

Jordan Daily

to inform & connect

Issue 01, October 2024

▶ **100 Jordan:**
Celebrating five years
of success and growth

▶ **Jordanian SMEs**
expand into Saudi
market through
USAID-supported
initiative

▶ **True Matters Jordan,**
Cyber Wales forge
strategic cybersecurity
partnership

▶ **King Felipe**
VI in Jordan

▶ **Royal Decrees**
appoint **Ababneh**
as Judicial Council
president, Ghazou
as president of
Constitutional Court

▶ **Irish Ambassador**
inaugurates cultural
and academic events
at Yarmouk University

**Strategic investments
and sustainable growth:**

**Malo Alein's
commitment to
Jordan's future**



Jordan Daily

to inform & connect

Jordan Daily is an independent source for reliable news. We are committed to delivering accurate and unbiased reporting, ensuring that you have access to trustworthy information.

At Jordan Daily , we prioritize professionalism and adhere to the highest standards of journalism, providing readers with news that inform and connect.

Editor-in-Chief
Nedal Zubeidi

Sports City – Abdali

T+ 962-6 560 65 79

M+ 962 79 86 85 732

info@jordandaily.net

mudeirs@yahoo.com

Amman – Jordan

Celebrating the launch of our first print edition



Jordan Daily - With the launch of our first print edition, we're excited to bring our stories to life in a format that offers a unique, immersive experience. While our online platform provides fast and convenient access to the latest updates, a printed magazine encourages a more thoughtful, unhurried engagement.

This edition is a beautifully crafted collection of our top pieces, designed to be enjoyed offline, away from the noise of digital screens. We believe print adds a tangible, lasting dimension to our storytelling- and we're thrilled to share this journey with you.

Our first print edition is more than just a magazine; it's a collector's piece that reflects our dedication to thoughtful, high-quality journalism. From the careful selection of stories to the beautifully designed layouts, every detail is curated to create an experience that resonates.

By offering a print edition alongside our website, we're bridging the best of both worlds. Our online presence ensures you stay informed in real-time, while our magazine provides a deeper dive into the stories that matter most.

We're committed to building a community of readers who appreciate journalism that stands the test of time- and with this first print edition, we invite you to join us in celebrating the power of print.



By: Nedal Zubeidi

New Government: A bold chance to tackle challenges head-on

Jordan Daily – In a recent meeting with a CEO of one of Jordan’s leading consulting and strategic planning companies, it became clear that Jordan is at a pivotal moment. As the kingdom pushes forward with its economic modernization plan, backed by a multitude of global partnerships aimed at revitalizing the public sector, the numbers tell a story of progress. Jordan has seen improvements in various global indicators, particularly in business environment metrics, crime reduction, and the criminal justice system.

The CEO, who founded his firm in 2011, pointed to data that undeniably highlights the country’s advancement. Over the past few years, Jordan has witnessed a marked shift in the mentality and methodology of both government officials and civil servants. Yet, despite these positive trends, ordinary Jordanians remain skeptical. They do not feel the tangible benefits of these reforms in their daily lives. Why is that?

In a parallel development, Prime Minister-designate Dr. Jafar Hassan visited a primary school in the remote area of Bal’ama in Mafrq, as well as a village in Deir Alla. These visits, seemingly away from the spotlight, could be an attempt to convey that Hassan is genuinely in tune with the needs of Jordan’s most vulnerable citizens, far removed from political theater.

Those who have worked closely with Dr. Hassan describe him as pragmatic, politically astute, and deeply experienced in economic

matters. His proximity to King Abdullah II, having previously served as the director of the King’s office, has afforded him valuable insight into the King’s vision for national reform. His mission is clear: revitalize the economy, raise the standard of living, and ensure justice and equality for all citizens.

However, I have reservations about some of the names in Dr. Hassan’s government. While it includes prominent figures with remarkable expertise, a few individuals may not meet the expected standards. Perhaps the Prime Minister has a different perspective.

Jordan is grappling with complex geopolitical challenges—Israel’s ongoing conflict with Gaza, the war in Lebanon, and Iranian missile activity in the region, not to mention the recurring violence from extremist Israeli settlers in West Bank. All of these issues demand that Jordan strengthen its internal cohesion and reinforce its social fabric.

As Hassan’s government seeks parliamentary approval next month, it faces an unprecedented test. This will be the first parliament elected based on a general party list system, posing significant challenges to a government already burdened with high expectations. Whether Hassan’s cabinet can earn the trust of both King Abdullah and the Jordanian people while navigating the complexities of the newly elected parliament remains to be seen.

But the question that looms larger: can this government overcome the external and internal crises it

has inherited? Can it implement its executive programs with the efficiency needed to stabilize the economy and ensure sustainable growth? Jordan, a country with limited resources, finds itself disproportionately affected by the ongoing conflicts in the region. As regional wars and political upheaval persist, Jordan’s ability to maintain economic resilience is under threat.

Tourism, a vital pillar of Jordan’s economy, has already suffered from the region’s instability. The agricultural sector, too, along with exports from both private and public enterprises, are key components of the national economy that risk further disruption. Additionally, transportation costs have skyrocketed due to challenges at Jordan’s land and sea borders, placing additional strain on state revenues. As a result, the economic burden on the state is increasing, with significant implications for the social well-being of its citizens.

It is in this precarious context that Jordan’s public and private sectors must come together. The only path forward is through collective action, focusing on building a resilient economy capable of weathering these external shocks. This requires moving beyond the political bickering and skepticism that often bogs down meaningful progress. The stakes for Jordan have never been higher.

Jordan is at a crossroads, and its government must prove it can steer the country through these tumultuous times. If it fails, the consequences—both economic and social—could be dire.

King meets Mikati, says Jordan stands with Lebanon



Jordan Daily – His Majesty King Abdullah II on Monday stressed that Jordan stands with Lebanon and its sovereignty, security, and stability, according to a royal court statement.

During a meeting with Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati at Al Husseinia Palace, His Majesty stressed Jordan's readiness to support the Lebanese people and mitigate the impact of the ongoing war on them.

At the meeting, attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, the King said Jordan is working in coordination with Arab and key international actors to put a stop to the Israeli war on Lebanon.

The King warned that the continuation and expansion of the Israeli war on Lebanon would lead to a regional war with grave consequences.

For his part, Mikati thanked His Majesty for Jordan's support for Lebanon at all times, especially efforts to stop the Israeli war on Lebanon.

The Lebanese caretaker prime minister expressed appreciation for the relief Jordan delivers to aid those displaced by the war.

Prime Minister Jafar Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, and Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh attended the meeting.



Prince Hassan calls for Mashreq region cooperation on water, energy, food, and environment

Jordan Daily – HRH Prince Hassan stressed the need for regional cooperation, proposing the creation of a regional water and energy community for Mashreq countries, modelled after the European Coal and Steel Community.

The prince's remarks came during the WEFE Nexus Conference, which was organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, with the support of the German International Cooperation (GIZ), and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

German Ambassador to Jordan Bertram von Moltke and ministers of water and irrigation, environment, and energy and mineral resources attended the conference.

In his opening remarks, Prince Hassan, chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, stressed the critical importance of WEFE Nexus in the Mashreq region.

He noted that this framework can foster cross-border cooperation, reduce competition over scarce resources, and promote mutual benefits.

The Prince stressed the importance of decision-making based on reliable data and absolute facts to ensure equitable stability and independence in the region.

He highlighted the need for integrating the WEFE nexus to serve human capital, making local communities key stakeholders in developing good governance.

"It is time for the people in our region to move from being mere followers to becoming active citizens," he said, underlining the necessity of collaboration across sectors to achieve effective governance of the WEFE Nexus.

Moltke stressed the deep interconnections between the four sectors, stressing that addressing challenges in one sector cannot be done in isolation from the others.

"If we are thinking about water, we must simultaneously consider energy, food, and the environment. These sectors rely on one another," Moltke said, adding, "You cannot pump water for agriculture or household use



without energy, and every step in this process has environmental consequences."

He highlighted the crucial role of AI in managing these complex interconnections, particularly in a country like Jordan, where water availability is critically low. "While the global average is 500 cubic metres of water per capita, Jordan struggles with only 60 cubic metres."

Mashhour Refai, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, echoed Prince Hassan's and Moltke's sentiments, noting that AI offers powerful tools for resource management, predicting future water demand, identifying leaks, and optimising energy use within smart grids.

By analysing data across sectors, AI enhances efficiency and sustainability in ways that traditional methods cannot, he said.

He also pointed to AI's potential in revolutionising food production through precision farming, using data from sensors and advanced equipment to optimise crop management, predict weather patterns, and assess soil and plant health.

Refai said that the conference aimed to strengthen cooperation between the WEFE sectors, exchange best practices for integrated solutions, and highlight the role of AI, the Internet of Things, and renewable energy integration in achieving sustainable development.

Ibn Sina University takes major strides as Jordan's first private medical institution, says President Badran

Jordan Daily – Ibn Sina University for Medical Sciences (ISUMS), Jordan's first private medical university, has made significant strides since launching in 2022, according to the university's president, Professor Darwish Badran.

Located near Queen Alia International Airport, the university is focused on academic excellence and aligning with Jordan's royal vision of preparing a globally competitive generation.

"Our aim is to build a promising generation that recognizes the significance of the global stage amid technological, economic, and political growth," Badran told Jordan Daily, underscoring the university's commitment to staying current with developments both academically and administratively.

The university launched its Doctor of Medicine (MD) program in the 2023-2022 academic year, followed by a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) program in 2023. Both programs have drawn substantial interest, with student applications exceeding the university's capacity for the 2024-2023 academic year.

"This reflects the quality of education, administrative transparency, and the genuine efforts exerted by both academic and administrative staff," Badran noted.

Ibn Sina University's modern infrastructure includes air-conditioned buildings, advanced labs for clinical skills, pathology, and microbiology, smart classrooms, a library with access to global databases, and future plans for sports facilities and recreational spaces. The facilities are designed to offer "a comfortable and safe academic experience" for students, according to Badran.

The university has secured both general and specialized accreditation for its Medicine and Dentistry programs. Badran highlighted that the institution is fully aligned with the standards set by the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education Institutions. The university's e-learning system, developed in collaboration with its IT unit, enhances communication between students and faculty.

ISUMS has established partnerships with several key institutions, including Jordan Hospital, which plays a vital role in clinical training. "Jordan Hospital will play a significant role in the clinical training of students,"



Badran said, stressing the importance of hands-on experience for students.

International collaborations with universities such as George Washington University, the University of Glasgow, and the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio further support the university's ambitions. These partnerships expedite Ibn Sina's efforts to raise its academic standing locally and globally. Additionally, international faculty from these universities will assist in teaching Ibn Sina students during certain semesters.

Ibn Sina is also focused on supporting scientific research, with faculty members having published 42 research papers in international journals over the past two years, some involving student participation. The university has hosted significant events, including workshops for the Jordanian Orthopedic Surgeons Association, attended by doctors and specialists from Jordan and abroad.

The university aims to continue making progress in education, scientific research, and community engagement. "Our goal is to supply the labor market with top-quality professionals," Badran said, reinforcing the university's commitment to fostering academic growth and community partnerships.

Ibn Sina University for Medical Sciences is open to visitors at its Al-Qastal campus and is responsive to inquiries through various communication channels, Badran added.

Royal Decrees appoint Ababneh as Judicial Council president, Ghazou as president of Constitutional Court

Jordan Daily – A Royal Decree has been issued, appointing Mahmoud Ababneh as President of the Judicial Council, as of October 2024 ,6, and approving the resignation of Judicial Council President Mohammad Ghazou as of the same date.

Another Royal Decree was also issued, appointing Mohammad Ghazou as President of the Constitutional Court as of October 2024 ,6, and appointing Mohammad Suheimat as a member of the Constitutional Court, as of the same date.



Zarqa University hosts 342 new Malaysian students for orientation day

Jordan Daily – On Friday, October 4th, Zarqa University welcomed 342 new Malaysian students for their orientation day. The orientation aims to ensure that these students, who have chosen Jordan as their academic destination, are well-prepared for the exciting journey ahead.

