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His Majesty says Jordan-EU partnership opens new horizons for investment, growth

- King highlights Jordan's strategic position, skilled workforce, investment reforms as key advantages for European investors
- His Majesty identifies opportunities in renewable energy, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, tourism, other priority sectors

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah has said that Jordan is ready to work with the European partners, underlying the solid partnership between the Kingdom and the EU.

"Today's message to European investors was crystal clear: Jordan is ready to work with you. By tapping into the vast potential for investment cooperation with the EU, we can deliver the opportunities our peoples aspire to, and deserve," the King wrote on X platform.

His Majesty also expressed gratitude to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for her "commitment to the Jordan-EU partnership".



Photo courtesy of Royal Court

His Majesty King Abdullah inaugurates the Jordan-EU Investment Conference in the presence of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and HRH Crown Prince Hussein

During the opening session of the Jordan-European Union Investment Conference, attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, His Majesty delivered an address in which he called on Jordanian and European businesses to translate the growing partnership between Jordan and the EU into concrete investments and long-term economic opportunities, highlighting the Kingdom's strategic position, investment reforms and potential across a wide range of sectors. ***(See full speech on page 5.)***

The King said that the high-profile gathering marked a new phase in more than two decades of strategic relations between the two sides, with a focus on turning shared ambitions into executable investment opportunities.

His Majesty said the 2025 Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between Jordan and the EU had given fresh impetus to bilateral cooperation, adding that the conference would launch its operational phase by identifying viable prospects and opportunities for investors.

He pointed to investment potential in digital infrastructure, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, tourism, transport, agribusiness, the circular economy, mining, water security and clean technologies, among other sectors.

The King also highlighted Jordan's role in developing new supply pathways for humanitarian aid, describing the field as one with potential global applications.

His Majesty said that Jordan was ready to welcome investors, citing its bilingual and highly skilled workforce, extensive free trade agreements, clearly defined investment opportunities and cooperation between the public and private sectors.

The King noted that Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision places the private sector at the centre of the country's growth, while upgraded investment laws, streamlined administrative procedures and competitive incentives provide an attractive environment for capital and business expansion.

The King also acknowledged regional developments that had reshaped plans earlier this year, stressing that Jordan remained a pillar of stability and a trusted investment destination.

"Amid the uncertainties our world faces, cross-regional partnerships remain essential to our shared future," His Majesty said.

He emphasised that resilience was strengthened through unity and that shared ambitions could only be realised through collective action.

Calling on Jordanian and European businesses to take the lead in advancing economic cooperation, the King said that integrating the strengths, resources and expertise of the two economies would create unique opportunities and maximise mutual economic benefits."You are the vanguard. It is your leadership, here and in the days ahead, that will point the way to prosperity and growth," His Majesty told participants.

Crown Prince to CNN: Investment conference a major milestone in Jordan-EU relations

- Crown Prince calls Jordan-EU Investment Conference major milestone in Jordan-EU relations
- Crown Prince highlights technology, education, tourism as major sectors to build stronger economy for Jordan

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Crown Prince Hussein on Thursday gave an interview to Richard Quest, CNN business correspondent and host of Quest Means Business programme, on the sidelines of the Jordan-European Union Investment Conference held at the Dead Sea.

During the interview, which aired on Thursday on Quest Means Business, the Crown Prince called the conference a major milestone in Jordan-EU relations, building on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership agreement signed last year between the two sides.

In the interview, His Royal Highness highlighted Jordan's economic advantages and promising opportunities, backed by a qualified human resource base.



Photo courtesy of Royal Court

HRH Crown Prince Hussein gives an interview to CNN's Richard Quest, on the sidelines of the Jordan-EU Investment Conference held at the Dead Sea

Below is the transcript of the interview:

Richard Quest: Jordan is no stranger to difficult neighbourhoods with unfriendly neighbours and having to deal with the consequences. But in this particular case, when you look at the map and you look at the positioning of Jordan, what they are saying to the rest of the world is: Yes, there may be considerable worries about another wave of attacks from Iran, another wave of attacks in backwards from the United States.

But Jordan is as well positioned as anyone to deal with it. And ultimately, because there is now this shift — alternatives away from the Strait of Hormuz, looking for alternative ports, routes and structures for supply chains, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Al Hussein, in an exclusive interview, basically said, don't worry, Jordan's ready.

HRH Crown Prince Hussein: This [Jordan-European Union Conference] is a major milestone, especially after signing our Strategic and Comprehensive [Partnership] agreement.

Today, Jordan, despite all the difficult challenges we faced in the past decades and the ones we're facing today — our economy is moving in the right direction. We're growing at 2.7-3 per cent.

We have strong institutions and strong and stable financial institutions, and we have many opportunities ahead.

Quest: One of the interesting things I was talking to the prime minister about earlier is that resilience of strength… 3 per cent roughly growth also, which in the current environment, even allowing for the fact tourism is down, is quite remarkable.

The Crown Prince: I agree. Look, Jordan is the land of peace. We have invested in peace for decades and we will continue to do so. Despite all the difficult challenges we have faced, yes, we survived these challenges, but the goal now is for Jordan to thrive and I think it's time. We have many positive things going for us, from major projects... we have the de-salination project, which is the [National Water Conveyance Project] worth $6 billion, which solves one of our major issues, which is water.

And we have some of the best solar resources in the world, as well as the discoveries of natural gas. So, there are really good projects moving forward, but what is most important to us is our people. Jordanians, when given a chance, whether regionally or globally, shine, and we need to invest even more and give opportunity to the Jordanian people.

Quest: When you talk about Jordan, and we talk about the adversity, the sort of message I hear — what you're basically saying — is you've been down this road before. You know how this is and that you're ready. Is that true?

Crown Prince Hussein: That's true. I mean, I see the crises we've had to face. This resilience has made us more resourceful.

So, we've actually learnt many lessons, and we will continue to apply those lessons and manage these crises.

But at the same time, I think Jordan is ready and I see very many positive things moving forward in the next few years.

Quest: I asked His Majesty, your father, what should I ask you? And he said, well… you understand youth, you understand tech, you understand what the next generation is going to want and need. Is he right?

Crown Prince Hussein: Well, that's a major compliment from His Majesty, and I hope I do.

What's important for me is listening to our young people. At the end of the day, I think most people around the world, what they want is equal economic opportunity.

So, we need to build a stronger economy, and I think there are a few sectors that we have really promising advantages in: Technology, education and tourism.

In education, what's most important now, with the changing environment of jobs for the future as well, is matching education outcomes with the demand in the market.

So, we're working a lot on these skills and making sure our youth are future-ready.

Quest: Are you good at technology?

Crown Prince Hussein: I wouldn't know how to define good, but I definitely see a huge opportunity, and Jordanians — 63 per cent of our population is under the age of 30 — so technology comes natural to us.

And there are many ways in which Jordanians have been very successful with technology in the past, but we need to build on that in the future.

We're looking at government services, with AI, looking at Arabic language, the implementation of many of these AI models and how we make ourselves more efficient. I think there are lots of opportunities for us moving forward.

Richard Quest: Your Highness, thank you.

Crown Prince Hussein: Thank you.



Al Mamlaka photo

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers a speech at the opening of the Jordan-EU Investment Conference which concluded on Thursday at the Dead Sea

Jordan is smart investment, says EU chief

DEAD SEA (JT) — European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday described Jordan as a "smart investment", urging European and international businesses to seize opportunities in the Kingdom, which she said remains a beacon of stability and resilience despite regional turmoil.

Addressing the opening of the Jordan-EU Investment Conference at the Dead Sea, von der Leyen said that investing in Jordan made both political and economic sense, highlighting its strategic geographical location, ongoing economic reforms and growing role as a regional transport, energy and digital connectivity hub.

"Even amidst regional turmoil, Jordan remains a strong and resilient economic partner for Europe. To put it simply — Jordan is a smart investment," she said. (See full speech on page 5.)

Von der Leyen said EU-Jordan relations had strengthened over the past two years, with cooperation expanding in employment, energy, security, trade, education, research and entrepreneurship.

She also praised Jordan for helping hundreds of European citizens return safely home when war erupted in the Gulf earlier this year, expressing the European Union's gratitude for the Kingdom's assistance.

Highlighting Jordan's strategic location at the crossroads of three continents, von der Leyen said the Kingdom could play a greater role in regional and international trade through its transport and logistics infrastructure, particularly the port of Aqaba.

She described Aqaba as a key regional transport hub and a gateway to Iraq and southern Syria, saying it could become the logistical heart of the region and attract further investment.

For Europe, she said, developing reliable trade routes with trusted partners had become increasingly important, particularly following disruptions and risks to global supply chains highlighted by the Strait of Hormuz.

Von der Leyen also pointed to Jordan's growing digital connectivity, citing the arrival of the BlueMed submarine cable at the Aqaba Digital Hub, which established a high-speed connection between Aqaba and Milan.

Von der Leyen highlighted the launch of a major de-salination and water conveyance project, describing it as transformational for a country facing severe water scarcity.

Team Europe has contributed more than 1.6 billion euros in support of the project, while French company Meridiam is leading an international consortium of private investors and operators.

She announced more than 670 million euros in support of Jordan's economic reform agenda, saying the reforms could help set in motion a cycle of growth.

Von der Leyen reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to its partnership with Jordan, describing the Kingdom's friendship as highly valued amid growing regional uncertainty.



Petra photo

HRH Prince Raad Bin Zeid on Saturday honours the families of cornea donors during an event organised by the Friends Society of Jordan Eye Bank and Prevention of Blindness

Prince Raad honours families of cornea donors in Jordan

AMMAN (JT) — HRH Prince Raad Bin Zeid on Saturday honoured the families of cornea donors during an event organised by the Friends Society of Jordan Eye Bank and Prevention of Blindness, in cooperation with the Jordan Eye Bank Committee.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Awqaf Mohammad Khalayleh, alongside religious, medical and national figures, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Grand Mufti of the Kingdom Ahmad Hasanat stressed that donating corneas is a noble humanitarian act and permissible under Sharia, citing its role in treating patients, restoring vision and embodying the Islamic values of mercy, social cohesion and compassion.

Hasanat noted that Jordan was among the first Arab and Islamic countries to issue clear fatwas regarding organ and cornea donation in the early 1990s.

He added that the General Iftaa Department has dedicated a portal on its website to address public enquiries concerning religious rulings on organ and cornea donation.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Catholic Centre for Studies and Media, Simon Hijazin said that donating corneas and organs after death is a profound gesture of charity, love and solidarity.

Citing the teachings of Jesus Christ on restoring sight to the blind and selflessness, Hijazin stressed that the Catholic Church encourages deceased organ donation, provided the consent of the donor or their next of kin is obtained and ethical and medical standards safeguarding human dignity and life are upheld.

Director of the Jordan Eye Bank Muawiyah Bdour noted that the bank provided 60,314 corneas between 1992 and the end of last year, noting that sustained efforts are still required to secure additional donations and reduce waiting lists.

Bdour pointed out that the eye bank, hosted by Jordan University Hospital since 1979, is tasked with examining corneas, evaluating their quality and distributing them to qualified surgeons.

He underscored the importance of bolstering public, religious and media awareness regarding the culture of donation and recognising the vital role of donors' families.

Vice President of the Society Hanan Droubi noted that locally donated corneas have exceeded 6,000, with an estimated value of over JD7 million.

She said that these contributions have alleviated financial burdens on both patients and the bank, enabling recipients to regain their sight.

Droubi added that honouring the donors' families recognises their generosity, particularly given their decision to donate during moments of bereavement to grant others a life of dignity.

Speakers, donors' relatives and recipients participating in the event also highlighted the significance of cornea donation in fostering social solidarity, preventing blindness and improving the quality of life for beneficiaries.

