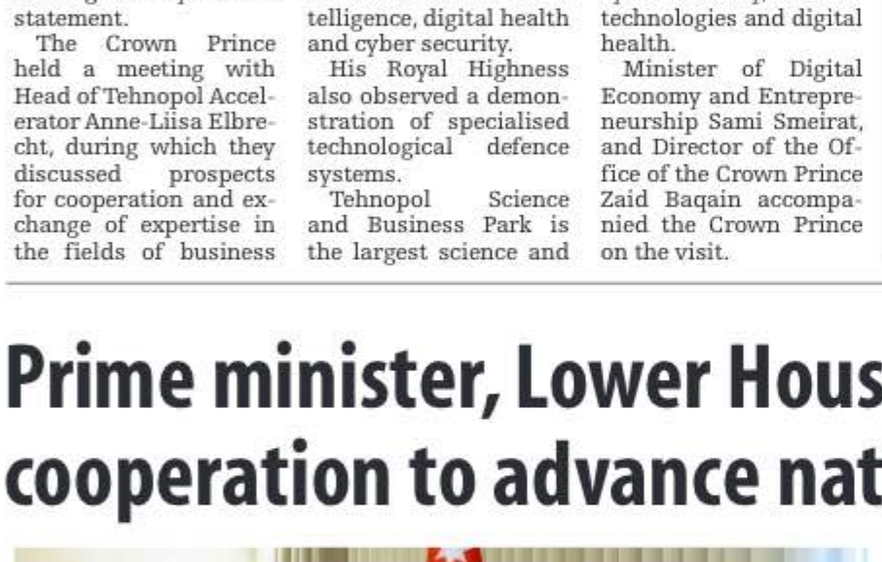


Photo courtesy of Prime Ministry

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan on Wednesday congratulated Ibrahim Tarawneh on his election as Lower House Speaker

AMMAN (JT) — Prime Minister Jafar Hassan on Wednesday congratulated Lower House Speaker Ibrahim Tarawneh and members of the House's Permanent Bureau on their election to their respective positions.

During a meeting with Tarawneh, the two sides stressed the importance of continued consultation and coordination between the government and Parliament on key issues and legislation in the public interest in accordance with the Constitution, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Tarawneh underscored the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two authorities to translate the contents of the Speech from the Throne into practical action plans that improve citizens' lives and meet their aspirations.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Political and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Monem Odat, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Abdul Latif Najdawi, First Deputy Speaker Ayatollah Freihat, Second Deputy Speaker Mohammad Salameh Ghuwayri, and the speaker's assistants Malik Tahrawi and Rania Abu Rumman.

SSC begins trial of three suspects in Karak church attack

By Rana Husseini

AMMAN — The State Security Court (SSC) on Wednesday began the trial of three suspects in the October 23 terrorist attack on St George Church in Hmoud, Karak Governorate, that killed nine people.

The three suspects were informed of the charges and were assigned lawyers as stipulated by law, according to Lawyer Amer Halaseh.

"The court hearing went smoothly and in accordance with the law," Halaseh told The Jordan Times.



JT file photo

The State Security Court

On Tuesday, SSC Prosecutor Brig. Gen. Ahmad Shahltough said in a statement that the investigation had covered all necessary procedures, including hearing prosecution witnesses, collecting evidence from the crime scene, documenting the weapons and ammunition used in the attack, and questioning the defendants suspected of carrying out or participating in it.

Continued on page 5

Democrats win US Congress in midterm rout of Trump

Trump threatens to use presidential veto on Democrat-passed bills

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Democrats seized control of the US Congress on Tuesday, capturing the Senate and House of Representatives in a stunning, nationwide rejection of Donald Trump set to put the brakes on the final two years of his presidency.

The Democratic landslide will give the opposition power to block legislation, launch broad investigations into Trump's administration and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.

The results reflected deep anger over living costs, tariffs and Trump's war against Iran, which has sent fuel prices soaring and compounded dissatisfaction with an already deeply unpopular president.

"I feel like I could cry right now. This is so incredibly exciting. We can get our country back," Kathy Jackoway said in Texas, celebrating a win by Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico.

Trump struck a conciliatory tone despite his history of questioning elections, telling The New York Times he was "absolutely willing" to accept the results.

"I think the Democrats did a good job, I really do," the 80-year-old told Fox News, in rare praise for his political opponents. "They fought hard."

But he sought to distance himself from his own party's poor showing, adding: "I don't view it as a hit on me."

He acknowledged that the Iran conflict had contributed to the defeat but defended the military campaign, and he suggested the rival parties could find common ground on immigration, long one of the most divisive issues of his presidency.



AFP photo

A view of the US Capitol at sunrise, one day after the midterm elections, in Washington, DC, on Wednesday

Republican heartland

Democrats flipped seats that had long been held by Republicans, scoring breakthroughs in South Carolina, North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Texas and Maine.

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Obituary

The editor and staff of

The Jordan Times, together with the chairman of the board and the director general of the Jordan Press Foundation,

mourn with deep sorrow the passing of

Wahida Ahmad Safadi,

beloved mother of

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ayman Safadi

May her soul rest in peace, and may her family find strength and comfort during this difficult time.

Queen Rania urges world's youth to push back against injustices at One Young World Summit in Cape Town



Photo courtesy of Office of Her Majesty

Her Majesty Queen Rania speaks at the opening ceremony of the One Young World Summit in Cape Town, South Africa

AMMAN (JT) — Her Majesty Queen Rania called on the world's youth to challenge double standards and push back against global injustices, urging them to refuse to let their voices be dismissed as too impassioned or idealistic.

"Anger at injustice is not weakness; it's proof you're paying attention. Caring deeply is not the opposite of thinking clearly," Queen Rania said. "Standing up for each other isn't sentimentality; it's how we pay our dues."

Her Majesty made her remarks Tuesday evening while speaking at the opening ceremony of the One Young World Summit, convening this year in Cape Town, South Africa, according to a statement from Office of Her Majesty.

Queen Rania began her remarks by noting that she has come from Jordan "with a heavy heart", following a recent terror attack in the nation's southern governorate of Karak, which left nine dead and dozens injured.

"Our country was recently shaken by a horrific, unprecedented attack on a church," she said. "This violence is alien to Jordan, and an affront to everything we stand for. The families of those we lost bear the deepest pain, but their heartbreak is shared by an entire nation."

Addressing an audience of more than 2,200 youth leaders from over 190 countries, Her Majesty noted that young people are confronting global challenges "with curiosity, scrutiny, and more intellectual rigor than earlier generations".

"That is why, in discussions over pro-Palestinian student protests, when people say to me, 'Most of them probably couldn't find Gaza on a map,' I push back," she explained.

Describing dismissal as "an old tool", the Queen noted that this tactic was similarly used during the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa against figures such as the late Nelson Mandela.

"In 1997, Madiba said that South Africa's freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians," she recalled. "Yet, with Palestine, dismissal has reached a whole new level."

Reflecting on the past few years of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Queen Rania condemned the disregard for international law, the rulings of the world's highest court, and the Geneva Conventions, which underpin the rules of armed conflict.

"The duty to protect civilians, to let food, water, and medicine through. The prohibition on forcible transfer, on collective punishment. All are treated as optional," she said, noting that in Gaza, both the rules of war and the terms of the October 2025 ceasefire have been disregarded.

"It breaks my heart to remember that, a year ago, thousands of Palestinians took to Gaza's shattered streets to celebrate what they believed was the end to their nightmare — only to discover, as more than 100 NGOs recently put it, that the ceasefire exists in name only," Queen Rania said.

Her Majesty also highlighted the ongoing suffering of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, "where Israeli checkpoints, raids, and land grabs have made their lives a living hell, and settler violence is downplayed as the acts of just a few on the fringe". She described the recent Israeli offensive on the city of Hebron, where residents were put under lockdown and thousands displaced.

The Queen underscored states' legal obligation to take all measures within their power to prevent grave crimes. She also praised South Africa's "moral clarity" in initiating proceedings against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) alleging violations of the Genocide Convention.

"The law isn't a matter of opinion; it's not moved by feelings. And it protects everyone equally, Palestinians and Israelis, Muslims, Christians and Jews. Those are the obligations every nation has signed up for," she said. "Governments that see the evidence and look away are making a choice. It is a cop-out dressed up as neutrality".

Queen Rania also rejected the notion that Palestinian freedom is unrealistic, or "something for later, something to be earned".

"What is that, if not racism — to expect Palestinians to settle for less freedom and less dignity, then call them unreasonable for demanding more?" she asked. "None of us should accept that for them. We owe each other more than that."

Her Majesty encouraged global youth to refuse to allow their voices to be silenced, to push back against dismissal, and to corroborate their arguments with evidence. "Look at the reports, not just reels," she said. "Reality doesn't change depending on who can best tell their story, or better exploit the algorithms."

"And to those who would tell young people they can't point to Gaza on a map, I would say, you don't need to know the coordinates of a hospital to know it shouldn't be bombed," she explained. "You don't need to master every chapter of a conflict to recognise raw, human suffering and injustice."

One Young World is a global platform that identifies, connects, and promotes young leaders from around the world, hosting an annual summit that convenes in a different city each year. This year's four-day event in Cape Town commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising, a youth-led South African movement that served as a turning point in the struggle against apartheid.

