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King sends cable to Palestinian president on anniversary of declaration of Palestinian state's independence

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah sent a cable to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on the 38th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the State of Palestine, in which he called on the international community to intensify its efforts to end Israel's aggression, halt its plans to annex territory and expand settlements, and stop the forced displacement of Palestinians, according to a Royal Court statement.

His Majesty also reiterated the need for the relevant states to step up their efforts to ensure adherence of all parties to the Gaza ceasefire agreement and to alleviate the worsening catastrophic humanitarian conditions in the Strip.

Jordan to showcase more than $15 billion in investment opportunities at Jordan-EU Conference



AMMAN (JT) — Jordan is set to present more than 40 investment opportunities worth a combined $15 billion to European and international investors and financial institutions at the Jordan-EU Investment Conference, scheduled to take place at the Dead Sea on November 19, as the Kingdom seeks to attract fresh capital into strategic and productive sectors.

The conference aims to support the implementation of the Economic Modernisation Vision and strengthen Jordan's position as an investment destination amid growing regional economic and security challenges, according to Al Mamlaka.

The event follows His Majesty King Abdullah's call in the Speech from the Throne, delivered before the National Assembly on November 2, to accelerate the implementation of major economic projects already under way.

The King stressed the importance of strengthening the national economy, building on Jordan's pivotal regional role and ensuring that economic development translates into tangible improvements in citizens' living standards, opportunities and future prospects.

The conference also comes as Jordan moves ahead with the second phase of its Economic Modernisation Vision for 2026-2029, which includes 395 projects across eight growth drivers. The government programme is designed to stimulate investment, boost economic growth, improve public services and enhance the competitiveness of the national economy.

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Prime minister directs expansion of free school transport project to Southern Central Badia

- Expansion will cover Umm Ar-Rasas, Northern Mushairfeh, neighbouring communities
- Project's first phase served around 9,000 students across 61 public schools using 120 buses
- Previous expansion increased number of student beneficiaries in Southern Badia to 12,500, alongside around 900 teachers
- Smart transport application will allow parents to track students' journeys through GPS-enabled bus tracking systems, onboard cameras
- Project aims to improve school attendance, enhance student safety and ease transportation costs for families

AMMAN (JT) — Prime Minister Jafar Hassan on Wednesday directed the expansion of the free school transportation project to the Southern Central Badia, covering Umm Ar-Rasas, Northern Mushairfeh and neighbouring communities, starting with the second semester of the current academic year in February.

The expansion is part of the government's plan to gradually extend the project to central and northern regions of the Kingdom, following positive results from its initial implementation in the Southern Badia, according to a Prime Ministry statement.

The project initially covered 61 public schools in the Southern Badia, operating around 120 buses and providing free transportation for approximately 9,000 students, as well as 900 teachers and administrative staff.

A subsequent expansion, also directed by Hassan, increased the number of student beneficiaries in the region by 3,500, bringing the total to 12,500, while maintaining transportation services for around 900 teachers.

The upcoming phase will be implemented in partnership with the private sector and will introduce a smart school transport application, enabling parents to monitor students' journeys through integration with electronic bus-tracking systems and onboard cameras, the statement said.

The project aims to address transportation challenges, ease the financial burden on families, improve student attendance and provide safe and regular transport services, supporting the educational process.

The government plans to gradually extend the free transportation model to additional areas across the Kingdom in subsequent stages, according to the statement.





AFP photo

US President Donald Trump delivers remarks during a ceremony in honor of Veterans Day at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday in Arlington, Virginia

Trump says US does not 'need a deal with Iran'

WASHINGTON, United States (AFP) — US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he was directing Vice President JD Vance to focus completely on domestic anti-fraud efforts and not negotiations towards a deal to end war with Tehran.

"We don't need a deal with Iran. Those days have long since passed. We've got their money, Hundreds of Billions of Dollars, and we've got their Strait!" Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

His comments came shortly after The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Vance was mulling face-to-face talks with a top Iranian security official.

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Israeli strike on Gaza hospital deadliest since election

KHAN YUNIS, Palestinian Territories (AFP) — Israeli fire killed 10 people in Gaza on Thursday, six of whom died in the bombing of Nasser hospital in south Gaza early in the day, health officials said, the deadliest single strike since Israel's elections last month.

The Israeli military confirmed the attack on the medical complex, saying they targeted "a senior Hamas terrorist and additional terrorists from Hamas's military wing" who it said were operating from the hospital, which it has long accused the Palestinian Islamist movement of using to shelter fighters.

Hamas has denied this, and both parties frequently accuse each other of violating the terms of a US-backed ceasefire agreement that took effect in October 2025.



AFP photo

Hospital staff members salvage medical equipment from a damaged area inside Nasser Hospital following an Israeli air strike in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on Thursday

Nasser Hospital, located in Khan Younis, confirmed the six deaths in a statement, while a doctor there said that nearly 30 were wounded.

Goher Rahbour, a British surgeon volunteering at the Hospital, told AFP that Palestinian doctor Rizeq Abu Sheikh, with whom he had conducted a surgery Wednesday evening, was among those killed in the strike on Thursday.

"I was on my phone just doing a bit of reading and the strike occurred just after midnight. It was very loud, very quick. The building shook, there was a lot of smoke that came up," Rahbour told AFP.

Gaza's civil defence agency said the bodies from the strike had been recovered from the targeted building, which a medical source said was the surgery ward of Nasser Hospital, a sprawling medical complex in the southern city of Khan Yunis.

The rescue agency reported four more deaths Thursday. One person was killed by "Israeli gunfire" near the al-Bureij camp and another in an "Israeli drone strike" targeting a vehicle near Deir Al Balah, both in central Gaza.

Two more people were killed in an Israeli strike on a vehicle near Gaza City's Al Shifa hospital, bringing Thursday's total death toll to 10.

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Photo courtesy of the Royal Scientific Society

HRH Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society, on Thursday addresses the European Research and Innovation Days conference in Brussels

Princess Sumaya highlights importance of trust in science diplomacy at European Research and Innovation Days in Brussels

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Princess Sumaya Bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), on Thursday addressed the European Research and Innovation Days conference in Brussels, in a session titled "Strengthening Open and Secure International Cooperation and Science Diplomacy".

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Union's flagship research and innovation event, bringing together leading policymakers, researchers and stakeholders from Europe and its vital partners around the globe, according to an RSS statement.

Addressing how science diplomacy can build trust and cooperation in the current geopolitical context, while also taking research security guardrails into account, Princess Sumaya said that the primary issue in much of the world is not a lack of trust in science itself, but a lack of trust in those who have the power to use science for the common good.

She noted that trust in science is pointless if science is seen as primarily a tool to improve the lives of those who already have much, rather than those who have little.

This was a challenge for the entire human family, she added, as challenges that are allowed to fester must inevitably spread in some capacity to affect all of humanity.

"International cooperation in R&I can only remain secure if it is genuinely perceived to be open," she added.

"That is, open to the participation of scientists, engineers and researchers from differing regions. But also open in terms of the benefits that those R&I outputs create, and the locations where this collaborative research is undertaken."

Princess Sumaya said that we cannot completely shut any Science Diplomacy initiative away from the realities of the world around us, and nor should we: "Conflict, suffering and environmental destruction should reaffirm our commitment to Science for the Common Good and Science for Peace."

The princess noted that there would always be those who would try to hijack facts and reinterpret meaning to their own ends, but that good science must be staunchly evidence based, and good science diplomacy must be firm in defending this.

Turning to the role of young people, Princess Sumaya noted that never before has there been more uncertainty or more risk to a younger generation's short-term future than that posed today by the rapidly evolving threats of climate change and a global atmosphere of political upheaval and insecurity, combined with the uncertain balance of the benefits and challenges of the AI Revolution.

The princess said: "Younger scientists, diplomats and others have less time to grow and to adapt than previous generations. So, we must help them in every way we can, by training, educating and reassuring them."

She was delighted to share with the audience, both present and online, the recent launch of the Diploma in Science Diplomacy at the Princess Sumaya University for Technology: "The first intake is scheduled to join us in September next year and will be drawn from the Jordanian diplomatic corps, the early-career science community, government and NGOs."

She added, "We believe that it's not just about giving young people a role in Science Diplomacy but also enabling them to create a role for themselves."

HRH was joined on the panel by Alexandre Fasel, state secretary for foreign affairs, Switzerland, Macharia Kamau, ambassador for the International Science Council, and Ivars Ijabs, member of the European Parliament and member of the EU Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. The session was chaired by Maria Cristina Russo, deputy director general for research and innovation at the European Commission.

Princess Basma attends National Scout Gathering



Petra photo

HRH Princess Basma, president of the Jordanian Association for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, on Thursday attends the National Scout Gathering at Al Karameh Scout Camp in the Southern Shunah District

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Princess Basma, president of the Jordanian Association for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, on Thursday attended the National Scout Gathering at Al Karameh Scout Camp in the Southern Shunah District.

Organised by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development's Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Department, the event was held under the theme "Loyalty to Al Hussein," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

In her remarks at the event, Princess Basma said that His Majesty the late King Hussein remains deeply etched in the hearts and minds of Jordanians, who recall his life and stances whenever challenges intensify, adding that his absence is physical alone.

Her Royal Highness highlighted that the late King believed that nations are built not merely on material wealth, but on the resolve of their sons and daughters.

"Despite regional and global challenges and transformations, he pressed ahead with nation-building, combining the courage to advance with the courage to pursue peace as a means to safeguard the homeland and prevent bloodshed," Princess Basma said.

Addressing the participating scouts and guides, Princess Basma stressed that the nation expects them not only to remember the names of its builders, but to uphold the values they lived by, pointing out that King Hussein left behind a homeland forged by unyielding will and determination.

"Al Hussein has departed, yet his imprints remain in the villages he visited and the homes he entered, bearing witness that while leaders may pass on, the values they instil in their peoples and the foundations they build endure after them," Her Royal Highness said.

Princess Basma also underscored Jordanians' pride in and loyalty to His Majesty King Abdullah, who continues to steer a resilient Jordan through severe regional and international challenges, drawing on a noble Hashemite legacy, the determination and cohesion of Jordanians.

She added that HRH Crown Prince Hussein, who carries his grandfather's name, follows in his father's footsteps and stands close to Jordan's youth as a partner in shaping tomorrow.

Minister of Education and Human Resources Development Azmi Mahafzah said that the anniversary of the birth of King Hussein, on November 14, renews meanings of loyalty to a leader for whom Jordan was not merely borders on a map, but a mission he lived for, a people whose concerns and aspirations he carried, and a future he worked to make more secure and prosperous.

Mahafzah added that the late King's name is intertwined with every phase of building modern Jordan, noting that his vision and dedication remain alive in the national memory.