The event was attended by Ambassador Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman, Ambassador of Malaysia to Jordan, and Associate Professor Dr. Radzuwan Ab Rashid, Minister Counsellor of Education at the Embassy of Malaysia in Jordan.

According to a statement by Education Malaysia Jordan , Zarqa University generously sponsored the venue, making this a warm and welcoming start to the students' experience in Jordan.

Ambassador Abdul Rahman emphasised the importance of cultural integration for the students, saying "Jordan offers a unique opportunity to excel academically and immerse students in its rich Arabic language and culture. I encourage all of you to interact with the locals, as mastering the language will be one of your most valuable academic and personal skills."

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Radzuwan Ab Rashid echoed this sentiment, urging the students to make the most of their time in Jordan. "Proficiency in Arabic is crucial for your academic success, and the best way to achieve that is by actively engaging with the local community. Beyond that, remember that your



primary goal here is academic excellence, and I am confident that all of you have the potential to thrive in this vibrant educational environment," he noted.

Zarqa University was chosen to host this significant event due to its exceptional campus facilities and commitment to fostering international educational exchanges. The university's generosity in sponsoring the venue demonstrates its dedication to supporting the international student community in Jordan.

The orientation day concluded with interactive sessions where students were given practical advice on navigating their studies and settling into their new life in Jordan.

This marks the beginning of an exciting academic and cultural journey for the new students as they embark on their studies in this historic and culturally rich country, the statement concluded.

Ambassador Bataineh presents credentials to King Philippe of Belgium



Jordan Daily – Ambassador Yousef Bataineh, presented his credentials to King Philippe of Belgium on Thursday, formally accrediting him as Jordan’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belgium.

In a ceremony held at the Royal Palace in Brussels, Bataineh conveyed the greetings of King Abdullah II to King Philippe, along with his wishes for continued prosperity for the Belgian people.

King Philippe, in turn, asked Bataineh to extend his greetings and appreciation to King Abdullah II, praising the King’s wise leadership. King Philippe also expressed the government’s interest in strengthening bilateral relations with Jordan, wishing the kingdom and its people ongoing progress and prosperity.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials from the Royal Palace and representatives from Belgium’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ambassador Abdul Rahman highlights importance of Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme



Jordan Daily – Malaysian Ambassador Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman underscored the significance of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) in fostering development cooperation between Malaysia and Jordan at a networking dinner held Monday at the Four Seasons Hotel.

Addressing a gathering of representatives from Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, MTCP alumni, and members of the Malaysian Universities Alumni of Jordan, Ambassador Nasri highlighted that the MTCP, established in 1980 as part of Malaysia's commitment to South-South Cooperation, plays a crucial role in sharing the country's development expertise with other nations. Since its inception, more than 34,000 participants from 144 countries have benefited from various MTCP programmes.

"The MTCP is built on the principle that the development of a country relies on the quality of its human capital. The programme focuses on human resources development through training, study visits, and expert attachments," said Nasri.

He noted that since 2010, MTCP has been administered by Malaysia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wisma Putra), marking a shift towards prioritising strategic partners and expanding cooperation with new development partners through public-private partnerships.

Nasri emphasized that Jordan has been a key beneficiary of the MTCP, with over 510 Jordanian officials having participated in a wide range of training programmes covering areas such as technical and vocational education (TVET), public administration, cyber-security, and Islamic finance.

Feedback from Jordanian participants has been overwhelmingly positive, Nasri said, with many reporting that the programmes have helped them acquire essential skills for their professional and personal growth. He expressed hope that more Jordanian officials would participate in future MTCP offerings.

Nasri also called for more tailored programmes to meet Jordan's specific development needs, based on continued dialogue between the two nations.

"We hope that today's event will be the start of greater networking between Malaysia and Jordan, and a platform for fruitful collaboration in the years ahead," he concluded.

Amjad Namoura, one of the programme's participants, expressed his happiness at attending tonight's event and being part of the MTCP. He noted that the programme provided him with valuable knowledge and expertise in his field of work, adding that "Malaysia is an example of a developed country, which has spread its effect across the world nationally."



Nizar Haddad honored with King Abdullah II Award for Best Director General in 2024



Jordan Daily – Dr. Nizar Haddad, former Director General of the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC), was awarded the King Abdullah II Award for Best Director General in 2024.

The award ceremony, held under the royal patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, and Prince Faisal.

This recognition marks a notable achievement, as Dr. Haddad secured both the individual award for best director general and the award for the institution he once led. NARC had recently been honored with the Second-Class Medal of Excellence during Jordan's Independence Day celebrations.



Irish Ambassador inaugurates cultural and academic events at Yarmouk University



Jordan Daily – Yarmouk University and the Irish Embassy discussed ways to enhance academic cooperation between the university and Irish educational institutions on Sunday.

University President Dr. Islam Massad emphasized the importance of building academic bridges with Irish universities and providing training opportunities for medical students in Irish hospitals through programs that equip them with necessary skills according to international standards.

Irish Ambassador Marianne Bolger highlighted the significance of establishing academic cooperation between various Irish and Jordanian educational institutions, which would enhance student and faculty exchanges, as well as joint research and scientific projects.

Ambassador Bolger also honored students from the university's model school who won first place in the Jordan Young Scientist (JoYS) competition, founded by the Embassy of Ireland in collaboration with Al-Hussein Technical University and the Crown Prince Foundation.



The winning project, a brain tumor monitoring system, earned the "Yarmouk Model School" team a spot in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Ireland.

Dr. Massad expressed pride in the model school's students and its teachers for their achievements in various fields



and competitions, praising the team's accomplishment in the competition.

Ambassador Bolger commended the scientific and creative excellence of the Jordanian students participating in the competition, particularly the first-place winners from the Yarmouk Model School. She affirmed the embassy's commitment to supporting Jordanian youth, who represent a promising generation contributing to development.

Additionally, Ambassador Bolger inaugurated a screening of the Irish documentary "Gaza," as part of the European Film Festival. She also opened the Ireland's "Peace Heroines" Exhibition at the Hussein Bin Talal Library, focusing on women and youth in Ireland.

Pakistan sends 10th humanitarian aid shipment to Gaza



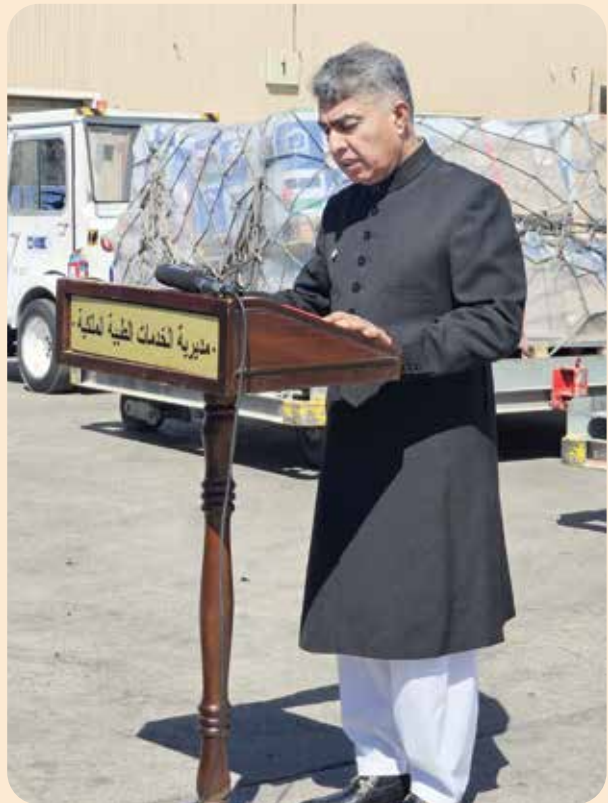
Jordan Daily – Pakistan has sent its 10th humanitarian aid consignment to Gaza, as the humanitarian crisis worsens amid ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The shipment, consisting of medical supplies, arrived in the capital Amman, where it was handed over to the Jordanian Royal Medical Services for delivery to Palestinians, according to a statement by the Embassy of Pakistan in Amman.

Maj Gen Muhammad Ajmal Iqbal (Retd), Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan and Palestine, said the aid reflects Pakistan's solidarity with the Palestinian people during their time of need.

"This consignment is a clear expression of Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters during these challenging times," Ambassador Iqbal stated.

The consignment is part of ongoing efforts by the Pakistani government to provide relief to Palestinians facing a deepening humanitarian crisis.



King meets Spain monarch, stresses need to stop war on Gaza, Lebanon



Jordan Daily – His Majesty King Abdullah II, during a meeting with King Felipe VI of Spain on Sunday, called on the international community to shoulder its full responsibility in stopping the Israeli war on Gaza and Lebanon, according to a royal court statement.

During bilateral talks followed by expanded ones, attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, His Majesty stressed the importance of reaching comprehensive calm, in order to end the violence and protect the security and stability of the region and the world.

At the beginning of the expanded talks, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Feisal bin Al Hussein, the escort of honour to the Spain monarch, King Abdullah II expressed pride in the distinguished relations between the two countries, which extend over more than seven decades of close friendship and cooperation,

praising Spain's leading role in strengthening the relationship between Jordan and its allies in Europe.

His Majesty said this partnership has contributed to building bridges of understanding between the region and Europe, expressing keenness to strengthen bilateral cooperation at various levels.

The King thanked Spain for its support for the National Water Conveyance Project and the Jordan Response Plan to the Syrian refugee crisis.

His Majesty praised Spain's courageous stance in supporting stability in the region and its role in dealing with regional challenges.

The talks also covered the importance of increasing humanitarian aid to Gaza and ensuring its uninterrupted delivery.

King Abdullah II commanded

Spain's support for the two-state solution and its recognition of the State of Palestine, stressing that Jordan will continue to coordinate with Spain and the EU to restore stability in the region.

For his part, King Felipe VI of Spain highlighted the depth of the historical friendship between the two royal families and between Jordan and Spain, congratulating His Majesty on the 25th anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers.

The Spanish monarch praised the Kingdom's reform efforts, led by King Abdullah II, expressing keenness to enhance cooperation in various sectors, especially economy, tourism and culture.

King Felipe VI stressed that the twinning between Petra and Alhambra will enrich the deep friendship between the two countries, symbolising the close ties between them.

He also spoke about the

challenges facing the region, expressing his country's support for Jordan in confronting them. The talks were followed by an event attended by King Abdullah II and King Felipe VI to mark the signing of an agreement to develop a framework of co-operation and collaboration between the Petra Tourism

Development Region Authority and the board of directors of the Alhambra Palace and the Generalife in Spain.

The agreement aims to exchange expertise and promote cultural initiatives that enhance knowledge of these sites and increase the number of tourists.

The event included the screening

of a video and featured a live musical performance.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Director of the Office of His Majesty Alaa Batayneh, Jordan's Ambassador to Spain Raghad Al Saqqa, and the accompanying Spanish delegation attended the talks.

King of Spain visits UNRWA's Al-Baq'a Girls' school



Jordan Daily – His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, visited Al-Baq'a Girls' Preparatory Schools I and II, operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), as part of his official visit to Jordan.

During the visit, King Felipe toured the school facilities, receiving a detailed briefing on the educational and humanitarian services provided by the school. He met with the school's student parliament and several Palestinian refugees, and was informed about projects implemented by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) at the school.

Aroub Al-Mousa, Head of UNRWA's Education Program in Jordan, noted that the agency's education program supports approximately

105,000 students across 161 schools. She stressed that King Felipe's visit reflects Spain's support for UNRWA and Jordan's efforts to ensure continued services for Palestinian refugees.

Waleed Hajawi, Head of UNRWA's Northern Amman region, highlighted the importance of Jordan and Spain's leadership in maintaining international backing for UNRWA, which serves key humanitarian and educational roles in refugee camps such as Al-Baq'a and Al-Hussein.

The visit was attended by Spanish Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares Bueno, Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Miguel de Lucas, Director-General of the Department of Palestinian Affairs Rafiq Khirfan, UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General Antonia Marie De Meo, and Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan Olaf Becker.