Politics and Society Institute, NATO Liaison Office discuss regional security, crisis preparedness

By Mai Anati



Photo courtesy of the Politics and Society Institute

The Politics and Society Institute, in cooperation with the NATO Liaison Office in Jordan, holds two closed-door roundtable discussions examining changes in the regional security environment and their implications for Jordan

AMMAN — The Politics and Society Institute, in cooperation with the NATO Liaison Office in Jordan, held two closed-door roundtable discussions examining changes in the regional security environment and their implications for Jordan, alongside challenges related to critical infrastructure protection, energy security and crisis management.

Held at the institute's headquarters in Amman on Monday and Tuesday, the discussions brought together academics, researchers, experts, political and diplomatic figures, and specialists in security and strategic affairs. Both sessions followed the Chatham House Rule, allowing participants to exchange views without attribution.

The first session, titled "An Interconnected Region: Shared Security Challenges, NATO's Role, and Jordan's Strategic Position", explored interconnected crises and conflicts across Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, the Red Sea and the Gulf, as well as the impact of competition among regional and international powers on the region's security environment.

Participants discussed the implications of these developments for Jordan's strategic interests and its role in supporting regional stability and dialogue. They also examined cross-border threats facing countries in the region.

The session also discussed NATO's role in the regional security landscape and opportunities for cooperation with partners. Participants addressed NATO's potential contribution to strengthening defence and security capabilities, developing early warning mechanisms and preventing crises, informed by local and regional priorities and expertise.

The second session, titled "Addressing Multiple Security Challenges: Infrastructure Protection, Energy Security, and Crisis Management", focused on risks facing essential systems and services, and the ability of institutions to prepare for and respond to simultaneous and overlapping crises.

Participants reviewed vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure, cyber and hybrid threats, and challenges to the security of energy supplies. They also discussed the implications of service disruptions and supply interruptions for security and stability, particularly given the interdependence and connectedness of countries and regional systems.

The discussion also addressed ways to strengthen institutional coordination, early warning mechanisms, crisis response and the continuity of essential services. It considered the potential use of technology, data and artificial intelligence in anticipating risks and managing crises.

Jordan's circumstances featured throughout the discussions, particularly water security, energy resilience, climate pressures and limited resources, and their relationship to infrastructure protection and institutions' capacity to address crises and their economic, social and security consequences.

The two sessions provided an opportunity to examine the links between geopolitical developments and risks affecting critical sectors, and to explore areas of cooperation between Jordan and NATO in light of local needs and shared regional challenges.

The discussions will inform a joint policy report in Arabic and English, presenting the main themes, conclusions and recommendations, and identifying potential areas for further dialogue and cooperation.

The sessions form part of the Politics and Society Institute's efforts to connect research and analysis with public policy discussions, bringing together researchers, experts and policymakers to better understand developments in Jordan and the region and examine options for addressing them.

The NATO Liaison Office in Jordan was established as a diplomatic mission in September 2025, with the aim of enhancing political dialogue and practical cooperation in areas of common interest between Jordan and NATO, building on their partnership of more than 30 years.

The office enables regular engagement with Jordanian counterparts to explore opportunities for exchanging perspectives and expertise.

Queen Rania visits Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation, meets with Graça Machel, Muhammad Yunus in Cape Town



Photo courtesy of Office of Her Majesty

Her Majesty Queen Rania visits the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa, on Tuesday, where she tours an exhibition on the life and legacy of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu

AMMAN (JT) — Her Majesty Queen Rania visited the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa, on Tuesday, where she toured an exhibition on the life and legacy of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Her Majesty was welcomed to the foundation by the wife of South Africa's Deputy President, Mrs. Humile Mashatile, before touring the Truth to Power exhibition, according to a statement from Office of Her Majesty.

During her visit, the Queen met with the Foundation CEO, Ms. Janet Jobson, and several members of the Tutu family, including two of his daughters, Ms. Theresa Thandeka Tutu, and Reverend Nontombi Naomi Tutu, as well as his grandchildren, Mr. Xabiso Gxashe and Ms. Nyaniso Lindiwe Burris, and his great granddaughter Nkosinathi Morrison.

Curated in partnership with the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, the exhibition traces key milestones in the archbishop's struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and highlights his work as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Founded in 2011, the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation seeks to nurture leaders who embody Archbishop Tutu's values and example to make a positive impact on the world. It is housed in the historic Old Granary Building, a former prison now dedicated to peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Later on Tuesday, Her Majesty met with former First Lady of South Africa, widow of late South African President Nelson Mandela, and Co-Founder and Deputy Chair of The Elders Mrs. Graça Machel.

Founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007, The Elders is an independent group of global leaders working for peace, justice, human rights, and a sustainable planet. Mrs. Machel is also the founder of the Graça Machel Trust, an organisation that works to empower African women and promote the rights and agency of adolescent girls.

The Queen also met with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, who previously served alongside Her Majesty on the United Nations Foundation (UNF) Board of Trustees.

He currently chairs the Yunus Centre, which coordinates a global network of organisations promoting social business, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

Both Mrs. Machel and Professor Yunus are participating alongside Her Majesty in the 2026 One Young World Summit taking place in Cape Town from November 3 to 6.

APC, RSCN launch project to protect athel forests in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (JT) — The "Athel Forest Sustainability in Fifa Nature Reserve" project was inaugurated on Wednesday in the southern Jordan Valley, funded by the Arab Potash Company (APC) and implemented by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The initiative aims to support the recovery of athel (tamarix) forests and protect the natural habitats of various bird species, including the Dead Sea sparrow and the Nubian nightjar, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Held at the reserve's management building, the launch ceremony included a presentation detailing the project's objectives alongside a tree-planting activity involving attendees.

The project encompasses field surveys to evaluate the distribution, health status, and natural regeneration rate of tamarix trees.

It also involves studying the impact of grazing on vegetation to draft regulatory recommendations, strengthening field monitoring in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Environment Protection Administration (Rangers), and conducting awareness activities for school students and local community members.

APC Chairman Shehadah Abu Hdeib stressed that the company's support stems from an institutional approach that prioritises environmental protection and sustainable development within its corporate social responsibility framework.

APC CEO Maen Nsour noted that supporting the project aligns with the company's environmental priorities in the southern Jordan Valley.

RSCN Chairwoman Batool Ajlouni underscored the project's importance as a "key" step towards protecting ecosystems, restoring vegetation cover and bolstering regional biodiversity.

RSCN Director-General Fadi Nasser praised the strategic partnership with APC, noting that the collaboration reflects a shared commitment to supporting nature conservation and ecosystem restoration.



Deputising for King, Hassan attends funeral of Ayman Safadi's mother

AMMAN — Deputising for His Majesty King Abdullah, Prime Minister Jafar Hassan on Wednesday attended the funeral of Wahida Ahmad Safadi, mother of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi.

Hassan conveyed the King's condolences and sympathies to the Safadi family.

Momani urges stronger Arab coordination to counter disinformation

AMMAN (JT) — Minister of Government Communication Mohammad Momani on Wednesday took part in the 56th regular session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

During the meeting, Momani stressed the need to strengthen Arab cooperation and coordination and recognise media as a strategic and sovereign sector, given its role in raising public awareness and protecting societies from disinformation campaigns, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He reiterated that the Palestinian cause remains a top priority for joint Arab action, highlighting the role of Arab media in documenting facts, exposing violations and defending Palestinian rights.

Momani also underscored the importance of keeping pace with advances in artificial intelligence and digital media, building the capacities of Arab media institutions and exchanging expertise.

He reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to supporting joint Arab media efforts in a way that serves the interests of Arab peoples.



Petra photo

Minister of Government Communication Mohammad Momani on Wednesday participates in the 56th regular session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers

Switzerland launches new cooperation programme for Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

By Mai Anati

AMMAN — Switzerland on Wednesday launched a new four-year cooperation programme for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, renewing its support for regional stability, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development amid continued displacement, economic pressures and water scarcity.

The Swiss Cooperation Programme for Syria and Neighbouring Countries 2026-2029 was launched by the embassy of Switzerland in Jordan at the Fairmont Hotel in Amman.

The programme brings together Switzerland's humanitarian, development, peace and migration efforts under an integrated approach. It aims to address immediate humanitarian needs while supporting longer-term development and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities and national institutions.

Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Emilija Georgieva highlighted Jordan's role as a regional partner, praising the country's resilience and commitment to cooperation.

"Jordan has shown, time and again, the importance of partnership, resilience and looking ahead. Switzerland is proud to continue walking this path alongside Jordan and all our partners," she said.

The programme is built around four priority areas: Humanitarian assistance, economic development, climate, and peace and good governance.

Its priorities include improving access to education, protection and essential services for vulnerable populations, while supporting employment opportunities, skills development and private-sector engagement.

Water security and climate adaptation also feature prominently, alongside sustainable resource management and disaster-risk reduction. The programme will additionally support stronger institutions, the rule of law, accountability and social cohesion.



Photo by Mai Anati

Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Emilija Georgieva

Switzerland has maintained an international cooperation programme in Jordan since 2001, expanding its engagement following the outbreak of the Syrian crisis in 2011.

Between 2019 and 2025, Swiss-supported initiatives helped around 33,000 vulnerable children and adolescents in refugee camps gain access to education. Vocational training programmes also opened employment opportunities for more than 800 young people in the hospitality and tourism sector.

In the water and environment sectors, Switzerland supported climate-resilient water solutions, improved wastewater management and national flood-risk mapping. It also contributed to regional dialogue on shared water resources through the Blue Peace Middle East initiative.

Eileen Hofstetter, head of cooperation at the Swiss embassy in Jordan, stressed the importance of locally led initiatives.

"Our role is not to define the future for others, but to be a reliable partner in helping shape it," she said.