At the end of the ceremony, Prince Raad presented certificates of appreciation to the families of cornea donors, as well as commemorative shields to several supporters of the society in recognition of their continued backing of its activities and mission.

Youth Forum for Health and Well-being to kick off Sunday under patronage of Princess Rajwa

AMMAN (JT) — Under the patronage of HRH Princess Rajwa, the Youth Forum for Health and Well-being is scheduled to kick off on Sunday at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre at the Dead Sea area.

The forum brings together young people, government representatives, and health experts from across Jordan, creating a space for youth to identify their health priorities and put forward solutions and recommendations to improve their health and well-being, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The forum will focus on four key areas: mental health, healthy lifestyles, digital health and innovation, and youth engagement and leadership, providing a platform to explore challenges in these areas and develop solutions to address them.

The forum is organised by the World Health Organisation, in partnership with the ministries of health and youth, the Crown Prince Foundation, Jordan University of Science and Technology, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, and the Royal Health Awareness Society.



Petra photo

HRH Princess Rajwa

Jordan Cultural, Arts & Sports Agenda: November 22–29

ONGOING

"Antarctica: Continent of Peace" (final day Monday) | Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Building 1, Amman

The photography exhibition presented with the Embassy of Chile closes on Monday. It is open daily except Fridays.

Monday-Sunday
Jordan Impact Marathon | Wadi Rum

A week-long programme combining community work on regenerative agriculture projects with a desert race. Runners choose a 10 km, half or full marathon through Wadi Rum's sandstone cliffs and dunes.

One listing puts race day on Saturday, starting around 7:00am, with about 100 places. It is a registered-participant event, so spectator access is limited.

Thursday

Ghostly Kisses | El Masnaa, Amman, 9:00pm

The Canadian dream-pop project plays El Masnaa, the Jabal Amman venue that also hosted Saliah in June.

Royal Film Commission, Qatar's Film Committee partner to expand film cooperation

AMMAN (JT) — The Film Committee at Media City Qatar has signed memoranda of understanding with partners in Jordan and Egypt, marking a milestone in its vision to build a globally competitive regional film industry anchored in Qatar.

The partnerships connect production incentives with cross-border collaboration, talent development and investment, creating new opportunities to produce films across the Arab world and bring regional stories to global audiences, according to a Film Committee statement.

Announced at the second edition of Doha Industry Days, the MoUs establish frameworks supporting the regional reach of the Qatar Screen Production Incentive (QSPI), opening opportunities for cross-border productions and deepening cultural and economic ties.

The agreements provide a foundation for cooperation on production incentives, filming locations, talent development and industry promotion, connecting Qatar's growing production ecosystem with creative expertise and resources across the Arab world.

The partnerships build on the launch of QSPI in 2025, with the programme's first pilot productions demonstrating early progress.

Three major productions are already leveraging the Qatar Screen Production Incentive, including one for a leading global streaming platform. These productions have created more than 500 jobs locally and generated business for Qatar's hotel, transport, security and logistics industries amongst others.

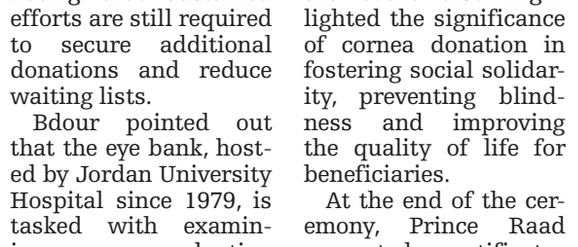


Photo courtesy of the Film Committee

The Film Committee at Media City Qatar signs memoranda of understanding with partners in Jordan and Egypt

Chairman of the Film Committee Hassan Al Thawadi said: "Our ambition is to build a film industry in the State of Qatar whose growth creates opportunity across the region. These partnerships are an important step towards that vision, bringing our countries' talent, expertise and locations into closer collaboration, giving filmmakers more opportunities to bring their stories to the screen.

"By working together with Egypt and Jordan, we can strengthen the connection between our creative industries, attract more production investment and develop skills that support lasting growth. This is central to the State of Qatar's role as a regional production hub and to our commitment to helping stories from the Arab world reach global audiences."

Through the regional framework, eligible production expenditure incurred in partner countries may be recognised as qualifying expenditure under the Qatar Screen Production Incentive (QSPI).

Up to 25 per cent of a production's total qualifying expenditure may be incurred in approved partner countries, while the production remains financially, legally and creatively connected to Qatar, including by completing post-production in the State of Qatar. Eligibility remains subject to the applicable QSPI guidelines and approvals.

Developed in collaboration with each national film partner, the agreements reflect shared priorities and identify opportunities tailored to each country's film industry. Together, they set out a framework for practical cooperation, from production support and skills development to joint promotion and cultural exchange.

The MoUs with the Royal Film Commission – Jordan focuses on production support and workforce development, including cooperation under the regional QSPI framework.

Areas of cooperation include location scouting, coordination on filming permits, training crews and service providers, and the exchange of permitted industry information.

The one-year partnership also provides a basis for joint promotion and cultural initiatives, with the potential to develop further audiovisual co-production arrangements.

Managing Director of the Royal Film Commission - Jordan Mohannad Bakri said: "This agreement stems from a common awareness that we have much more to offer when we pool our respective strengths and resources together, and that collaboration is the best way for us to compete, together, in the global industry."

"We believe that regional cooperation is beneficial to the countries involved and to their respective film industries," he added.

In addition to the diversity of its locations, Jordan has decades of experience to offer in terms of skilled cast and crew, streamlined filming procedures and strong governmental and institutional support, including financial and in-kind incentives. It is also home to the world-class Olivewood Studios, Bakri noted.

INJAZ marks 25 years of youth empowerment, reaching 3.5 million beneficiaries

AMMAN (JT) — INJAZ organisation has celebrated the 25th anniversary of its establishment, marking a quarter-century of dedicated efforts that have reached more than 3.5 million beneficiaries and provided over 45,000 volunteer opportunities.

Through its diverse programmes and initiatives, the organisation has worked to inspire and equip young people to become active members of their communities and contribute to the development of Jordan's economy, according to an INJAZ statement.

Since its establishment in 2001 as a non-profit organisation, INJAZ has placed youth empowerment at the heart of its mission.

Through a wide range of impactful programmes and initiatives, INJAZ equips students and young people with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience they need to prepare for the labour market and pursue entrepreneurship opportunities.

The organisation's 25th anniversary is being celebrated under the slogan "25 Years of impact", Shaping the Future Together", highlighting the stories of students, graduates, entrepreneurs, volunteers, and partners who have played an important role in its journey.

In 2006, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania, INJAZ launched the School Adoption Programme, aimed at strengthening private sector partnerships to improve the school environment.

The programme engages corporate social responsibility initiatives to support schools while delivering educational and developmental programmes that empower students and enhance their skills.

In 2008, INJAZ launched the Business Leaders Campaign, also under the patronage of Her Majesty. The campaign has since become one of INJAZ's flagship annual initiatives across schools in Jordan, connecting young people with experienced business leaders who inspire and motivate them while helping them explore their future career and educational pathways.

In 2012, INJAZ expanded its entrepreneurship programmes in universities, providing greater support to young people in transforming their ideas into projects and start-up businesses.

In 2014, the organisation launched the "Tatawwa'" (Volunteer) Initiative, under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hussein. INJAZ partnered with the King Abdullah II Fund for Development in implementing the initiative, which aimed to strengthen youth engagement and connect young people with volunteering and community service opportunities.

In 2015, the Financial Literacy subject developed by INJAZ was officially incorporated into the national school curriculum, becoming an approved subject taught in all schools across the Kingdom from Grades 7 to 12.

The initiative aimed to promote financial awareness and develop sound financial knowledge, skills, and behaviours among students. This milestone was achieved through a strategic partnership between INJAZ, the Central Bank of Jordan and the Ministry of Education.

In 2018, INJAZ established mySTARTUP Business Incubator, providing an enabling environment for entrepreneurs and start-up businesses, supporting them in developing their ideas and transforming them into viable, growth-oriented companies. Since its launch, the incubator has supported more than 500 start-ups and over 1,000 entrepreneurs.

In 2020, the organisation enhanced its digital programmes to ensure continued access to young people.

In 2021, it worked alongside government entities and international partners to conduct a study analysing digital skills gaps within Jordan's education system. The study's findings and recommendations contributed to the development of the updated Digital Skills Curriculum for school students.

In 2025, INJAZ further strengthened its partnerships to reach more young people through strategic collaboration with the public sector on national projects aligned with Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision.

More than 750 training opportunities were delivered to educational supervisors and over 24,000 to teachers, aiming to enhance their digital, pedagogical and financial skills.

Over the past 25 years, partnerships have been one of the fundamental pillars of INJAZ's approach to implementing its programmes and activities. The organisation has built an extensive network of more than 300 companies and institutions across the private sector, public sector and civil society, in addition to regional and international collaborations.

In celebration of this milestone, INJAZ has launched a nationwide campaign featuring interactive sessions in schools and universities across the Kingdom.

The sessions bring together graduates of INJAZ programmes who have achieved notable success, allowing them to share their experiences, discuss the challenges and opportunities they encountered, and highlight the role the organisation played in developing their skills.

Through these interactions, the campaign seeks to inspire young generations to discover their potential, believe in their abilities, pursue their ambitions and take an active role in shaping their futures.



AFP photo

Rohingya refugees wait for the arrival of UN General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman in at a camp in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar on Friday

Jordan welcomes ICJ ruling on Myanmar's genocide against Rohingya

AMMAN (JT) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has welcomed the International Court of Justice's (ICJ's) ruling holding Myanmar accountable for genocide against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Rakhine state.

Ministry Spokesperson Fouad Majali said the ruling, issued in a case filed by The Gambia against Myanmar over alleged violations of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, "marks an important step towards advancing international justice and holding those responsible for serious violations of international law accountable".

He said in a statement that the ruling also represents a significant step towards ending impunity and preventing the recurrence of such crimes.

Majali underlined the international community's responsibility to ensure the implementation of the Court's ruling and compliance with the resulting legal obligations, in order to protect Rohingya Muslims and restore their legitimate rights.

He also commended The Gambia for its efforts in bringing the case before the Court on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its member states, as well as the contributions of other friendly and brotherly countries participating in the proceedings.

Majali called on the international community to fulfil its responsibilities in protecting human rights, combating genocide wherever it occurs, and upholding the principles and rules of international law.

Myanmar committed genocide against its Rohingya minority, the ICJ said on Thursday in an historic ruling, ordering refugees be given safe passage home and awarded compensation.

The ruling by the top UN court was the first time in its 80-year history that ICJ judges have determined that a state committed genocide, and is likely to be seen as justice for Rohingya victims of Myanmar's brutal 2017 crackdown, AFP reported.

"The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has committed genocide against the Rohingya group in northern Rakhine State," said ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa, pronouncing the verdict in the court's Great Hall of Justice in The Hague.

For nearly three hours, Iwasawa laid out searing evidence of Myanmar's atrocities against its mostly Muslim Rohingya minority during the campaign, which forced hundreds of thousands to flee into neighbouring Bangladesh.

Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, committed "widespread sexual violence" against women and "extreme violence" against children, Iwasawa said.

The ICJ said the evidence pointed to around 10,000 killed in Myanmar's so-called "clearance operations" to repress the Rohingya community.

Rohingya villages were "systemically destroyed" and replaced with non-Rohingya inhabitants, said the ICJ, ruling that the "only reasonable inference" was that Myanmar intended to destroy the population — a key test for genocide.

The court ordered Myanmar to "allow and facilitate the safe, voluntary, and dignified return to their place of residence" for those who fled the violence. UN chief Antonio Guterres swiftly called on Myanmar to allow that to happen.

Judges also told Myanmar it must investigate and punish anyone suspected of committing genocide, providing for compensation to be determined at a later date.