Spanish king hails historic Madrid-Amman relations



Jordan Daily - King Felipe VI of Spain underlined the deep-rooted Madrid-Amman relations in all fields.

During his meeting with the Spanish community in Jordan at the residence of the Spanish ambassador in Amman on Saturday evening, the King said, «At this moment, we are also united by a deep desire for peace and dialogue.»

«The conflict that began a year ago and brought us images of suffering and destruction in Gaza, and has further exacerbated by its extension to Lebanon, must end as soon as possible,» the visiting king said, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

«We want to see an end to the humanitarian tragedy and silence the weapons, so that we can return to the path of politics and diplomacy,» he said, calling for «renewed efforts to achieve the two-state solution that lays the foundation for a lasting and

enduring peace for the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.»

He expressed his happiness at the increasing presence of Spanish companies in Jordan, which contributes to promoting growth, prosperity, and employment in the Kingdom, Petra reported.

The king said that the workers in Spanish cooperation programmes have carried out distinguished work through non-governmental organisations or the cooperation office at the Spanish embassy, stressing that their work is of particular importance in light of the circumstances and challenges facing the Jordanian society, which, he said, «is familiar to receiving refugees fleeing the ravages of wars.»

Earlier on Saturday, King Felipe arrived in Amman on a two-day official visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Majesty King Abdullah, according to a Royal Court statement.

HRH Prince Feisal, the escort of honour, and a number of senior officials, as well as Jordan's ambassador to Spain and Spain's ambassador to Jordan were present at Queen Alia International Airport to welcome the Spanish monarch, the statement said.



Strategic investments and sustainable growth: Malo Alein's commitment to Jordan's future

Jordan Daily – Dr. Nedal Malo Alein, a prominent political and economic activist, has been a vocal advocate for revitalizing Jordan's economy through strategic domestic investments. He believes Jordan stands at a critical juncture and must act decisively to strengthen its economic foundations. "Countries around us have already started investing in their futures, becoming magnets for international investment," Alein emphasizes. "We can't sit on the sidelines any longer—we need to start building now."

Dr. Malo Alein is the founder and chairman of several influential ventures that reflect his commitment to transforming Jordan's economic landscape. In 2019, he launched 100JORDAN, an investment company focused on industry and tourism. Later, in 2022, he established 1010 for Tourism and Hotels, a real estate and tourism development company. This venture aims to attract local, regional, and global investments to develop Jordan's tourism sites, making them publicly owned by shareholders and the broader community. It's a bold move designed to not only boost tourism but also create a sustainable model for community-driven economic growth. Both companies are part of his broader vision to position Jordan as a key player in global tourism and industrial development.

Malo Alein's entrepreneurial spirit is deeply rooted in his family's long history in trade and industry. The Malo Alein Industrial Company, established in 1962, specializes in manufacturing metal furniture and outfitting restaurants, supermarkets, and institutions. His family has also been involved in logistics, managing land and sea transport since 1942.

Dr. Malo Alein's academic background is as impressive as his business achievements. He holds a PhD in Project Management from the American Applied University, an MBA in Strategic Management from the Swiss Business School, and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the American Applied University. Additionally, he has completed specialized courses in strategic planning, project management, leadership, and risk management from prestigious institutions in Germany and the UK.

He is passionate about utilizing his expertise to promote sustainable economic growth in Jordan. His focus is on tourism development, infrastructure modernization, and creating a vibrant investment climate. He actively



supports strategic projects aimed at empowering youth and women, fostering social and economic development, and promoting green, sustainable initiatives across Jordan.

Malo Alein's vision includes establishing regional tourism chambers in Jordan's main regions: North, Central, South, and the Golden Triangle, Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba to decentralize tourism efforts and encourage local participation. He is also an advocate for enhancing the country's unique visual and cultural identity to promote Jordan on the global stage.

Since 2021, Dr. Malo Alein has been leading initiatives to modernize Jordan's tourism sector. He believes that through better infrastructure, improved site management, and strong marketing campaigns, Jordan can achieve significant milestones in tourism and investment.

During the COVID19- pandemic, He played a vital role in supporting local communities. He equipped emergency clinics at Nadim Hospital in Madaba and Princess Salma Hospital in Theiban, providing essential ICU beds and



ventilators. His contributions extended to distributing sanitation equipment to various institutions, as well as masks and sanitizers to front-line workers.

Malo Alein's dedication to Jordan extends beyond business and tourism. He has supported the sports community by equipping medical facilities for Al-Faisaly Sports Club and Prince Hashim Sports City in Madaba. He also sponsors Jordan's Olympic gymnastics champion for the Paris 2024 Olympics and backs major sports events, including the Arab and West Asia Beach Volleyball Championships in 2024.

He has also been very active in promoting Jordan internationally. During the 2022 Qatar World Cup, he led a marketing campaign to boost Jordan's profile among international visitors. Over 300,000 fans received Jordanian-themed gifts, including flags and memorabilia, helping to increase the country's visibility on a global stage.

His contributions to religious tourism have been equally impactful. He funded the construction of visitor centers at religious sites such as Machaerus in Madaba, and Petra, ensuring tourists receive the highest quality services during their visit.

Malo Alein's commitment to Jordan's growth is not

limited to tourism. He has sponsored and participated in numerous economic conferences, both locally and internationally, supporting the work of organizations like the Jordan Economic Forum and the Jordanian Businessmen Association. These forums have brought together key economic thinkers, government officials, and business leaders to discuss ways to stimulate Jordan's economy. His sponsorship of the JEDCO Entrepreneurial Conference with ESCWA demonstrates his belief in the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship for Jordan's future.

He has also been an active participant in official and semi-official delegations aimed at fostering economic collaboration with countries like Bahrain, Hungary, Norway, Greece, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria and France. His efforts have promoted Jordan as a prime destination for trade, investment, and tourism.

Looking ahead, Dr. Malo Alein continues to advocate for national projects that prioritize sustainable development, entrepreneurship, and tourism. He stresses the need for Jordan to capitalize on its rich historical and religious heritage to attract pilgrims from Africa and Asia and suggests simplifying visa processes to encourage more visitors.

Malo Alein is a strong supporter of small and individual businesses, which he says make up %90 of the market and are essential to generating economic activity. He firmly believes that Jordan's future lies in empowering its people, modernizing its industries, and embracing its role as a leader in regional tourism and economic growth.

As Dr. Malo Alein notes, "Jordan has immense potential—we just need to seize the opportunity." With his dedication, experience, and vision for Jordan's development, Dr. he remains committed to contributing to the country's future growth and progress.



100 Jordan: Celebrating five years of success and growth



Jordan Daily – Founded in 2020 with a starting capital of JD one million , 100 Jordan is a company driven by the vision of economic and social development in Jordan. Its journey, led by its founder and chairman Dr. Nedal Malo Alein , has been inspired by royal directives and the ambition to contribute to Jordan's long-term growth and prosperity.

Key Milestones

1.100Jordan (2019):The parent company was officially established, marking the start of its impactful presence in Jordan.

2.1010 Tourism and Hotels (2022):A subsidiary focused on real estate and tourism development. Its mission is to attract investments and enhance Jordan's tourism infrastructure.

3.JordanVisionsMarketingAgency(1998):Established earlier as the country's first marketing agency, Jordan Visions represents the Mlow family's legacy in trade and industry, which dates back to 1962 in metal furniture and restaurant equipment manufacturing, and to 1942 in logistics and transportation.

Community Contributions of 100Jordan

1. COVID19- Pandemic Response:

– Equipped the emergency ward at Nadim Hospital (Madaba) with seven hospital beds, including intensive care units and ventilators.

– Supplied emergency and maternity wards at

Princess Salma Hospital (Dhiban/Madaba).

–Distributed disinfection gates to numerous government ministries and institutions.

– Supplied paper and material disinfectant boxes.

– Provided masks and hand sanitizers to support public health.

2. Sports Support:

– Set up sports medicine clinics at Al-Faisaly Football Club.

– Equipped the sports medicine clinics at Prince Hashem Sports City (Madaba).

– Sponsored a gymnastics athlete preparing for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

– Sponsored the 2024 Arab and West Asian Beach Volleyball Championships.

3. Tourism Development:

– Promoted Jordan internationally during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar through gifts, tickets, online marketing, and a boat parade featuring the Jordanian flag.

– Built a tourist service center at the Makaros site in Madaba to support Christian pilgrim visitors.

– Developed a visitor service center in Petra to enhance tourism experiences at the iconic site.

4. Sponsorship of Conferences and Economic Forums:

- Sponsored major events organized by the Jordanian Economic Forum and Jordanian Businessmen’s Association.
- Supported key meetings between the Jordanian-European Business Association.
- Sponsored political and economic TV programs, such as *Friendly Fire*.
- Contributed to the Jordan Enterprise Development Corporation (JEDCO) entrepreneurship conference with ESCWA.
- Participated in specialized conferences like the Arab Parliament Conference on IT and AI in 2024, the Kingdom of Peace conferences, and the Global Social Media Conference.

Participation in Conferences and Delegations

100Jordan has actively engaged in international business and tourism forums, including:

- Jordan-Bahrain Higher Committee.
- Economic delegations to Hungary, Norway, Greece, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria.
- Francophone tourism conferences at the Dead Sea and in Paris.
- African Tourism Conference in Egypt.
- Various economic summits.

Chairman Dr. Nedal Malo Alein:

Dr. Nedal Malo Alein holds a Ph.D. in Project from the American Applied University, a Master’s in Strategic Management from a Swiss university, and



a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from the American Applied University. He has also completed advanced courses in strategic planning, change management, project management, leadership, and risk management from prestigious British and European institutions.

Professional Affiliations:

- Jordanian Businessmen Association
- Jordanian-European Business Association
- Jordan Economic Forum
- Jordan-British Chamber of Commerce
- American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan

Vision 2030

With a forward-looking strategy, 100Jordan is committed to furthering Jordan’s tourism and economic development. The company’s long-term vision focuses on enhancing sustainability, modernizing tourism sites, and aligning with the royal vision of elevating Jordan’s tourism sector. 100Jordan aims to strengthen partnerships, empower youth and women, and promote environmental sustainability while investing in Jordan’s future growth.

In just five years, 100Jordan has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable development across various sectors in Jordan. From healthcare and tourism to sports and economic development, the company’s initiatives have helped drive national progress. By aligning its goals with royal aspirations, 100Jordan continues to play a pivotal role in shaping Jordan’s future.



Jordan signs 242\$ million investment agreement with APM Terminals to develop Aqaba Port



Jordan Daily – Jordan has signed on Wednesday an agreement with APM Terminals, one of the world's largest port operators, for the joint development and management of Aqaba's container port, with an estimated direct investment of 242\$ million.

The signing, witnessed by Prime Minister Dr. Jafar Hassan, is expected to boost Aqaba Port's competitiveness both regionally and internationally, enhancing its capacity to attract foreign investment and solidify its role as a vital hub for trade and supply chains.

This agreement aligns with Jordan's economic modernization vision, which aims to stimulate both local and foreign investment to drive economic growth and expand job opportunities. Approved by the Cabinet last week, the project is seen as a successful example of public-private partnership, building on the ongoing collaboration between Aqaba Development Corporation (ADC) and APM Terminals, which has been in place since 2006.

Under the agreement, APM Terminals, a subsidiary of global shipping and logistics giant Maersk, will implement various projects, including significant infrastructure and port equipment upgrades. This will involve measures aimed at reducing carbon emissions as part of a broader initiative to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, positioning Aqaba as one of the region's pioneering green ports.

The 242\$ million investment will increase the port's capacity to more than 1.7 million TEUs, meeting Jordan's shipping needs for the next two decades, including transit trade for neighboring countries. APM Terminals will also provide enhanced access to global shipping lines, bolstering Aqaba Port's role in facilitating Jordan's exports to international markets.

The agreement includes provisions for the ADC to earn an estimated 2.5\$ billion in revenue between 2024 and 2046, in addition to taxes and broader contributions to Jordan's economy. APM Terminals has agreed to refrain from establishing competing port contracts within the region, securing Aqaba Port's preferential status.