The new programme will build on previous achievements through cooperation with government institutions, UN agencies, international and local organisations, civil society and the private sector, with a focus on refugees and host communities.

It also places emphasis on gender equality, social inclusion and climate resilience, aiming to combine immediate assistance with longer-term investment in stronger institutions and sustainable economic opportunities.



Petra photo

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj Gen Majdi Harasis on Wednesday meets with UAE Ambassador to Jordan Sultan Mohammed Saeed Al Shamsi

Army chief, UAE Ambassador discuss cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Maj Gen Majdi Harasis on Wednesday met with UAE Ambassador to Jordan Sultan Mohammed Saeed Al Shamsi at the General Command of the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF).

During the meeting, attended by senior JAF officers and the UAE military attaché, the two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest, according to a JAF statement.

The ambassador expressed his appreciation for Jordan's role, under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, in maintaining security and stability in the region.

Azerbaijan seeks to expand cooperation with Jordan — ambassador

AMMAN (JT) — Azerbaijani Ambassador to Jordan Shahin Abdullayev on Wednesday highlighted the strong ties between Jordan and Azerbaijan, expressing his country's commitment to expanding cooperation in political, economic, investment and cultural fields.

Abdullayev said relations between the two countries are based on solid foundations established since Jordan recognised Azerbaijan's independence on December 28, 1991.

He said that mutual official visits and coordination at international forums have strengthened bilateral trust and cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The ambassador expressed Azerbaijan's appreciation for Jordan's support for the peace process between Azerbaijan and Armenia, recalling that His Majesty King Abdullah congratulated Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in August 2025 on progress towards a peace agreement.

Abdullayev also noted that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi reaffirmed Jordan's support for the peace process during his visit to Baku in July 2026, where he met with Aliyev and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

He said Azerbaijan views the peace process with Armenia as an opportunity to promote regional security, cooperation and development, citing the joint declaration signed in Washington on August 8, 2025 as a key milestone.

Abdullayev stressed that Azerbaijan seeks to strengthen the effectiveness of the international system and ensure the fair implementation of international resolutions, in accordance with the principles of state sovereignty, territorial integrity and international law.



Azerbaijani Ambassador to Jordan Shahin Abdullayev

Ministry, GAM sign agreement to improve energy efficiency

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption in the municipality's buildings and facilities, while strengthening the technical capabilities of its staff.

The Memorandum was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabsheh and Head of the GAM Committee Ahmed Malkawi, according to a ministry statement.

Kharabsheh said that energy efficiency is a key pillar of the sector's strategy, stressing the importance of promoting a culture of rationalising energy consumption and highlighting GAM's role as a model for other government institutions.

Malkawi said the agreement reflects GAM's commitment to adopting sustainable practices across its facilities to reduce excessive energy consumption, achieve environmental, and economic benefits, and support Amman's vision of becoming a sustainable city.

Under the memorandum, the ministry will implement the cooperation through its Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund Directorate and Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Directorate.

The ministry will also provide technical assistance, within its available capabilities, to improve energy efficiency in GAM's main facilities.

Areas of cooperation include specialised training for municipal employees, technical support in preparing specifications, supervision and inspection of energy efficiency projects, and technical consultations.

The Memorandum also provides for joint efforts to develop and implement a roadmap for the construction and building sector in Amman to promote sustainable building practices.

The agreement aims to strengthen technical cooperation between the two institutions, facilitate knowledge exchange and advance energy-saving measures across municipal facilities.



Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources photo

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Greater Amman Municipality on Wednesday signed a memorandum of cooperation to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption in the municipality's buildings

Jordan Media Institute wins 2026 Arab media excellence award

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordan Media Institute (JMI) on Wednesday received the 2026 Arab Media Excellence Award in its 20th edition, in recognition of its contributions to media training, professional development and media literacy.

The award was presented by the Council of Arab Information Ministers during a ceremony held on the sidelines of the council's meeting at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

According to a JMI statement, the award recognises the institute's role in developing media professionals, promoting media awareness and advancing media and information literacy, as well as its contributions as an observer member of the Council of Arab Information Ministers.

JMI Representative Abdullah Kafawin received the award at a ceremony attended by Arab League Secretary General Nabil Fahmy, Somali Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism and Chairman of the current session of the Council of Arab Information Ministers Abdelfattah Mahmoud, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Information and Culture Omar Saud Abdulaziz Al Omar, and Arab League Assistant Secretary General and Head of the Media and Communication Sector Ahmed Rashid Khattabi.

Established following a decision by the Council of Arab Information Ministers at its 46th session in 2016, the Arab Media Excellence Award seeks to highlight the constructive role of Arab media, showcase outstanding media initiatives, and encourage journalists and media institutions to improve their performance and creativity.

The 2026 edition attracted around 154 nominations across various categories, the highest participation since the award's launch.

Held under the theme "Arab Media and Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Challenges", this year's edition highlights the importance of adapting to digital transformation and anticipating changes in the Arab media landscape.



AFP photo

Democratic US Senate candidate Abdul El Sayed and his wife, Dr Sarah Jukaku, take the stage after he declares victory during a midterm election night party at The Department at Hudson's in Detroit, Michigan, early on Wednesday

'We did it!': Democrat El Sayed hails US Senate win amid blue 'tsunami'

DETROIT (AFP) — Democrat Abdul El Sayed won Michigan's US Senate race over former Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers, US networks said early on Wednesday, making him the first Muslim elected to the upper chamber of Congress.

"Michigan, we did it!" El Sayed said in a speech attended by hundreds of supporters who screamed and hugged each other at his election headquarters in Detroit.

"I am so proud and honored to stand here as your senator-elect from the great state of Michigan."

El Sayed won despite a last-minute curve ball in his campaign when congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to El Sayed, came out in support of Rogers at the 11th hour.

The Michigan medical administrator rallied voters on leftist campaign promises, including universal healthcare, to win a key US Senate seat for Democrats, taking over from the retiring Gary Peters.

El Sayed held a nearly six-point lead on Rogers when networks called the race.

"We are sick and tired of being sick and tired. And I'm so proud of all the work. It was boots on the ground. We were always out, but we were never outworked," said party-goer entrepreneur Trunetta Roach, 75, who attended El Sayed's victory party in downtown Detroit wearing US flag-design diamante high-heels.

"I'm feeling elated. The kids are all right. I was concerned about them. They didn't seem very engaged, but I was wrong. They showed up."

'Swear me in'

Republicans ran a scorched-earth campaign to paint Democrats as communists and branded El Sayed a terrorist who would endanger Americans.

But the straight-talking 42-year-old El Sayed pledged to help cash-strapped voters navigate America's fractured, for-profit health care system.

> 'What's most remarkable is that he's showing up in places that are not the usual prescription for the Democratic Party'

"You deserve to be able to see a doctor without getting a huge bill," he told Michiganders on the eve of the vote, vowing to upend America's divisive multibillion-dollar for-profit medical system.

During the race, El Sayed drew huge campaign crowds across the state, even in deeply conservative Republican areas.

El Sayed also vowed to get "money out of politics" and address the harsh economic woes that have voters yearning for a political newcomer to shake up the status quo.

The victory made El Sayed the first Democratic doctor in the Senate since 1969.

"Everybody in politics is so trash. So to see ethical Muslims be at the forefront representing us and showing everybody what we're actually about... it means everything," said micro-influencer Maryam Bozai, 28.

At the victory party, crowds gathered around TVs tuned to left-leaning cable news channel MS NOW, cheering jubilantly each time the Democrat's trademark blue flashed on screen to announce another race won by the party.

"Tsunami! Tsunami!" chanted Ondine Fortune, 64, a Democratic Party media planner.

El Sayed supporters rubbed shoulders with left-leaning influencers and union activists, a group that lent El Sayed their formidable campaign infrastructure to reach Michigan's large organised labor community.

Eboni Taylor, a vice-president at Higher Heights which promotes Black women seeking office, said El Sayed had "gone places where I just would not expect to see him".

"What's most remarkable is that he's showing up in places that are not the usual prescription for the Democratic Party. He's going wherever the people want him to be," Taylor said between social media livestreams and celebratory dancing.

El Sayed faced Islamophobic attacks and mockery for his Arabic name from President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance. But El Sayed may yet have the last laugh.

Addressing the vice president, El Sayed said in his victory speech "you're constitutionally obligated to swear me in in January".

Iran warns of wider war if US attacks after Trump election rout

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's supreme leader warned on Wednesday that the Middle East war would widen if the US resumes its attacks, dismissing hopes of a policy shift in Washington after midterm elections dealt a blow to President Donald Trump.

Trump has recently threatened to renew the war against Iran amid similar rhetoric from Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but on Tuesday he suffered a resounding defeat in polls that will strip his Republicans of control over Congress.

The results could constrain Trump's ability to enact his agenda, though the president retains the power to order new strikes.

"Those who still harbour even the slightest hope that the behaviour of the hegemonic system might change through partisan or factional shifts, or who imagine that making concessions to the United States can dissuade it from hostility towards the Iranian nation, are seriously mistaken," Iranian supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei said in a written statement on Wednesday.

He also warned that if the United States did choose further military action, the scope of the war would widen, without elaborating.

Khamenei has yet to appear in public since he took power in March following the killing of his father and predecessor in US-Israeli strikes, and has communicated through written messages.

Earlier, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Iran's chief negotiator in talks with the US, said Americans had voted against war in the midterms.



AFP photo

This US Navy handout photo released by US Naval Forces Central Command on Friday, shows US sailors departing an E-2D Hawkeye on the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George Washington on Thursday

"Conscience or the cost of living, Americans said NO TO WAR, and we endorse this message," he posted on X.