While the decisions of the ICJ are binding and cannot be appealed, the court has no way of enforcing its verdicts, and it remains to be seen whether Myanmar's rulers will adhere to the orders.

The watershed ICJ judgment was also being closely watched by legal experts for clues into how the court will rule in another high-profile case before it — whether Israel has committed genocide in Gaza.

The case was brought by The Gambia under the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, which allows any state to bring a case against another it suspects of breaching the international agreement set up after World War II.

The African country's justice minister told reporters at the court the verdict was a victory for the Rohingya, who had suffered great hardships.

Myanmar had always denied genocide, arguing that its actions targeted a military uprising from insurgents after a series of attacks left a dozen security personnel dead.

"Myanmar was not obliged to remain idle and allow terrorists to have free rein," its representative Ko Ko Hlaing told judges during hearings on the case in January.

Jordan receives two 10,000-year-old archaeological artefacts from Denmark



Petra photo

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Imad Hijazeen on Saturday receives from Denmark two bone figurines dating back around 10,000 years

AMMAN (JT) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Imad Hijazeen on Saturday received from Denmark two bone figurines dating back around 10,000 years, considered among the oldest known representations of humans discovered in Jordan.

The artefacts were handed over by Danish Minister for Higher Education and Science and Digital Affairs Christina Egelund during a symposium titled "Jordan's Archaeological and Civilisational Heritage, World Heritage Sites and the History of Early Human Settlement", organised by the Danish Institute in Amman.

The symposium was attended by a Danish delegation comprising researchers, academics and university presidents, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Egelund said that Jordan's history forms part of world history and provides valuable evidence of human civilisation, highlighting the longstanding scientific cooperation between the two countries.

She noted that Jordanian and Danish archaeologists have worked together on excavations that have yielded discoveries dating back to the Palaeolithic period.

Egelund described one of the returned artefacts as a small object of great historical significance, representing one of the oldest known depictions of the human form discovered in Jordan.

The figurines offer insights into early human settlement and the gradual transition from small hunter-gatherer groups to settled communities and the establishment of the first permanent settlements in the region, she added.

Hijazeen described the handover as an important occasion for Jordan, marking the return of Neolithic artefacts to their homeland and reaffirming the Kingdom's cultural identity and the history of human settlement in the region.

He thanked the Danish government, academic partners, researchers and institutions involved in the handover, saying the symposium would strengthen bilateral cooperation and create further opportunities for joint research, academic exchange and archaeological studies.

Hijazeen also stressed the importance of international cooperation in protecting cultural heritage and ensuring the return of cultural property to its countries of origin.

He said Jordan has an archaeological and cultural heritage spanning thousands of years, including some of the world's oldest Neolithic communities, the Nabataean civilisation and prominent World Heritage Sites such as Petra.

Protecting this heritage requires more than preserving monuments and artefacts, he said, adding that it requires investment in knowledge, scientific research, institutional partnerships and responsible management to ensure its preservation and accessibility for future generations,

Hijazeen said the symposium, held as part of the Danish Institute's annual meeting marking the return of the artefacts, reflected the importance both countries attach to cooperation in archaeology, scientific research, education and cultural heritage preservation.

The two figurines were discovered during archaeological excavations at Shakaret Msaied, a Neolithic village around 20 kilometres north of Petra, along the road to Wadi Araba.

The site dates back to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B period, around 8,000BC, when agricultural communities began developing in the region.

The village remains well preserved, with stone walls and stairways still standing and reflecting the construction methods of the period. Cleaning and conservation work on the larger figurine revealed its facial features and body details.

Jordanian campaign distributes hot meals to families in Gaza



JHCO photo

The Jordanian Campaign, in cooperation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation, distributes hot meals to displaced and affected families in northern and southern Gaza

AMMAN (JT) — The Jordanian Campaign, in cooperation with the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO), has continued distributing hot meals to displaced and affected families in northern and southern Gaza as part of ongoing relief efforts in the enclave.

The meals include rice, meat and chicken dishes, providing food assistance to families facing difficult humanitarian and living conditions, according to a JHCO statement.

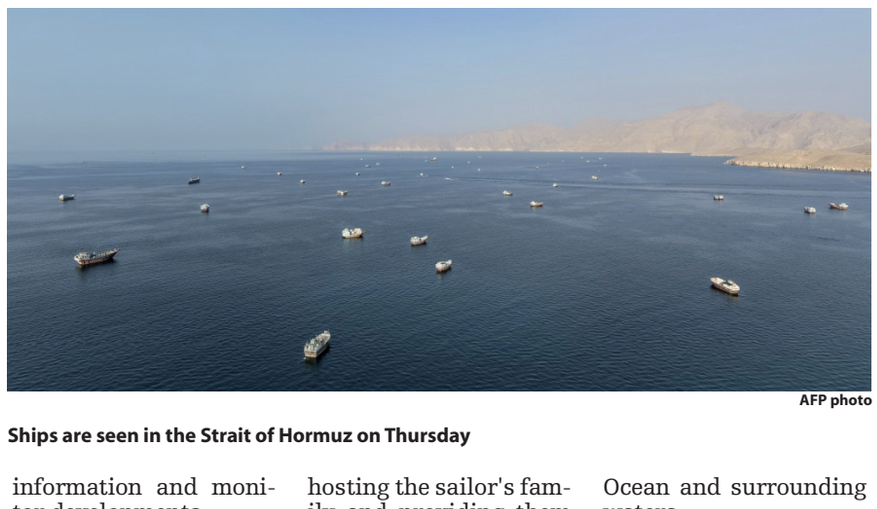
The Jordanian Campaign and JHCO said they would continue delivering food aid to the most vulnerable families across Gaza as part of Jordan's ongoing humanitarian support for the Palestinian people.

Jordan runs two military field hospitals in Gaza, one in the Strip's north and was established in 2009 following the war in 2008, and the second is in Khan Younis in the south, which was established in November 2023 at the peak of the Israeli war of aggression on the coastal enclave that erupted on October 7, 2023.

Besides the field hospitals in Gaza, the JAF established the Jordanian field hospital in Nablus in late November 2023.

Other humanitarian programmes include the land bridge for aid delivery, the mobile bakery, the Restoring Hope Initiative, which provides prosthetics for amputees and the evacuation of critical cases to Jordanian hospitals.

Search continues for Jordanian sailor missing after Hormuz tanker attack — JMC



AFP photo

Ships are seen in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday

AMMAN (JT) — Search operations remain ongoing for Jordanian sailor Mohammad Hussam Al Din Al Otaibi, who went missing following an attack on the oil tanker he was serving aboard in the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, Jordan Maritime Commission (JMC) Director General Ahmad Asasleh said on Friday.

Asasleh said that the JMC was coordinating search efforts with maritime authorities in Oman and the UAE and search and rescue centres across the region, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He also noted that the commission immediately contacted the sailor's family upon receiving reports of his disappearance, working alongside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jordanian Embassy in Abu Dhabi to gather information and monitor developments.

Asasleh added that available details indicate that crew members jumped from the vessel during the incident, and while the fate of most personnel has been determined, Otaibi remains unaccounted for, adding that the Emirati operator ADNOC Logistics and Services is hosting the sailor's family and providing them with regular updates.

Asasleh said that the JMC has deployed its available resources to follow up on the case, utilising navigational warning platforms to circulate details of the missing sailor to maritime authorities operating across the southern Red Sea, western Indian Ocean and surrounding waters.

The commission has also contacted search and rescue centres in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea sector and the western Indian Ocean, notifying military and civilian maritime entities in those regions and urging them to share any relevant findings.

Regarding the number of Jordanian sailors working aboard vessels near the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf, Asasleh said that exact figures are currently unavailable, prompting plans to launch an online platform within days so Jordanian seafarers abroad can register their details for an updated database.

He recalled that the JMC previously launched a similar platform during the COVID pandemic to maintain direct communication with Jordanian sailors inside and outside the Kingdom.

The vessel, operated by ADNOC Logistics and Services, came under attack while transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, injuring 11 crew members, while all other evacuated personnel received necessary medical care.

CRIME

Cassation Court upholds 5-year jail term for drug dealer

By Rana Husseini

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation has upheld a June 2022 State Security Court (SSC) ruling, sentencing a drug dealer to five years in prison after convicting him of selling illicit drugs to an undercover agent in Ruseifeh in May 2021.

The court declared the defendant guilty of selling Captagon pills and possessing illegal narcotics on May 8.

The SSC handed the defendant five years in prison for the offence of possessing illegal narcotics and ordered him to pay JD3,500 in fines.

Court documents said the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) learnt the defendant was in possession of illegal narcotics and sent one of its agents to pose as a buyer.

"The AND agent got in touch with the defendant via a mobile application and asked him for three Captagon pills in return for JD5," court documents said.

When the two met, AND agents immediately arrested the suspect, court papers added.

Upon searching his house, the law-enforcement officers found additional illicit drugs, including hashish, marijuana and illicit pills, the court maintained.

The defendant contested the SSC's ruling through his lawyer, who argued that the court "did not provide solid evidence to implicate his client for drug trafficking".

The lawyer also charged that his client was "subjected to duress in order to confess and that the small amount found with him was for his personal use".

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

The higher court maintained that the SSC had followed the proper procedures in issuing the sentence against the defendant.

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

The Court of Cassation judges were Mahmoud Ebtoush, Majid Azab, Hayel Amr, Ibrahim Abu Shamma and Mohammad Shreiri.



AFP photo

This handout photo released by the Finnish Border Guard on Saturday, shows smoke rising from the damaged Sparta 2 cargo ship in the Gulf of Finland

Russian cargo ship hit by drone in Baltic, Finland says

HELSINKI (AFP) — A Russian cargo ship navigating the eastern Baltic Sea was hit by a drone and caught fire on Saturday, authorities in Finland said.

Hours later, a Russian helicopter was suspected of violating Finnish airspace, according to the Finnish defence minister, which drew a possible link between the two incidents.

Finland's defence ministry did not specify the origin of the drone that struck the ship, but Prime Minister Petteri Orpo suggested it had to do with the Ukraine-Russia.

"War is spilling over into our immediate vicinity... Ukraine has the right to fight back against the aggressor," Orpo said on X.

"On Saturday morning, the Finnish Defence Forces detected a drone attack against a Russian cargo vessel west of Suursaari, in the eastern Gulf of Finland, in international waters," the ministry said in a statement.

It identified the ship as the Sparta II, which, according to the site Opensanctions, is under Ukrainian and US sanctions. The website said the ship was suspected of transporting weapons from Syria to Russia.

Ship not abandoned

Finland's Border Guard service, dispatched to the scene, observed the ship on fire and drifting towards Finnish waters after the strike.

"The situation currently poses no danger to other vessels," the border service said in a statement.

A coast guard officer contacted by AFP, Ilja Iljin, said it was unknown if there were any casualties among the crew on the Sparta II, but some were seen fighting the blaze.

> 'The situation currently poses no danger to other vessels'...

"We have our vessels, our first patrol vessel, at the incident site, ready to evacuate if needed. But what we know at the moment is that they haven't abandoned the vessel and they are doing their standard firefighting procedures," he said.

In Russia, the governor of the Leningrad region, Aleksandr Drozdenko, posted to the Russian messaging platform Max that the situation on the ship was under control.

"According to the crew, no evacuation was necessary. The situation is under control. The ship's crew is conducting necessary operations and intends to resume their course," he said.

Russian helicopter

Finland's defence ministry said it had immediately informed NATO of the drone strike.

It also said temporary restrictions were being enforced in the airspace and maritime area of the eastern part of the Gulf.

Hours after the reported drone attack, Finnish Defence Minister Antti Hakkanen said that a Russian helicopter was suspected of violating Finnish airspace.

"The suspected airspace violation may be linked to rescue or monitoring operations involving a cargo ship that was damaged in the Gulf of Finland," he said on X.