He described him as a leader who believed that nation-building begins with investing in people and that progress is measured not only by infrastructure, but by awareness, knowledge, values and belonging.

The minister pointed out that King Hussein realised early on that education is not merely a right for future generations, but the cornerstone of state strength, the pillar of its renaissance and the guarantee of its future, turning it into a major national mission and directing efforts towards providing learning opportunities for all Jordanians across the Kingdom.

He reaffirmed that Jordan continues today with steadfastness and resolve under the leadership of King Abdullah and Crown Prince Hussein to pursue construction and modernisation, inspired by the legacy of the late King Hussein and placing the national interest and the dignity of the Jordanian citizen at the forefront of priorities.

Adviser to the Minister of Education and Human Resources Development for Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Raida Bader said that the camp reflects the ministry's commitment to advancing scouting work, given its role in instilling patriotism, fostering a sense of responsibility among students and promoting volunteerism.

She noted that around 400 scouts and guides from various education directorates across the Kingdom took part in the gathering.

During the gathering, Princess Basma reviewed activities organised by the Goodwill Campaign, affiliated with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development.

The activities included motivational and recreational programmes for children from female-headed households in the area, during which Princess Basma participated in distributing school bags to the children.

EVENT

Deputising for King, environment minister heads Jordanian delegation at opening of COP31 in Antalya



Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Environment

Deputising for His Majesty King Abdullah, Minister of Environment Ayman Suleiman heads the official Jordanian delegation at the opening session of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31)

AMMAN (JT) — Deputising for His Majesty King Abdullah, Minister of Environment Ayman Suleiman headed the official Jordanian delegation at the opening session of the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31).

The event, currently hosted by Turkey in Antalya, kicked off with the participation of heads of government, high-level international delegations, and representatives of international organisations and institutions concerned with climate action, according to a Ministry of Environment statement.

The opening was also attended by Jordan's Ambassador to Turkey Hazem Tamimi, in addition to members of the Ministry of Environment delegation, as well as representatives of national entities concerned with climate change and sustainable development.

The Kingdom's participation in the conference follows the Cabinet's approval of the updated Nationally Determined Contributions document (NDC 3.0), prepared by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with relevant ministries and national institutions.

This comes within the framework of Jordan's commitment to implementing the provisions of the Paris Agreement and strengthening its contribution to international efforts to address climate change.

Under NDC 3.0, the Kingdom commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 31 per cent by 2035 (including 24 per cent conditional on international support).

This is based on an integrated package of policies and measures targeting the energy, transport, industry, waste management, agriculture and water sectors, in addition to other relevant development sectors, in line with Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision.

It demonstrates the country's direction towards establishing a low-emissions development pathway and strengthening national capacity to adapt to the increasingly severe impacts of climate change.

The Ministry of Environment affirmed that this commitment reflects Jordan's keenness to maintain its active role in international efforts to address climate change, despite the economic and environmental challenges facing the Kingdom.

Through its participation at COP31, Jordan is highlighting its role as a regional hub for climate partnerships and finance, noting its selection as the regional office for the Green Climate Fund for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Middle East.

The ministry also noted that the adoption of the updated national climate targets is expected to enhance the Kingdom's opportunities to attract international climate finance, and benefit from technical assistance and capacity-building programmes offered by international institutions and climate finance funds, according to the statement.

Jordan's participation in COP31 provides an opportunity to enhance cooperation and partnerships with countries and international institutions, showcase national climate priorities and commitments, and explore opportunities for financing and technical support needed to implement programmes and projects that promote sustainable development, reduce emissions and enhance Jordan's capacity to address climate challenges.

Dutch embassy marks 75 years of relations with Jordan, highlights business partnerships



Photo courtesy of the Dutch embassy

The Dutch embassy in Jordan hosts a networking reception attended by more than 200 guests, as part of the embassy's programme of activities marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between Jordan and The Netherlands

AMMAN (JT) — The Dutch embassy in Jordan hosted a networking reception attended by more than 200 guests, in the presence of Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan.

The reception was part of the embassy's programme of activities marking 75 years of diplomatic relations between Jordan and The Netherlands, according to an embassy statement.

Attendees of the reception included Jordanian and Dutch businesses, entrepreneurs, government representatives and development partners.

The event highlighted the important role of the private sector in the long-standing relationship between the two countries, celebrated existing partnerships and provided an opportunity to explore new opportunities for stronger trade and investment ties between the two countries.

"We highly appreciate The Netherlands' longstanding partnership with Jordan over 75 years. We look forward to building on it to expand trade and investment between our two countries, and to support a private sector-led economy that creates opportunities for young people and women, in line with the Economic Modernisation Vision," said Toukan.

During the event, the embassy introduced the economic pillar of its development strategy and outlined its priorities for supporting Jordan's private sector.

Through its programmes, The Netherlands works on the following four priorities: Strengthening the start-up ecosystem, improving access to finance for micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs), enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of companies in the sectors of ICT, food processing and logistics, and improving the business and investment climate.

Particular attention is given to creating economic opportunities for young people and women, while helping Jordanian businesses connect with Dutch expertise, companies and international markets, the statement added.

"Over the next three to six years, we would like to see more Jordanian producers find buyers in The Netherlands, more Dutch companies find partners in Jordan and more Jordanian businesses expand into international markets," said Herman Quarles Van Ufford, chargé d'Affaires at the embassy, during his opening remarks.

"Our role is to help create the conditions for these opportunities, but it is the partnerships between businesses themselves that turn them into investment, trade and jobs," he noted.

The diplomat also thanked the generous sponsors who provided support to the event including Sayegh Group, the Aqaba Port Marine Services Company and the Jordanian Dutch Friendship Association.

Attendees also had the opportunity to meet organisations implementing Dutch-funded programmes, and learn more about their work supporting businesses, entrepreneurs and innovation in Jordan.

The Netherlands remains committed to working with Jordanian public and private sector partners to support a competitive, inclusive and sustainable economy, while deepening trade ties between the two countries and with the wider European market, according to the statement.

Tourism income reaches $7.08b in first 10 months — CBJ



JT file photo

Tourists are seen in this undated photo at the Amman Citadel

AMMAN (JT) — Tourism income rose by 17.2 per cent in October 2026 compared with the same month last year, reaching $724.8 million, according to preliminary data released by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) on Thursday.

Tourism income during the first 10 months of 2026 increased by 6 per cent to $7,076.7 million, compared with the same period in 2025.

The data showed that tourism income from Arab visitors rose by 20.4 per cent and from Asian visitors by 13.4 per cent during the January-October period.

Tourism income generated by Jordanian expatriates declined by 3.1 per cent, American visitors by 15.2 per cent, European visitors by 24 per cent and visitors from other nationalities by 36.8 per cent.

Outbound tourism expenditure by Jordanians and residents increased by 2.6 per cent in October to $155.9 million.

However, outbound tourism expenditure during the first 10 months of 2026 fell by 4.3 per cent to $1,667.1 million compared with the same period last year.

Energy Ministry allocates JD50.75m to oil, gas projects in 2027

AMMAN (JT) — The draft 2027 General Budget Law allocated JD50.75 million to nine oil and natural gas projects, accounting for 80.6 per cent of the JD62.93 million in capital expenditure earmarked for the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

The ministry's total expenditure is estimated at JD69.97 million in 2027, up 17.2 per cent from the JD59.69 million re-estimated for 2026, according to budget data reported by Al Mamlaka TV.

Capital expenditure is projected to rise by 18.7 per cent, or JD9.91 million, from JD53.02 million in 2026 to JD62.93 million in 2027, while current expenditure is set to increase from JD6.674 million to JD7.038 million.

The Risha gas field development project, implemented through the National Petroleum Company, received the largest single capital allocation at JD33.25 million, accounting for 52.8 per cent of the ministry's capital spending. The allocation is 5 per cent lower than the JD35 million re-estimated for 2026, with a further JD20 million earmarked for 2028.

Allocations for completing development of the Sarhan field increased 15-fold to JD7.5 million, compared with JD500,000 in 2026. Indicative allocations stand at JD8 million for 2028 and JD10 million for 2029, bringing the three-year total to JD25.5 million.

The draft budget also introduced a new project to establish and equip a lane for transporting Iraqi oil, allocating JD2.5 million for 2027 and JD3.2 million for 2028, bringing the total to JD5.7 million.



JT file

The Risha gas field located in north-eastern Jordan, approximately 270 km northeast of Amman

The Hamza oil field production development project retained its JD2 million allocation, while spending on petroleum exploration marketing fell by 61.6 per cent, from JD4.3 million in 2026 to JD1.65 million in 2027.

Projects to supply natural gas to industrial estates received JD3.5 million, up 75 per cent from JD2 million in 2026. The allocation includes JD2.5 million for Zarqa Industrial Estate and JD1 million for other industrial estates.

The budget also earmarked JD150,000 for urban gas networks and JD200,000 for the Sheikh Hussein crossing gas pipeline, bringing total allocations for these gas infrastructure projects to JD3.85 million.

Allocations for mineral resources exploration doubled to JD2 million in 2027, with indicative spending rising to JD2.5 million in 2028 and JD4 million in 2029.

His Majesty King Abdullah, at a meeting held on Wednesday at Basman Palace and attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, stressed the need to accelerate priority electricity generation and storage projects, upgrade energy ports and attract private sector investment in renewable energy.

Prince Mired, Omani delegation discuss cooperation on disability rights

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad, president of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), on Thursday met with an Omani delegation headed by Abdullah Harthi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Persons with Disabilities Affairs, to discuss cooperation and exchange expertise in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

The visit aims to familiarise the delegation with Jordan's experience and explore opportunities for exchanging expertise, Petra reported.



Al Mamlaka TV photo

HRH Prince Mired Bin Raad, president of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), on Thursday meets with an Omani delegation headed by Abdullah Harthi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Persons with Disabilities Affairs

Prince Mired stressed the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation and sharing institutional and legislative expertise to develop policies and services that ensure the equal and active participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.

The visit follows an invitation extended by the council after Oman issued its Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2025. The delegation seeks to learn from Jordan's implementation of Law No. 20 of 2017 and its experience in developing policies and institutional enforcement mechanisms.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the council's strategic priorities and key programmes, including disability identification cards, accessibility, accreditation and independent living.

The briefing also covered efforts to move away from institutional care towards inclusive, community-based support services.

The visit is part of the council's efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and exchange expertise to advance national policies and practices and meet obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

AT A GLANCE

Jordan condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia



AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday condemned continued attacks by the Houthi militia against Saudi Arabia, including the launch of two ballistic missiles towards the Mecca region and missiles and drones targeting Riyadh and several other regions. In a statement, the ministry described the attacks as a "flagrant violation" of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, a threat to its security and stability and a breach of international law and the UN Charter. The ministry reiterated Jordan's rejection and condemnation of attacks targeting civilians and civilian and economic facilities in Saudi Arabia. It also reaffirmed Jordan's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to safeguard its security, stability, sovereignty, resources and the safety of its citizens and residents.