"If the US govt betrays their public will to serve international paymasters and blackmailers, it will learn our NO comes with a Nightmare," Ghalibaf said.

Iran's judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei also hailed the election results, saying Trump had been "defeated both militarily and politically".

The war has proved unpopular among the US public, who have seen the cost of living rise after a spike in energy prices caused by the war.

Trump on Tuesday acknowledged the conflict may have played a part in the defeat of his Republican Party.

"I think a part of it was Iran, but at the same time, people understood the importance of what I've done," Trump told Fox News.

On Tuesday the US launched strikes on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, with Iranian state media reporting five explosions in rapid succession.

"They built an anti-aircraft facility... As soon as it was completed, we hit it last night very nicely," Trump told US media, but he called it a "minor attack".

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said a US MQ-1 drone was "intercepted and destroyed" over Qeshm Island. There was no confirmation from the US side.

Earlier this week the president said he still had to "take care" of one or two targets, including so-called Pickaxe Mountain in central Iran, a suspected nuclear site which Tehran denies is such a facility.

However, he told The Financial Times newspaper on Tuesday that a full-scale resumption of war may not be necessary.

"We seem to be getting everything we want," he said. "I'm ready, we're ready. We're locked and loaded if we need to go, but there may be no reason for it."

The president's remarks come with diplomatic efforts by mediators in full swing in an attempt to prevent any resumption of fighting.

On Tuesday Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said his government was still trying to resolve the crisis through dialogue.

Pezeshkian said Iran's supreme leader had granted the government new powers to negotiate on issues previously off-limits.

Qatar, a mediator in the protracted wrangling, said it remained hopeful of an interim deal.

Both sides "are currently reviewing the ideas and proposals we have presented", Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari told reporters.

China also said on Wednesday that avoiding a return to hostilities was a top priority in its diplomatic efforts with the countries.

The war, triggered in February when the US and Israel pummelled Iran in a massive wave of strikes, has been at a stalemate for months.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned of wide-ranging retaliation if Washington resumes the war.

Lebanon says Israeli strike kills one in south

BEIRUT (AFP) — An Israeli strike killed a motorcyclist in Lebanon's south on Wednesday, the Lebanese health ministry said, the first such death since September.

A drone carried out the attack in the Qabrikha area, killing one man and wounding another, the official National News Agency also said.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said it "struck two suspects who were observing IDF soldiers" in the area, which is close to the zone patrolled by Israel's military.

Iran-backed Hizbollah drew Lebanon into the broader Middle East war in March by attacking Israel, which responded with massive air strikes and a ground invasion that Lebanon says has killed more than 4,300 people.



AFP photo

This photo taken by the southern Lebanese vilalge of Zawtar Al Garbiya shows Israeli excavators demolishing homes in the town of Zawtar Al Sharqiya on Monday

Lebanon and Israel concluded a US-brokered framework agreement in June involving the disarmament of Hizbollah, a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon's south and the deployment of the Lebanese army to the region.

Violence has decreased since the signing of the agreement and a US-Iran memorandum of understanding earlier that month. However, implementation is lagging.

In September, 13 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a village in the Nabatieh region of southern Lebanon.

Climate adaptation aid must rise tenfold — UN

PARIS (AFP) — Developing countries will need $305 billion a year by 2035 to adapt to a worsening climate crisis, nearly 10 times what they currently receive from wealthy nations, a new UN report said on Wednesday.

Climate finance is set to be a hot-button issue again when negotiators from nearly 200 countries gather at the UN's COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Turkey, from November 9 to 20.

Under UN climate agreements, developed countries, which are historically responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions, are expected to financially help developing nations adapt to climate impacts and transition to cleaner sources of energy.

Adaptation finance is aimed at protecting countries from a changing climate, with measures ranging from building sea walls and levees to planting drought-resistant crops or making homes more resilient to natural disasters.



AFP photo

A helicopter drops water on burning forest and peat land fires in South Kalimantan province on Borneo Island, Indonesia, in September

"The latest Adaptation Gap Report exposes a staggering shortfall. For every dollar developing countries need to adapt, they receive just 10 cents," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said.

"We know who is most at risk. We know what works. What is missing is the money — and the political will. The choice is simple: invest in adaptation today — or pay for catastrophe tomorrow," he said.

The report, titled "Ready? Not", estimates the needs of developing countries for adaptation at $305 billion per year by 2035.

Developed countries provided between $28.2 billion and $31.7 billion in 2024, only a modest increase from the previous year.

The figures fell short of a commitment made at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021 to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025, to reach $40 billion annually.

At COP30 in Brazil last year, countries adopted a final agreement that included a call for efforts to triple adaptation by 2035.

But UNEP's report said the tripling "is less ambitious than it first appears" as the funds would increase to somewhere between $85 billion and $120 billion per year, depending on how the COP30 decision is interpreted.

ELECTIONS

Far-right wave 'unravelling', says Spain's Sanchez after US vote

MADRID (AFP) — The global far-right is "unravelling", Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Wednesday as he celebrated the Democrat victory in US elections which saw them seize control of Congress in a rebuke to President Donald Trump.

"It happened in Brazil. It just happened in the US. And it will soon happen in Spain," said Sanchez, a global progressive star but whose premiership is in peril in snap elections he called for November 29.

The far-right wave of his rivals is "no longer growing, it is unravelling", he added.

The decisive victory by Democrats, who took both the Senate and the House of Representatives as well as a string of wins in deep Republican strongholds across the country, came days after the unexpected reelection of leftist Luis Inacio Lula da Silva as Brazil's president.



AFP photo

In this handout photo released by La Moncloa on Wednesday Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez makes a televised statement at La Moncloa Palace in Madrid

With less than four weeks to Spain's vote, however, polls point to a potential loss for Sanchez — one of Europe's last remaining socialist leaders — against the main conservative Popular Party.

It is predicted to win the most seats but fall short of a majority, meaning the far-right Vox Party could become Spain's king makers.

Migration and housing have dominated public debate in Spain in recent months, but the election campaign has been overshadowed by a horrific train crash in Urda, south of Madrid, last week which killed at least 69 people.

FAO, Agriculture Ministry launch climate-smart farming initiative



FAO photo

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday launches climate-smart Farmer Field Schools in Karak

AMMAN (JT) — The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture on Wednesday launched climate-smart Farmer Field Schools in Karak, as part of efforts to strengthen farmers' ability to adapt to climate change and improve water-use efficiency.

The programme began in the Southern Jordan Valley area of Karak under an agreement signed between the FAO and the ministry in August, with implementation set to begin in Madaba, Ma'an and Tafileh in the coming days, according to a FAO statement.

Under the agreement, 44 Farmer Field Schools and 44 field days will be organised across the four governorates, targeting 880 farmers, both women and men, with practical training in climate-smart agriculture.

The programme aims to equip farmers with skills and knowledge to adopt sustainable agricultural practices and technologies that conserve water, improve productivity and strengthen the resilience of agricultural systems to climate-related challenges, the statement said.

The Farmer Field Schools follow a learning-by-doing approach, allowing participants to test modern agricultural practices, assess their results and exchange experiences while exploring solutions suited to local conditions, particularly water scarcity and climate change.

The activities are part of the project "Building Resilience to Cope with Climate Change in Jordan through Improving Water Use Efficiency in the Agriculture Sector" (BRCCJ), implemented by the FAO in Jordan with funding from the Green Climate Fund.

The project is being implemented in cooperation with the ministries of Agriculture, Water and Irrigation, and Environment, as well as the United Nations Development Programme.

With a total budget of $33.25 million and a seven-year implementation period, the project targets Karak, Madaba, Tafileh and Ma'an, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change, water stress and their impact on agriculture and rural communities.

The BRCCJ project is the first in Jordan to receive funding from the Green Climate Fund. It seeks to strengthen water security and climate resilience in the agricultural sector through more efficient water use, sustainable agricultural practices and capacity-building for local communities.



Al Mamlaka TV photo

The Cardiac Surgery Department at the Queen Alia Heart Institute introduces a minimally invasive technique for aortic valve replacement

Queen Alia Heart Institute adopts new aortic valve surgery technique

AMMAN (JT) — The Cardiac Surgery Department at the Queen Alia Heart Institute, affiliated with the Royal Medical Services (RMS), has introduced a minimally invasive technique for aortic valve replacement in cooperation with a medical team from Trier Hospital in Germany.

The technique was introduced during a workshop that included several surgical procedures, all of which were successful and contributed to faster patient recovery, Al Mamlaka TV reported.

Head of the Cardiac Surgery Department Brig. Gen. Razi Abu Anzeh said that the procedure involves making an incision of no more than 4cm on the right side of the chest, beneath the armpit, eliminating the need for a traditional sternotomy.

He said the approach reduces surgical trauma, pain and potential complications, shortens hospital stays and improves cosmetic outcomes.

> The technique was introduced during a workshop that included several surgical procedures...

Abu Anzeh added that the department would continue applying the technique to eligible patients, building on its experience in minimally invasive cardiac procedures, including endoscopic saphenous vein harvesting and minimally invasive mitral valve replacement.

Head of the RMS Surgical Department Brig. Gen. Bahi Hayasat said the introduction of the technique is part of RMS efforts to advance specialised medical services and strengthen staff capabilities through international knowledge exchange and the adoption of advanced technologies.

Director of the Queen Alia Centre for Cardiac Disease and Surgery, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Houli said the procedure reflects the centre's advanced capabilities in performing complex cardiac surgeries.