Further supporting local development, the agreement allows Aqaba Container Terminal to contribute approximately 500,000 Jordanian dinars to the Aqaba Center of Excellence. This funding will support training programs to enhance the capabilities of Jordanian personnel across various economic sectors.

The agreement was signed by Hussein Safadi, CEO of ADC, and Keith Svendsen, CEO of APM Terminals, with the attendance of Minister of Government Communication Dr. Mohammad Al-Momani, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Mohannad Shehadeh, and Chief Commissioner of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority Nayef Fayeze.

Jordanian SMEs expand into Saudi market through USAID-supported initiative



Jordan Daily – Sixteen small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from Jordan’s service sector have successfully expanded into the Saudi market as part of the “Exporting Services to the Saudi Market” initiative, funded by USAID Business Growth Activity, with technical support from Beyond Consulting.

The initiative included businesses from the Information and Communication Technology (ICT), training, consulting services, and logistics sectors. It aimed at helping Jordanian service providers tap into new opportunities in Saudi Arabia.

The initiative has significantly expanded the regional footprint of Jordanian SMEs, positioning them as competitive players in one of the Middle East’s most dynamic economies. It also fostered stronger commercial ties between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, laying the groundwork for future business ventures and growth.

The initiative played a key role in driving success for the SMEs, facilitating the closure of business

deals for six companies and securing partnership agreements for two others. Additionally, it led to more than 120 business development interventions, leading to 11 deals and five high-impact strategic partnerships. The project generated an export value of SAR 1.7 million, demonstrating its significant impact.

The “Exporting Services to the Saudi Market” initiative has strengthened the presence of Jordanian service providers in the Saudi market, enhancing their reputation as reliable business partners. By fostering long-term market connections and building robust relationships, Jordanian SMEs are now better equipped to navigate regional markets and expand their operations beyond borders.

As Jordanian businesses capitalize on their foothold in Saudi Arabia, the initiative is expected to drive ongoing economic cooperation and mutual growth between the two countries.



Bridging the gap: How Luminus is tackling Jordan's labor market mismatches

Jordan Daily – Mr. Ghazi Al-Daboubi, the Project Management Office (PMO) Director at Luminus Technical University College (LTUC), a subsidiary of the Luminus Group, outlined the critical issues confronting Jordan's business, education, and technical sectors. While acknowledging the significant hurdles, he expressed optimism about the reforms underway and highlighted initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between education and labor market demands.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Daily, Daboubi began by identifying three key challenges that have long impeded workforce development in the country: the mismatch between the skills provided by educational institutions and those sought by employers, the geographic divide between job seekers and employment opportunities, and the enduring social stigma attached to technical and service-sector jobs.

The first issue, he explained, is a "skill mismatch" that leaves many graduates ill-prepared for the demands of the labor market. "The education and training providers in Jordan are not offering the skills that businesses require," he said, underscoring the frustration among both graduates and employers who find themselves out of sync.

Equally problematic, according to Mr. Daboubi, is the geographic mismatch. Many job seekers, he noted, live in rural areas, far from where the jobs are. "Job seekers are often located in the countryside, while the available jobs are in cities, miles away from their homes," he said. This distance, combined with relatively low wages, forces workers to contend with high transportation costs or the need to relocate, which often makes employment unviable.

A more ingrained issue is what Daboubi described as the "social stigma" surrounding technical and service-oriented jobs, particularly those that require night shifts, such as roles in the hospitality industry. "There is a cultural reluctance to accept certain types of work, like overnight shifts for female employees in hotels or technical jobs," he said. This perception, he added, "will take time to change."

Nevertheless, Daboubi pointed to the hospitality sector as an example of success. 15 years ago, less than 5 percent of workers in Jordan's five-star hotels were Jordanians, he noted. Today, that figure stands



at 95 percent. "This shift is the result of long-term awareness campaigns and efforts to change social perceptions," he said, adding that this success shows what can be achieved through persistence.

He also addressed the working conditions in Jordan's technical and business sectors, where issues such as safety, health insurance, and insufficient vacation time remain challenges. "The state has addressed some of these issues, like social security, but there is still a long way to go," he said. "However, I believe these problems can be solved with the right public policies."

At the core of Luminus's strategy, Daboubi explained, is a focus on aligning educational programs with the actual needs of the labor market. Unlike other institutions, Luminus starts by analyzing the demands of the private sector and then designs its programs accordingly. "We don't wait for students to graduate and then start looking for jobs," he said. "We begin by researching what the labor market requires and build our programs from there."

According to Daboubi, Luminus has invested significant resources in this approach. "We've spent a great deal on understanding the labor market in Jordan and the Middle East," he said, noting that LTUC's research-driven approach allows it to anticipate and meet the needs of employers.

Luminus has also forged partnerships with international organizations such as USAID, the European Union, UNICEF, and UNESCO, as well

as regional entities like Al Ghurair and the Qatar Foundation. These partnerships have played a critical role in shaping Luminus's programs. "We are a business-oriented institution, but our focus is on making a social impact," Daboubi said, emphasizing the university's mission to improve lives through education and training.

He also highlighted Luminus's commitment to supporting marginalized groups, including women, youth, refugees and those living in rural areas, through specialized programs and scholarships. "We are always focused on evidence-based strategies," he said, stressing the importance of data in guiding LTUC's initiatives.

Looking ahead, Daboubi said that Luminus has ambitious plans to expand its model beyond Jordan to the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. However, he emphasized that the institution's primary focus remains on solidifying its foundation within Jordan. "We want to prove ourselves here before expanding further," he said.

Currently, Luminus offers a range of programs, from BTEC

Technical Diplomas to boot camps in areas like media and filmmaking, coding, cyber security, cloud computing and electric, hybrid automotive maintenance. Daboubi estimated that around 75 percent of students are self-funded, with the remainder receiving support from international donors. "Our graduates are leaving here with real skills, and they are finding good jobs both locally and abroad," he said.

Among the success stories, he mentioned graduates who have gone on to work in the United States, earning competitive salaries. "Some of our graduates are making over a million dollars a year," he said. However, he emphasized that Luminus remains focused on long-term development and sustainable growth.

Daboubi concluded with a reflection on Luminus's broader mission. "Our vision is to create 25,000 decent and sustainable jobs for Jordanians by 2030," he said. "We believe in the power of education to transform lives."

Sri Lanka eyes Jordanian olive oil and Dead Sea salts in new trade push

Jordan Daily – The Chairman of Al-Salt Chamber of Commerce, Saad Bazbaz Al-Hayari, held talks on Wednesday with Sri Lankan Ambassador to Jordan, Priyangika Wijegunasekera, on strengthening commercial and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Hayari, joined by the Mayor of Greater Salt Municipality, Engineer Mohammad Al-Hayari, emphasized the importance of enhancing collaborative opportunities to expand trade across various sectors.

He noted a significant increase in trade volumes between Jordan and Sri Lanka over the past two years, highlighting Jordan's primary imports from Sri Lanka, which include textiles, tea, coffee, spices, and coconut. Meanwhile, Jordan exports iron products, furniture, chemical products, and apparel to Sri Lanka.

Ambassador Wijegunasekera underscored the progress made



in Jordan-Sri Lanka relations, particularly in trade and investment.

She stressed the importance of further strengthening economic and trade ties, noting Sri Lanka's considerable cooperation in industrial sectors and labor exchange, with Sri Lankan workers employed in Jordan's industrial cities.

She expressed Sri Lanka's interest in expanding the trade volume between the two countries, pointing to a demand in the Sri

Lankan market for products such as olive oil and Dead Sea salts. Wijegunasekera also confirmed Sri Lanka's willingness to facilitate Jordanian companies' entry into the Sri Lankan market.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both parties agreed to organize joint economic events aimed at bolstering commercial and cultural cooperation, as well as facilitating educational exchanges to promote shared cultural understanding.

True Matters Jordan, Cyber Wales forge strategic cybersecurity partnership



Jordan Daily – In a significant step towards enhancing digital collaboration, True Matters Jordan met with Cyber Wales on Tuesday at the Special Operations Forces Exhibition and Conference (SOFEX) in Aqaba. The meeting aimed to strengthen the Jordan-UK partnership in the realm of digital solidarity and cybersecurity.

Building on a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Cyber Wales and True Matters Jordan, the partnership seeks to commemorate the 28th anniversary of SOFEX by advancing key initiatives in cybersecurity.

Brigadier General (Ret.) Sahm AlJamal, CTO and Co-Founder of True Matters, expressed confidence in the growing collaboration. He emphasized the potential for developing a cyber cluster, a Cyber Skills Growth Working Group, Cyber Accelerator Initiatives, and a Cyber Incubation Centre in Jordan.

In a statement sent to the Jordan Daily, the partnership is poised to play a crucial role in fostering a digital economy in Jordan, with a focus on investing in cyber skills and enhancing cyber trade relations with the UK.

Marc Del-Valle, a member of Cyber Wales' Board of Advisors, highlighted Jordan's emerging leadership in cybersecurity. He noted that the development of a Cyber Centre for Excellence, in collaboration with international partners like Cyber Wales, will be pivotal in ensuring online security in the country.

Del-Valle stressed the importance of international cooperation in addressing the growing threats in the digital space. "It is not possible for any country to tackle cybersecurity challenges alone," he said, emphasizing the need for collective action and the implementation of best practices.

Mohammad Waddah, CEO of True Matters, echoed this sentiment, stating, "Cyber trade and investment between Jordan and the United Kingdom are set to advance significantly. In a digitally connected world, it is impossible for any single country to face ever-increasing cyber threats alone. We look forward to working closely with UK cyber companies, our long-standing trade and development partner, to create a collective cybersecurity ecosystem in collaboration with Cyber Wales."

John Davies MBE, Co-Founder and Chairman of Cyber Wales, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, recognizing Jordan's strong talent pool in ICT and telecommunications. "Cyber Wales is proud to contribute to enhancing cyber capabilities in a nation with which we have a long-standing relationship. Welsh cyber companies, supported by our universities, are at the forefront of many UK national cyber programs, and we are eager to share best practices and collaborate on various projects," said Davies.

Eng. Faheem Azhar, International Strategic Advisor for Cyber Wales, underscored the growing relationship between the two organizations. He also acknowledged the visit of the President of the National Cyber Security Center (NCSC) Jordan to SOFEX, where they discussed opportunities for collaboration across business, academia, law enforcement, and defense sectors.

Azhar revealed plans for a return visit to Jordan later this year, further solidifying the partnership. He concluded by expressing gratitude to the President of NCSC Jordan for their visit, which he sees as a significant step forward in the ongoing collaboration between True Matters Jordan and Cyber Wales.

ECOVIS' Saleh stresses vocational education and localized development for Jordan

Jordan Daily – ECOVIS, a global consulting firm founded in Germany in 1909, now operates in over 94 countries. The firm's name, derived from "economic" and "vision," reflects its mission to bridge the gap between the economy and investment through consulting.

Dr. Fathi Saleh, managing partner of ECOVIS Jordan, brings extensive experience from his previous roles as a senior partner at top4- international consulting firms in the Middle East. Saleh, a certified public accountant from the United States, also holds various international certifications in finance, accounting, valuation, and investment.

ECOVIS Jordan, a member of ECOVIS International, brings 35 years of expertise in audit, accounting, management consulting, transaction advisory, investment management, and business development, with more than 2\$ billion in executed deals across the MENA region.

"ECOVIS Jordan has been serving a diverse clientele including international companies, NGOs, banks, insurance firms, and manufacturing companies," Saleh said in an interview with the Jordan Daily. "Our expertise extends beyond Jordan, encompassing projects in the Gulf region, Asia and Africa."

Saleh noted that ECOVIS Jordan has played a pivotal role in serving mega projects in various sectors including GSM, financial institutions, manufacturing, technology, education, health care, NGOs, and various other sectors.

"In many investments, we go beyond advisory roles to ensure sustainability and successful operations," Saleh explained. "We identify business opportunities, conduct business valuations, secure capital funding, optimize value, and enhance controls over operations."

Saleh emphasized the firm's holistic approach, which includes enhancing human resources, serving the local community, and improving overall experiences. "We focus on the four economic factors: land, capital, human resources, and organization behavior.