His ministry added the helicopter penetrated up to 4.1 kilometres into Finnish territory.

The Baltic Sea has become a potential flashpoint in the wake of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, with Western countries accusing Moscow of conducting a "hybrid war" in the strategic waterway.

Lying at the easternmost end of the Baltic along the coasts of Finland, Estonia and Russia, the Gulf of Finland is a key maritime passage for Russia, leading to the former capital, Saint Petersburg.

Finland, rattled by Russia's invasion, joined NATO in 2023, dropping decades of military non-alignment.

Gaza civil defence says Israeli fire kills four

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories (AFP) — Gaza's civil defence told AFP that Israeli fire killed four people on Saturday, including three in a strike on a vehicle carrying food aid in the war-ravaged territory.

Mahmoud Bassal, the spokesman for Gaza's civil defence agency, said that three people were killed and several others injured in an Israeli drone strike on a vehicle transporting food for displaced people in the Tel Al Hawa neighbourhood of Gaza City.

AFP photos from the scene showed the remains of a van that had been blown open, with food scattered across the inside.

The Israeli military told AFP it had "struck several military operatives in the area", without giving further details.

Gaza City's Al Shifa Hospital confirmed receiving the bodies of three men following the strike.

The civil defence, a rescue force that operates under Hamas authority, also said one person was killed by Israeli gunfire in Jabalia Al Balad, in northern Gaza.

Al Shifa Hospital said it had received the body of a man killed in the incident.



AFP photo

Palestinians look at the remains of a van that was transporting food rations to displaced people after it was targeted by the Israeli army, killing three people, in Al Sina'a Street in the Tel Al Hawa area, west of Gaza City on Saturday

In the central Gaza Strip on Saturday, crowds of Palestinians gathered to mourn four men who had been killed in an airstrike southwest of Bureij camp a day earlier.

Regarding that strike, the Israeli military said it had "struck several terrorists" from Hamas's military wing "while they were meeting to advance terror attacks against Israeli civilians and IDF troops in central Gaza".

"Where is the truce that Netanyahu claims?" said Mahdi Abu Gharqud, who lost his brother in the strike, referring to Israel's caretaker prime minister.

"The entire world has abandoned us, assuming the war in Gaza has ended, yet these days are even worse than the actual fighting," he told AFP.

More than 1,600 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the ceasefire, according to an AFP tally based on data from the Gaza health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.

Over the same period, the Israeli military says seven of its soldiers have been killed, as well as one civilian contractor.

Saudi-led coalition says downed 3 Houthi missiles headed for Riyadh

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — The Saudi-led coalition said early on Saturday morning that it had downed three Houthi missiles headed for Riyadh, after an AFP journalist in the capital reported hearing explosions.

"Air defences intercepted and destroyed (3) ballistic missiles launched by the terrorist Houthi militia toward Riyadh," the coalition said on X.

Earlier, an AFP reporter heard two explosions shortly after authorities issued an alert saying the city was "under a hostile aerial threat".

> The Saudi civil defence later lifted the alert and declared...

The Saudi civil defence later lifted the alert and declared, "the danger has passed".

Yemen's Houthis said on X that they were striking targets across Saudi Arabia, including in Riyadh.

The incident came after the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis attacked the Red Sea port city of Hodeida and other targets in a "special operation" on Friday.

Saudi Arabia has been battling a surge in attacks since fighting reignited in neighbouring Yemen's civil war.



AFP photo

A skyscraper (L) housing the headquarters of Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund is pictured at the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD) in Riyadh on October 11

Fossil fuel dispute threatens to scupper climate deal

ANTALYA, Turkey (AFP) — A fight over fossil fuels threatened to derail UN climate talks on Saturday as nations pushed back against a proposed agreement that scrapped any mention of planet-heating coal, oil and gas.

Negotiations dragged into extra time after the summit in Turkey sailed past Friday's scheduled closing time, with talks through the night failing to break the impasse.

COP31 co-hosts Australia and Turkey are scrambling to produce a revised draft deal as time runs out and delegates prepare to leave after two weeks of exhaustive negotiations. "Getting bogged down in individual words and expressions and undermining this process serves no one's interests," said COP31 President and Turkish Environment Minister Murat Kurum, who urged countries to "act responsibly" and compromise.

Expectations of a major breakthrough in the Turkish city of Antalya have been low as countries grapple with an oil price shock and geopolitical tensions stemming from the war in Iran.

The summit follows a string of climate-linked disasters from Europe to Nepal and Indonesia and unfolds as a super El Nino pattern amplifies the risk of further extreme weather.

A draft climate deal unveiled earlier this week called for a faster phase-out of fossil fuels but a second, pared-down version released on Thursday stripped away all mentions of coal, oil and gas.

'Red lines'

Fossil fuels are the main driver of climate change but a flashpoint at the UN talks. Their omission from the draft sparked protests and threats to walk away from the table.

"That is a red line for us. We're talking about the root cause of all of this," Tuvalu's Climate Minister Maina Talia told reporters.

Talia, whose low-lying Pacific nation is threatened by rising sea levels, said if the world cannot address fossil fuels "then we are wasting our time here".

When asked if divisions over fossil fuels and carbon capture technology could be bridged, European Union climate envoy Wopke Hoekstra said: "Clearly there's no compromise yet."

"It's better to have no deal than to have a bad deal," he told reporters.

Ireland's Climate Minister Darragh O'Brien said there were around "130 countries at this COP who want — at the very least — a reference to fossil fuel and phase-out" in the final text.

A call to ramp up carbon capture — a contentious technology championed by the fossil fuel industry — in the last draft also faced staunch opposition.

Critics point to its high cost and meagre record in cutting emissions, warning it risks prolonging fossil fuel use.

"There are several fights but the primary one is still the one between mostly the EU and Saudi Arabia" over fossil fuels and carbon capture, said Li Shuo, an analyst from the Asia Society Policy Institute.

A dozen European and developing countries — from France to Panama and the Solomon Islands — released a letter Friday insisting that the deal include "a clear transition away from fossil fuels".

Panama's environment minister, Juan Carlos Navarro, accused a "petroleum mafia" of blocking progress and threatened to walk away from the talks unless a stronger deal was made.

Meanwhile, the OPEC oil cartel wrote on X that its head, Haitham Al Ghais, had met with Russian presidential climate envoy Ruslan Edelgeriev at COP31 on Friday.

Facing pressure over fossil fuels, COP31 hosts Turkey and Australia have pitched "electrification" as a way to cut heat-trapping emissions and bolster energy security. The latest draft "cover decision" proposed a target to electrify the global economy — a push to replace technologies that burn fossil fuels directly, like diesel cars and gas heating, with electric alternatives.

The proposal calls for global efforts to boost the share of electricity in total final energy consumption to 35 per cent by 2035.

But it does not require that the additional electricity come from renewable energy rather than coal or gas, spurring some countries to demand an explicitly "clean" target.

Tender Announcement No. (T2026/51 SH)

شركة مناجم الفوسفات الأردنية م.ع.م.
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. PLC

"Investment Opportunity for the Project of Utilizing the Phosphogypsum to produce Sulfuric Acid on the Basis of Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) in Eshidiya-Ma'an-Jordan"

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company PLC (JPMC) hereby announces for the above-mentioned investment opportunity to utilize Phosphogypsum produced as a by-product from Phosphoric Acid Plants at Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and its affiliated companies in Eshidiya - Ma'an -Jordan to produce Sulfuric Acid at a concentration of 98.5% **on the Basis of Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT)** for a period of 25 years, and a production capacity of Sulfuric Acid not less than **1000,000 (one million) MTPY.**

The Relevant and Specialized Local and International Entities wishing to participate in this Project should submit their Letters of Intent **(LOIs)** and the supporting documents that include, but not limited to the following:

- The Interested Entity should be either a single business entity, joint ventures, partnerships or other combinations of business entities composed of members, local or international, and shall provide us with a copy of a recently issued Commercial Registration Certificate (issued within a maximum of one month before the announcement date) and a valid Professional License.
- The Interested Entity must possess and own the technology and the expertise required to utilize Phosphogypsum generated as a by-product of Phosphoric Acid Plants to produce Sulfuric Acid with a concentration of 98.5%.
- The interested Entity must have successfully implemented similar projects in the past years (at least one reference project).
- The Interested Entity must have the Financial Capability and the Recourses necessary to participate in the Project.

The Interested Entities participating in this project must also adhere to the following conditions:

1- Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) must own at least 15% of the project as free shares.
2- Applicants for this Project must commit to training sufficient numbers of engineers and technicians at Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) in the industry related to this Project and transferring the project technology to Jordan Phosphate Mines Company.
3- Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) will not reimburse any costs incurred by the Interested Entity in preparing and submitting the required documents, and the Interested Entity shall bear all such costs.
4- By submitting its documents, each Interested Entity irrevocably, completely and unconditionally releases Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) from any liability for claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses or any other liabilities arising from reviewing the documents related to the decision-making process associated with this announcement.
5- Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) reserves the right to suspend or cancel the action regarding this investment opportunity at any time at its sole discretion, without any liability to the Interested Entity and without any obligation to provide reasons.
6- Interested Entities wishing to participate in this project are required to submit their Letters of Intent **(LOIs)** and the required documents to the **"Directorate of Corporate Performance & Strategic Planning"** at the following email address **(Tenders@JPMC.COM.JO)** no later than **12:00 noon (Jordan Local Time) of Monday, 7th December 2026.**
7- Upon verification of the submitted Letters of Intent **(LOIs)** and the required documents, the Interested Entities who meet the required conditions will be provided with the Project Tender Documents.
8- For any additional information or clarifications, Interested Entities may contact us through the email address indicated above.

Eng. Abdel Wahab Al Rowwad
Chief Executive Officer

Job Vacancy Announcement – Director of Operations

A company specialized in the management of tourism facilities and hotel services is seeking to recruit a **Director of Operations** with outstanding professional and managerial experience in the hospitality industry, and the ability to analyze and evaluate financial and operational performance, enhance operational efficiency, and improve profitability.

First: Academic Qualifications
• A Bachelor's degree in Hotel Management, Business Administration, Finance, or any other relevant field.

Second: Required Experience and Skills
• A minimum of 10 years of practical experience in the hospitality industry, including at least 5 years in managerial or leadership positions.
• Applicants must not be older than 45 years.
• Proven experience in analyzing and evaluating hotels' financial and operational performance and implementing measures to improve results.
• Good knowledge of hotel benchmarking reports and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
• Experience in preparing and reviewing operating budgets and business plans.
• Ability to analyze financial data and prepare management and operational reports.
• Fluency in both Arabic and English (reading, writing, and speaking).

Third: Required Documents
• Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) in both Arabic and English.
• Academic certificates and employment experience certificates, supported by official documentation issued by the organizations where the applicant has previously worked.

Fourth: Application Period
Applications will be accepted starting Sunday, November 22, 2026, until 4:00 PM on Wednesday, November 24, 2026.

Fifth: How to Apply
Interested applicants are requested to submit their applications and all required documents to the following email address:

hr.operationsmanager@yahoo.com

King at Jordan-EU Investment Conference: Jordan is ready for investors



Photo courtesy of Royal Court

His Majesty King Abdullah delivers a speech at the Jordan-EU Investment Conference on Thursday

AMMAN (JT) — His Majesty King Abdullah, in the presence of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, inaugurated on Thursday the Jordan-European Union Investment Conference. Held for the first time, the conference builds on the EU-Jordan Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership by strengthening economic and investment ties.

The following is the full text of His Majesty's remarks:

"In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Madam President,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Thank you all. I am delighted to welcome you to this first Jordan-EU Investment Conference.

Madam President, let me express Jordan's great appreciation for your leadership, and to the European Union and its member states. Our partnership reflects the long, deep ties among us and our shared enthusiasm for the immense things we can achieve, together.