Houli commended the medical team for introducing the technique and reaffirmed the centre's commitment to developing specialised cardiac services in line with international medical standards.

Israel president urges compromise after divisive election

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel's president on Wednesday opened talks on forming a new government with a call for compromise, saying neither side had won divisive elections, as he also condemned "racist" rhetoric against Arab parties that made sharp gains.

More than a week after Israel's first election since October 7, 2023, president Isaac Herzog began meeting party leaders to decide whether to give prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu or his rival Gadi Eisenkot the first chance to form a government in the deeply polarised country.

With neither bloc holding a majority in the 120-seat parliament after the October 27 vote, Herzog said both sides needed to accept that "not every commitment and promise can be fulfilled" and to avoid new elections.

"In the current reality, in which there is no clear winner after the elections, I ask for originality and creativity, courage and goodwill, so that the State of Israel emerges the winner," Herzog said.

The election saw soaring support for lists from the Arab minority, descendants of Palestinians who stayed in Israel after its 1948 creation and who have often been outraged by the harsh rhetoric and actions of Netanyahu's hard-right government.

Netanyahu has gone on the offensive against Arab-majority lists, who have the power to put Eisenkot in power if they team up.

Netanyahu has pointed to the arrests of several people with envelopes of cash on election day in what authorities called localised incidents, and accused leaders of accepting money from Qatar, an allegation also levelled against the prime minister's own aides.

Without naming any leader, Herzog, whose role is usually ceremonial, said he had "great respect" for the Arab minority, which makes up around 20 per cent of Israel's population.

"I condemn the coarseness and racist expressions that we have heard recently. There is no place for them [to be made] toward any community in Israel," Herzog said.

The Central Elections Committee said it had conducted an audit of 9,069 polling stations following complaints and found no evidence that would question the results' integrity.

The committee, which reflects the makeup of the outgoing parliament, approved the results with 15 members in favour and two against but 14 others abstaining.

Itamar Ben Gvir, the ultranationalist national security minister known for his provocative calls for Palestinian suffering, said his party did not accept the results and he urged the arrest of Arab-Israeli party leaders.

Several Israeli media outlets said authorities were investigating Arab lawmaker Ayman Odeh for allegedly taking foreign money. He is part of the largest Arab group, the Joint List, which in a statement denounced "political persecution".

Crown Prince meets with Estonia president in Tallinn

Continued from page 1

The Crown Prince warned of the dangers posed by Israel's measures in the West Bank seeking to annex land and expand settlements. His Royal Highness also underscored the need to step up efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and reiterated that the two-state solution is the only way to achieve peace.

Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Sami Smeirat, and Director of the Office of the Crown Prince Zaid Baqain attended the meeting.

SSC begins trial of three suspects in Karak church attack

Continued from page 1

The prosecutor filed seven categories of charges against the defendants under the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2006 and the Penal Code of 1960.

The charges include nine counts of jointly committing terrorist acts resulting in death, in violation of article 2 and 7of the Anti-Terrorism Law and Article 76 of the Penal Code.

The defendants also face two counts of jointly committing terrorist acts using weapons and ammunition, under Article 7of the Anti-Terrorism Law, with reference to Articles 2 and 7of the same law and Article 76 of the Penal Code.

Other charges include jointly possessing weapons and ammunition with the intent to use them in terrorist acts, under Articles 3and 7of the Anti-Terrorism Law, with reference to Article 7of the same law and Article 76 of the Penal Code.

The prosecutor also charged the defendants with conspiracy to commit terrorist acts using weapons, under the Anti-Terrorism Law. The remaining charges involve promoting the ideology of a terrorist group and committing acts likely to disrupt public order and endanger public safety and security, under articles 2, 3 and 7 of the said law.

Numbers that tell the story of the Democrats' midterm blowout

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Democrats stormed back to power in Congress and governors' mansions across America in Tuesday's midterm elections, a stunning repudiation of Donald Trump's political agenda.

These are the numbers that tell the tale of a historic night.

Total turnout numbers were not in yet, but Americans cast more than 61.7 million votes even before election day, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab.

That figure, a runaway record for early voting in US midterms, undoubtedly boosted Democrats, who traditionally cast their ballots early more often than Republican voters.

The numbers showed large turnout among African Americans, young people and other groups that typically support Democratic candidates, National Public Radio reported.

The surge contributed to a wave election, with Democrats running the table on key races and seizing control of both chambers of Congress.

Total spending for the 2026 midterms soared to a record $11.9 billion, substantially higher than the $8.9 billion racked up in 2022, according to OpenSecrets, a non-partisan authority on spending in US politics.

Campaign fundraising and ad buys jumped in the 2026 races, driven by the outside spending of so-called political action committees.

Such outside spending, led by Trump's mega-billionaire ally Elon Musk, favored Republicans by some $360 million.

But Democratic candidates proved adept at raising their own funds.

House and Senate candidates spent an unprecedented $3.7 billion from their campaign warchests, with Democrats outspending Republicans by $800 million, according to OpenSecrets.

In Texas, Democratic Senate candidate James Talarico broke records by bringing in a staggering $145 million, several times the $22 million raised by his Republican rival Ken Paxton who was forced to rely on outside groups to fund his campaign.



AFP photo

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) (centre) speaks during a press conference at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee headquarters on Wednesday in Washington, DC

Ninety-four years ago was the last time Kansas sent a Democrat to the US Senate. But on Tuesday night, Adam Hamilton unseated Republican incumbent Roger Marshall.

Hamilton, the pastor of a Methodist megachurch who was registered as a Republican until recently, became the first Democrat to win a Senate race in the largely rural, conservative state since 1932.

Texas also went blue for the first time in decades, with Talarico scoring a massive upset to flip a Senate seat in the Lone Star State for the first since 1988 — the year before Talarico was born.

South Carolina also defied history, ousting Senator Darline Graham — who had been appointed earlier this year to fill the seat of her late brother Lindsey Graham — in favor of Democrat Annie Andrews. No South Carolina Democrat had been elected to the Senate since 1998.

Young men and Latino voters — two segments of the American electorate crucial to Trump — turned sharply away from the president and his Republican Party, exit polls showed.

Hispanic voters had helped bring Trump to power in 2016, and were instrumental in his victory in 2024, when they only narrowly went to Democrat Kamala Harris in the presidential election, 51 per cent to 48 per cent, according to Pew Research.

But in recent weeks, several Latino voters have expressed anger at Trump, saying they felt betrayed.

It showed in NBC News exit polls on Tuesday, when Latino voters backed Democratic candidates by 62 per cent to 35 per cent over Republicans.

Young voters also soured on Trump. NBC News reported that its exit polls showed 18-29-year olds, men and women, voted for Democrats by a 72 per cent to 25 per cent margin. That is a sharp shift from 2024 when young voters were split between Trump and Harris.

Democrats win US Congress in midterm rout of Trump

Continued from page 1

In Maine, former logger Troy Jackson defeated longtime Republican Senator Susan Collins, the party's seventh Senate seat captured from Republicans.

In Kansas, Methodist minister Adam Hamilton became the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the reliably conservative state since 1932. Iowa had not elected a Democratic senator since 2008.

Talarico, the Texas Democrat, declared he had defeated "Goliath" in winning a Senate seat, while Gina Hinojosa unseated the state's Republican governor, Greg Abbott, ending decades of Republican rule.

Democrats also protected key Senate seats of their own, including Jon Ossoff in Georgia and an open seat in New Hampshire.

The scale of the victory grew further when Abdul El Sayed defeated former Republican lawmaker Mike Rogers in Michigan, making him the first Muslim elected to the upper chamber of Congress.

The party's House victory saw gains across Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Arizona, North Carolina, Wisconsin and New Jersey, including districts Trump had carried comfortably in 2024.

In one closely watched bellwether, Democrat J.D. Ford ousted Republican congresswoman Victoria Spartz in Indiana, capturing a district Trump won by 17 points two years earlier.

Democrats also won Georgia's governorship, electing former Atlanta mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms as the first Black woman governor in US history.

Republicans had some consolation in Florida, where Trump-backed Byron Donalds became the state's first Black governor and Ashley Moody retained a Senate seat — but only after seeing off surprisingly strong Democratic challenges.

The night was "a big wipeout and a strong repudiation of Donald Trump and his policies", George Washington University professor Todd Belt told AFP.

Trump on defensive

Democratic control of Congress will allow the party to pursue investigations into the Iran war, immigration enforcement and allegations of corruption, while blocking Trump's agenda and senior appointments.

Democratic Representative Robert Garcia, now expected to lead the powerful House Oversight Committee, warned Republicans on social media: "LAWYER UP."

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries declared Trump's MAGA movement "on the run from sea to shining sea".

Jeffries could become the first Black speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January.

Despite his conciliatory remarks, Trump also insisted on social media that Republicans would have won "IN A LANDSLIDE" if he had been running, though he had repeatedly urged supporters throughout the campaign to "pretend I'm on the ballot".

He also repeated his threat to use the presidential veto on Democrat-passed bills, posting a picture on social media of a red baseball cap reading just: "VETO".

THE JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily, established in 1975

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Editorial and advertising offices
Jordan Press Foundation

The Jordan Times is published daily except Saturdays

Published by the Jordan Press Foundation
Queen Rania Al Abdullah Street
P.O. Box 6710
Amman 11118

E mail: **editor@jordantimes.com**
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National Library registration number:
D/1998/2062
Telephone: **5600800 ext. 2392**
Facsimile: **5696183**
Advertising facsimile: **5696183**
Circulation Department:
5600800 ext: **2383**

Israeli ultra-Orthodox party thuds from king makers to election losers

By Michael Blum
Agence France-Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — For years the ultra-Orthodox party Shas figured in most of Israel's governments, whether led from the right or the left, hoping to use their consistent number of seats to advance the community's interests.