Jordan's young population, with %54 under the age of 24, presents significant potential. "Our responsibility extends to addressing community issues like education and employment," Saleh said. "We conducted various extensive studies on education and employment, recognizing that each Jordanian family is affected by these issues."

Saleh stressed the importance of evaluating higher education along with its inputs from secondary schools. "Effective outputs require strong inputs," he noted. "We concentrate on pre-graduation (grades 1 to 12) and from



university to career end. We've developed an online platform to align university outputs with labor market needs."

The platform integrates three key areas: university output, labor market needs, and professional unions and associations status and requirements. "By using our platform, students gain insights into labor market demands, easing their job search post-graduation," Saleh said.

Dr. Saleh emphasized the dual pillars of education and employment as fundamental to societal development and sustainable economic growth. He noted the necessity of shifting towards vocational and technical education, challenging prevailing societal norms, and highlighting the importance of skill-building alongside academic education.

Saleh pointed out that %33 of the global economy volume consists of countries with negative population growth rates, creating job opportunities for young Jordanians. He advocated for a unified and realistic education strategy, stressing the need for financial resources to achieve desired goals. He also highlighted the importance of academic and career counseling for high school students to help them choose fields that align with future job markets and their skills, abilities, and interests.

Saleh emphasized the role of families in supporting educational institutions to elevate education standards. He noted that approximately %80 of newly created jobs are concentrated in three governorates: Amman, Irbid, and Zarqa, underscoring the need for localized development focus.

He concluded that training and employment platforms are strategic partners for universities in achieving a promising future for youth, bridging the gap between educational outcomes and the rapidly changing labor market demands.

13 Jordanian companies head to SIAL Paris to expand in European and African markets



Jordan Daily – Thirteen Jordanian food companies will participate in the SIAL Paris food industry exhibition, set to open on October 19 in Paris, according to the Jordan Exporters Association (JEA).

The participating companies specialize in a variety of food sectors, including dairy, chocolate, traditional sweets, soft drinks, confectionery, and nuts.

Ahmad Al-Khodari, the President of the JEA, emphasized in a statement on Saturday that SIAL Paris, which runs for five days, is one of the world's premier food exhibitions. "The Jordanian participation reflects the association's commitment to promoting local products and exploring new markets to boost exports," he said.

Al-Khodari noted that the JEA is focused on providing Jordanian exporters with a platform to expand their presence in European markets. "France serves as an important gateway for Jordanian industrial products to reach African markets, especially with the participation of African business figures at the exhibition," he added.

He highlighted that the event offers a significant opportunity for trade and knowledge exchange in the food manufacturing sector, with around 7,500 exhibitors representing 130 countries. "The exhibition provides a valuable chance to connect with industry

stakeholders from around the globe," he said.

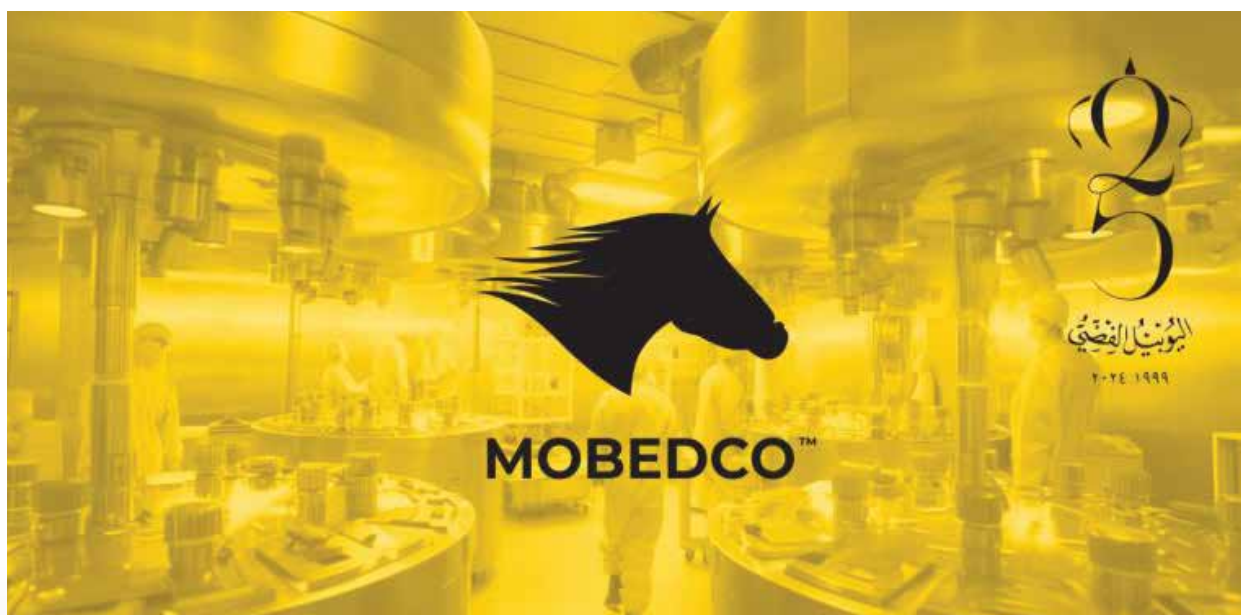
As part of the JEA's broader goals, Al-Khodari underscored the association's ongoing efforts to support manufacturers from various sectors by helping them access export markets through international exhibitions, seminars, and workshops. These initiatives aim to leverage trade agreements that connect Jordan to major international trade blocs.

Halim Abu Rahmeh, the JEA's Director General, expressed optimism that the Jordanian pavilion, covering 160 square meters, would yield positive results and attract the interest of buyers and importers. "SIAL Paris draws traders and importers from France, Europe, and Africa, and includes exhibitors from Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia," he noted.

Abu Rahmeh emphasized the JEA's commitment to finding new and non-traditional markets for Jordanian products through participation in specialized exhibitions that promote industrial goods and facilitate business deals.

"Diversifying export markets is vital for local industries," he stated, "and we always look for opportunities to take part in international exhibitions that can bolster the visibility of Jordanian products."

Mobedco showcases robust H2024 1 performance, sets stage for future growth



Jordan Daily – In a remarkable display of resilience and strategic prowess, the Arab Pesticides & Veterinary Drugs Manufacturing Co. (Mobedco) has reported impressive financial results for the first half of 2024.

The company's financial statements for the period ending June 2024 ,30, underscore significant growth across key financial metrics, signaling a robust outlook for the remainder of the year.

Mobedco's total assets surged to JOD 52.13 million, a notable increase from JOD 48.15 million as of December 2023 ,31. This upward trajectory is driven by strategic investments in non-current assets, which climbed to JOD 12.20 million from JOD 10.79 million. Investments in property, plant, and equipment were particularly strong, rising to JOD 8.40 million from JOD 7.63 million, while projects under construction saw an uptick to JOD 3.02 million from JOD 2.44 million.

On the current assets front, Mobedco's figures rose to JOD 39.94 million from JOD 37.36 million, with accounts receivable reaching JOD 14.95 million, up from JOD 13.74 million. This growth is complemented by an increase in cash and cash equivalents, which expanded to JOD 5.39 million from JOD 4.48 million.

Shareholders' equity has also seen a commendable rise, improving to JOD 33.78 million from JOD 32.56 million. This growth is underpinned by an increase

in retained earnings, which rose to JOD 12.63 million from JOD 11.32 million. Including non-controlling interests, total equity reached JOD 41.88 million, up from JOD 40.00 million.

The income statement highlights the company's strong operational performance. Net sales increased to JOD 16.30 million, up from JOD 15.05 million in the same period of 2023, demonstrating robust demand for the company's products. Gross profit rose to JOD 5.73 million from JOD 4.90 million, indicating improved operational efficiency and cost management. Net profit saw a commendable rise to JOD 3.73 million, up from JOD 3.29 million, attributable to enhanced cost management and higher sales.

Earnings per share also reflected this positive trend, with basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to shareholders at JOD 0.179, compared to JOD 0.174 in the same period last year.

Mobedco's performance reflects not just its resilience in a challenging market environment but also its strategic acumen in navigating complexities and seizing growth opportunities.

Established in 1991 and listed on the Amman Stock Exchange, Mobedco has carved a niche for itself in the production of pesticides and veterinary medicines, contributing significantly to agricultural productivity and animal health.

Agriculture saves Jordan JD 800 million, livestock exports surge %260



JordanDaily – Minister of Agriculture, Khaled Hneifat, stated that the agricultural sector's continued growth in the second quarter was driven by the implementation of the Economic Modernization Program and the National Plan for Sustainable Agriculture. These initiatives have positively impacted the sector through the integration of production inputs, a reduction in imports, and an increase in exports.

Hneifat highlighted that the agricultural sector helped save up to JD 800 million by reducing imports of fruits and vegetables while boosting

agricultural exports. He also noted a significant rise in livestock exports, which surged by over %260.

According to a quarterly report by the Department of Statistics, preliminary estimates show that most economic sectors experienced growth in the second quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

The report revealed that agriculture recorded the highest growth rate during this period, with a %6.2 increase, contributing 0.24 percentage points to the overall growth rate.



Raising minimum wage in Jordan: A necessity

Jordan Daily – In the midst of our region's volatile political climate, as the Israeli occupying state intensifies its aggressive expansionism and tensions escalate to unprecedented heights, discussing economic issues like raising the minimum wage may seem like a luxury, far removed from our top-of-mind priorities. Yet by ignoring economic dimensions during crises, we weaken our ability to confront the challenges we face on social, economic, and political levels.

Implementing a minimum wage policy provides both individuals and families with income necessary to meet basic needs. Such a policy is considered one of the cornerstones of countries aiming to achieve social balance, reduce poverty, and enhance social protection – with more than %90 of countries worldwide applying a minimum wage policy in various ways.

The minimum wage is defined as the lowest level of pay that a worker should receive to cover their essential needs and ensure a dignified life for themselves and their families, especially for newcomers to the labor market and those with limited skills. However, in many sectors of the Jordanian economy, the minimum wage is treated as the maximum wage. When the minimum wage is treated as a cap, its fundamental role in enabling progress towards social justice is undermined.

Looking at international experiences, we find that raising the minimum wage is often based on an analysis of social and economic criteria that include the poverty line, dependency ratios, and inflation levels. In Jordan, the poverty line calculated using 2016 figures shows that the monthly poverty threshold for an individual is approximately 100 dinars, meaning that the minimum required to cover the needs of a standard family (comprising 4.8 members) should reach around 480 dinars monthly. Further, since 2016, Jordan has witnessed an accumulated inflation rate of about %20, indicating a significant increase in the poverty line.

Based on these indicators, the current minimum wage of 260 dinars is clearly far from covering the basic needs of families. In this context, the Jordanian Trade Union Confederation calls for raising the minimum wage to 300 dinars per month. However, while important, this demand still remains insufficient



to address the current economic challenges facing families today.

Some oppose a minimum wage policy despite its social welfare importance, arguing that such policies negatively impact unemployment rates and economic growth. Applied economic research describes varying outcomes in response to this claim. In many countries, no negative effects were observed, although in some limited cases, raising the minimum wage has led to a slight decrease in employment rates among less-skilled groups. On the other hand, studies have shown that increasing the minimum wage often boosts domestic consumption demand, which is the engine for fueling economic growth, increasing job opportunities, and thereby stimulating the economy.

Raising the minimum wage is not merely an economic issue, as some business leaders might view it; rather, it is a social and economic necessity. A minimum wage is critical to ensuring a minimum level of social justice, reducing economic inequality, and stimulating the economy. Given the current challenges facing society, it is essential to adopt economic policies that contribute to maintaining stability in Jordan, as well as stimulate domestic consumption to break free from the cycle of economic stagnation we have been experiencing for the past 15 years, and finally, to ensure a decent life for citizens.

Ahmad Awad is the founder and director of the Phenix Center for Economic Studies, specializes in human rights and socio-economic issues. Advocate for human rights and promoting democracy and civil society at local, Arab, and international levels.