Foreign minister, Romanian counterpart discuss ties, regional developments



AMMAN (JT) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ayman Safadi on Thursday held a telephone call with Romanian Foreign Minister Dan Necul escu to discuss bilateral relations and regional developments. Safadi congratulated his Romanian counterpart on assuming office and expressed keenness to work together to strengthen bilateral cooperation, advance ties within the framework of the European Union and coordinate positions on issues of mutual interest, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.

Jordan's ambassador to Vietnam presents credentials



AMMAN (JT) — Ambassador Saeed Radaideh on Thursday presented his credentials to Vietnamese President Tô Lâm, as Jordan's resident ambassador to Vietnam, during a ceremony in Hanoi. Radaideh conveyed His Majesty King Abdullah's greetings to President To Lam and his wishes for continued progress and prosperity for the Vietnamese people, according to a Foreign Ministry statement. To Lam asked the ambassador to convey his greetings and appreciation to King Abdullah, expressing his keenness to strengthen bilateral relations across areas of mutual interest. Vietnam's foreign minister and several government officials attended the ceremony.

Wheat reserves cover 9.1 months, barley 8.1 months — report

AMMAN (JT) — The Kingdom's strategic wheat reserves covered 9.1 months of domestic needs and barley reserves 8.1 months through the third quarter of 2026, according to a Prime Ministry performance report on the Economic Modernisation Vision executive programme for 2026–2029.

Water harvesting efforts included awarding tenders for 40 earthen excavation sites in the Badia, signing 1,700 agreements for farm water storage wells and providing 1,500 grants under the first phase of a programme to expand sustainable rainwater harvesting on farms, Al Mamlaka TV reported.

The government also provided farmers with JD575,100 in soft loans to install modern irrigation systems and awarded tenders to establish a small ruminant artificial insemination centre and an agricultural biological control centre.

In agricultural investment, three agreements were signed during the third quarter for Treasury-owned land in Hammad and Sarhan, while four companies began field operations.



Al Rai photo

Prime Ministry performance report says that the Kingdom's strategic wheat reserves covered 9.1 months of domestic needs and barley reserves 8.1 months through the third quarter of 2026

Livestock initiatives included electronically tagging 85,432 sheep and conducting 25 spraying campaigns covering 537.4 square kilometres to combat pests and manage organic fertiliser waste.

Vocational training programmes provided 1,200 participants with farm employment skills in cooperation with the Vocational Training Corporation, trained 1,000 beneficiaries in climate-smart agriculture and reached more than 800 people through virtual training systems across two phases of field schools.

The report forms part of the Economic Modernisation Vision executive programme for 2026–2029, which comprises 395 projects across eight growth drivers. Of these, 34 projects have been completed, representing 9 per cent, while 332 are under implementation, accounting for 84 per cent. Eight projects are facing delays and 21 are awaiting their scheduled start dates.

RFC holds private screening of Jordanian-European-Yemeni film 'The Station'

AMMAN (JT) — The Royal Film Commission (RFC) has recently hosted a private screening of "The Station", a Jordanian-European-Yemeni co-production filmed entirely in the Kingdom.

HRH Princess Rym Ali, executive member of the RFC Board of Commissioners, attended the screening at Rainbow Cinema in Amman, alongside the film's producer Nadia Eliewat, members of the cast and crew, representatives of the local film industry and RFC officials.

Directed by Sarah Ishaq, "The Station" is set in Yemen but was filmed entirely in Jordan, demonstrating the Kingdom's capacity to provide diverse locations and production services for international projects, according to an RFC statement.



RFC photo

HRH Princess Rym Ali on Tuesday attends the screening 'The Station', alongside the film's producer Nadia Eliewat, members of the cast and crew

The 28-day shoot took place between April 30 and June 28, 2025, across several locations, including Kafrain, Swaimeh, Al Shouneh and Ma'een, with the participation of 77 Jordanian crew members. Local production services were provided by The Imaginarium Films.

The production received Arab Co-Production support through the Jordan Film Fund, administered by the RFC, and benefited from the commission's Cash Rebate Programme, which offers financial incentives to encourage Arab and international film and television productions to shoot in Jordan.

The commission said the programme contributes to the national economy by generating local spending, creating employment opportunities and supporting Jordanian production and service companies. It also benefits related sectors, including tourism, transport, hospitality and logistics, while providing opportunities for local professionals to gain experience and participate in international productions.

The RFC said its support for local productions, financial incentives and filming facilitation services aims to strengthen Jordan's competitiveness as a regional and international filming destination.

Established in 2003, the RFC is an independent public institution mandated to develop an internationally competitive Jordanian audiovisual industry. Its work includes training, film screenings and production support services.

Man detained for allegedly stabbing father to death in Amman

By Rana Husseini

AMMAN — The Criminal Court prosecutor on Thursday began questioning a man who allegedly murdered his father in Amman on Wednesday, official sources said.

Police received information that a son allegedly stabbed and murdered his father while at their home in the Tareq area, Police Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Amer Sartawi said.

"The suspect then fled the scene," Sartawi told The Jordan Times.

The following day, the police official maintained, "The suspect turned himself in to police."

The victim was transferred to the National Institute of Forensic Medicine for an official government autopsy, according to the police official.

The weapon that was allegedly seized with the suspect was sent to the Forensic and Laboratories Department for further testing and blood analysis, according to a senior official source.

The Criminal Court prosecutor will summon the victim and the suspect's family members for questioning, the senior official said.

The suspect was ordered detained by the Criminal Court prosecutor for 15 days pending further investigation.

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



AFP photo

Conservative commentator Laura Loomer announced she was taking a break from her podcast following the Democrats' midterm wave

MAGA influencers reel after midterm rout of Trump's Republicans

WASHINGTON, United States (AFP) — For years, influencers with the "Make America Great Again" movement thrived alongside President Donald Trump.

But after Democrats hammered candidates from Trump's Republican Party in last week's midterm elections, the content creators find themselves facing questions over their ideological and financial futures.

"I've been running on empty for too long," said conservative commentator Laura Loomer, a conspiracy theorist and confidante of Trump who announced last week she was taking a break from her podcast.

Samuel Woolley, a communication professor at the University of Pittsburgh, said post-midterm soul-searching would result in an inevitable "changing of the guard" among influencers espousing Trump's nationalist views.

"I would expect that many influencers who worked with MAGA are going through an introspective period in the same way that many conservatives are," Woolley told AFP.

Danielle Lee Tomson, a researcher at the University of Washington, said many prominent pro-Trump influencers were losing their appeal.

"A lot of these creators, like Laura Loomer or Mike Cernovich or even Jack Posobiec, they are now aging, they're older millennials," Tomson said, naming a few top influencers.

"They don't have the same kind of novelty as they once did," she added.

"Quite frankly, a lot of their message got boring."

Underdogs

Ring-wing commentators like Posobiec, Tim Pool and Benny Johnson built their online audiences on a fiercely anti-establishment message.

But over time, their closeness with the Trump administration lent them an institutional air, having taken part in news conferences alongside the president and flying on his jet.

The midterms also put a spotlight on the waning momentum of top MAGA-aligned movements, such as youth organisation Turning Point USA, whose founder Charlie Kirk was shot dead last year.

Candidates backed by Turning Point were overwhelmingly defeated in last Tuesday's Democratic "blue tsunami".

Some pro-Trump influencers have opted to "reclaim that they're underdogs" after the midterms rout, Tomson said, and lash out at the Republican Party rather than Trump.

Specifically, they have accused the party of alienating young, white, working-class, male MAGA supporters by pushing for war with Iran.

Others have cheered Stephen Miller's appointment to White House chief of staff.

The combative Trump ultra-loyalist spearheaded the administration's staunch anti-immigration policies and is seen as a return to the MAGA movement's ideological roots.

Commentator Johnson called Miller's ascension "a complete game-changer" and a "great move".

Who writes the check?

Questions over money are also at the heart of the influencers' futures.

Some have thrived not only by monetising content, but also by receiving payments — often through opaque channels — from political funding organisations and lobby groups, Woolley said.

As social media personalities rely increasingly on an image of authenticity, some are now touting their independence as a way to stand out.

"Loyalty has shifted from the agenda to whoever is writing the check," said Alex Bruesewitz, a media adviser often credited with helping Trump return to the White House.

Following the midterms, the consultant criticised Loomer for failing to disclose that she had been paid for making certain posts on X.

And in 2024, influencers such as Pool and Johnson were linked to a case in which the Justice Department accused Russia of paying right-wing content creators to spread pro-Moscow messages.

Woolley said social media companies are the "wild card" in the influencer ecosystem.

Tech giants like Meta and Google "have shown themselves completely willing to shift their behaviours and policies based upon who is in the White House", he said.

So if sites like YouTube or TikTok took a more active stance on disinformation and hate speech, "it will change these influencers' lives and change their behaviours", he said.

ANALYSIS

Xi-Trump-Putin summit evokes 1945 Yalta carve-up

By Sam Davies
Agence France-Presse



AFP file photo

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (left), US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (centre) and USSR Secretary General of the Soviet Communist Party, Joseph Stalin pose at the start of the Conference of the Allied powers in Yalta, Crimea, on February 4, 1945, near the end of World War II

BEIJING — A possible China-US-Russia summit has prompted alarm of a modern-day Yalta Conference, with three powerful men carving up the world — with little regard for Ukraine, Europe and Taiwan or anyone else.

But apart from an historic photo opportunity, the meeting between presidents Xi Jinping, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin at the November 18-19 APEC summit in Shenzhen will likely achieve little, analysts say.

Spheres of influence

When then US president Franklin D. Roosevelt, Britain's Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin met in Yalta in February 1945, they laid out the post-WWII settlement and new territorial boundaries in Europe.

That meeting in Yalta, then in the Soviet Union and now in a part of Ukraine annexed by Russia in 2014, laid out the foundations for the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe and the Cold War.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has raised alarm that Shenzhen could be a Yalta-like "redistribution of spheres of influence" for the 21st century.

At talks in Abu Dhabi this week — the first since February — Russian negotiators rattled Ukraine and its European supporters by pushing a review of the continent's security architecture as part of any peace deal, with the US also floating a new framework.

Russia's delegation chief in Abu Dhabi, Vladimir Medinsky, fanned such fears by questioning the inclusion of Europe in further talks.

The trilateral rankles because it signals "the idea that a few great powers can decide the security and future of other countries over their heads", according to Tsiporah Fried at the Hudson Institute.

The format alone "would already send a message about who counts and whose interests can be negotiated by others", she told AFP.