My friends,

For over twenty years, Jordan and the European Union have cultivated an enduring, strategic bond, evolving far beyond mere trade. Today, we celebrate the next chapter of this journey.

The 2025 Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership infuses new life into our cooperation, which honours our past, while securing a dynamic future. Now, this conference launches the vital operational stage: The formation of prospects and executable opportunities.

From the Jordanian side, our European partners, will hear about a wide array of solid-value economic opportunities. In digital infrastructure. Renewable energy. Advanced manufacturing. Tourism. Transport. Agri-business. Circular Economy. Mining. Water security. Clean technologies. And more. With our European friends, we also lead the new supply pathways of humanitarian aid — a field with global applications.

A significant advantage, particularly for our two regions, is Jordan's strategic position as an East-West gateway. As the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor takes shape, Jordan is well positioned to serve as a vital middle-mile hub, offering investors a strategic base to access regional and international markets, while strengthening trade connectivity.

And we are ready for you — with a bilingual, highly-skilled workforce, extensive free-trade agreements, well defined opportunities, and the full cooperation of our public and private sectors.

Investors need confidence. They need clear regulations, competitive operating conditions, access to finance and reliable partners, capable of delivering projects. This is why our Economic Modernisation Vision places the private sector at the centre of Jordan's growth.

To bring this vision to life, Jordan's upgraded investment laws, streamlined administrative processes and competitive incentives, offer an ideal opportunity to accelerate capital growth, within a secure, stable market.

Your Excellencies; dear friends,

It would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the regional developments that reshaped our plans earlier this year. Yet, Jordan remains a steadfast pillar of stability and a trusted destination for investment.

Amid the uncertainties our world faces, cross-regional partnerships remain essential to our shared future.

This reflects what Jordan is all about. My country has long believed that resilience is strengthened through unity and shared ambitions are realised… through collective action.

Today's gathering is a testament to that spirit. Let us seize this opportunity to translate our shared aspirations into concrete investments and enduring partnerships.

It is now in your hands — Europeans and Jordanians — to empower inter-regional enterprise. By integrating our economies' exceptional strengths, resources, and expertise, you will realise unique opportunities. And you will open the door to new horizons, maximising joint economic benefits.

By unlocking the full strength of our interconnected economies, we can deliver the opportunities our peoples aspire to and deserve.

You are the vanguard. It is your leadership, here and in the days ahead, that will point the way to prosperity and growth.

So, may this conference turn dialogue into delivery — for you, for us and for the future we share. I wish you the greatest success.

Thank you."



Petra photo

Queen Alia International Airport

CARC signs deals to expand flight connections with five countries

AMMAN (JT) — The Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC) has signed and initialled a series of air services agreements and Memoranda of Understanding with five countries to expand flight connections, increase passenger capacity and open new markets for national carriers.

The agreements with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Kazakhstan and Argentina were reached during the participation of a delegation from CARC, headed by Chief Commissioner Daifallah Farajat, in the Air Transport Conference and the 43rd Extraordinary Session of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Assembly in Montreal, Canada, held from November 16 to 20, 2026.

According to a CARC statement, Jordan and Saudi Arabia signed an updated air services agreement, modernising their original 1963 accord by liberalising route schedules to allow airlines from both countries to operate to and from international destinations, and removing prior approval requirements for codeshare arrangements.

CARC also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Egypt to increase seat capacity on the Amman-Cairo route in response to growing demand for travel, trade and tourism.

The civil aviation authorities of Jordan and Algeria signed minutes of a joint meeting agreeing to liberalise the air route schedule, paving the way for greater operational flexibility and expanded direct air services.

Talks with Kazakhstan resulted in the initialling of a comprehensive air services agreement, the first between the two countries, alongside a Memorandum of Understanding liberalising route schedules and setting flight frequencies at 14 weekly passenger flights and three cargo flights, replacing the previous quota of seven passenger and seven cargo flights.

Jordan and Argentina also initialled their first bilateral air services agreement and signed meeting minutes aimed at promoting open-skies cooperation between the two countries. Technical talks will continue to finalise provisions on aviation safety.

Farajat also reviewed the United Arab Emirates' experience in deploying artificial intelligence technologies in civil aviation.

Farajat said that the agreements translate Jordan's strategy to strengthen its position as a regional air transport and logistics hub, opening new markets for national carriers, and supporting tourism, investment and trade.

The ICAO sessions addressed strategic issues shaping the future of international air transport policies and saw the election of four additional members to the ICAO Council, increasing its membership from 36 to 40 states.

Speech by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the Jordan-EU Investment Conference



AMMAN (JT) — European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has underlined the deep EU-Jordan relations, underling the union's support for the Kingdom, which she described as a "beacon of stability and resilience in the region" and "voice of wisdom".

The following is the full text of von der Leyen's speech:

"Your Majesty, King Abdullah II,

Thank you for the very warm welcome. It has been nearly two years since you, your Majesty, travelled to Brussels to open a new chapter in our relations. And since then, we have worked together to deliver. We have stepped up our cooperation — on jobs, energy and security. Our trade relationships are growing. We have brought our students, researchers and entrepreneurs closer together. We have doubled down on defence and security. And earlier this year, when war erupted in the Gulf, Jordan stepped in to help hundreds of European citizens return safely home. Your Majesty, we are deeply grateful. Indeed, as the geopolitical situation became more uncertain, few thought this conference would be possible. Yet here we are. Bright and early, I might add. Because we are ready to get to work. These are precisely the moments when our cooperation matters. Because, ladies and gentlemen, Jordan is a beacon of stability and resilience in the region.

For Europe, this means two things. First of all, investing in Jordan makes sense politically. It is a practical way to support a voice of wisdom in regional affairs. And it also makes sense economically. Even amidst regional turmoil, Jordan remains a strong and resilient economic partner for Europe. To put it simply — Jordan is a smart investment. Our partnership is already bringing results — in transport, energy, digital connectivity and more. And now, together, we are building the foundations for greater investment and growth.

Jordan has been a cultural and economic crossroads for thousands of years. The city of Petra stood at the heart of ancient trade routes, linking the Middle East to the Mediterranean. One of this nation's greatest assets is geography. The meeting point between three continents. And today, Jordan is building new networks for the 21st century. Take Aqaba. The port has emerged as a key transport hub in the region. A privileged gateway to Iraq, and a preferred entry point to southern Syria. For Europe, this is also a question of economic security. The Strait of Hormuz has shown how quickly a single choke point can disrupt global flows. Our Union needs secure routes with reliable partners. And that is Aqaba. It can become the logistical heart of the region, and a driver of even greater investment.

Or take digital. The arrival of the BlueMed cable to the Aqaba Digital Hub was groundbreaking. It created a superfast connection between Aqaba and Milan. With huge benefits for industry. Now we are taking the next step. Today, we will sign an agreement to extend the Medusa cable system to Jordan. This will strengthen the connections between Jordan, Europe and the entire Mediterranean. And when this system is extended to India, Jordan will be at the heart of a vast data network between Europe, Asia and Africa. Just as ancient trade routes brought prosperity to Petra, these new networks — transport, digital and logistics — will bring new opportunities to Jordan. More jobs. More investment. More growth in high-value industries. So, we are investing in that long-term vision.

We are also addressing the urgent needs that make growth possible. That starts with water. Just yesterday, after years of hard work, we launched a flagship desalination and conveyance project. In a region where water is a scarce commodity, in a moment where water systems are under threat, this project is transformational. It will turn Red Sea saltwater into 300 million litres of fresh drinking water per year. That is enough for more than four million Jordanians. And it will provide thousands of new jobs, new contracts and better opportunities for local businesses. Team Europe has played a central role. We supported with more than 1.6 billion euros because we believe in that project. And the French company Meridiam is leading an international consortium of private investors and operators. So we are combining the strengths of the public and private sectors. Grants, sovereign lending and guarantees. Paired with private capital, expertise and implementation. To deliver something as fundamental as fresh water.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We want to build on this momentum. So let me say clearly to all of you in the business community: Your presence here matters. Businesses are the lifeblood of the economic ties between our two regions. Of course, private investment depends on the right environment. One that brings safety, predictability and a strong business case. This is why Jordan's economic reforms are so critical. And today, I am proud to announce more than 670 million euros to support this agenda. These reforms can kickstart a virtuous cycle of growth.

And I am glad that together, we will soon launch the negotiations for a Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement. This will make investing simpler, safer and more transparent. It will lay the right foundations. And it will give investors new reasons to look to Jordan.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There is an Arabic saying that I admire. Friendship is a treasure that never fades. I want you to know how much we value Jordan's friendship. The times may be uncertain, but we stand firm by your side. And together we can look ahead with optimism and determination to the next chapter. Thank you."

Lebanon's Aoun slams Iranian influence, demands Israeli withdrawal



AFP photo

Smoke rises following an Israeli air strike on the southern Lebanese village of Kfar Tebnit on Saturday, as seen from the Marjayoun area

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese President Joseph Aoun accused Iran on Saturday of meddling in Lebanon's affairs through Hizbollah's weapons and also demanded Israel withdraw from the country's south.

In a speech on the eve of Lebanon's 83rd independence anniversary, Aoun vowed to press ahead with plans to bring all weapons under state control.

Lebanon's sovereignty still faces two threats, he said: "The Israeli occupation of parts of our territory" and foreign interference from "influential elements within the Iranian regime" through weapons and decisions outside the authority of the Lebanese state.

On Israel, Aoun stressed Lebanon's message was clear and direct: "Withdraw from every inch of Lebanese territory. Stop your attacks."

There would be "no occupation ever again", he said. "And no weapons outside the state that... serve the interests of, foreign powers," he added, without naming a specific group.

Such weapons may once have served a purpose, he said, but later imposed a high cost on Lebanon when they came to serve causes beyond its borders.

"You must hand over your weapons," Aoun said.

The Lebanese government has committed to disarming Hizbollah, whose arsenal has long outstripped that of the national army and which has justified its weapons as necessary to resist Israel.

The Iran-backed group was badly weakened by recent wars with Israel since 2023.

In June, Lebanon and Israel signed a framework agreement that included the disarmament of Hizbollah, a gradual Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupies in the south and the deployment of the Lebanese army to the area.

But implementation has stalled and Hizbollah has refused to surrender its weapons.

Israel's army still carries out strikes, shelling and detonations in the south, where its forces are operating in a self-declared "security zone" running around 10 kilometres deep along the border.

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Positioning Jordan as a regional investment hub

By Raad Mahmoud Al-Tal

When Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, described Jordan as a "smart investment" during the Jordan-European Investment Conference at the Dead Sea, the statement carried significance beyond diplomatic recognition. It reflected Jordan's growing strategic importance as an investment destination in a region characterised by geopolitical uncertainty and economic challenges. For international investors, investment decisions are not driven by profitability alone. Political stability, market access, infrastructure, and the ability to manage risk are equally important considerations.

One of Jordan's most significant competitive advantages is its political and security stability. At a time when regional conflicts and geopolitical tensions are disrupting trade flows and investment decisions, Jordan offers a relatively stable and predictable business environment. This stability reduces uncertainty for investors and provides an important foundation for long-term investment decisions.

Geography is another important source of Jordan's investment potential. Strategically located at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa, Jordan provides access to several regional markets, including the Gulf countries, Iraq, and Syria. Its geographical position creates opportunities to develop into a regional hub for trade, transportation, and logistics. In this regard, the Port of Aqaba represents a valuable strategic asset. With further investment in transport infrastructure, storage facilities, industrial zones, and logistics services Aqaba could play a much greater role in regional and international supply chains.

Jordan's extensive network of trade agreements also strengthens its investment proposition. Agreements with major trading partners, including the European Union and the United States, provide opportunities for investors to use Jordan as a production and export base, subject to applicable rules of origin and market access requirements. This allows investors to look beyond the relatively small domestic market and consider Jordan as a gateway to wider regional and international markets.