But in last week's election, the party's clout collapsed as it lost nearly half of its seats, stung by disenchantment over Shas's alliance with prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Shas first entered parliament in 1984 after being established to defend the interests of Sephardic Jews, who came to Israel from other Middle Eastern countries or North Africa. They have historically felt at an economic and cultural disadvantage to Ashkenazi Jews, who come mostly from Europe.

Run with military discipline by Moroccan-born Aryeh Deri, Shas has joined most coalitions but only after extracting its price, both in terms of ministerial berths and policy promises.

Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister who has ruled on and off for nearly 20 years, has learned to rely on the votes from Shas, even though he personally is both Ashkenazi and secular.

Unlike its Ashkenazi counterpart United Torah Judaism, which almost exclusively represents ultra-Orthodox Jews, who follow strict religious codes, Shas has appealed to a wider body of Sephardic Jews by positioning itself as a champion of the community at large.

But in the October 27 election, that broader electorate deserted Shas which in the new parliament will have only six seats, down from 11.

Gilad Malach, a research fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute who studies the ultra-Orthodox, said that Shas's support fell most markedly in working-class Sephardic areas far from the city centres.

"It's a crisis of confidence," he said.

Support from the broader working-class Sephardic community for Shas dropped by 37 per cent, and it also fell by 22 per cent within ultra-Orthodox areas, Malach's analysis found.

Ultra-Orthodox Jews make up about 14 per cent of Israel's population, which is sharply divided between the religious and secular.

The ultra-Orthodox have many more children than secular Israelis, leading to expectations the religious will take on a significantly higher share of the population in the decades to come.

Resentment

Neither bloc gained enough seats for a majority in the election. The opposition is headed by Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief, the son of Moroccan immigrants who would be the first Sephardic prime minister.

Experts see a double-edged reason for the drop in support for Shas.

The party has failed to secure a law that exempts the ultra-Orthodox Jews from Israel's mandatory military service.

Netanyahu, hoping to preserve allies, has allowed the exemption but stopped short of trying to enshrine it into law, in the face of wide resentment by other Israelis at a time that reservists are being called up multiple times as the prime minister wages war on Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

Working-class Sephardic Jews who are not ultra-Orthodox have been particularly affected by the wars, with repeated tours of duty and disruption to their daily lives.

Such one-time Shas supporters felt abandoned by the party, which "was seen as essentially focused on preventing conscription and securing funding" for the ultra-Orthodox, Malach said.

Shas left the government in mid-2025 over the failure of a law on military service exemptions, although the party was back in Netanyahu's bloc for the election.

With Netanyahu and the opposition trying to form coalitions, Shas could again put its seats up for grabs. But it now has diminished power and Eisenkot, while eager for allies, has been outspoken in wanting fewer exemptions to military service.

Former Shas lawmaker Yossi Taieb, who himself served in the military, told AFP that the rabbis who run the party are now ready to agree to a greater number of ultra-Orthodox in the armed forces so long as an exemption still applies for yeshiva students, who study the Torah.

Eisenkot has been open to creating some sort of non-military service option for Israelis who do not serve in the armed forces, although some others in the opposition have vowed zero exemptions.

Malach said the chances of a Shas alliance with Eisenkot remain minimal and, for the moment, the party remains with Netanyahu's bloc.

New trends in public sector transformation: The drivers of excellence

By Shaker A. Aladwan

In Jordan, His Majesty King Abdullah launched an award for excellence in the private sector in the early 2000s, which was subsequently followed by the "King Abdullah II Award for Excellence in Government Performance and Transparency". It is worth noting that the first such initiative — the "Administrative Development Award" — was launched in 1996 during the reign of the late King Hussein and was administered by the Civil Service Bureau and Ministry of Administrative Development.

The United Arab Emirates has placed significant emphasis on institutional transformation and excellence. In reviewing the new model for the Abu Dhabi Award for Excellence in Government Performance 2026, I noted the adoption of several new approaches and criteria within the institutional excellence framework — reflecting the maturity of various government entities in areas of development and modernisation. The award is anchored by several key drivers, including:

The "Realising the Vision" driver, which encompasses sub-criteria such as a human-centric strategy, future-readiness, strategic alignment, human capabilities and HR, technical capabilities and service delivery.

Another driver is "Operational Excellence" — Which means that a comprehensive management approach aimed at improving processes, increasing efficiency, reducing waste and enhancing quality through a culture of continuous improvement, thereby providing the organisation with a sustainable competitive advantage. This dimension includes sub-components such as governance, collaboration, organisational learning, communications, risk management, asset management and financial management.

The second component of the award model encompasses "government accelerators", which incorporate two key concepts: Adaptability and innovation. The third component focuses on "outcomes", specifically the notion of sustainable performance — the very essence of organisational excellence. Several years ago, I had the privilege of working with the Prime Ministry on a government accelerator project, in partnership with the government of the United Arab Emirates. The project aimed to devise effective, rapid solutions to various challenges facing the public sector — all within a 100-day timeframe. This initiative sought to accelerate the pace of achievement, streamline efforts, enhance responsiveness, improve the delivery and performance of services, and ultimately contribute positively to the lives of citizens. In this context, I believe it is imperative to continue such programmes, while prioritising the most effective accelerators, conducting a precise diagnosis of challenges and realigning government work priorities — all in harmony with the national visions established by His Majesty King Abdullah.

> The 'Realising the Vision' driver, which encompasses sub-criteria such as a human-centric strategy, future-readiness, strategic alignment, human capabilities and HR, technical capabilities and service delivery

What caught my attention is the emphasis on the "human dimension" in public administration — placing the individual at the heart of the focus. In Jordan's modernisation vision, the citizen is a central priority; the essence of public administration lies in its social responsibility towards the citizen, fulfilled by providing government services that meet their needs. This requires several measures, including: Continuously learning about the needs of all stakeholders; monitoring the operating environment; and gathering information — such as early indicators (or "weak signals") that may hint at impending, fundamental shifts. It also entails tracking operational performance and progress toward strategic goals, learning from outcomes, and fostering effective collaboration and engagement with citizens, all segments of Jordanian society, the business sector and other government entities. The objective is to understand diverse perspectives, build trust and co-create innovative solutions. Finally, it necessitates adopting a transparent approach to communication, implementing robust data governance frameworks and committing to ethical practices in handling data.

Shaker A. Aladwan is the former deputy chief commissioner of the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority. He is currently with the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Business, Yarmouk University.

Trump under pressure on Iran war after Republicans' midterms defeat

By Leon Bruneau and Beiyi Seow
Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump concedes that the war he ordered on Iran was partly to blame for his Republican Party's sweeping midterms losses — but even as he comes under pressure, analysts said on Wednesday that he has few good options ahead.

It remains to be seen what path Trump will take after emerging politically weakened as Democrats seized control of both the Senate and House of Representatives in Tuesday's vote.

The US leader also remains caught between a desire to diplomatically end the war with Iran — which has sharply driven up gasoline costs for American voters — and his threats to "finish it off" with Tehran.

"Trump is now in a bind: Escalation offers no clear path to victory and risks further wrecking his presidency, while diplomacy offers a potential way out," said Sina Toossi, senior non-resident fellow at the Centre for International Policy.

"The new Democratic Congress will also have significant oversight and funding powers come January, further constraining his options," Toossi told AFP.

Trump acknowledged on Wednesday that "it's largely true" that Iran and the high fuel prices provoked by the conflict had led to the massive defeat for Republicans.

Still, he maintained, echoing a similar statement after polls closed on Tuesday, that he'd "do it again" despite the election hammering.

> 'The reason we lost is the war. The president himself said so last night'

Vice President JD Vance, a potential contender to succeed Trump in the 2028 presidential election, was more definitive.

"The reason we lost is the war. The president himself said so last night," Vance wrote in a post on X.

Many American voters cited high costs of living and the Iran war as reasons behind their vote.

For usually reliable Republican voters, like farmers, steep energy costs are "really just leading to despair", Charles Hall, executive director of the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, told AFP.

Hall, a North Carolina voter himself, noted huge shifts towards Democrats in his state: "That tells me that they're voting against something."

"If they're farmers, they're probably voting against high diesel prices," Hall said.

Tehran retaliated against US-Israel strikes on Iran since late February by blocking off the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for global energy transit. This sent oil prices soaring.

But Council on Foreign Relations senior fellow James Lindsay told AFP that "the historic drubbing that Republicans took on election day happened for reasons that go well beyond Iran".

He called the "blue tsunami" a repudiation of much of Trump's agenda, with the president being elected in 2024 on a pledge to make life more affordable.

"What we've seen over the past two years is that Americans believe that life has become even more unaffordable," Lindsay told AFP. "The Iran war clearly played into that by driving up the price of gas and diesel."

Adding fuel to fire, Trump has "often behaved in ways that suggested he was indifferent to the pain and suffering of Americans", he said.

Toossi added: "The message from voters is clear: They want relief from the war's economic costs, not more war."

'Difficult position'

Already, top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer said on Wednesday that the Iran war "must end", with prospective Speaker of the House Hakeem Jeffries echoing a similar message.

But it remains unclear if Trump will listen to voters and try to end the conflict quickly, or push on with it.

"Putting aside the election, doubling down on Iran was always a dangerous strategy," Lindsay of CFR said.

A new round of intense attacks — even if designed to be short-term — could backfire with Iranians responded by targeting installations across the Gulf.