Divergent interests

Beyond the symbolism, however, divergent interests make the creation of a new world order in Shenzhen unlikely.

Even the agenda reportedly remains contentious: Russia has suggested the meeting focus on Ukraine, Trump has pushed for talks on nuclear weapons and the Iran war, and China has remained tight-lipped on both.

"The three parties have vastly different demands, making the management of expectations difficult. There is a high probability that talks could end without a breakthrough," according to Wang Wen, dean of the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University in Beijing.

There are also few issues where input from all three leaders could bring progress.

The main points of contention between Beijing and Washington are trade and the AI technology race, for instance.

Beijing — which presents itself as a champion of multilateralism — has repeatedly said that Europe should be part of peace negotiations over Ukraine.

German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said that in a recent meeting, Xi showed "irritation" when the idea of the trilateral talks covering Ukraine came up.

"He explicitly pointed out that this is a European conflict, in which the Europeans must also be at the table," Steinmeier told ARD.

On nuclear disarmament, China has long insisted that the US and Russia reduce their own giant nuclear arsenals before it agrees to talks on its own stockpile.

The summit therefore is more likely to produce minor outcomes such as crisis hotlines or some cooperation on counterterrorism, public health, or climate change, Wang told AFP.

"There is no single enemy to unite all three great powers the way that the fight against Nazi Germany united Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin," said Wen-Ti Sung, a political scientist at Australian National University.

"It follows that piecemeal horse-trading is in; a grand bargain is out."

However, Taiwan — which China claims — will still be watching the meeting closely, Sung said.

"If the Trump administration is open to abandoning one partner [Ukraine] out of convenience, then it can abandon another," he said.

A post-Shenzhen world

The Trump administration has sought to reassert US dominance over the "Western hemisphere" — including by capturing Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in January — but splitting the world among great powers like it's 1945 may not guarantee security.

China has opposed the logic of Yalta — the clandestine division of spheres of influence and major powers determining the fate of other nations — "from the very beginning", according to Renmin University's Wang.

China could allay fears of a second Yalta by using the summit to "emphasise the defence of sovereignty and support for multilateral organisations", Wang said.

If Beijing uses the meeting to insist on European inclusion in talks regarding the continent's security, it "could, in fact, open a new window for communication between China and Europe", he said.

"The original Yalta opened the path to the Korean War and Indochina Wars in addition to various conflicts and insurgencies across Asia, Africa and Latin America," said Chong Ja Ian at the National University of Singapore.

Any Yalta 2.0 agreement "will almost certainly run into the same kinds of issues", Chong said.

Jab by jab, house by house, Nigeria slowly rolls out malaria vaccine



AFP photo

Mary Ebimoawei, a nursing mother who recently gave birth, poses for a photo inside her home near an insecticide-treated mosquito net in Ebedebiri, Sagbama Local Government Area in Bayelsa State, on October 14

ORUMA, Nigeria (AFP) — The needle broke the skin, followed by wailing and the reassuring coo of "sorry, sorry" from the medical staff — and just like that, another baby was vaccinated against malaria, an intractable child killer in Nigeria.

Expectations were high when the world's first malaria vaccines arrived in Africa's most populous country in late 2024, promising to limit the devastation from the mosquito-borne disease that killed nearly 200,000 Nigerians and some 600,000 people worldwide that year.

Progress has been slow — but on the local level, some villages have seen child deaths drop off completely, with almost a quarter-million children fully vaccinated and 1.8 million jabs administered.

"It makes me feel happy," said hairdresser Ezibanyenami Paul, her own smile contradicting her daughter's tears after she received her fourth and final jab in the town of Oruma, in southern Bayelsa state.

Combatting malaria requires a complicated mix of state and private sector capacity to procure medicines, organise public health campaigns and keep up infrastructure such as drains and sewage.

"The malaria vaccine is a breakthrough," said Hadiza Hussayn Jibril, of the NGO PATH, which is aiding Bayelsa state in its vaccine rollout. "But it doesn't provide 100 per cent protection."

Still, Bayelsa has already seen an 18 per cent drop in the rate of children under five who have malaria at any given time, according to PATH — all the more impressive considering bed net and preventative drug distributions have been lagging in the state for years.

In Oruma, in a cluster of squat houses and shaded verandas on a neat grid carved out from the surrounding tangles of forest, clinic workers doled out a four-part immunisation regime spread over the first 15 months of an infant's life.

Children under five, with weaker immune systems, account for more than 75 percent of malaria deaths in Africa, according to the World Health Organisation.

The vaccine's effectiveness fades over time, but the idea is to protect children while they're most vulnerable.

"It was hectic," Elizabeth Ogisi, director of primary healthcare for the wider Ogbia local government area, said of the time before the vaccine.

"A child died. What happened? He was convulsing," she said, recalling "rampant" cases of malaria progressing to the point of seizure.

Since the introduction of the vaccine, "we have not recorded anything like the death of a child", she told AFP.

Zuweira Nasiru, 39, said her two-year-old son Abdulrauf — the first of her seven children to get the vaccine — has only ever had mild cases of malaria.

Paul's infant has not had it once — a big deal, the 24-year-old hairdresser told AFP, because of the cost of malaria drugs.

At 5,000 naira ($3.75), she said, medicine for the easily treatable disease is too expensive.

Oruma represents a small slice of Nigeria's 240 million people and 68.5 million annual infections.

So far, jabs are only being deployed in four out of 36 states.

The slow start has helped health workers bring down "dropout rates" between doses and work out kinks in reaching remote villages.

There "are very difficult zones that we normally don't get to. No roads, you have to take a boat", said James Kurofou, director of immunisation for Sagbama local government area, speaking to AFP on the banks of one of the Niger Delta's many wide, mud-coloured rivers.

In some cases, health care workers decided to dole out jabs during home visits, in cases where parents — often those who couldn't afford to travel — missed appointments.

Bayelsa's verdant mangroves and winding creeks are repeatedly interrupted by armed men guarding oil pipelines — a reminder of the glaring economic inequality in the country.



AFP photo

Pope Leo XIV speaks during a meeting with Peruvian bishops at the Archbishop's Residence in Lima, on Thursday

Pope Leo lands in Lima for Peru homecoming

PERU (AFP) — Pope Leo XIV arrived in Peru on Wednesday, a nostalgic return to the nation where he spent two decades as a missionary before being tapped to lead the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

The 71-year-old Pontiff landed in Lima on the final leg of an arduous 12-day Latin American tour, just weeks after undergoing surgery for lung cancer.

"He is coming home," said 32-year-old street vendor Alexander Torres in the Peruvian capital. "He will be welcomed as if he never left the country."

"The Pope is Peruvian!" cried some of the faithful, who lined the streets dozens-deep along the route from the airport, as phalanxes of soldiers in red and green berets stood guard.

The Pope began the day in Lujan, Argentina, drawing more than three million people for a mass that was part farewell, part homage to his late Argentine predecessor, Pope Francis.

"Thank you, Argentina, for welcoming me with open arms," he said, addressing the largest crowd of his 18-month papacy.

The faithful climbed fences, barriers, trees and lampposts to catch a glimpse of their spiritual guide.

"It was a unique, unforgettable experience," Daiana Rivero, 36, told AFP.

"The Pope's visit leaves a very powerful emotion and I feel this is going to be a turning point for our country," she said.

Born in Chicago, Leo's return to Peru will take him from the deep Amazon to 3,400 metres up in the Andes.

He will also make what is sure to be an emotional return to Chiclayo, the northern city where he was bishop for a decade.

Throughout his trip to Uruguay and Argentina, the pope has not shied away from tackling sensitive political and social topics.

Fossil fuel mega-profits 'morally unacceptable', Guterres tells AFP



AFP photo

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks during a press interview at the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) at the Antalya Expo Centreer in Antalya on Thursday

ANTALYA, Turkey (AFP) — UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Thursday slammed soaring fossil fuel profits as "morally unacceptable" and demanded governments put their people ahead of the bottom lines of oil and gas giants.

In an exclusive interview with AFP at COP31, the outgoing UN chief said no country could pursue new fossil fuels while claiming to fight climate change — including summit organisers Turkey and Australia.

The climate conference in Antalya has resurfaced old fault lines over fossil fuels, with some countries pushing for a faster exit from coal, oil and gas while others defend their right to exploit these resources.

The negotiations fall in the midst of a conflict-driven energy crisis that has sharply spiked the cost of diesel, fertilisers and other essential commodities.

Guterres said it was "absurd" and "morally unacceptable" that nine fossil fuel majors would reap $95 billion in profits in a single quarter from the price hikes while ordinary people struggled to afford heating and fuel.

"We are talking about consolidated interests that are not easy to defeat," Guterres told AFP at his final climate summit after a decade at the helm of the United Nations.

"Governments need to protect the interests of their peoples — not the interests of a group of companies," he said of the oil and gas firms often in his crosshairs.

And that means no new fossil fuel projects, he said — even if industry groups apply concerted pressure on political leaders in an effort to protect their investments.

"Any new projects of fossil fuels do not make any sense," said the 77-year-old former Portuguese prime minister, who steps down as secretary general in December.

"Now, obviously, I would prefer that the countries that are in this COP, all would assume that position — including the organisers."

Turkey celebrated the discovery of new oil fields on the opening day of COP31 while Australia, which is chairing the climate negotiations, faced criticism over recently approved coal mine expansions.

Never surrender

The wars in Ukraine and Iran, a pandemic, and paralysis in the Security Council have tested Guterres' skills as a diplomat but on fossil fuels the UN chief has rarely pulled any punches.

From his global pulpit, he has railed against "the godfathers of climate chaos", accusing the oil and gas lobby of "killing our planet" and governments of "subsidising suicide" by propping up the industry.

> 'We are talking about consolidated interests that are not easy to defeat'

His fiery rhetoric has made him a champion among the climate movement — and something of a rarity at the COPs.

Neither Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese nor COP31 President Muratcan Kurum mentioned fossil fuels once by name during their keynote speeches to world leaders on Wednesday — despite being the main driver of climate change.

By contrast, Guterres received raucous ovations as he called for fossil fuels to "go the way of the dinosaurs" and castigated governments for stalling the transition to clean energy.

"This is an existential threat... we cannot minimise it. And I think we need to use a language that is clear enough for people to understand that we are really facing a severe risk at the present moment," he said of his trademark flourishes.

"Secretary General Guterres is a true global hero," former US vice president Al Gore, himself a celebrated climate campaigner, told AFP in Antalya.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate said Guterres "deserves the thanks of the entire world and I hope the next secretary-general will follow his example".

But for the thundering prose, Guterres leaves office with a world far hotter than when he took office in 2017 shortly after the landmark Paris Agreement took effect.

Despite the explosion of electric cars and solar power, fossil fuel demand is surging, global emissions are at record highs, and the 1.5°C limit will be breached in a matter of years.