Human capital is another important element of Jordan's competitive position. The country has a skilled workforce, particularly in information technology, engineering, healthcare, and professional services. As the global economy increasingly shifts towards digitalisation, advanced services and knowledge-based industries, the availability of qualified human resources becomes an increasingly important factor in investment decisions.

Furthermore, Jordan offers significant opportunities in sectors with strong long-term growth potential, including renewable energy, green hydrogen, water infrastructure, transport, tourism, pharmaceuticals and information technology. These sectors are closely linked to global priorities such as energy security, sustainability, digital transformation and resilient supply chains.

The partnership with the European Union provides an additional opportunity to translate these advantages into tangible investment. The 3 billion euros European financial and investment package for 2025–2027 represents an important framework for supporting economic reforms, infrastructure development, and private sector investment. The negotiations on a Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement also reflect a shared interest in improving the investment environment through greater transparency, simpler procedures, and stronger investor confidence.

However, describing Jordan as a smart investment destination should not overlook the challenges facing investors. Jordan is not necessarily a low-cost production location. Energy, transportation and financing costs remain important constraints on competitiveness, particularly for energy-intensive industries. Addressing these challenges requires reducing operating costs, streamlining administrative procedures, improving the regulatory environment, and raising labour productivity. Stability and location may attract investors, but cost competitiveness and productivity ultimately influence their decisions to stay and expand.

Jordan's investment proposition rests on the combination of stability, strategic location, access to international markets, skilled human capital and emerging sectoral opportunities. The real challenge, however, is to convert these advantages into productive and sustainable investments that generate employment, increase exports, transfer technology and strengthen economic growth.

Jordan should aspire to become more than an attractive destination for foreign capital. It should position itself as a regional platform for production, trade, and services. This is where the real meaning of investing in Jordan as a smart choice lies.

Mexico awaits you! A country of culture, colours, flavours, nature and unforgettable experiences

By Jacob Prado

Mexico surprises visitors with its extraordinary diversity: Beaches with crystal-clear waters, cities full of history and charm, impressive archaeological sites, unique natural landscapes, world-renowned cuisine and traditions that remain alive today. From the Caribbean to the Pacific, from its deserts and mountains to its tropical forests, Mexico offers experiences for every taste.

Although thousands of kilometres apart, Mexico and Jordan share a pride in their roots, traditions and historic heritage. Ancient Mayan and Aztec cities such as Chichén Itzá, Teotihuacán and Palenque, like Petra and Jerash, bear witness to extraordinary civilisations that continue to inspire admiration around the world.

I invite you to discover why more and more travelers are choosing Mexico! Can you imagine waking up overlooking a turquoise sea, strolling along colorful colonial streets, exploring ancient civilisations, enjoying exceptional cuisine or venturing into tropical forests and mountains? In Mexico, all of this is possible… and much more!

Mexico is trendy: The numbers invite you to discover it: Mexico is the sixth most visited country in the world. From January to September 2026, the country welcomed 74.9 million international travelers, an increase of 5.6 per cent compared with the same period in 2025. Of these, approximately 36 million were international tourists, up 3.8 per cent from the previous year, while cruise passenger arrivals reached 9 million, up 12.3 per cent from the previous year.

Air connectivity also continues to improve. By the end of October 2026, 211 new air routes had opened, 112 international and 99 domestic, giving travellers more ways to reach Mexico and discover its many destinations.

One trip, many sides of Mexico to discover: Each region has a character of its own and offers different experiences. Whether you are looking to relax by the sea, visit historic cities, enjoy the cuisine, explore nature or seek out adventure, you will always find a destination that surprises you.

Beaches and destinations for sun and sea: From the Mexican Caribbean to the Pacific coast, Mexico offers beaches for every taste. Cancún, the Riviera Maya, Cozumel and Isla Mujeres stand out for their crystal-clear waters, reefs and water activities. Los Cabos, Puerto Vallarta, Huatulco and Mazatlán offer spectacular scenery, excellent cuisine, golf and great places to unwind, from luxury resorts to boutique hotels.

History, culture and cities full of charm: Like Jordan, Mexico is heir to great civilisations. Chichén Itzá, Teotihuacán, Palenque and Monte Albán offer a chance to discover the legacy of ancient Mesoamerican peoples. Mexico's colonial cities and historic centers are equally captivating. Oaxaca, Guanajuato, Puebla, Mérida and San Miguel de Allende stand out for their architecture, museums, plazas, markets and traditions.

Celebrations such as the Day of the Dead offer a unique expression of Mexican identity, bringing together colour, music and age-old traditions to honour the memory of loved ones and celebrate life.

A cuisine that has won over the world: Mexican cuisine, recognised by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, brings together ingredients, techniques and traditions handed down through generations. From tacos, tamales, enchiladas and moles to ceviche, seafood and regional specialties, every dish invites you to discover new flavours. Chocolate, cacao, coffee and a wide variety of local produce round out an exceptional culinary experience.

Nature, adventure and outdoor experiences: Tropical forests, deserts, woodlands, mountains, cenotes, lagoons and reefs make Mexico an extraordinary destination for enjoying nature. You can explore the cenotes of Yucatán, go whale watching in Baja California, travel through Copper Canyon or discover the nature reserves of Chiapas.

For those seeking adventure, there are plenty of options, including hiking, cycling, diving, snorkeling, surfing, kayaking, sport fishing and golf, among many other activities.

Tradition, wellness and experiences for everyone: Mexico also invites you to discover charming towns, communities that preserve their traditions, artisan markets and a variety of cultural expressions. It also offers excellent options for luxury and wellness travel, with spas, hot springs and boutique hotels.

One of the great advantages is that you can combine all these experiences in a single trip: A few days at the beach, a visit to a colonial city and an archaeological site and a culinary experience or an adventure in nature. Mexico offers options for couples, families, groups of friends and independent travellers, whether they are looking to relax or prefer culture, adventure or authentic experiences.

Mexico invites you to experience it, explore it and enjoy it. Pack your bags and start planning your next adventure.

Mexico is trendy, and there's a whole country waiting for you to discover!

The ambassador of Mexico to Jordan

Jordan is a smart investment

By Fares Braizat

At the Jordan — EU Investment Conference, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen declared that "Jordan is a smart investment". This was more than a diplomatic compliment. It recognised the economic value of Jordan's stability, resilience and strategic position. His Majesty King Abdullah reinforced the message, placing private-sector investment at the heart of Jordan's Economic Modernisation Vision and emphasising the importance of translating shared ambitions into tangible results.

The figures are substantial. The conference presented 41 investment opportunities worth approximately $15 billion, supported by the European Union's 3 billion euros financial and investment package for 2025–2027. Von der Leyen announced more than 670 million euros to support economic reforms. These figures signal confidence, but the ultimate measure of success is capital invested, businesses established and jobs created.

France offers evidence of that confidence in action. Nicolas Forissier, France's minister delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, confirmed that France is Jordan's leading European investor, with an existing investment portfolio of approximately $1.6 billion. He called for extending cooperation beyond major corporations to small and medium-sized enterprises, broadening the economic benefits of investment.

Thierry Déau, founder and chairman of Meridiam, identified connectivity, water and energy as three pillars of Jordan's development. His company's involvement in the $6.7 billion National Water Carrier illustrates how strategic infrastructure can unlock economic potential. More importantly, Déau stressed the value of government execution: Investors trust institutions that deliver what they promise. He praised the Ministry of Water's implementation capacity and urged that this institutional strength be replicated across government.

Hikma Pharmaceuticals offers another compelling example. Executive Mazen Darwazeh described how the company manufactures pharmaceutical ingredients in Jordan, processes them further in Germany and exports finished medicines to the United States. This is precisely the model Jordan should replicate: Integrating domestic production into international value chains, transferring technology and generating skilled employment. German State Secretary Thomas Steffen suggested closer alignment between Jordanian and European industrial strategies to expand such opportunities.

The discussion also clarified the respective responsibilities of government and business. Darwazeh advocated commercial freedom, predictable regulations and responsive institutions. Déau emphasised government investment in essential infrastructure. Both perspectives point towards the same economic model: an enabling state that builds infrastructure, enforces standards and removes obstacles, while allowing private enterprise to invest, innovate and compete.

The conference's success also reflects sustained diplomatic effort. Particular appreciation is due to Pierre-Christophe Chatzisavas, EU ambassador to Jordan, and his delegation team for their professionalism, dedication and considerable work, alongside their Jordanian counterparts, in bringing together policymakers, investors and financial institutions around concrete opportunities. Their efforts demonstrate how effective diplomacy can translate strategic partnerships into economic possibilities.

Jordan's competitive advantages are not accidental. Political stability, the longstanding dinar-dollar peg, educated human capital, strategic geography and a coherent economic vision provide foundations for investment. Yet confidence must be matched by institutional execution, regulatory predictability and competitive operating conditions. The next priority is to ensure that foreign capital mobilises Jordanian private investment, develops local suppliers and connects domestic enterprises to regional and global markets.

The Jordan–EU Investment Conference should ultimately be judged by what happens after the speeches: Investments financed, projects delivered, exports expanded and jobs created. Jordan has earned international confidence through stability. It must now convert that confidence into productive investment and lasting prosperity.

The strategic thinking behind the Crown Prince's message to the world

By Shaker Ahmed Aladwan

As always, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hussein demonstrates a brilliant vision for the future. This was no ordinary, protocol-driven interview; rather, it served as a profound investment and political message. It addressed key business communities and major markets — such as the European market — while also reaching the audience of CNN and global, transnational corporations. The timing of the interview is significant, conveying clear messages to both the world and the region. Upon closer examination, it is evident that Crown Prince Hussein sought to deliver five strategic messages.

The first is that Jordan has transitioned from a phase of resilience to a phase of prosperity — a qualitative shift in both the psychological and political spheres. Despite its challenging geopolitical location, Jordan remains stable. In this regard, I quote His Royal Highness: "Despite the significant challenges Jordan has faced over the past decades, our economy is moving in the right direction." The Crown Prince did not merely list these challenges in a conventional manner; instead, he acknowledged them as a step toward overcoming them. This is an effective communication technique: Acknowledging a problem lends significant credibility to the process of finding solutions.

The second message that the Crown Prince sought to convey centers on the transition from mere resilience to prosperity. In the Prince's view, ambition is not limited to holding firm; it extends to achieving prosperity — a goal for which he believes the time has now come. For several years, official Jordanian discourse focused on reinforcing the concepts of resilience and adaptability, emphasising the nation's capacity to withstand challenges. It now appears, however, that this official discourse has evolved to become more astute and sophisticated, reflecting a deliberate shift in the Jordanian narrative. The phase of resilience has run its course; the time for growth and prosperity has arrived. In the context of the investment climate, this shift is highly significant: Investors are not merely seeking a state that has mastered the art of defense and resilience — they are looking for a state with a proactive strategy for growth, expansion and prosperity.

The third message focused on the language of figures — a metric that commands greater confidence in the worlds of business and investment. The projected growth rate of 2.7 per cent to 3 per cent is notable, especially given the decline in tourism — a key pillar of the Jordanian economy and a primary driver under the Economic Modernisation Vision — as well as the state of war that has gripped the Arab region since 2023. Furthermore, the Crown Prince highlighted the value of the National Water Carrier project, which stands at approximately 6 billion US dollars. The first figure underscores the resilience of the Jordanian economy, while the second signals a transition from large-scale investments to truly massive, tangible projects — moving beyond mere promises. Given that Jordan ranks among the ten most water-scarce nations in the world, this initiative effectively transforms a fundamental vulnerability into an opportunity for development and investment.