Taiwan celebrates National Day, highlights strategic, and economic ties with Jordan



Jordan Daily – Taiwan celebrated on Wednesday its National Day with a reception hosted by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Jordan, where Representative Ali Yang underscored Taiwan’s strategic role in global trade, economic success, and its growing partnership with Jordan.

In his remarks, Yang outlined Taiwan’s economic accomplishments, citing the country’s role in the global supply chain. Taiwan ranks 19th in the world for trade volume, with a Gross National Product that is 22nd globally.

He noted that Taiwan produces over %60 of the world’s semiconductors and %90 of its high-end chips, supporting the international technology sector. In 2023, Taiwan’s trade volume reached 784.4\$ billion, and by year-end, Taiwanese investments abroad amounted to 455.8\$ billion, largely driven by high-tech industries. Taiwan is ranked as the eighth most competitive economy globally, according to the Global Competitiveness Yearbook 2024 published by the Swiss-based IMD.

Yang highlighted Taiwan’s strategic importance, particularly the Taiwan Strait—a key route for global trade where %50 of the world’s container shipping passes and over 1.5 million flights cross annually. “Maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is essential for global trade,” Yang noted. Taiwan has taken steps to bolster its defense capabilities and strengthen partnerships with countries that value peace, he added.

Despite the absence of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan and Jordan enjoy a strong, cooperative relationship, Yang said. Taiwan is one of Jordan’s largest investors, with eight textile factories providing 7,000

jobs and contributing %6 to Jordan’s annual exports. Bilateral trade reached 380\$ million last year, with Taiwan sourcing essential minerals from Jordan, such as phosphorus and potassium fertilizers.

Yang also praised Jordan’s humanitarian efforts in hosting millions of refugees from conflict zones, acknowledging the country’s contributions to regional stability. Taiwan has partnered with Jordan to provide aid for thousands of refugees and local families, collaborating with various Jordanian government bodies and non-governmental organizations.



“Taiwan and Jordan play crucial roles in maintaining stability in the Far East and the Middle East, respectively,” Yang said. “We share values of peace, human rights, and the rule of law.” He expressed hopes for continued collaboration between the two countries amid global challenges.

The evening reception featured Taiwanese delicacies, tea, coffee, and a virtual reality experience by HTC, offering guests a taste of Taiwanese innovation and culture.

Korean Ambassador calls for unity in pursuit of peace at National Day reception



Jordan Daily – The Republic of Korea’s Ambassador to Jordan, Pilwoo Kim, called for a united global effort to promote peace and humanity, during a reception held on Wednesday to mark Korea’s National Day.

The event, which took place a day ahead of Korea’s National Day on October 3, celebrated “Gae-Cheon-Jeol” or “the day the heavens opened,” marking the founding of the first Korean kingdom in 2,333 BC, more than 4,000 years ago.

“Four millennia is a vast stretch of time,” Kim said, “but the true essence lies in the vision of our founding fathers: to broadly benefit the world and help others.” He highlighted the principles instilled by Korea’s forefathers, who emphasized living not just for oneself or one’s own nation, but for the well-being of all humanity.

These values, Kim added during the reception attended by the Minister State for Foreign Affairs Nancy Namrouqa , ambassadors, and public figures, have guided Korea’s foreign policy, which remains rooted in commitments to democracy, human rights, a rules-based international order, multilateralism, and mutual respect.

The Ambassador praised Jordan for its humanitarian efforts in hosting millions of refugees from neighboring countries, describing the Kingdom as a stabilizing force in the region. “We deeply appreciate this vital role of Jordan,” he

said, noting the shared values between the two countries, particularly their mutual respect for culture, tradition, and human dignity.

Marking six decades of bilateral relations, the ambassador underscored Korea’s role as one of Jordan’s key partners in development, particularly in water resources management and vocational training.

Acknowledging the turmoil in the region, Kim emphasized the importance of collective global efforts for peace. “We do not take this celebration for granted,” he said, referring to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, including fresh violence witnessed the previous evening.

He concluded by encouraging attendees to reflect on the need for a safer, more secure world—a vision, he said, that Korea’s founders had foreseen 4,000 years ago.



Ambassador Chuandong highlights China's global leadership and economic growth



Jordan Daily – Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Chen Chuandong marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at a reception Wednesday in Amman, underscoring China's global milestones and the expanding partnership with Jordan.

In his remarks, Ambassador Chuandong reflected on China's rapid transformation over the past 75 years. He cited the country's significant economic growth, noting its share of the global economy increased from %1.7 in 1978 to approximately %17 in 2023. He also pointed out China's leadership in areas such as space exploration, quantum information science, and renewable energy technology.

"China has become a world leader in manned spaceflight, lunar exploration, quantum information science, and new energy technology," Chuandong said. He added that China's high-speed rail network is the largest in the world, and over %60 of the world's 5G base stations are located in China.

He underscored China's efforts in poverty alleviation, mentioning that nearly 800 million people in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty over the past 75 years. He also noted China's role as a major trading partner for over 140 countries, as well as its contributions to global development through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, which Jordan has joined.

Chuandong praised Jordan's role in addressing regional conflicts, particularly the ongoing crisis in Gaza. "From the outset, China has firmly pushed for ceasefire, upheld international justice, and provided humanitarian aid," he said, lauding Jordan's humanitarian efforts under the leadership of King Abdullah II.

Highlighting the 25th anniversary of King Abdullah II's

reign, the ambassador congratulated Jordan on its progress in nation-building and modernization. He expressed confidence that China and Jordan would continue to strengthen their partnership in the years to come.

Bilateral ties between China and Jordan have grown steadily since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1977. In 2024, the two countries have seen an expansion in high-level exchanges and economic cooperation. A Chinese company recently began production at a new garment factory in Aqaba, while another is partnering with the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority to develop an industrial park with an expected investment of over 1\$ billion. China has also entered into a green hydrogen production partnership with Jordan.

In addition to economic collaboration, Chuandong highlighted cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries. More than 500 Chinese students are currently studying in Jordan, and Chinese cultural events, including performances at the Jerash Festival, have been well-received.

Concluding his remarks, Chuandong introduced several Jordanian students and young people in attendance who had received Chinese Ambassador Scholarships. He expressed gratitude to organizations that have supported China-Jordan relations, including the Jordanian-Chinese Friendship Association and the Jordan-China Cultural Cooperation Committee.

Ambassador Chuandong ended by wishing continued prosperity for China and lasting friendship between China and Jordan.

Malaysian Embassy in Amman celebrates National Day



Jordan Daily – The Malaysian Embassy in Amman hosted a reception to mark Malaysia’s National Day and Malaysia Day, with officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and other guests in attendance. Minister of Culture, Mustapha Al-Rawashdeh, was the guest of honor at the event.

“Malaysia turns 67 this year, a testament to 67 years of nation-building, unity, and prosperity despite our diverse ethnicities, religions, and customs,” said Malaysian Ambassador Mohamad Nasri Abdul Rahman. He highlighted Malaysia’s transformation from a resource-based economy during colonial times to one of the fastest-growing economies today, driven by manufacturing and services.

Ambassador Abdul Rahman also spoke on the strong ties between Malaysia and Jordan, which date back to 1965. The two countries have cooperated across various sectors, including tourism, education, Islamic banking, pharmaceuticals, and energy , expressing optimism that trade and investment between the countries would continue to grow.



Additionally, Malaysia is actively working with Jordan to address humanitarian needs in Gaza. “We have partnered with Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Department of Palestinian Affairs on multiple relief efforts,” said the ambassador. Malaysia has also supported Palestinian cancer patients in collaboration with the King Hussein Cancer Centre and contributed to the maintenance of the Al-Aqsa Mosque through Jordan’s Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs.

Education remains a cornerstone of bilateral ties, with 1,856 Malaysian students currently studying in Jordan and 1,603 Jordanians enrolled at Malaysian universities. “The partnership between our academic institutions is stronger than ever,” the ambassador said, noting 28 active Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and 191 Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) supporting joint research initiatives.

Jordan has been a recipient of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) since 1986. As of July 510 ,2024 Jordanians have participated in MTCP programs across sectors like agriculture, finance, education, and technology, the Ambassador concluded.

Minister Al-Rawashdeh congratulated Malaysia on its National Day, emphasizing the enduring friendship between the two countries. “Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in the mid-1960s, Jordan and Malaysia have enjoyed growing ties, particularly in politics and academia,” he said, adding that thousands of Malaysian students are studying Arabic and Islamic law at Jordanian universities.

Bulgarian Embassy marks National Day



Jordan Daily – The Embassy of Bulgaria celebrated its National Day yesterday, marking 116 years of independence at a reception attended by dignitaries, including Minister of Youth Yazan al Shdeifat and various ambassadors.

In a speech highlighting the day's significance, Bulgarian Ambassador Metin Kazak emphasized the sacrifices made by Bulgarians for their freedom. This year also marks 60 years of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and Jordan, which Kazak described as a vital partnership in the Middle East.

Kazak praised Jordan's "Aqaba Process," an initiative led by His Majesty King Abdullah II aimed at combating terrorism and promoting regional stability. Bulgaria plans to host a summit next year as part of this initiative, expressing hope that King Abdullah II will attend.

Education was another focal point, with over 1,500 Jordanian students graduating from Bulgarian universities in recent years. The Bulgarian government aims to attract more students, particularly in medical and engineering fields, to enhance educational exchange, Kazak noted.

The Ambassador indicated tourism cooperation between the two countries is also increasing. Last year, about 10,000 Bulgarians visited Jordan, and efforts are underway to boost the number of Jordanian tourists traveling to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has supported Jordan through its Official Development Aid policy, funding local projects aimed at employment, women's empowerment, and agricultural production. An upcoming project will provide emergency first aid training for female-headed households in the Zaatari Camp.

Kazak also addressed recent regional developments, expressing concern over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza and emphasizing the need for a renewed peace process, advocating for a two-state solution as essential for lasting peace.

Ambassador Kazak expressed gratitude to sponsors and partners, reinforcing the commitment to deepening ties between Bulgaria and Jordan. Kazak called for continued unity around shared values of peace and solidarity.

Minister Al Shdeifat underscored the depth of the bilateral relations between Jordan and Bulgaria across various fields, particularly in youth engagement.

He expressed hope for enhanced cooperation through a joint executive program, the exchange of youth experiences, and the strengthening of cultural and youth exchange programs between the two friendly countries.



HORECA Jordan 2024 showcases hospitality and food service

Jordan Daily – Deputized by Lina Annab the Minister of Tourism & Antiquities, Dr. Abed Al Razzaq Arabiyat Managing Director of the Jordan Tourism Board opened today HORECA JORDAN's 9th Edition.

The event organizers are proud to announce the 9th Edition of "HORECA JORDAN. The exhibition will take place on the 1st- 3rd of October 2024 at the Jordan International Exhibition Center – Mecca Mall – Gate 3.

With the launch of its 9th Edition, HORECA JORDAN has become the only international forum in the Kingdom specialized in catering to the Hospitality and Food Service Industry. As a result of its ongoing success, HORECA JOEDAN is now positioned as the ideal destination for all employees that are related to the sector; not only in Jordan but also in various regional and international countries. HORECA Jordan has demonstrated great success in the Hospitality and Food Service industry

HORECA JORDAN is supported by: The Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities, Jordan Tourism Board, The Hotel Association, Jordan Restaurant Associational.

HORECA is considered one of the largest and most significant international exhibitions taking place in the Middle East. Dating back to the year of establishment, HORECA was founded in Beirut 29 years ago and has then penetrated a few other markets including Kuwait Riyadh, Jeddah & Oman. As such, Nine years ago, two Jordanian companies have attained privileged rights to organize and host the exhibition in the Kingdom; thereby introducing the birth of HORECA in



Jordan.

Following the great success held over the previous years; the event organizers are determined to make the current edition an event more exceptional one with higher level of organization and professionalism in order to achieve greater success.

The three-days exhibition includes exhibits of more than 120 brands from local Jordanian and international companies that are related to the sector. As such, the event organizers are witnessing a stronger demand from local and international companies who are eager to participate and attend the current exhibition. Furthermore, Exhibitors will benefit from the meetings provided by the event organizers of HORECA Jordan to ensure the success of these partnerships; especially that Jordan is witnessing a remarkable growth in the number of touristic investments that includes existing touristic facilities. The HORECA exhibition also permits exhibitors that are seeking to sign contracts for the supply of goods and services to these establishments.