Most political leaders "have not yet fully understood that this is becoming a crisis moment" and without drastic cuts to planet-heating emissions, the world is condemned to a bleaker future, he said.

But "we have not lost the battle", he said. "This is not the moment to surrender — this is the moment to fight back".

Eight dead in New York building collapse



AFP photo

An excavator clears debris at the scene of a partial building collapse on Thursday in the Flatbush neighbourhood in the Brooklyn borough of New York City

NEW YORK (AFP) — The death toll from a residential building collapse in New York rose to at least eight on Thursday, the city's fire department said, after more bodies were recovered from the rubble.

Rescuers worked through the night, searching the site in the Flatbush neighbourhood of Brooklyn where the three-story building collapsed on Wednesday.

Four people were transported to hospital in critical condition, the fire department said, with over a dozen others also reported injured.

Fire Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore said on Wednesday that seven children were among the injured.

Shop worker James Williams, 60, said he witnessed the building collapse after hearing loud banging noises throughout the morning.

"I smelled the smoke from the fumes, and I was watching bricks fall. But to see, like two minutes later, to see the building collapse and fall, it was just devastating," he told AFP.

"There were people trying to get out... I saw somebody on the side of the staircase, and I'll be honest with you, I didn't even really want to think about that."

Another witness, 14-year-old Kenneilia Reid, told AFP: "When I was walking by, I started seeing dust all of a sudden, and I was like, what is going on? When I turned my back, I saw the whole building collapse."

The building, a three-story structure dating from 1930 with four apartments and a commercial space on the ground floor, collapsed onto a nearby excavation site.

A massive emergency response was launched, with about 250 firefighters and rescue workers, and search dogs, on site.

An adjacent building was also affected, with one of its walls torn away, leaving a staircase and rooms exposed on the rubble.

The cause of the collapse was not immediately clear, and firefighters continued to work at site on Thursday.

> '...I was walking by, I started seeing dust all of a sudden, and I was like, what is going on? When I turned my back, I saw the whole building collapse'

Stop-work order

"My stomach hurts. I can't imagine you were just in your kitchen doing something" and then "you're not any place. It's crazy," Annemarie, a 60-year-old care worker who did not want to share her last name, told AFP. She lives on street behind the collapsed building.

"It could have been me, you know, it's really scary," she said.

The building fell into an adjacent work site, where construction workers had been excavating, Ahmed Tigani, commissioner of New York's Department of Buildings, told a press conference late Wednesday.

Tigani said that developers had plans approved for a three-story building at the site and were pursuing permission for a nine-story building.

According to documents from the city's building department reviewed by AFP, the construction site had been issued a stop-work order in April due to potentially dangerous demolition conditions.

However, work continued, resulting in a $10,000 fine for the company involved. No link has yet been established between these violations and the building's collapse.

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani praised the emergency services for their work, saying the site involved "precarious wreckage to navigate and dangerous voids beneath the surface".

"I want to ask New Yorkers to please take a moment to pray for those who passed away today and all of those who are mourning their loss," he added at the news conference.

The city's Department of Buildings said its inspectors were on the scene "assisting with recovery operations and conducting structural stability inspections of nearby buildings".

Jordan to showcase more than $15 billion in investment opportunities at Jordan-EU Conference

Continued from page 1

According to the third-quarter report issued by the Government Performance and Achievement Monitoring Unit at the Prime Ministry, 34 projects have been completed, while further 332 projects are currently under way, while eight projects are behind schedule and work has yet to begin on 21 others.

Diverse investment opportunities

The conference will showcase a diversified portfolio of investment opportunities spanning technology, energy, high-value industries, logistics, infrastructure and water security — sectors closely aligned with the Economic Modernisation Vision's priorities of boosting productivity and creating jobs.

More than 41 detailed investment opportunities are listed on the conference's official online platform. They include electricity storage and renewable energy projects, water network development, railway and inland port infrastructure, mining, pharmaceutical manufacturing, electric vehicle assembly and recycling.

Among the most prominent opportunities are a 450-megawatt pumped-storage hydropower project in Wadi Al Mujib, a national railway network and a project aimed at reducing water losses in southern and southeastern Amman.

The portfolio also features industrial investment opportunities in semiconductors, automotive components and advanced pharmaceuticals, reflecting Jordan's ambitions to expand its industrial base and move towards higher-value production.

The Ministry of Investment is highlighting several advantages to attract investors, including political and security stability, Jordan's strategic location linking regional markets, its network of free trade agreements, skilled workforce and available tax and customs incentives.

These factors are particularly significant given the security and economic uncertainty affecting the wider region. Jordan is seeking to position itself as a stable gateway for companies looking to establish production and service operations and expand into regional and international markets.

Reforms to Improve Investment Climate

Alongside promoting investment opportunities, the government has continued efforts to improve the business environment and simplify procedures for investors.

Amendments to the Investment Environment Regulation for 2026 entered into force following their publication in the Official Gazette in June. The changes are intended to streamline licensing procedures, accelerate administrative processes and broaden access to investment incentives.

According to the Ministry of Investment's report for the first half of the year, 327 projects benefitted from incentives and exemptions, with expected future investments estimated at JOD 711.2 million.

The volume of registered investments in development zones also rose to approximately JOD 6.9 billion, reflecting continued activity in designated investment areas.

The conference is expected to attract more than 700 senior officials, investors and business leaders. Its programme will include sector-specific discussions and bilateral meetings aimed at exploring investment opportunities and potential financing arrangements.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is also expected to attend the event, highlighting the importance of Jordan-EU economic cooperation and efforts to expand investment ties.

Trump says US does not 'need a deal with Iran'

Continued from page 1

The Journal's report added Trump had told aides and counterparts that he was open to Vance reopening talks with Tehran, and that the president had empowered Vance to negotiate.

Such an in-person meeting would mark an unusual move.

Oil prices rose after Trump's remarks on social media, while Wall Street futures slipped further.

Trump's comments also come after his Republican Party were hit by sweeping losses in this month's midterm elections, with Democrats gaining control of Congress.

Anger over war with Iran, which has caused fuel prices to surge in the United States, has been seen as a key factor pushing voters away from Republicans.

Vance was among Republicans to blame the Iran war for the party's losses at the ballot box.

The conflict has been ongoing since US-Israel strikes on Iran from late February, prompting Tehran to choke off the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for energy transit. The blockage has wreaked havoc on the world economy, causing energy costs to rocket.

Israeli strike on Gaza hospital deadliest since election

Continued from page 1

Israel's military said it struck a militant in Deir Al Balah and another in Gaza City, but denied that the second strike took place near Al Shifa Hospital.

Israel is currently led by a caretaker government under Benjamin Netanyahu following an inconclusive election, with opposition bloc head Gadi Eisenkot officially tasked with forming a new administration.

Netanyahu, who has held power on-and-off for nearly 20 years and has led Israel throughout the war in Gaza, has played up security threats to the country throughout the election period and called for a unity government.

'Without prior warning'

An AFP journalist at the scene of the hospital strike reported that one of the building's exterior staircases had partially collapsed and that indoors an entire floor was damaged, with broken concrete from collapsed walls mixed with broken medical equipment.

"The surgery building was bombed by F-16 aircraft without any prior warning, resulting in a large number of patients being wounded, and many patients and doctors being killed," paramedic Ezzedin Abu Sabha told AFP.

The Israeli military said it carried out an "aerial strike to eliminate the threat they posed, after the Hamas terrorist organisation had established a presence within the hospital complex and used it as a command centre".

It said in a separate statement that Mohammed Abu Ismail, a Hamas commander for the Khan Yunis brigade, was killed in the strike.

Hamas in a statement denied using the hospital for military purposes, saying Israel put forward "a false narrative" to justify air strikes.

Hazem Qassem, spokesman for the Palestinian Islamist movement, called the strike a war crime, adding that Hamas held the US-backed Board of Peace in charge of overseeing Gaza's ceasefire plan responsible for failing to prevent the strike.

Israel has struck Nasser Hospital on numerous occasions since the start of the war.

In August 2025, Israeli strikes on the hospital killed 20 people including five journalists in one day, according to the civil defence.

While the 2025 ceasefire has largely subdued the fighting, Israel has kept up a steady rate of strikes in the territory.

More than 1,600 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the ceasefire, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health, which operates under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

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jotimes@jordantimes.com
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West Africa, a new hub of global cocaine trafficking

By Eléonore Sens
Agence France-Presse

DAKAR — Dozens of cocaine packages piled up, weighing in at 4 tonnes and valued at $317 million — the seizure by Liberian police in July was a stark symbol of West Africa's expanding role in the global cocaine trade.

In recent years, the region has become a favoured route for traffickers moving drugs from producing countries in South America to Europe, where the highly lucrative cocaine market has exploded.

Drug trafficking is now "one of the greatest threats" facing Liberia, President Joseph Boakai said in a national address in August, after several large-scale seizures.

"Drugs are destroying young lives, weakening families, fuelling violence," he warned.

Politics has been tarnished too. Following the major drugs busts, former Liberian vice president Jewel Howard-Taylor was arrested for alleged involvement in an international drug trafficking network.

But Liberia is by no means unique — the drugs trafficking scourge is region-wide.

Regional scourge

In neighbouring Sierra Leone, one of Europe's most wanted cocaine traffickers, the convicted fugitive Dutchman Jos Leijdekkers, is operating with apparent support from the highest echelons of power, according to law enforcement, local testimonies and court documents gathered by AFP.

"All the states in west Africa are vulnerable to cocaine trafficking," Lucia Bird, West Africa director at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC), told AFP.

"The region is perfectly positioned between the cultivation areas in Latin America and consumption markets, particularly in Europe," she said.

A GI-TOC report published in March spotlighted the issue.

Around 30 per cent of the drug consumed in 2025 in Europe went through West Africa, according to estimates in the report.

But the true scale of the trafficking remains unknown — it is difficult to quantify given its illegal nature and the analysis of seizures is not a reliable indicator.

Maritime route

Several factors have contributed in recent years to the growing importance of the West Africa route, which is largely maritime.

With improvements to its port infrastructure and road networks, West Africa has become more attractive to traffickers and its ports increasingly well-connected hubs.

Although transporting drugs via the region takes longer and is more expensive, "the risk of having your product seized is lower", Bird told AFP.

As Europe has tightened its controls on ships coming from South America, cargoes originating in West Africa attract less scrutiny from European customs.

But with West Africa increasingly seen as high-risk, Bird said perceptions and security measures were starting to change.

Overspill

As in other regions, cocaine trafficking fuels corruption among local elites and political decision makers.

This has "profound implications for governance and devastating effects on the provision of public services and the socioeconomic development of states", the GI-TOC report said.

Another problem is the overspill from the trade in bulk onto the domestic market.