"This could spiral out of control," he added, although acknowledging that Trump's other options "aren't terribly good either".

Meanwhile, maintaining the US naval blockade in the Middle East is a strain on the country's military, while negotiations have so far failed to yield clear progress.

"The president's in a difficult position regardless," Lindsay said.

And if Vance's comments on the war are widely held by other Republican lawmakers, he added, Trump faces new political risks if he were to double down on Iran.

After Trump's midterm bashing, Europe watches for shifts

By Max Delany
Agence France-Presse

BRUSSELS, Belgium — There may be jubilation in Europe after a stunning rout of the Republicans in the US midterm elections left President Donald Trump weakened.

But there are no guarantees that the political earthquake will change key US policies.

Here are the areas Europeans will be watching for a shift:

Trump reined in?

After a rollercoaster of tariffs, trashing Ukraine, and threats to Greenland, diplomats in Brussels were welcoming the results.

"There is relief here that this is the beginning of the end of the Trump era and nobody is happier than Europeans," one diplomat told AFP, granted anonymity like others to discuss the issue.

The first expectation appears that the Democratic victories could help rein in Trump and begin righting the ship — at least at home.

"Hope is that with checks and balances some confidence will come back in the US system," said a second senior EU diplomat.

But there is also a clear sense that America's inward turn under Trump is unlikely to halt.

"If anything the US will turn even more inwards and focus on the domestic political fight between the White House and the Congress," a third diplomat said.

Meanwhile, on the international stage Trump should still have a freer hand — and get even more aggressive.

"Trump still has executive powers and has been ignoring Congress," the same diplomat said.

Ukraine

Despite the caution, Europe dearly wants to see a shift in Washington's approach to the war in Ukraine.

Ahead of the midterms, Trump yet again lashed out at Ukraine and cosied up to Russia as Washington has renewed its push to end the fighting.

The Democrat win will now usher in a more vocal pro-Kyiv majority in Congress that could pressure Trump to change tack.

But there is little hope that the United States will go back to being a major financial backer for Ukraine.

Officials in Brussels say they are focused on plugging a 70 billion-euro ($79 billion) hole in Kyiv's finances next year.

And while they're pushing other countries such as Britain, Canada and Japan to do more, they are certainly not counting on the United States.

Troops

At NATO, Washington's European allies are nervously waiting for the results of a Pentagon review of US forces on the continent that looks set to be unveiled in December.

Multiple diplomats have previously said they do not expect the midterms to impact the result.

Now with the Democrats threatening to go after US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, one of the most aggressive voices on Europe could be under fire at the Pentagon.

Despite that, Europeans remain clear-eyed and insist they are not backing down on efforts to take more responsibility for their own security.

Tariffs

One of Europe's major bugbears with Trump is the tariffs he's imposed. Getting him to backtrack on one of his centrepiece economic policies seems unlikely.

Democrats seeking to bring down inflation could try to roll back some of the measures.

But some look likely to stick around. In a recent poll from the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations, only one quarter of Americans backed removing all the tariffs on the EU.

Digital

Another area of conflict has been Trump's opposition to the EU efforts to curb big tech.

Now with the Democrats pledging to crack down on the power of Silicon valley — Europe is hoping it won't face such strong headwinds.

"We will not change our enforcement of our digital rules, and we don't expect changes on such issues with the White House," an EU official told AFP. "But we expect more room to discuss, to cooperate with Congress on global shared challenges" such as AI and cyber security.



Photo Courtesy of Jordanian Exporters Association

A total of 15 Jordanian companies are participating in three exhibitions being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre

Jordanian pavilion at three Dubai exhibitions draws 'significant' interest — JEA

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordanian pavilion at three specialised international exhibitions being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre has attracted significant interest from visitors and buyers keen to explore national products.

A total of 15 Jordanian companies are participating in the exhibitions, showcasing their products and seeking to strengthen the presence of Jordanian industry in international markets while opening up new export opportunities, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The Jordanian Exporters Association (JEA), in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry, is organising the pavilion as part of three events: Gulf Industrial Exhibition 2026, Sweets and Snacks Exhibition 2026, and Private Label Exhibition 2026.

The exhibitions began on Tuesday and will run until Thursday.

In a statement on Wednesday, JEA Chairman Senator Ahmad Khudari said Jordan's participation marked an important step towards strengthening the presence of national products in foreign markets.

He added that the association provides participating companies with an opportunity to showcase their products, production capabilities and competitiveness to a wide range of buyers and importers.

International exhibitions serve as key platforms for establishing commercial partnerships, exchanging expertise and gaining insight into market needs and demand trends, Khudari said.

Such events also help Jordanian companies improve their products, expand their customer base and access new markets, he added.

Khudari stressed the importance of diversifying export markets rather than relying solely on traditional destinations.

He said the participation of Jordanian companies in international exhibitions helps enhance the competitiveness of national industry and expand export opportunities, ultimately contributing positively to production, investment and job creation.

The JEA continues to work with relevant authorities and the industrial sector to facilitate the participation of national companies in international exhibitions, promote Jordanian products and highlight their quality, diversity and ability to meet the requirements of various markets, he added.

ACI exports rise 6% to JD6.674b in first 10 months of 2026



JT file

Exports by the Amman Chamber of Industry rises by 6 per cent during the first 10 months of 2026, reaching JD6.674 billion

AMMAN (JT) — Exports by the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) rose by 6 per cent during the first 10 months of 2026, reaching JD6.674 billion, compared with JD6.321 billion during the same period in 2025, an increase of JD352 million, according to ACI statistical data.

The figures also revealed an expansion into new geographical markets, including non-traditional destinations in several African, European and non-Arab Asian countries, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Exports increased across most industrial sectors, with the exception of mining industries and the engineering, electrical and information technology sectors, which recorded declines of 5 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

The packaging, paper, cardboard and office supplies sector recorded the highest growth, with exports rising by 38 per cent, followed by chemical industries and cosmetics, which grew by 28 per cent. Exports from the leather and garment sector remained stable.

Four countries — Iraq, India, the United States and Saudi Arabia — accounted for more than half of total exports, amounting to JD3.457 billion.

Exports to Iraq rose by 25.1 per cent to JD990 million, up from JD791 million in 2025, making it the leading destination for ACI exports. Shipments to Saudi Arabia increased by 4 per cent to JD731 million, compared with JD702 million during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, exports to India declined by 2.2 per cent to JD953 million, down from JD974 million, while those to the United States fell by 25.4 per cent to JD783 million, compared with JD1.050 billion. Exports to Syria also dropped by 8.6 per cent to JD321 million, down from JD351 million.

In contrast, exports to China surged by 180.9 per cent to JD293 million, compared with JD104 million in 2025, while exports to Palestine increased by 18.3 per cent to JD162 million, up from JD137 million.

By geographical distribution, Arab countries accounted for JD3.384 billion of exports, followed by non-Arab Asian countries at JD1.605 billion and North American countries at JD837 million.

Exports to European Union countries totalled JD414 million, while non-EU European countries received JD232 million. African countries accounted for JD93 million, South American countries JD48 million, and other countries JD60 million.

Stocks surge, oil tumbles after Trump's election rout

LONDON (AFP) — Share prices surged on Wednesday as traders digested President Donald Trump's heavy defeat in US midterm elections, which saw his Republican Party lose control of Congress.

As stocks rose, the dollar sank against other major currencies and the price of oil tanked — Brent crude falling more than 3 per cent to under $100 per barrel.

Democrats seized control of both houses in a victory that gives them the power to block legislation, open investigations into Trump's administration and thwart his judicial and senior government appointments.

Wall Street's main stock indices jumped, the Dow gaining more than 2 per cent in late morning trading.

Europe's main indices finished with gains of around 2 per cent.

Analysts are expecting the new reality in Washington to bring political stagnation, with Trump having earlier promised he would become "Mr Veto".

"Gridlock might be bad for politics, but it is good for markets, and traditionally US indices experience a strong rally after midterm elections," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at trading platform XTB.



AFP photo

A trader works at his desk on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at the opening bell in New York City on Wednesday

"After the recent rout in stocks, especially AI linked stocks, the stage could be set for a strong performance into year end," she said.

Trump has been a staunch backer of US technology firms but the Democratic victory has sparked fear that AI and data centre development could be regulated.

That fear initially saw Asian markets struggle, but US indices showed no signs of sluggishness, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq posting a 1.4 per cent rise after tumbling since last week.

The gains in Europe came despite official data on Wednesday showing that eurozone inflation reached a three-year high of 4.0 per cent in October.

Markets across Asia also performed strongly, though Tokyo ended lower as its tech sector struggled.

Tens of millions of Americans voted in the crucial polls pitched as a referendum on the White House, as anger grows at surging petrol prices, the impact of tariffs and the Iran war.

Bond yields avoided the volatility seen recently, while gold benefited from its status as a safe-haven investment.

"From the looks of it, it appears investors are pricing in an end to the war in Iran that will bring down oil prices and tame inflation, and make non-yielding assets like precious metals and cryptocurrencies great again," said analyst Chris Beauchamp at trading platform IG.

Patrick O'Hare from Briefing.com highlighted that Trump had signalled an end to the election by congratulating the Democrats and saying he looked forward to working with them.

"Reading between those lines, the market took comfort in the understanding that the overall election result won't be contested," he wrote in a note.

Aside from the US vote, investors continued to follow third-quarter earnings.

BMW said on Wednesday that it would step up planned job cuts as it reported a drop in third-quarter profit, news that saw its share price soar by 5.7 per cent.

