

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

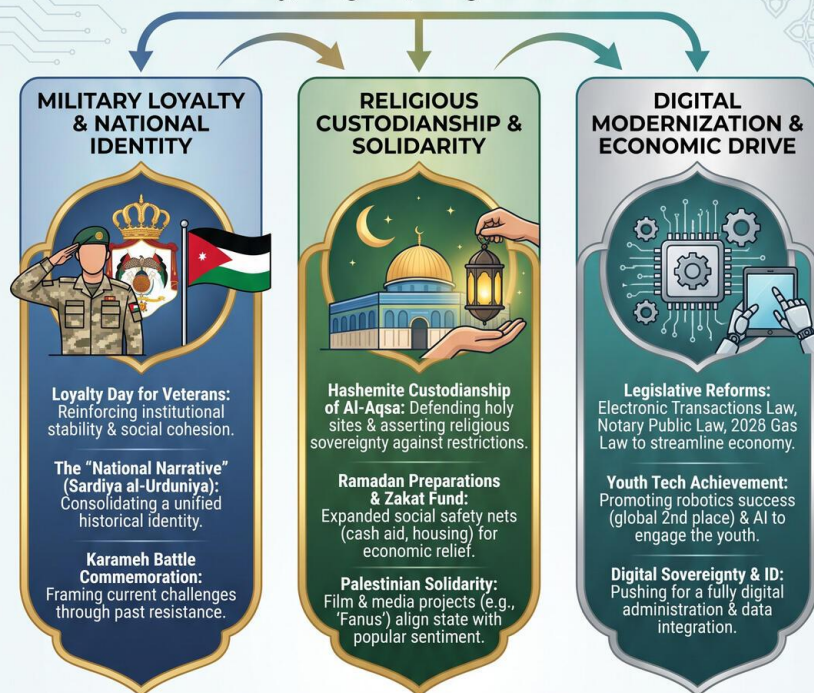
JORDANTV

FEBRUARY 16, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

JORDAN'S STRATEGIC TRINITY:

Reinforcing Legitimacy & Identity Through
Military, Religious, & Digital Initiatives



INTERNAL & EXTERNAL DYNAMICS:

Balancing Act & Geopolitical Pivot



FUTURE OUTLOOK, RISKS, & TRENDS



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JORDAN REINFORCES HASHEMITE
LEGITIMACY AND NATIONAL
IDENTITY THROUGH MILITARY
LOYALTY, RELIGIOUS
CUSTODIANSHIP, AND DIGITAL
MODERNIZATION INITIATIVES.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

Broadcast coverage on February 16, 2026, is dominated by the intersection of state-sponsored commemorative events, religious preparation for the upcoming month of Ramadan, and a concerted push for digital sovereignty. The primary narrative arc focuses on **Loyalty Day for Military Veterans**, an event leveraged by the monarchy and the Public Security Directorate (PSD) to reinforce internal social cohesion and institutional stability. By honoring veterans, the state projects an image of continuity and resilience, framing the military as the bedrock of the Jordanian "national narrative" amidst ongoing regional volatility. This domestic focus is coupled with a strong emphasis on the **Hashemite Custodianship of Al-Aqsa Mosque**, presenting Jordan as the primary defender of Islamic holy sites against

increasing Israeli administrative and security restrictions in Jerusalem.

Simultaneously, the Jordanian government is signaling a pivot toward technocratic modernization. Legislative updates regarding **electronic transactions, digital identity, and energy regulation** (specifically the 2025 Gas Law) highlight an effort to streamline bureaucracy and attract foreign investment, notably through partnerships like the Saudi Fund for Development. These developments converge to portray a state attempting to balance traditional legitimacy—rooted in religious and military history—with the requirements of a modern, digitized economy. The emphasis on youth achievement in robotics and cinema serves as a domestic "distraction" or counter-narrative to economic anxieties, framing Jordan as a burgeoning regional tech hub despite structural challenges in the broader Middle East.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **State Commemoration of Veterans Day (Loyalty Day):** A coordinated national effort to honor military and public security veterans, with high-profile attendance by King Abdullah II and senior officials to reinforce institutional loyalty. [Veteran services](#) including medical care and Hajj programs were highlighted to demonstrate state gratitude and maintain social order.
- **Al-Aqsa Mosque Restoration and Custodianship:** Extensive reporting on the Hashemite Fund's efforts to renovate the mosque and prepare for Ramadan despite **Israeli security constraints**. The discourse emphasizes the [historical restorations](#) of walls and floors as a symbol of Jordanian religious sovereignty.

- **Legislative Modernization Drive:** The Jordanian Senate (Ayan) processed several key bills, including the **Electronic Transactions Law** and the **Notary Public Law**, aimed at facilitating a digital economy. The [2025 Gas Law](#) was also advanced to regulate the energy sector.
- **Expansion of Social Safety Nets for Ramadan:** The Zakat Fund announced a significant budget increase and specialized programs for the holy month, including **cash assistance for 12,000 families** and housing for the needy, aimed at mitigating domestic economic pressure. [Financial assistance](#) initiatives were framed as essential to social stability.
- **Technological Sovereignty and Youth Achievement:** Publicizing international success in robotics (2nd place globally in a US-hosted competition) and advancements in **AI and digital identity cards**. The state is actively promoting a [tech-focused future](#) to engage the youth demographic.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Leadership Dynamics & Governance: The King's direct engagement with veterans and former officials signals a "closed-loop" governance style where elite consensus is prioritized. The [King's meeting](#) with former leaders serves to stabilize the political landscape ahead of regional challenges.