HORECA Jordan takes place annually with the support of the Ministry

of Tourism and Antiquities, the Jordan Tourism Board, the Jordan Restaurant Association and the Jordan Hotel Association. As such, the Salon Culinary Competition organized in cooperation with the support of the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts & the Jordanian Chefs Association. The event organizers have added Luminous Technical University college, Amman Al Ahliyyah University, Ammon Applied University to be part of the supporting team.

Each year the leading Jordanian companies operating in the Hospitality and Food sector participate in HORECA Jordan. As several companies are interested in sponsoring the activities that accompany the exhibition. With more than 10,000 visitors annually companies are able to appeal to a wider range of audience including existing and potential ones. It is important to note that the exhibition represents only those who are related to the sector and limits its visits exclusively to the Hospitality and Food Service Industry.

In addition, HORECA Jordan hosts a number of events and competitions related to the Hospitality and Food

Service industry. This includes, the SalonCulinaireHORECAcompetition, that is attended by chefs from Jordanian hotels and restaurants. This year we have more than a 150 chefs participating to compete in 25 categories of cooking and dessert display. In addition, Chef Thomas Gugler, President of the WACS World Chef organization a prominent figure participates annually in the Salon Culinaire Competition Jury, along with other renowned judges from all over the world to score the participants cooking efforts. The Barista competition, is considered one of the most important competitions that takes place annually. This year, a number of 16 competitors will participate under the supervision of a local, Arab & Regional 6 jury s. As well as the Art of Service competition which consist of numerous presentations, 10 participants & local & Celebrity 4 Jury s.

The Bed Making competition has a number of 18 participants from different local hotels competition under the supervision of 3 judges. Each year the event organizers come up with a different theme for competitors to prepare the bed creativity. Last year, the theme of the bed making competition was



“Romantic” and make it even more challenging for participants this year.

Additionally, a group of chefs, international WACS 12 culinary experts and hospitality from around the world are invited to take part in the international competitions & judging international events. This is done by appointing judges to host the international competitions while also awarding the winners with certificates, medals and prizes. The aim of the international competitions is to improve employee’s skills and performance in the hospitality sector in Jordan. This is done through the support and guidance they receive from experienced individuals and judges

that participate annually.

As previously mentioned, HORECA is not an exhibition that is dedicated to the public sector, thereby, making it an exclusive exhibition that is focused solely on the Hospitality and Food sector. HORECA has become the key destination to hold meetings between exhibitors, businessmen and guests. HORECA allows participants the opportunity to stay up to date with the latest trends and innovations in the hospitality and food service industry. It also seeks to highlight the development of the Jordanian tourism sector and the development of the Jordanian industrial and commercial companies operating in this field

Jordan welcomes 4.7 million tourists in first nine months of 2024

Jordan Daily – Jordan welcomed around 4.7 million tourists in the first nine months of this year, according to the latest statistical bulletin from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The bulletin indicated that approximately 4.021 million of these visitors were overnight tourists, while about 680,723 visited for a single day.

Tourism revenue for the first eight months of the year reached 4.951\$ billion, equivalent to around 3.515 billion Jordanian dinars, the bulletin noted.



Dr. Mohammad Abu Atieh: Championing CTG's regional leadership

Jordan Daily – Dr. Mohammad Abu Atieh, the Regional and Country Manager for Jordan at CTGI Renewable Energy Partners, has been influential in advancing Jordan's renewable energy sector. Since August 2022, under his leadership, several key projects have been acquired, marking a significant development in the region's clean energy landscape.

Dr. Abu Atieh emphasized the importance of Jordan's safe and stable investment environment, highlighting financial guarantees and sustainability as crucial factors for international investors. He pointed to Jordan's commitment to honoring agreements with foreign partners, particularly the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which provides the stability necessary for long-term energy investments. "The PPA framework in Jordan ensures that investors have the confidence they need to pursue large-scale projects," Abu Atieh noted.

Since the acquisitions began, Dr. Abu Atieh has set ambitious goals, focusing on expanding renewable energy portfolios in Jordan. "Our ambitions extend further than what we've already achieved. We are actively looking to acquire additional existing projects," he stated. Despite the current pause on new renewable projects due to grid constraints by the Jordanian government and the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO), Abu Atieh remains focused on expanding and optimizing current ventures.

His role extends beyond Jordan, with oversight of solar energy projects in Egypt, signaling a broader regional



commitment to renewable energy development.

More than just financial investments, Dr. Abu Atieh is passionate about fostering regional development and creating opportunities for local communities. "Our aim is to not only grow the energy sector but to support sustainable development by creating jobs and preserving local communities," he said. "We envision every governorate becoming a hub of growth, not just Amman."

Through his leadership, Dr. Abu Atieh is driving not only the growth of Jordan's energy sector but also contributing to regional socio-economic development by offering training and employment opportunities to local workers. His vision is shaping a sustainable future for communities across the Middle East.

Ayla Oasis launches first public EV charging station in Aqaba

Jordan Daily – Ayla Oasis Development Company inaugurated Aqaba's first public electric vehicle (EV) charging station on Wednesday, marking a significant step towards sustainable transport in Ayla and the wider Aqaba region.

The new station, launched in the presence of Hamzah Al-Haj Hassan, Deputy Chairman and Commissioner of Economic Development and Tourism at the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, features two fast-charging units with Direct Current (DC) and one Alternating Current (AC) charging unit. The station offers a variety of connectors to accommodate different EV models, ensuring reliable and high-quality services for users.

Sahl Dudin, Managing Director of Ayla Oasis



Development Company, emphasized the importance of the new EV charging services in supporting Ayla's sustainable transport initiatives and advancing the country green transition.

Jordan Strategy Forum calls for reassessment of special taxes on electric vehicles



Jordan Daily – In light of the increasing adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and their significant impact on transportation and environmental sustainability, the Jordan Strategy Forum urges the government to reconsider its recent decision to impose special taxes on electric vehicles. This move comes amidst a backdrop of rising fuel efficiency and declining public revenues from fuel taxes, which are traditionally used to finance vital infrastructure and public services.

As global sales of electric vehicles soar—from 7,000 battery electric cars in 2010 to 9.5 million in 2023—the demand for sustainable transportation options continues to grow. In Jordan, over %45 of vehicle sales are now electric, positioning the country as a regional leader in EV adoption. However, the newly imposed special taxes, particularly on affordable electric vehicles priced between JD 10,000 and JD 25,000, disproportionately affect middle-income households.

The Forum emphasizes that instead of increasing taxes on electric vehicles, the government should explore alternative revenue-generating measures, such as a moderate increase in vehicle registration fees across all categories. This approach would provide a steady income stream while supporting the transition to cleaner energy sources, ensuring that Jordan keeps pace with global trends in sustainable transportation.

As the Kingdom moves toward a greener future, it is crucial to strike a balance between necessary public funding and the promotion of environmentally friendly technologies.

The Jordan Strategy Forum advocates for policies that foster the continued growth of the electric vehicle market, benefiting both the economy and the environment.

Background

Electric vehicles are one of the most significant technological advancements of the modern era. With growing environmental awareness and a heightened focus on sustainability, their adoption has surged significantly in recent years. Continuous technological innovations, supportive government policies, and the increasing emphasis on reducing carbon emissions have all played pivotal roles in encouraging individuals to choose electric vehicles as a more environmentally friendly and efficient means of transportation.

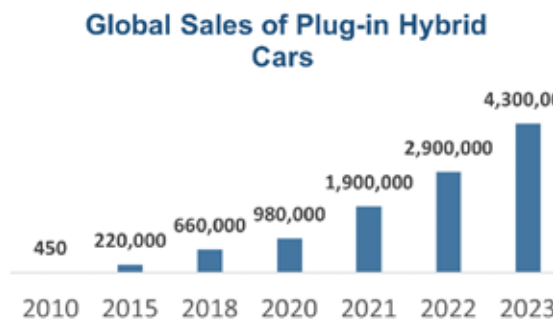
With the increasing use of electric vehicles (battery-powered and plug-in hybrids), fuel demand has fallen to unprecedented levels, leading to lower public revenues resulting from fuel taxes. This alternative is effectively reducing public revenue WHICH is typically used by many countries in the world to finance transport infrastructure, highways, as well as other items of public expenditure.

Key Observations on Electric Vehicles

Based on the International Energy Agency's (IEA) database, it is worth noting the following observations about the use of electric vehicles globally, regionally, and locally.

A. Global sales of battery electric cars have increased from 7,000 in 2010 to 9.5 million in 2023.

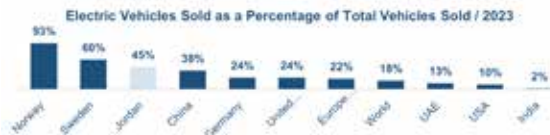
B. Global sales of plug-in hybrid cars have increased from 450 in 2010 to 4.3 million in 2023.



Source: 2024 Global EV Outlook, published by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

In 2023, electric vehicles account for approximately %18 of global vehicle sales. Notably, this share reached %93 in Norway, %60 in Sweden, %45 in Jordan, %38 in China, and %24 in Germany.

Jordan led the Middle East in electric vehicle sales, with over %45 of all vehicles sold being electric. The UAE ranked second in the region, with a sales share of %13.



Source: 2024 Global EV Outlook, published by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The growing shift toward electric vehicles in many countries has been fueled by various “tax benefits” and incentives, such as tax exemptions, reduced taxes on electric vehicles, and lower registration fees.

Despite their many advantages, while electric vehicles still contribute to the wear and tear of streets, highways, and bridges, they do not generate fuel tax revenue like traditional vehicles do. Naturally, this simple fact raises the question: How will road infrastructure and other public spending be financed if revenues from fuel taxes decline?

Many countries are exploring various options to compensate for the revenue shortfall caused by reduced fuel consumption. These include increasing fuel tax rates, raising vehicle registration fees—particularly for electric vehicles—transitioning from fuel taxes to road usage fees

(based on mileage traveled), and introducing taxes on the electricity used to charge electric vehicles.

On September 17th, 2024, the Jordanian government made sudden amendments to the special tax regulations, including a reduction in the special tax on gasoline vehicles from %67 to %60, and the imposition of a special tax on electric vehicles. This tax is set at %40 tax for electric vehicles whose price is between JD 10,000 and JD 25,000 JOD, and at %55 tax for those whose price is above JD 25,000.

Relative to the above-mentioned observations, it is useful to note that the total number of registered vehicles in Jordan has risen from around 1.6 million in 2018 to approximately 2 million in 2022. Naturally, this number is expected to increase further in 2023 and 2024. Indeed, the increases in the number of registered vehicles is driven by



several factors, including population growth, inadequate public transport system, and the rising demand for more affordable electric vehicles compared to fuel-based alternatives.

Jordan Strategy Forum Recommendations

Given the economic and environmental benefits of electric vehicles (EVs), the Jordan Strategy Forum emphasizes the need to reconsider the government’s recent decision to impose special taxes on EVs. Instead, the government should explore alternative measures to offset the decline in its revenues, especially since the tax increase disproportionately affects EVs priced between JD 10,000 and JD 25,000—a segment most suitable for Jordanian households (typically consisting of 4.8 members), and those with middle incomes.

One viable alternative is a moderate and carefully planned increase in vehicle registration fees across all categories. This approach would indeed help compensate for the reduced fuel tax revenues by generating consistent annual income, while maintaining Jordan’s progress towards clean energy adoption. This would also ensure that the country’s transition to cleaner energy sources continues at a pace comparable to other nations in the region and aligned with global trends.

A night to remember: 70 years of Jordan-Japan diplomatic relations through music



Jordan Daily – A concert was held on 30th of September 2024 at Al Hussein Cultural Center, Amman to commemorate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Japan.

The event featured a remarkable performance by the renowned Japanese Koto player, Ms. Nishi Yoko, together with Mr. Tareq Jundi, an outstanding Oud player, along with Jordanian and Japanese musicians, the Japanese Embassy said in statement.