Smaller dealers and traffickers are sometimes paid in kind — namely, in cocaine — but lacking sufficient channels to resell it in Europe, the white powder is dumped on the local market and sold at affordable prices.

This has led to "an increase in the consumption of powdered cocaine — and, to a much greater extent, crack — over the past five years," according to the report.

Three countries stand out for the particularly low price of cocaine on the local market: Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Mali.

The beginning of the end: Israel at the heart of America's political civil war

By Ramzy Baroud

On the very morning of the critical US midterm elections, President Donald Trump made what seemed like a shocking announcement: No more aid to Israel.

"Bibi Netanyahu and I have made a deal that we give Israel $4 billion a year, and we made a deal months ago that we're stopping," Trump told Fox News' Fox & Friends.

He goes on to make two seemingly contradictory assertions: "We won't be paying Israel," and "We'll help Israel if they need it."

In truth, there was little euphoria among those who have long campaigned against US funding of Israel. The lack of enthusiasm can be explained by two factors: Few take Trump's pledges seriously and his remarks were widely understood as a desperate attempt to stave off what was shaping up to be a disastrous election outcome.

The election ultimately delivered one of the most humiliating defeats in Republican Party history, with Democrats capturing both the Senate and House of Representatives and making sweeping gains across the country.

Republicans quickly turned against Trump, who made the unusual admission that the war on Iran had contributed to their defeat.

Vice President JD Vance, widely considered a potential presidential contender in 2028, was more explicit. "The reason we lost is the war," Vance tweeted on November 4, calling for Republicans to "change our relationship to Israel".

Though Vance was criticised by some within his party for naming Israel, the clearest indication that unconditional US support for Israel had become a major political liability came from Trump himself.

First, his rushed Election Day announcement was an unmistakable attempt to influence voters before they cast their ballots. Trump failed, but in doing so, he revealed that he and his party understood Israel had become a major factor in their political predicament.

Indeed, Trump described the $4 billion payment as "a bad talking point", complaining that critics were using it against Republicans.

Second, Trump's acknowledgment that the Iran war had hurt Republicans exposed the very Israel connection that Vance was prepared to articulate more openly.

The war on Iran was not America's war. It was Netanyahu's war, pursued as part of his longstanding quest to dominate the Middle East, with Washington paying the military, economic and political price.

This is hardly hyperbole. Netanyahu has repeatedly presented Iran as an existential enemy, while his far-right allies have openly celebrated American military involvement.

Ironically, Washington's own 2026 National Defence Strategy had identified defending the US homeland and asserting American interests throughout the Western Hemisphere as its foremost priorities. Yet the administration plunged into another devastating Middle Eastern war.

Thanks to independent journalists and analysts operating outside mainstream media, Americans have become increasingly aware of the damage this relationship has inflicted on their country's economy, military standing and international reputation.

According to Quinnipiac University, 48 per cent of registered American voters now believe the US is too supportive of Israel, compared with just 16 per cent in January 2017.

This growing awareness, coupled with the seismic shift in Congress following the midterms, is still not enough to guarantee tangible and irreversible change.

The midterm results nevertheless offer a major ray of hope that America is not a lost cause after all, and that ordinary people possess enough knowledge and determination to challenge the powerful interests, megadonors and shadowy agendas shaping their country's foreign policy.

There is a fundamental lesson here: Americans can no longer be satisfied with empty promises. And this brings us back to Trump's announcement.

Israel has been the largest cumulative recipient of US foreign assistance, with the Council on Foreign Relations estimating that American aid since 1948 has exceeded $300 billion, adjusted for inflation.

That staggering figure, however, hardly tells half the story. Washington has consistently found ways to finance Israel's wars beyond the declared annual military assistance of $3.8 billion.

For example, in April 2024, President Joe Biden signed emergency legislation providing Israel with an additional $8.7 billion in direct military assistance, separate from the regular annual allocation. The money included $3.5 billion in additional Foreign Military Financing and $5.2 billion for missile defence programmes.

These extraordinary funding mechanisms demonstrate how Washington can continue financing Israel's military even when regular assistance becomes politically controversial.

And that is only part of the picture.

Congress has been considering proposals to expand US-Israeli defence technology cooperation, potentially shifting more spending into Pentagon research, development and procurement accounts.

In essence, Israel could continue benefitting from billions in American military spending without those expenditures being labelled conventional foreign aid.

What Trump appears to be offering, therefore, is a sleight of hand: Remove the politically damaging label of aid while preserving, and potentially expanding, the military relationship itself.

A Democratic-controlled Congress could block some of these initiatives. But many Democrats remain committed supporters of Israel, and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, will continue to spend heavily to influence congressional elections.

True, association with the lobby has become a political liability for some candidates. But AIPAC and its allies can be expected to seek alternative strategies, political vehicles and alliances to preserve their influence.

The election results are certainly a major step in the right direction, but America's political civil war is only beginning: Progressive Democrats against the party establishment, disillusioned Republicans against MAGA loyalists, independent media against mainstream institutions, and so on.

The good news, for now, is that the tireless work of generations of conscientious Americans are finally paying off.

Thanks in no small part to their efforts, millions of Americans are beginning to recognise that Israel is not a friend of their country, and that this sinister relationship must end once and for all.

Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the editor of The Palestine Chronicle. He is the author of nine books. His latest books are "Before the Flood" (Seven Stories Press) and "Gaza Rising" (Clarity Press). His other books include "Our Vision for Liberation", "My Father Was a Freedom Fighter and The Last Earth." Baroud is a non-resident senior research fellow at the Centre for Islam and Global Affairs

Why aren't we investing more in climate adaptation?

By Mekala Krishnan, Sylvain Johansson and Kanmani Chockalingam

BOSTON/GENEVA/SEATTLE — As world leaders gather in Antalya, Turkey, for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), climate adaptation is high on the agenda. The economic case for action is compelling. Measures ranging from flood defences to cooling and irrigation technologies can prevent losses — including property damage, lower productivity and reduced agricultural yields — worth many times their cost. Yet, the world invests only a fraction of what's needed, leaving many people and assets inadequately protected from extreme weather.

The McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) found that the world spends approximately $190 billion annually on 20 proven adaptation measures that protect against heat, wildfire, flooding and drought. But this is just one-third of the $540 billion needed to protect everyone exposed to climate hazards at developed-economy standards. These measures could cost $1.2 trillion per year when the world reaches 2°C above pre-industrial levels, which current emissions trajectories suggest may occur by around 2050. But we estimate that the returns in avoided losses would be roughly three times the costs of these measures today, increasing to seven times the costs at 2°C of warming.

Clearly, economic benefits are not enough to guarantee investment. The problem is that what makes economic sense for society does not always make financial sense for the households, companies and governments expected to act. Consider the construction of a sea dike. It protects residents, businesses, property owners and insurers from flood losses, but the public agency building it has no way to recover its costs, because a sea dike does not produce revenue. Similarly, a bank may struggle to finance an asset with no predictable cash flow.

New research from MGI examining investment barriers across 20 measures finds two preconditions for climate adaptation: Households, companies, and governments must be willing and able to implement measures, and capital providers must be willing to finance them on acceptable terms. Competing spending priorities, unclear benefits, misaligned incentives, and implementation challenges can constrain demand, while repayment risks, uncertain project performance and the difficulty of making numerous small investments can impede financing even where demand exists.

> There are many proven ways to protect people and assets from extreme weather. But advancing adaptation will require each stakeholder to play its part

While these barriers often reinforce one another, they are not universal. By 2050, we estimate that measures representing roughly $460 billion in annual adaptation costs — about 40 per cent of the total needed — could be "deployment ready", facing minimal demand or financing constraints. Beyond protecting lives and livelihoods, these measures, which range from cooling systems to stormwater management, represent a potential market opportunity for adaptation providers and financiers, and over two-thirds of this opportunity is expected to be in higher-income regions.

But substantial obstacles stand in the way of unlocking the remaining $690 billion in annual adaptation costs required at 2°C, particularly in the least protected places. In India and Sub-Saharan Africa, adaptation costs could reach 2–3 per cent of GDP, compared with 0.3–0.5 per cent in higher-income regions. At the same time, less than 20 per cent of adaptation investment needed in these regions is expected to be deployment ready, compared with more than half in higher-income regions, implying a need for innovation in how adaptation is delivered and financed.

Three issues need to be addressed. First, adaptation must become more affordable for households struggling to make ends meet, as about $440 billion in annual adaptation needs could be blocked by competing spending priorities and a lack of creditworthiness. That means cheaper technologies and financing. For example, the municipal authorities in Ahmedabad, India, worked with the Mahila Housing Trust to reduce the cost of heat-reflecting roofs for low-income households through subsidies, credit schemes and coordinated implementation.

Second, stronger incentives, clearer evidence of benefits, and improved capabilities could unlock about $210 billion in annual adaptation costs. To create more space for rivers to flood safely, The Netherlands' Room for the River program had to convince some landowners to relinquish their property or change how their land was used, even as the benefits of the program accrued broadly across communities. The program implemented more than 30 projects by aligning incentives through compensation, property purchases, and relocation support, and by coordinating between national and local governments, water authorities and communities.

Finally, demand exists for the remaining $40 billion in required adaptation measures blocked by barriers, but these projects must be made bankable through innovative revenue mechanisms and financing structures, or with evidence of reliable performance to reduce investor risk. The Drought Tolerant Maize for Africa initiative demonstrates how early-stage funding can help establish a track record for emerging adaptation solutions. Donors supported years of research and field testing, while partnerships with local seed companies helped scale production and distribution. By 2014, drought-tolerant seeds had reached an estimated 5.4 million households.

There are many proven ways to protect people and assets from extreme weather. But advancing adaptation will require each stakeholder to play its part. Companies should integrate climate resilience into investment decisions and develop more affordable adaptation measures. Financial institutions should create financing structures that better capture the economic value of avoided losses. And governments should strengthen incentives, coordinate implementation and direct scarce public resources toward investments that markets alone cannot deliver.

Adaptation has been shown time and again to deliver substantial economic value. The challenge now is to ensure that those who need to invest have the means — and the incentives — to do so.

Mekala Krishnan is a partner at the McKinsey Global Institute. Sylvain Johansson is a director at the McKinsey Global Institute. Kanmani Chockalingam is a senior fellow at the McKinsey Global Institute.



Photo Courtesy of Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabsheh says the two-year project represents an important step towards developing Jordan's mining sector through European expertise, international standards and knowledge transfer from Jordan, Spain and Greece

Jordan launches first EU-funded twinning project to develop mining sector

By Ilham Darwazeh

AMMAN — Jordan on Thursday launched its first EU-funded twinning project in the mining sector, aimed at strengthening technical and institutional capacities, attracting investment and aligning the sector with European standards and best practices.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabsheh, who patronised the launch ceremony, said the two-year project represents an important step towards developing Jordan's mining sector through European expertise, international standards and knowledge transfer.