The fourth message emphasised by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince is that Jordan serves as a robust alternative within new supply chains. While the interviewer, Richard Quest, alluded to the search for alternatives to the Strait of Hormuz — such as establishing secure corridors, new ports, and routes for trade, navigation, and the transport of goods — the Crown Prince did not comment directly on the geopolitical situation or the US-Iran conflict. Instead, he presented Jordan as a secure and stable alternative. This was a shrewd approach; it conveyed the message — without delving into the complexities of sensitive political issues — that should there be any concerns, Jordan stands ready as a safe corridor, backed by strong institutions and a solid, stable financial and banking sector.

The fifth message lies at the very core of the Jordanian reality: His Royal Highness underscored that human capital is the nation's true competitive advantage. Jordanian minds and talents are our most valuable asset; whenever given the opportunity, Jordanians consistently demonstrate their excellence. The Crown Prince called for investment in the Jordanian people — equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge, and ensuring they keep pace with the latest advancements in technology and emerging fields, most notably artificial intelligence. Jordan may lack a massive domestic market or vast oil reserves, but it possesses a well-educated population. In this context, the Crown Prince highlighted a vital triad — education, the economy, and investment in youth — a vision long championed by both His Majesty King Abdullah and Crown Prince Hussein.

The Crown Prince delivered a balanced and thoughtful address — devoid of empty slogans — that conveyed a sense of reassurance and stability, steering clear of mere fervor or the rehashing of past crises. He emphasised that peace is not merely an ethical or humanitarian value, but an economic asset that can be leveraged for Jordan's future; in essence, he signaled that having invested in peace, the time has now come to reap the rewards.

The writer is former deputy chief of Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority

Jordan, EU partners sign strategic investment agreements

By Ilham Darwazeh



Photo courtesy of Royal Court

His Majesty King Abdullah and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen witness the signing of two cooperation agreements and a memorandum of understanding

AMMAN — Jordan and its European and international partners concluded the Jordan-EU Investment Conference on Thursday with a series of strategic agreements, targeting water security, energy, digital infrastructure, trade and private sector development.

The agreements bring together governments, international financial institutions and private sector companies to finance major infrastructure projects, strengthen economic cooperation and attract investment to the Kingdom.

His Majesty King Abdullah and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday witnessed the signing of two cooperation agreements and a Memorandum of Understanding worth a combined 673 million euros in grants and concessional loans, as Jordan and the European Union advanced their strategic partnership.

The agreements were signed during the opening session of the Jordan-EU Investment Conference, attended by HRH Crown Prince Hussein, within the framework of the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between Jordan and the EU, according to a Royal Court statement.

The package includes a 110-million-euro grant for inclusive socioeconomic modernisation through multisector budget support and a 63 million-euro grant to support economic resilience, trade and investment.

Both agreements were signed by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Zeina Toukan and European Commissioner for the Mediterranean Dubravka Šuica.

A separate Memorandum of Understanding provides for 500 million euros in concessional loans under EU macro-financial assistance. It was signed by Finance Minister Abdel Hakim Al Shibli and Šuica.

The agreements formed part of a wider package of financing and investment commitments announced during the conference, covering water security, energy, digital infrastructure, trade and private sector development.

$6.6b National Water Carrier marks landmark investment

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan attended the signing of the $6.6 billion National Water Carrier Project agreement between the government and lead developer Meridiam, making it the largest strategic investment in the Kingdom's history.

The project will produce 300 million cubic metres of de-salinated water annually from the Gulf of Aqaba, meeting around 40 per cent of Jordan's drinking water needs. Water pumping is expected to begin by the end of 2030.

The infrastructure includes a 417 kilometre pipeline connecting Aqaba to Amman and solar power facilities with a capacity of 300 megawatts, expected to cover nearly 30 per cent of the project's electricity requirements.

Once operational, the project is expected to increase the annual per capita water share from 60 to 110 cubic metres and raise water supply frequency across the governorates from once to three times per week.

The project will be implemented under a public-private partnership led by Meridiam, with Suez serving as the technical and operational partner.

EBRD, EU provide $68m for wastewater plant expansion

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed a $68 million financing agreement to rehabilitate and expand the Al Shallala Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The financing package comprises a $55 million concessional loan from the EBRD and an 11.4 million-euro EU grant, equivalent to approximately $13 million, Petra reported.

The project will more than double the plant's treatment capacity from 13,700 to 30,500 cubic metres per day to accommodate growing wastewater flows.

The expansion includes new treatment units, increased energy generation through biogas production and the provision of more than 26,000 cubic metres of reclaimed water daily for agricultural irrigation.

Since beginning operations in Jordan in 2012, the EBRD has invested more than 2.5 billion euros in 91 projects across the Kingdom, with 75 per cent of its investments directed towards the private sector.

Germany, IFC sign major water infrastructure deals

Jordan and Germany signed a 40 million-euro concessional financing agreement to upgrade sanitation services and expand sewage networks in Karak Governorate and areas southwest of Amman.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Raed Abu Saud and Toukan, while German Development Bank Director Klaus Müller signed on behalf of Germany.

The project aims to improve sanitation services, strengthen infrastructure efficiency and reduce environmental and public health risks.

Separately, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Arab Bank signed a $100 million investment agreement under the Water Adaptation and Resilience Bonds programme.

The financing will support projects to reduce water losses, improve water-use efficiency, upgrade infrastructure and expand wastewater treatment and reuse capacity, while strengthening the resilience of water networks to climate change.

EU allocates 11.1m euros for Jordan's digital connectivity

The European Union announced an 11.1 million-euro grant to extend the Medusa Submarine Cable System from its Egyptian landing point in Port Said to Jordan, with a focus on research and education.

The grant complements a European Investment Bank (EIB) loan of up to 60 million euros for the wider Mediterranean cable system, developed by Spanish telecommunications and infrastructure operator AFR-IX Telecom.

Working with GEANT, Europe's research and education networking organisation, the project aims to connect around 500 institutions in the Southern Mediterranean with their European counterparts, facilitating research cooperation, data exchange and access to digital resources.

The wider cable system extends for more than 8,000 kilometres and includes 21 landing points. It is designed to support advanced digital services, including 5G, cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

Jordan, Germany strengthen energy partnership

Jordan and Germany signed the 2027 Jordan-Germany Energy Partnership Work Plan to strengthen cooperation in energy efficiency, electricity networks and renewable energy.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Saleh Kharabsheh and German State Secretary Thomas Steffen.

The plan covers electricity grid modernisation, regional interconnection, renewable energy integration and the development of policy, regulatory and financing frameworks to improve energy efficiency.

Cooperation will also include protecting critical energy infrastructure, natural gas network management and exploring geothermal energy applications for heating and cooling.

JEDCO, German association target SME growth

The Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) and the German Federal Association for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation between Jordanian and German small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The agreement aims to establish direct business networks, facilitate access to European markets and promote technology transfer and the exchange of technical expertise.

Germany backs extension of simplified rules of origin

Germany reaffirmed its support for Jordan's request to extend its agreement with the European Union on simplified rules of origin, which aim to facilitate Jordanian industrial exports to European markets and encourage investment.

The announcement followed a meeting between Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Yarub Qudah and Steffen, followed by a Jordanian-German business meeting attended by around 90 representatives of companies and economic institutions.

Qudah said Jordan's total exports increased by 11.2 per cent during the first eight months of 2026, while national exports rose by 6 per cent and exports to EU markets grew by 11.4 per cent.

He added that the trade deficit declined by 9.6 per cent, while export coverage of imports reached 56 per cent. Real GDP grew by 3 per cent in the second quarter of 2026.

Qudah also invited German companies to explore more than 40 strategic investment opportunities worth over $15 billion presented at the conference, particularly in renewable energy, green hydrogen, water, transport and high-value industries.

The agreements highlight the scale of Jordan's financing and investment partnerships with the EU and European institutions, with commitments spanning major water infrastructure, wastewater treatment, digital connectivity, energy and trade.

The focus will now be on translating these commitments into implemented projects, strengthening infrastructure, attracting private investment and supporting employment and sustainable economic growth.

SSIF board chairman proposes co-investment platform with Int'l, local financial institutions



Photo Courtesy of SSIF

'One of the main advantages of the current wave of projects is that they are extremely important strategic mega infrastructure projects that the whole economy benefits from,' says SSIF board chairman

AMMAN (JT) — Social Security Investment Board Chairman Omar Malhas has called for a "Jordanian Institutional Investment Partnership Platform" that would bring the Social Security Investment Fund (SSIF) together with European and international financial institutions and Jordanian banks to co-invest in projects of interest to the Fund.

Speaking on a panel on public and private sector financing and funding mechanisms at the Jordan-EU Investment Conference, Malhas stated that the platform would align its members' priorities and pinpoint joint investment opportunities in line with the Fund's investment strategy.

Malhas affirmed that SSIF acts as a responsible investment partner, with a role that complements government funding and private investment, according to an ISSF statement.

"The Social Security Investment Fund is the largest institutional investor in Jordan," he said. "It manages participants' contributions and invests them in a way that safeguards and grows them." He said.

Malhas noted that local capital in strategic projects sends investors abroad a signal of confidence and helps draw international money into projects with economic impact.

He pointed to the scale and reach of the current wave of projects, "One of the main advantages of the current wave of projects is that they are extremely important strategic mega infrastructure projects that the whole economy benefits from."

Jordan is at an important point in its economic transformation under the Economic Modernisation Vision, Malhas said.

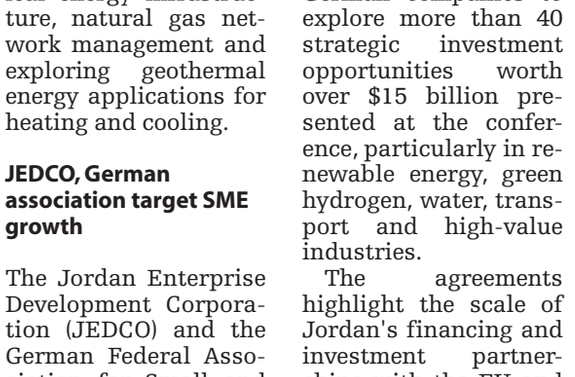
Delivering it is a shared task for the government, national institutions, domestic institutional investors, banks, private sector and international partners, who must turn investment opportunities into projects that can actually be built.

Energy, water, industry, mining, infrastructure, logistics, digital infrastructure and tourism all offer room for institutional capital, he added.

Drawing investment into them depends, in his view, on well-prepared projects that can be financed and delivered, and on clear frameworks built on governance and transparency.

He also urged closer cooperation with the European Union and its financial institutions, including the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, going beyond lending to joint investment and risk sharing.

SSIF manages assets of JD20.1 billion as of the end of the third quarter of 2026, equivalent to about 45 per cent of Jordan's GDP.



JT file

The Amman Stock Exchange announces that the 12th and 13th issues of Jordanian treasury bills for 2026, with a combined value of JD425 million, will be listed on the exchange

ASE to list JD425m in treasury bills next Monday

AMMAN (JT) — The Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) announced that the 12th and 13th issues of Jordanian treasury bills for 2026, with a combined value of JD425 million, will be listed on the exchange starting next Monday.

According to an ASE circular seen by Al Mamlaka TV, the 12th issue is valued at JD400 million, while the 13th issue stands at JD25 million.

The 12th issue matures on December 21, 2026, while the 13th issue matures on December 25, 2026.

The Central Bank of Jordan had earlier announced the auction results for both issues, reporting that bids for the 12th issue totalled JD447 million, of which JD400 million was accepted. Bids for the 13th issue reached JD51 million, with JD25 million accepted.

Treasury bonds are long-term financing instruments with maturities ranging from two to 20 years. They include government treasury bonds and corporate bonds.

Treasury bills, meanwhile, are short-term government debt instruments issued for periods ranging from three to 12 months. They are considered low-risk financial assets traded in capital markets.