Google meanwhile said it planned to invest $15 billion in Malaysia over the next two years to build data centres and other infrastructure, and its shares rose by 3.8 per cent.

Eurozone inflation hits three-year high at 4% in October

Brussels (AFP) — Eurozone inflation climbed to a three-year high of 4.0 per cent in October as the Middle East war fuelled a surge in energy costs, official data showed on Wednesday.

The figure for the 21-country euro area was up from 3.8 per cent in September and remains well above the European Central Bank's two-per cent target.

The October reading was in line with the forecast by economists for Bloomberg.

Analysts said they expected another interest rate increase by the ECB this year following the data's release.

"Concerns about the high level of inflation look set to prompt the ECB to raise interest rates again in December, but we suspect that will be the end of the tightening cycle," Jack Allen-Reynolds of Capital Economics said.

The ECB last week kept its benchmark interest rate on hold but opened the door to another hike in December.

Inflation in the single currency area was last above 4.0 per cent in September 2023, when it stood at 4.3 per cent.

Energy price increases surged to 20.8 per cent in October, up from 18.9 per cent a month earlier, Eurostat said.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile energy and food prices, remained stable at 2.5 per cent last month.

Meanwhile, food and drinks inflation increased to 1.6 per cent in October from 1.3 per cent in September.

Allen-Reynolds said the indirect effects of higher energy costs on food and core inflation remained "very small".

But he said "we suspect that the impact of higher energy costs will feed through to food and core inflation more noticeably in the coming months".

AOCTC welcomes Iraq's decision to grant Jordanian citizens visas on arrival

AMMAN (JT) — Chairman of the Association of Owners of Clearance and Transport Companies (AOCTC) Daifallah Abu Aqouleh has welcomed Iraq's decision to grant Jordanian citizens visas on arrival at its land and air border crossings, describing the move as an important step towards strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing economic cooperation.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, Abu Aqouleh said the decision reflects the shared commitment of Jordan and Iraq to deepening economic and trade ties while facilitating travel and movement between the two countries.

The Iraqi Embassy in Amman announced on Tuesday that the Iraqi Ministry of Interior had issued a ministerial order allowing Jordanian citizens to obtain visit visas upon arrival at Iraqi land and air border crossings, simplifying entry procedures.

Abu Aqouleh said the move would help remove administrative barriers facing citizens, traders and businesspeople, making it easier to conduct commercial activities, establish partnerships and explore wider investment opportunities in both countries.

He noted that Iraq is one of Jordan's key trading partners, adding that easing travel procedures would give fresh impetus to bilateral trade by enabling traders, business owners and company representatives to conduct their activities more

نقابة أصحاب شركات التخليص ونقل البضائع
Association Of Owners of Clearance & Transport Companies

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

بورصة عمان
Amman Stock Exchange

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Wednesday amounted to JD13.4 million spread over 5.5 million shares that traded through 4,037 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 0.91 per cent, closing at 4074.22 points.

Out of 103 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 42 companies rose while the share price of another 22 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Jordan Phosphate Mines by 5.18 per cent, Arab Banking Corporation in Jordan by 4.6 per cent, Jordan Insurance by 4.52 per cent, Arab Aluminium Industry/Aral by 4.44 per cent, and International Arabian Development and Investment Trading Company by 4.17 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Jerusalem Insurance by 7.08 per cent, Al-Zarqa Educational and Investment by 4.53 per cent, Amwaj Properties by 4 per cent, Arab Pesticides and Veterinary Drugs Manufacturing Company by 3.24 per cent, and Al-Tajamouat for Catering and Housing Company Plc. by 2.97 per cent.



ARABIC MEDIAEVAL SWORDS AND SABRES

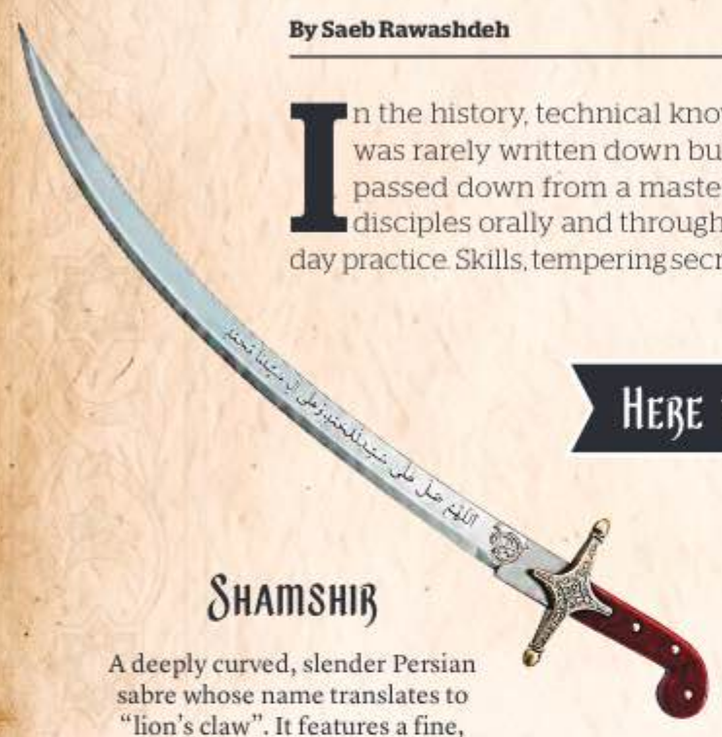
By Saeb Rawashdeh

In the history, technical knowledge was rarely written down but it was passed down from a master to his disciples orally and through everyday practice. Skills, tempering secrets and forge methods were taught via family lines and decades-long apprenticeships.

Arabic mediaeval sword production evolved through distinct historical periods, shifting from straight, double-edged blades to iconic curved sabers, heavily influenced by regional metallurgy and trade. These sables and swords were the trade mark of the Arab Muslim state and later the Ottoman Empire.

There are three periods: Early Islamic (7th -8th centuries), Islamic Golden Age (9th -early 13th centuries) and Late Mediaeval (13th -16th centuries).

Here we are going to mention some of typical models



Shamshir

A deeply curved, slender Persian sabre whose name translates to "lion's claw". It features a fine, single-edged steel blade designed for slicing and slashing from horseback without getting stuck in an opponent. The extreme curve made it highly effective for cavalry soldiers on horseback against lightly armored opponents in dry, open terrains.



Kilij

An Ottoman-Turkish broad sabre featuring a distinct convex curve and a flared, double-edged tip called a yelman. The yelman adds forward weight to make chopping and slashing strokes more devastating. It was used in the Seljuk Empire, Timurid Empire, Mamluk Empire, Ottoman Empire, and other Turkic khanates of Eurasian steppes and Turkestan.



Yataghan

A signature Ottoman infantry weapon or long knife characterised by a sharp forward-curving (recurved) blade and a distinctive "butterfly" or bulbous two-eared pommel with no cross-guard. Designed primarily for close-quarters combat. The recurve shape draws material into the slice to maximise cutting power, while the alignment of the tip with the grip enhances thrusting.



Saif

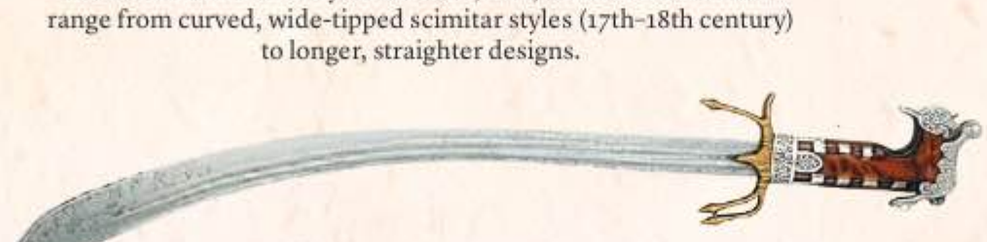
The traditional traditional Arab curved sword. It typically features a broader blade and less extreme curvature than a Persian shamshir, often paired with a hooked pommel and rich Islamic calligraphy. Early pre-7th-century and Islamic-conquest-era saifs were typically straight, double-edged iron or steel blades. Over subsequent centuries, it evolved into a broad-bladed, slightly curved saber.

Nimcha

A shorter North African and Moroccan single-edged curved sword, easily recognized by its knuckle guard with a forward-curving quillon and knuckle-bow loop, widely used by maritime corsairs and local guards. Many nimchas feature imported European trade blades fitted with locally made brass, iron, or silver hilts. Blades range from curved, wide-tipped scimitar styles (17th–18th century) to longer, straighter designs.

Zulfiqar

A double-pointed or split-bladed sword is frequently depicted in Ottoman and regional art as a sacred symbol of justice and martial power.
Unlike modern curved representations, historical descriptions suggest the original weapon was likely a straight broadsword featuring a split or bifurcated tip. It was used in the early Islamic battles.



Mameluke Sword

Named after the Mamluks, an elite ruling and military dynasty which controlled Egypt, Syria and Levant. A curved, hilt-heavy sabre, modeled after Middle Eastern shamshirs that was adopted by Western military forces, including the British light cavalry and the United States Marine Corps dress uniform.



Kaskara

A traditional straight, double-edged tribal sword native to Sudan and the eastern Sahel region, heavily utilised across Sahara for cut-and-thrust combat. The wood grip is often wrapped in leather, crocodile skin, or shagreen, paired with a characteristic flat disc-shaped or button pommel rather than a European wheel pommel.

The centres of sword/sabre manufactures were: Cairo, Damascus, Khorasan, Yemen, Andalus and Hijaz.