The project brings together experts and specialists from Jordan, Spain and Greece to support cooperation, technical capacity-building and institutional development.

Kharabsheh said the initiative seeks to advance the mining sector through modern technologies, artificial intelligence and the latest scientific developments, noting that Jordan has several promising mining sites that require further research, studies and exploration.

He said Jordan's mining strategy focuses primarily on attracting investment and building technical capacities, adding that the twinning project supports the strategy's objectives, which include achieving annual growth of 10 per cent in the sector's contribution to GDP by 2033.

The ministry is working to strengthen technical expertise by expanding partnerships and cooperation with international institutions and specialists, Kharabsheh said, thanking Spanish and Greek experts for sharing their knowledge with Jordanian professionals.

European Union Ambassador to Jordan Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas, said the project reflects the EU's longstanding partnership and support for Jordan, which has contributed to the country's economic development across various sectors.

In an interview with The Jordan Times, Chatzisavas said mining is among the fastest-growing sectors in terms of Jordanian exports to the EU, making a significant contribution to export growth, particularly over the past two years.

"This is not a coincidence; it is a clear trajectory and an established pattern," he said, adding that this growth would continue as long as Jordan adds value to its raw materials and develops its processing industries.

He cited the Arab Potash Company (APC) as a successful example of local value addition, noting that the company processes raw materials locally and exports fertilisers that meet consumer requirements and standards.

"The same can be done in the future with derivatives from phosphate and other raw materials, including silica and magnesium," he said.

Chatzisavas said the twinning project, the first of its kind in Jordan's mining sector, would bring specialised European expertise to support the development of policies and strategies over the next two years.

The project will involve experts working alongside their Jordanian counterparts to transfer knowledge, exchange experiences and compare approaches to policymaking, he said.

He added that harmonising standards would help connect the Jordanian and European mining sectors, facilitate potential joint ventures and increase trade between producers and consumers.

"The European market is a large market, with 500 million consumers," Chatzisavas said, highlighting the EU's need for fertilisers to support food production and raw materials to supply its industries, including the medical and pharmaceutical sectors.

"We need to unlock the potential of the mining sector in Jordan," he said, noting that the Kingdom's raw materials and their downstream products are of considerable interest to the EU.

Chatzisavas also said mining would feature prominently at the EU-Jordan Investment Conference scheduled to take place at the Dead Sea next week, where Kharabsheh will participate as a panellist.

Representatives of the Jordanian and European mining sectors are also expected to meet during the conference to strengthen business relations and explore opportunities for cooperation and investment.

Greek Ambassador to Jordan Irene Riga, welcomed Greece's participation in the project, saying it would contribute expertise and best practices to support the development of Jordan's mining sector.

Spanish Ambassador to the Kingdom Luis Pardo Cuerdo, said the sector has promising prospects, noting that the availability of the necessary tools and skills could help ensure that Jordanian mining products meet European standards.

He described mining as a key pillar of Jordan's economy and an important contributor to economic growth.

During the main sessions, Director of the Geology and Mining Directorate Hisham Zayoud, presented an overview of the twinning programme, saying cooperation between the three countries would provide an integrated framework based on European standards to enhance the competitiveness of Jordan's mining sector.

He outlined the project's implementation phases, which cover licensing and oversight, data collection and analysis, capacity assessment, staff training, investment promotion and access to markets.

The programme will also focus on strengthening governance across the exploitation of mineral resources in line with European standards, he said.

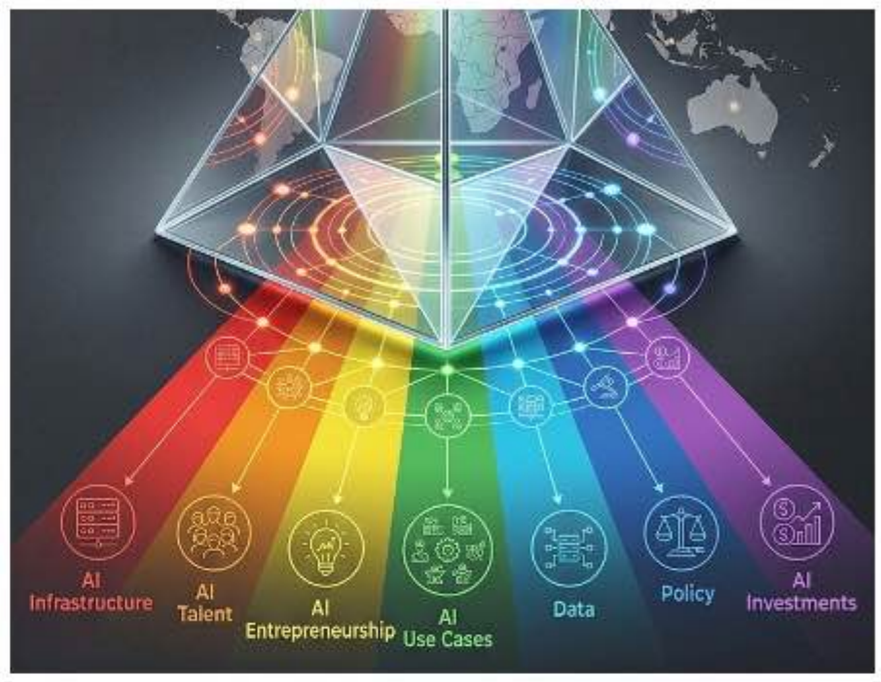
Zayoud added that the project seeks to lay the foundations for establishing a centre of excellence to develop technical expertise and build capacities in the mining sector, in cooperation with public- and private-sector stakeholders.

The initiative will also assess existing gaps and develop structured plans to address them, he said.

Jordan has promising mining potential, which represents a strategic opportunity to enhance the Kingdom's competitiveness and attract quality investments that generate added value for the national economy.

Zayoud said the mining sector strategy focuses on maximising the added value of natural resources, developing mineral-based industries and increasing the sector's contribution to GDP, in line with the objectives of the Economic Modernisation Vision.

Int@j contributes to global AI index, highlights areas for growth



AMMAN (JT) — The Information and Communications Technology Association of Jordan (int@j) contributes in shaping the methodology of the 2026 WITSA Global AI Index, which highlighted the Kingdom's strengths in data and research collaboration while identifying priorities for expanding investment in and the application of artificial intelligence (AI).

The association said on Thursday that it had participated in an international committee comprising 22 experts from 18 economies, which was responsible for reviewing and approving the index's assessment criteria, weighting system and scoring methodology.

The index covers 128 economies, 105 of which were assessed using 83 indicators across seven areas; infrastructure, talent, entrepreneurship, applications, data, policies and investment. It does not provide an overall country ranking, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Jordan scored 60.2 out of 100 in data, its strongest-performing category, and 41.2 in policies, above the global average of 40.3.

The Kingdom also ranked 12th among 77 economies in international scientific co-authorship links among AI researchers, reflecting its participation in global research networks.

The report identified several priorities for Jordan, including expanding AI applications across government institutions, directing allocations under the national AI strategy towards research and investment, supporting technology start-ups and drawing on the expertise of Jordanian professionals abroad.

Int@j board member Majdi Armouti, who represented the association on the international committee, said Jordan's capabilities in data, policy development and research provided a solid foundation for commercial growth.

He called for greater support for specialised AI companies, wider adoption of practical applications and improved access to financing to translate research and technical expertise into marketable products and services, as well as employment opportunities.

The association said the index was designed to help governments and businesses identify gaps in their AI ecosystems and direct funding, training and investment towards clearly defined priorities.

CEO of int@j Nidal Bitar, serves on WITSA's board of directors and chairs its Business Development Committee, which focuses on expanding programmes, partnerships and revenue streams to support the alliance's activities.

Launched in Taipei on September 1, the index provides a framework for monitoring the development of AI ecosystems and identifying investment needs.

WITSA brings together technology industry associations from around the world to promote cooperation, knowledge exchange, trade and investment in information and communications technology. Int@j represents Jordan in the alliance.

Chinese university bought advanced Nvidia chips despite US curbs



AFP photo via Getty Images North America

An Nvidia sign is displayed at the company's headquarters on Thursday in Santa Clara, California

BEIJING/NEW YORK (AFP) — A Chinese university with close ties to the country's defence bodies recently bought advanced AI chips made by tech giant Nvidia, procurement notices show, despite stringent US controls.

China and the United States are locked in a fierce competition for supremacy in the strategic and rapidly growing field of artificial intelligence, and Nvidia's market-leading products have become a major point of contention.

The findings come as the California-based firm is embroiled in crisis following revelations that co-founder and CEO Jensen Huang may have been caught up in a Chinese espionage operation, sending its shares tumbling.

Northwestern Polytechnical University in the city of Xi'an purchased two Nvidia H200 chips from Shaanxi Bosuan Network Technology — not Nvidia directly — for 874,700 yuan ($131,200), according to a procurement notice dated October 21.

H200 chips are subject to US export controls that limit direct shipments to China and apply certain restrictions on their resale globally.

The H200 chips were purchased for the management school of NPU, which is one of China's "Seven Sons of National Defence" universities that conduct defence-related research and maintain links with the country's military.

The procurement notice seen by AFP was no longer accessible on the school's website on Thursday.

AFP has contacted the NPU School of Management for comment.

Another procurement notice dated September 4, also seen by AFP but no longer accessible as of Thursday, shows that NPU's cybersecurity school purchased two Nvidia H200s for 796,000 yuan.

AFP has contacted the NPU School of Management and School of Cybersecurity for comment.

Turkey, China sign MoU paving way for $15b renewable energy investment



AFP file photo

This aerial photograph shows wind turbines in Catalca, near Istanbul, Turkey, November 2

ANTALYA, Turkey (AFP) — Turkey and China on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) paving the way for about $15 billion in Chinese investment in renewable energy projects in Turkey, the Turkish energy minister said.

The two countries' energy authorities signed the deal on the sidelines of the UN climate conference in the southern Turkish province of Antalya.

Under the agreement, which envisages roughly $15 billion in investment, the two sides aim to develop 7,000 megawatts (MW) of solar and wind power capacity, new energy storage systems and 4,000 MW of electricity transmission capacity, Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said on X.

Bayraktar said the cooperation would help expand Turkey's renewable energy capacity.

"It will also enable technology transfer, support the production of wind turbine equipment in Turkey and make a significant contribution to the development of our domestic industry," he added.

Turkey aims to raise the share of renewable in its installed power capacity to 77 per cent by 2040 under its long-term energy strategy.

As part of that target, the country's combined wind and solar capacity is set to nearly quadruple to 175 gigawatts (GW) from 45 GW currently.