AIG reports over 781,000 passengers at QAIA in October 2026

AMMAN (JT) — Airport International Group (AIG), the Jordanian company operating Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA), reported the airport's traffic statistics for October 2026, with passenger traffic, aircraft movements and cargo volumes all recording year-on-year declines amid the prevailing situation across the region.

During October 2026, QAIA welcomed 781,227 passengers, marking a decrease of 7.8 per cent compared to September 2026 and 6.6 per cent compared to October 2025. The airport also recorded 6,453 aircraft movements (ACM), reflecting decreases of 7.2 per cent month-on-month and 9.6 per cent year-on-year.

Meanwhile, QAIA handled 7,076 tonnes of cargo, representing a 1.6 per cent increase compared to September 2026, although volumes decreased by 2.6 per cent below those recorded in October 2025, according to a QAIA statement.

October's results reflect more moderate passenger and aircraft activity, while cargo volumes recorded a slight improvement compared to September. The figures highlight the varying patterns across QAIA's three main traffic segments, underscoring the importance of maintaining operational flexibility as activity levels fluctuate.

AIG chief executive officer, Nicolas Deviller said, "The declines in traffic during October should be viewed within the broader context of the prevailing situation across the region. In this environment, we remain focused on maintaining the standards of service and operational performance expected by our passengers and airline partners,"

He added "while continuing to invest in introducing and enhancing the services available to airlines, supporting their operational needs and strengthening QAIA's ability to serve as a reliable gateway to Jordan and a key contributor to the country's tourism and economic activity".

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

FOOTBALL

Bayern announce record revenues, membership figures at AGM

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Bayern Munich on Saturday announced record revenues of 988.2 million euros ($1.083 billion) for the 2025-26 season, while also becoming the first football club to crack the 500,000-member mark. Bayern made the announcement at their annual general meeting in Munich, with last season's revenues around 10 million higher than those of the previous campaign. The club announced a slightly smaller profit of 35.3 million euros before tax, down on the 42.5 made last season. Breaking through the 500,000-member mark for the first time, Bayern said it was the highest figure of any sports organisation worldwide, with members holding votes at the club's annual meeting. The German giants have doubled their membership over the past 12 years, growing from 250,000 in 2014 to 500,000 this year. Bayern won a league and cup double in 2025-26, losing just three of 53 games in all competitions. In Europe, the German giants made it to the semi-finals of the Champions League, where they were eliminated 6-5 over two legs by eventual champions Paris Saint-Germain.

Man City boss Maresca fumes over Haaland controversy in Fulham draw

MANCHESTER, United Kingdom (AFP) — Enzo Maresca insisted it was "quite clear" that Erling Haaland was wrongly denied a crucial goal in Manchester City's damaging 1-1 draw against Fulham on Saturday. Maresca's side trailed to Rodrigo Muniz's early opener at the Etihad Stadium before Haaland's equaliser was contentiously ruled out. The City striker kicked the ball out of the grasp of Fulham keeper Bernd Leno on the goal-line. But Leno barely had two hands on the ball when Haaland made contact, giving City reason to feel aggrieved with the decision. Referee Thomas Bramall ruled that Leno had not lost control because the ball was between his hands and VAR Sam Barrott upheld the call. "I reviewed the goal after the game. From my point of view, it's quite clear that it's not a foul, but I'm not the guy that decides, unfortunately," Maresca said. Asked how Haaland viewed the incident, Maresca said: "When they were reviewing the VAR, he was absolutely sure that it was a goal, because I asked him from the touchline. He was completely sure that it was a goal but the referee decided for different things."

Jordan's Falcons hit 100 to beat Lebanon ahead of World Cup qualifying window

By Abdul Hamid Hassan Addasi



JBF photo

Jordanian players outscored Lebanon from the paint and won the second friendly match on Saturday

Jordan's Falcons bounced back from their opening friendly defeat to Lebanon with a 100–97 victory at Arena Hall in Amman on Saturdayas both teams continued preparations for the fifth window of the FIBA Basketball World Cup Qatar 2027 Asian Qualifiers.

The result gave the teams one win apiece from their two friendlies after Lebanon took Thursday's November 19 opener 89–79. The second encounter, played before 3,500 spectators, featured 21 lead changes and 11 ties.

Lebanon led 22–16 after the opening quarter, but Jordan responded with a strong second period, outscoring the visitors 31–18 to take a 47–40 halftime advantage. Lebanon regained the initiative in the third, winning the quarter 33–24 to enter the final period ahead 73–71.

The Falcons took the fourth quarter 29–24, overturning an 86–91 deficit at its midpoint to secure a three-point victory and reach the century mark.

Hashem Abbas led Jordan with 27 points, including three three-pointers, alongside eight rebounds and four assists. His efficiency rating of 24 was the highest in the game. Perrin Buford contributed 16 points, five assists and four rebounds, while Abdullah Shatat added 13 points and four assists. Sami Bzai scored all 12 of his points from four three-pointers.

Youssef Khayat paced Lebanon with 21 points, followed by Amir Saoud with 20, including five three-pointers on six attempts. Ali Mansour finished with 14 points, five rebounds, five assists and two steals, posting Lebanon's highest efficiency rating at 22. Karim Ezzeddine added 11 points.

Jordan made the difference inside, outscoring Lebanon 48–30 in the paint and 19–10 on second-chance opportunities, while holding a 37–35 rebounding advantage. The Falcons shot 53.8 per cent from the field compared with Lebanon's 46.6 per cent, overcoming 13 missed free throws from 34 attempts.

Jordan now turn to their Group E qualifiers at Karisma Arena in Seremban, Malaysia. The Falcons face New Zealand on Friday, November 27, followed by Australia on Sunday, November 29

Fluffy rabbits, dark past draw tourists to Japan island

OKUNOSHIMA, Japan (AFP) — Stepping onto an island in western Japan, tourists squeal with joy at the sight of hundreds of fluffy rabbits, but few realise the land was once home to a secret chemical weapons factory for the country's Imperial Army.

Okunoshima — also known as "Rabbit Island" — has a perimeter of just four kilometres but welcomes thousands of snap-happy visitors attracted by its bunny population each year.

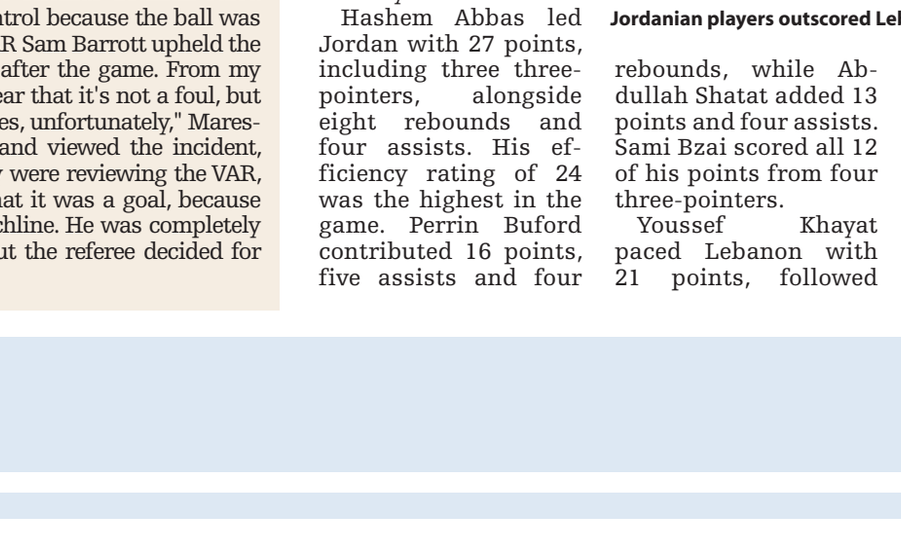
"This was my dream," to visit the island, 67-year-old Susan Balzer from Canada told AFP.

"You can feed them, they come to you. We never get to really get close to them" back home, she said.

The rabbit population is thought to have grown from a small group released by a nearby elementary school in the 1970s to around 500 today, aided by abundant food and a lack of predators.

But the island's cute exterior belies a dark history.

In 1929, the former Imperial Japanese Army built a chemical weapons factory on Okunoshima in an effort to catch up with Europe, despite international bans introduced after World War I.



AFP photo

In this photo taken on October 23, tourists feed wild rabbits on Okunoshima Island, Hiroshima Prefecture

As rabbits hop around the island, which lies in the Hiroshima region, large ageing concrete and brick structures — once used as power plants and poison gas depots — serve as reminders of its murky past.

Many of its factory workers suffered from cancer and other diseases, according to a monument on the island.

"Learning that many people died from the gas they produced made me realise what a tragic legacy the island carries," 69-year-old visitor Eiji Tomari said.

"At the same time, I'm glad it has become a place where rabbits can live peacefully."

'Sustainable tourism'

Since the production of poisonous substances, including mustard gas and lewisite, was highly secretive, authorities removed the island from Japanese maps, keeping it hidden until the end of World War II in 1945, when Allied occupation forces ordered its destruction.

"It was something that could not be disclosed, not just to ordinary citizens, but to the rest of the world," Okunoshima Poison Gas Museum Director Kazuhito Takahashi told AFP.

"If the facility had been exposed internationally, Japan, which relied heavily on imports at the time, could have faced sanctions," he said.

Masayuki Yamauchi, an 82-year-old tour guide, said rabbits were used as test subjects in experiments, although there is no evidence the bunnies now roaming the island descended from them.

"I hope people will learn about that history and use those lessons to help promote peace in the world," Yamauchi said.

Last year, around 200,000 people visited the island, according to the local tourism association.

But as word spreads on social media, some experts warn that overfeeding the rabbits is harming the ecosystem.

According to a study published in July, wild boars, lured by the food, have reportedly been observed attacking the creatures.

"To achieve sustainable tourism, it's important to understand the impact of feeding wildlife and to consider how we should interact with it," Asami Ogura, an associate professor at the National Institute of Technology's Kure College, said in a press release on the study.

Ogura said the rabbits face food shortages when there are few tourists, while heavy grazing by the animals has affected the island's vegetation, stripping low-lying branches and leaves from many plants.

Tour guide Yamauchi called the situation "tragic".

"A growing rabbit population does not mean the animals are happy," Yamauchi said.



AFP photo

US singer-songwriter Billie Eilish performs 'What Was I Made For?' onstage during the 96th Annual Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California, on March 10, 2024

Harry Styles, Cher to headline Glastonbury

LONDON (AFP) — The UK's iconic Glastonbury Festival on Wednesday unveiled its 2027 line-up with top names Harry Styles, Billie Eilish and Sam Fender, set to headline alongside veteran star Cher.

Tickets for the event next June sold out in 45 minutes last month, with thousands rushing for sought-after places despite the hefty price tag.

Other big names on the bill include Massive Attack, Lily Allen, Lola Young, Kraftwerk, Texas and De La Soul, according to the line-up poster released on the festival's website.

Country star Kacey Musgraves, rising star FKA twigs and newcomer Adela also make the cut, with more acts still to be announced.

Cher, 80, will play the legend slot on Sunday. Aged 81, by the time she performs, she will be the oldest artist to do so, taking the crown from Rod Stewart.

The festival held at Worthy Farm in southwest England has become a fixture of the international musical calendar, after first launching in 1970 inspired by British hippie and counterculture movements.

Prices have risen steadily in the last decade, with standard tickets costing £408 ($539) for the June 2027 iteration, which follows the "fallow year" of no festival in 2026.

"We are so happy to be coming back after our fallow year," said organiser Emily Eavis on Instagram, describing the line-up as an "incredible" spread of artists.

Once a mecca for legendary British rockers, Glastonbury's line-up in recent years has veered to include global pop stars alongside festival veterans, with the likes of Charli XCX, Dua Lipa and Olivia Rodrigo gracing the stages.