Ms. Nishi Yoko mesmerized the audience with her masterful Koto performance, showcasing a repertoire that ranged from traditional Japanese pieces to contemporary works. Her collaboration with Jordanian artists, including Tareq Jundi, Rula Barghouthi, Othman Kanany, Laith Suleiman, and Rami Al Jundi, created a unique blend of musical traditions that captivated the audience in awe.

The concert also highlighted performances by other talented Japanese artists, whose contributions enriched the evening with layers of cultural exchange and artistic excellence. The event symbolized enduring friendship and shared cultural values between Jordan and Japan.

Hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Jordan the event was successfully supported by JT International (Jordan) Limited, Al-Hussein Cultural Center, Tareq Jundi Arabic Music Academy, Dar Darwazeh, Dukkan Piano, Koto Iris, the Japanese Community Association in Jordan and Sajilni.

Ambassador of Japan to Jordan Jiro Okuyama touched on his opening remarks "Although this region is in turbulence, I sincerely would like to pray for the lasting peace in the Middle East."



Embassy of Philippines hosts Open Day in Amman



Jordan Daily – The Philippines Embassy in Jordan held a Filipino Open Day on Friday at the Language City Cafe in Amman, celebrating the cultural ties between the Philippines and Jordan.

The Philippines Ambassador Wilfredo C. Santos welcomed guests, including ambassadors, dignitaries, embassy partners, and members of the Filipino community, thanking the event's organizers for their role in promoting friendship between the two countries.

"I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Assem Al Khatib, owner of Language City Cafe and founder of BlaBla Language Exchange Jordan, and Mr. Yasser Abdullah, events manager, for making this event possible," Santos said.

He added "Today's event is more than just a celebration; it is a testament to the enduring friendship between our two countries as we continue to build bridges through cultural exchanges and by celebrating our shared values and aspirations as well as meaningful differences that complement and unite us."

The event featured Filipino food, music, games, language and cultural exchanges, as well as information about tourist destinations in the Philippines.

Assem Al Khatib, in his remarks, thanked Ambassador Santos and the embassy for their participation and

noted the significance of the Filipino community in Jordan, calling it one of the largest expatriate groups in the country. He also highlighted the richness of Filipino culture.

The Filipino Open Day aimed to promote cultural understanding and strengthen the bond between Jordan and the Philippines through shared traditions and values.





Malaysia supports needy families of Palestinian refugees in Zarqa

Jordan Daily – Malaysian Ambassador Mohammad Nasri Abdul Rahman, accompanied by his spouse and a delegation from the Malaysian embassy in Amman, visited the Palestinian refugee camps of Zarqa Governorate including Hittin, Sukhneh, and Zarqa to distribute aid to 1,400 families.

The ambassador was received by Rafiq Khirfan, Director General of the Department of Palestinian Affairs, Saleh Abdul Aziz, Head of the Hittin Camp Services Committee, and Mohammad Shdeifat, Director of the Department's Zarqa office.

The visit aimed to distribute in-kind assistance provided by the Malaysian government to needy families in Zarqa Governorate camps.

In his speech, Khirfan congratulated the Malaysian government and people on their National Day, appreciating Malaysia's continuous support for the Jordanian and Palestinian people, which reflects the strong relations between the two countries.

He also thanked the Malaysian government for its support to UNRWA, which, in cooperation with the



Jordanian government, strives to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in the kingdom's 13 camps.

Ambassador Abdul Rahman expressed gratitude to the Department of Palestinian Affairs for coordinating the visit and facilitating the aid distribution process. He reaffirmed the Malaysian government's solidarity with the Palestinian people and refugees.

The ambassador and Khirfan toured several homes of needy families in the camp, distributing winter aid packages.

Haytham Ereifej explores political changes and economic prospects in Jordan at KOTRA workshop

Jordan Daily – Dr. Haytham Ereifej, the founder and director of Ereifej & Partners International Law Firm conducted a workshop at the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) on the outcomes of Jordan's recent parliamentary elections and the political effects of the new government formation.

He explored how these developments could impact the economy and boost opportunities for attracting investment in the near future.

Ereifej offered an analysis of the backgrounds and expertise of the prime minister and key cabinet members, with a particular focus on the economic team. He also discussed the policies and agendas of the political parties that gained the most seats in Jordan's 20th Parliament.

The workshop drew a group of prominent Korean business leaders in Jordan, as well as members of KOTRA's economic team.

Dr. Haytham Ereifej, a prominent lawyer, politician, and writer, is known for his active involvement in these areas of interest.



Thai Embassy organizes 'Essence of Thailand' Festival in Amman



Jordan Daily – The Royal Thai Embassy in Jordan, in partnership with the Jabal Amman Residents Association (JARA), hosted the *Essence of Thailand – Thai Festival 2024* at Souk Jara Walking Street in Amman on Friday.

The event featured a Thai food bazaar with dishes from leading Thai restaurants in Jordan, traditional Thai handicrafts, Muay Thai demonstrations, and a Somtam (spicy papaya salad) cooking competition. The festival also included performances of traditional Thai dance and drew significant participation from Jordanians, diplomats, and their families.

Haifa Najjar, minister of culture, attended the festival and welcomed the launching of the event

at Souk Jara, expressing hope that it would further strengthen ties between Thailand and Jordan.

Ambassador of Thailand to Jordan Supark Prongthura, along with his wife, Mrs. Siriwan Prongthura, welcomed ambassadors and spouses from several countries, as well as Maher Shakhathreh, president of the Jordan-Thailand Friendship Association, and its executive members to the festival's official opening ceremony.

Ambassador Prongthura delivered remarks, emphasizing the positive relationship between Thailand and Jordan. During the ceremony, JARA President Khader Qawwas presented a token of appreciation to the Thai ambassador for the



embassy's collaboration with the association.

Following the formal opening, distinguished ambassadors and their spouses participated in the Somtam cooking competition, one of the event's highlights.

Souk Jara, a popular walking street in Amman, opens once a year on Fridays during the summer. This year's Thai Festival attracted an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 people.



Al-Kindi Hospital participates in medical exhibition at Mecca Mall



Jordan Daily – Al-Kindi Hospital took part in a special exhibition at Mecca Mall, held in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event, which spanned two days, featured a variety of health services and consultations.

Al-Kindi Hospital's presence included a dedicated booth managed by a comprehensive team of doctors, pharmacists, mammography specialists, nurses, nutritionists, marketing professionals, and public relations staff.

The team provided general medical consultations and specific guidance on breast cancer prevention, as well as free screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, and body mass index (BMI). Additionally, the booth offered nutrition and health advice, distributed educational pamphlets, and provided discount cards for certain hospital services, along with small giveaways.

The hospital's participation aligns with its strategic plan to support the local community and reinforces its

status as a destination for medical tourism, with patients from 75 countries seeking treatment both locally and internationally. The booth was well-received, with attendees expressing appreciation for the comprehensive services offered.

Al-Kindi Hospital is a specialized facility offering a wide range of medical specialties, including bariatric and cosmetic surgery, liposuction, vascular surgery, fertility treatments, lithotripsy, interventional radiology, and cancer screenings, particularly for breast cancer. It also provides organ transplantation, catheterization, open-heart surgery, endoscopic gastrointestinal and biliary services, and has 12 fully-equipped operating rooms for major surgeries.

The hospital includes an emergency dental department, a fully-equipped ambulance service, and a dedicated emergency department with the latest technology.

JTB, JFA and Japanese Embassy host culinary events commemorating 70 years of diplomatic relations



Jordan Daily – The Embassy of Japan, in partnership with the Jordan Tourism Board and the Jordan Japan Friendship Association, hosted a series of culinary events in early September to mark 70 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Kurusu Junichi, a fourth-generation owner of the Michelin-starred restaurant “Honke Tankuma” in Kyoto, Japan, was invited to Amman to demonstrate his culinary expertise and promote cultural exchange between the two nations.

As part of his visit, Kurisu gave a lecture and workshop at the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts, where aspiring Jordanian chefs learned about the fundamentals of Japanese cuisine, including the concept of “umami,” a key element in Japanese cooking. He also guided students in preparing a Japanese-style version of Maqlouba, blending Jordanian and Japanese culinary

traditions.

A cooking exchange event at Iraq Al Amir brought together local Jordanian women and Japanese chefs to share techniques and cultural insights from their respective culinary traditions. This collaborative session aimed to foster mutual understanding and strengthen cultural ties between Jordan and Japan.

The celebration also featured an exclusive dinner at Daimeh Eatery, with a collaborative menu designed by both Japanese and Jordanian chefs. Japanese Ambassador Okuyama Jiro highlighted the importance of collaboration through cuisine in his speech, emphasizing the strong bonds of friendship and trust between the two countries.

The culinary events underscored a shared commitment to cultural exchange and marked a significant milestone in the seven-decade relationship between Japan and Jordan.



Muaythai tournament in Amman highlights growing popularity of the sport



Jordan Daily – The Royal Thai Embassy in Amman, in collaboration with the Jordan Muaythai Association and the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA), hosted on Friday the Essence of Muaythai 2024 tournament at the Sports Palace Hall in Al Hussein Youth City, Amman. More than 1,000 Jordanians and expatriates attended the event.

The tournament featured four weight classes — 54 kg, 60 kg, 67 kg, and 71 kg — with athletes from Muaythai gyms across Jordan, including Amman, Aqaba, Irbid, and other cities, competing. Preliminary matches took place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by the final matches from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The official opening ceremony was held at 7 p.m. and attended by several distinguished guests, including ambassadors from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, China, Australia, Sri Lanka, and Panama. Jordanian dignitaries present included Dr. Hussein Al Jabour, Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth and Sports; Colonel Yanal Al-Jazi, Director of the General Secretariat of the Police Sports Federation; high-ranking officials from the Jordan Olympic Committee; and the president of the Jordan-Thailand Friendship Association. Executive members of the Jordan Muaythai Federation were also among the honorary attendees.

In his opening remarks, Supark Prongthura, Thailand's ambassador to Jordan, welcomed participants and reiterated the embassy's commitment to promoting

Muaythai in Jordan. He also expressed hopes for Muaythai to be recognized as an official Olympic sport in the future.

Following the tournament, the Thai ambassador, alongside his spouse and the honorary guests, presented awards to the first- and second-place winners. The event highlighted the growing popularity of Muaythai in Jordan and aimed to strengthen cultural, sporting, and diplomatic ties between Jordan and Thailand.





Pakistani charities support Palestinian students' medical education



Jordan Daily – Demonstrating Pakistan's long-standing solidarity with the Palestinian people, a comprehensive initiative has been launched to enable Palestinian students to pursue advanced medical education in Pakistan amid ongoing conflicts in Gaza and the West Bank.

The initiative, executed in collaboration with Pakistan's prominent charity organization Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Global Relief Trust, and Doctors of Rahman, aims to support 192 Palestinian medical students in completing their medical education at Pakistani universities.

The program is fully funded, and targets students

whose studies have been interrupted due to the escalating violence in Gaza. The first group of 27 Palestinian medical students arrived in Lahore today via Cairo, Egypt, where they were welcomed at Allama Iqbal International Airport by senior representatives from Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, Doctors of Rahman, and Global Relief Trust.

The program is being carried out under directives from the Government of Pakistan. Through this fully-funded arrangement, the Pakistani charity organizations will provide housing and other amenities for the Palestinian students during their stay in Pakistan.

Kuwaiti royal family member arrested on drug charges

Jordan Daily – Kuwait's Ministry of Interior announced on Wednesday that it had apprehended a member of the ruling family who had been evading a mandatory prison sentence on drug-related charges.

In a statement, the ministry stated that the suspect was captured following extensive search efforts, surveillance, and tracking of his movements, which led to his location and subsequent arrest.

The Ministry emphasized that these actions are part of its ongoing commitment to uphold the rule of law and apply it equally to all citizens, including members of the ruling family, to ensure justice and

equality. It further reiterated its efforts to continue apprehending those who violate the law and to enforce court rulings on individuals wanted by authorities.