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

AMMAN (JT) — Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) trading value for Thursday amounted to JD11 million spread over 4.3 million shares that traded through 3,713 transactions.

The ASE share price index shed 0.33 per cent, closing at 4053.45 points.

Out of 99 companies whose shares were traded, the share price of 29 companies rose while the share price of another 37 declined.

Topping the list of the companies whose shares gained the most were Jordan Express Tourist Transport by 6.82 per cent, Jerusalem Insurance by 5.63 per cent, Jordanian Company for Developing and Financial Investment by 4.79 per cent, Al Dawliyah for Hotels and Malls by 4.76 per cent, and Jordan Poultry Processing and Marketing by 4.55 per cent.

The companies whose shares dropped the most were Specialised Investment Compounds by 4.52 per cent, Jordan International Trading Centre by 4.39 per cent, Deera Investment and Real Estate Development Company by 4.29 per cent, Amwaj Properties by 4.17 per cent, and Shira Real Estate Development and Investments by 4 per cent.



SPORTS AT A GLANCE

FOOTBALL

Man United sack manager Carrick

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United sacked manager Michael Carrick on Thursday after their worst-ever start to a Premier League campaign, with USA boss Mauricio Pochettino expected to replace him. Former United midfielder Carrick led the team to an impressive third-place finish last season but they have taken just eight points from 10 games in the current campaign and are mired in the relegation zone. "Manchester United can confirm that Michael Carrick has departed his role as men's first-team head coach," the club said in a statement. It added: "After a disappointing start to the season, the club has come to the extremely difficult conclusion that a change is necessary in order to achieve our ambitions." Carrick's final game in charge was a chaotic 4-4 draw against Aston Villa on Sunday, after which he stressed he would not walk away and was looking to the international break as usual. But the United hierarchy have decided to act in the hope of saving their season after a paltry three wins in all competitions. Former Tottenham, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain boss Pochettino would have an enormous task on his hands to revive a club that has never recovered from the departure of Alex Ferguson 13 years ago. The Red Devils, once the dominant force in English football, have been overtaken by Manchester City, Liverpool and Arsenal. United's next game is against fierce rivals Liverpool at Anfield on November 22.

TENNIS

Andreeva powers past Sabalenka to reach WTA Finals last four

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — French Open champion Mirra Andreeva stormed past Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-0 to reach the last four of the WTA Finals on Wednesday as Elina Svitolina kept her bid on track with a three-set win over Karolina Muchova. Russian 19-year-old Andreeva held her nerve after falling behind 4-1 in the opening set — winning the last 11 games to seal the round-robin victory in just 62 minutes. "Oh my God, I'm even happier than I was after my first match," Andreeva said. "I feel like I can play another two matches, I'm so full of energy. I'm so pumped up. I'm so happy." Andreeva, whose three titles this year include her maiden major at Roland Garros, is making her singles debut in the elite season-ending event.



AFP photo

Jannik Sinner had been having another superb season before succumbing to his knee injury

Sinner admits that knee injury left him barely able to move

ROME (AFP) — Missing from this year's ATP Finals, title holder Jannik Sinner admitted that he's had days on which he could barely move due to the knee injury which has kept him out of action since winning Wimbledon.

Sinner, who was World No.1 until being displaced by Alexander Zverev earlier this month, recently said that he will make his comeback at the "Six Kings Slam" tournament in Saudi Arabia, which has been rescheduled for late December due to the conflict with Yemen's Houthis.

"I had days where I felt nothing and I could play without any problems and then I had days where I couldn't move at all," Sinner said in a video published on his YouTube channel.

"The worst part for me about this injury is that I cannot compete, I cannot play tennis.

"Also my life outside of tennis is a bit more limited because of a simple fact that I cannot do things that I really like, because I want to protect my knee."

Sinner had been having another superb season before succumbing to his knee injury, and he revealed in the video published on Wednesday that tonsil surgery caused him to lose a lot of weight.

Before his knee injury, which prematurely ended his season, Sinner had won five consecutive Masters 1000 tournaments — Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo, Madrid, and Rome — to complete his set of top-tier ATP events, before being crowned Wimbledon champion for the second straight year.

"I'm not going to lie, it's also tough to see other players play and I cannot compete," said Sinner.

"Also because the season I've had, it has been an incredible season until the moment when everything happened and it switches from a very very positive season to a very tough ending of season even though I had a lot of success."

Last week Sinner announced that Magnus Norman will replace his long-time coach Darren Cahill, who helped shape the Italian into the world's top tennis player.

Pakistan-Sri Lanka Test hit by bad weather after Saqib's heroics

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan (AFP) — Rain and bad light hit the first Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka after pacer Saqib Khan took seven wickets on debut to lead the home team's fightback on Thursday.

Saqib grabbed an impressive 7-130 on an overcast morning in Rawalpindi to spark a Sri Lankan collapse which saw the tourists slumping from their overnight 404-4 to 446 all out.

Pakistan, who conceded a slender first innings lead of 12 runs, were 57-1 when bad light and then rain stopped play 45 minutes into the second session. Opener Azan Awais and Mohammad Taha were the unbeaten batters with 22 and 24 respectively, with the home team now leading by 45 runs with nine wickets intact.

Pakistan had lost opener Tayyab Arif just before lunch, skittled lbw by Asitha Fernando for 11.

With more rain forecast for Friday, the Test is heading for a draw, leaving the series result on the second and final match, also in Rawalpindi from November 17. It was Saqib who shone in the overcast morning session. He started the collapse in the first over of the day when he bagged the prize wicket of centurion Dhananjaya de Silva, caught behind by Ghazi Ghori without adding to his overnight 167.

De Silva hit 20 fours in a 405-minute marathon knock and was soon joined back in the pavilion by Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis, who had also reached his hundred on day three.

Kusal, who added 249 runs for the fifth wicket with De Silva, fell to Saqib for 119 in the fifth over after adding just two to his overnight score. He hit 10 fours and four sixes in five hours at the crease.

Sri Lanka lost their last six wickets for 42 runs and Saqib took his fifth when Sonal Dinusha (20) edged to slip.

Saqib then mopped up tail-enders Lahiru Kumara (0) and Asitha Fernando (four) to become only the fourth Pakistani to take seven wickets in an innings on debut. The others were pace bowler Mohammad Zahid (7-66), off-spinner Mohammad Nazir (7-99) and leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed (7-114).



AFP photo

Pakistan's Saqib Khan bowls during the fourth day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi on Thursday



AFP photo

The museum is designed to accommodate up to 10 million visitors a year and a mega-museum will showcase the country's history and civilisation

India to build mega-museum with world's 'largest display area'

NEW DELHI(AFP) — India's cabinet approved on Wednesday a mega-museum showcasing the country's history and civilisation, which the government said will cost around $340 million and have the largest display area in the world.

First announced in 2023, the project received approval as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government renewed its emphasis on the country's pre-colonial cultural identity.

Themuseum's name, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, translates roughly as "India through the ages" and invokes the country's ancient Sanskrit name, Bharat.

It will occupy former civil service offices in New Delhi, known as North and South Blocks, which were designed by British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in the 1920s.

In a statement, the Cabinet said the museum will be "spread over a proposed built-up area of approximately 178,509 square metres".

"Benchmarked against major international museums, Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum is going to be the museum [with] the largest display area in the world," it added.

India's Cabinet said the YugeYugeen Bharat is "envisaged as a landmark civilisational museum showcasing the continuity, diversity and richness of Bharat's [India's] civilisational heritage".

The first gallery is expected to open to the public by the end of 2027, with project completion scheduled for financial year 2030-31.

Modi came to national power in May 2014, and has since taken multiple steps to glorify the country's heritage and culture.

His government built the world's tallest statue, a 182-metre monument to Vallabhbhai Patel, for his role in bringing princely states into India. Modi also backed the revamp of New Delhi's historic administrative district in his second term and moved lawmakers to a new parliament building in 2023.

"The Museum is envisaged as a national public cultural institution... it will provide opportunities for learning, research, cultural engagement and appreciation of India's civilisational heritage," the government statement said on Wednesday.

Around 1.8 million objects have been identified from national and state museums, archaeological collections and private holdings for potential display.

The museum is designed to accommodate up to 10 million visitors a year.

Sunken treasure: Historic US ocean liner reborn as artifical reef

MIAMI (AFP) — A majestic and all-but-indestructible 20th century ocean liner that once ferried royal leaders, movie stars and even the "Mona Lisa" to the United States was being deliberately sunk on Wednesday to become the world's largest artificial reef.

Experts were conducting a controlled flooded sink of the 302-metre vessel, a veteran of more than 800 transatlantic crossings in the 1950s and 60s, that is set to send it to its final resting place on the Gulf of Mexico's sandy floor, some 40 kilometres southwest of Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

"Two of the valves have been opened. The deployment process has started," said an official on the livestream operated by the city.

Florida's Okaloosa County, gambling that such a huge new reef would be a local tourism boom and attract dive and fishing enthusiasts, bought the long-decommissioned SS United States from a conservancy group for $1 million in 2024.

The vessel — longer than the Titanic and the transatlantic speed record holder — will become the centerpiece of Okaloosa's undersea garden of sunken ships, including World War II vessels, tugboats, and even a casino boat.

Captain Tim Mullane of Alabama-based maritime company Coleen Marine which led the repurposing, has described it as "a great honour to put this fine vessel to rest... where it's going to serve a second life" promoting marine fauna, diving and fishing.

A year-long process of cleaning the vessel, removing all toxins like fuel, paint and wiring, towing, environmental remediation, safety assurances, and eventual sinking cost roughly $13.5 million.

The SS United States, the result of a celebrated feat of mid-century American engineering, made its maiden voyage in 1952.

In its heyday, the luxury liner carried countless celebrities including president John F Kennedy, Former King Edward VIII, Grace Kelly, Elizabeth Taylor and Salvador Dali. Future president Bill Clinton traveled on board on his way to study at Oxford.

Perhaps its most famous passenger was Leonardo de Vinci's "Mona Lisa," the 16th century painting that visited America in 1963.

Within two decades of being built, the liner was out of service, falling victim to the growing popularity of air travel. It remained docked in Philadelphia for 29 years.

While the ship will rest at a depth of 55 metres, its top decks will be just about 17 metres below the water's surface, reachable for beginner divers.

Until now, the largest artificial reef was an aircraft carrier sunk 20 years ago off the coast of Pensacola, also in Florida.

Repurposing the SS United States keeps its heritage alive, said Okaloosa County tourism director Jennifer Adams Kemp.

"She's our country's flagship," she told CNN shortly before the sinking. "Why wouldn't we want to preserve that?"



AFP photo

In its glory days, the SS United States — seen here at dock in Philadelphia after it was retired from service — carried kings and queens, movie stars, US presidents and and other global dignitaries on hundreds of transatlantic voyages