Geopolitical Competition & Bloc Politics: Saudi Arabia's role as a key financier is underscored by the **Saudi Fund for Development's** support for the Prince Faisal Hospital expansion in Zarqa. This highlights [regional alliances](#) as critical to Jordanian infrastructure and healthcare resilience.

Cybersecurity & Threat Actors: The state is increasing public awareness campaigns

regarding **social engineering and phishing**, specifically targeting WhatsApp and Snapchat users. This indicates a growing vulnerability to [cyber threats](#) as the nation moves toward full digital identity integration.

Armed Conflict & Militarization: The focus on the **Karameh Battle** and historical military triumphs serves to maintain high levels of militarization in the public consciousness, framing current security challenges through the lens of [past resistance](#).

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of the "National Narrative": The Ministry of Culture's launch of the **Jordanian Narrative (Sardiya al-Urduniya)** is a strategic effort to consolidate national identity. By defining a specific "Jordanian" history and story, the state seeks to inoculate the public against competing regional ideologies and domestic polarization. This is particularly evident in the [identity projects](#) promoted through cinema and podcasts.

Palestinian Solidarity as Domestic Legitimacy: The film "Fanus" (Lantern) and its focus on the "Right of Return" serves a dual purpose: expressing genuine regional solidarity while also aligning the state with the most potent emotional issue in Jordanian society. The [symbolism of the lantern](#) represents a persistent hope for return, which the Jordanian state mediates through its custodianship of Al-Aqsa.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Jordan's domestic strategy appears centered on **preemptive social pacification** ahead of

Ramadan, a period historically prone to heightened tensions. The massive mobilization of the **Zakat Fund** and the promotion of "Loyalty Day" for veterans suggest the state is cognizant of potential economic grievances among its traditional support bases. The [provincial celebrations](#) in Mafrq and Madaba are designed to show the government's presence beyond the capital, Amman. However, the heavy emphasis on **security laboratory conferences** concerning food quality and consumer protection reveals an underlying anxiety about inflation and supply chain integrity, which could trigger localized unrest if not managed.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The broadcasts frame the external environment as a "hostile threat matrix," particularly regarding **Israeli policy in Jerusalem**. Jordan is adapting by projecting itself as a principled actor in a chaotic multipolar system, leveraging its relationship with the **Saudi Fund for Development** to secure critical infrastructure. The [hospital expansion](#) funded by Riyadh illustrates a strategic pivot toward deepening Gulf ties as a hedge against global economic shocks and shifting Western priorities.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Jordan is pursuing a multi-track economic strategy focused on **industrial growth in the pharmaceutical sector** and energy deregulation. The highlight of **Hikma Pharmaceuticals** as a global success story is intended to bolster market sentiment. The state is also pushing for **digital sovereignty** through the new electronic transactions framework, which aims to reduce the

"bureaucratic friction" hindering foreign direct investment.

- **Energy Sector:** Progress on the 2025 Gas Law aimed at [regulating natural gas](#) distribution and attracting investment.
- **Public Finance:** The Zakat Fund announced a budget for Ramadan including **housing units** and cash aid for thousands of households. [Social aid](#) is a core economic vector.
- **Infrastructure:** Saudi-funded hospital project in Zarqa valued at **9 million JOD**.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Leadership dynamics are characterized by a focus on continuity and the King's active role in mediation between military factions and political elites.

- **Jafar Hassan (Prime Minister):** Positioned as a key executor of the King's infrastructure agenda, particularly in healthcare [laying foundation stones](#) for major projects.
- **Mazen Al-Qadi (Senate Figure):** Heavily involved in the **legislative push** for the Gas Law and digital identity reforms, signaling his influence in technocratic circles.
- **PSD Leadership:** Maintaining high visibility in **Veterans Day events**, reinforcing the security sector's central role in Jordanian governance.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The lead story across all segments is the **Loyalty to Veterans** and **Al-Aqsa restoration**. These are nationalistic,

reassuring, and designed to foster a sense of collective identity. Buried or minimized stories include the specific **Israeli operational details** in the West Bank and Gaza, which are framed broadly through the lens of "struggle" rather than tactical reporting. There is a conspicuous omission of any criticism regarding the government's handling of **inflation or youth unemployment**, with the broadcast instead focusing on outlier success stories in robotics and cinema.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The geopolitical subtext portrays Jordan as a stable, competent defender of regional norms against a chaotic and aggressive Israel.

- **Israel** is consistently portrayed as an **obstructionist foe**. For example, Dr. Wasfi Kilani notes that preparations at Al-Aqsa continue **"despite the obstacles placed by the Israeli occupation"** [regarding mosque security](#).
- **Jordan** is framed as a **principled and stable** mediator. The broadcasts emphasize the state's **"responsiveness to veterans"** as evidence of its [principled governance](#).
- **Saudi Arabia** is implicitly framed as a **reliable regional partner** through its financial support for [healthcare infrastructure](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The state is actively seeding the **"Jordanian Narrative"** to counter foreign disinformation. By controlling the narrative surrounding **national identity and military history**, the government seeks to pre-emptively manage public sentiment. The delta between the media spin—which emphasizes total national

harmony—and the likely ground truth involves significant economic stress that is being addressed through **Zakat Fund** charity rather than structural reform. Propaganda regarding **"digital sovereignty"** aims to build trust in new surveillance-capable digital identity systems.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Increased Jerusalem Tensions:** Israeli restrictions on Al-Aqsa during Ramadan will likely lead to diplomatic friction between Amman and Jerusalem, potentially triggering localized protests in Jordan.
- **Rapid Digital Adoption:** The legislative push for **electronic transactions** will lead to a rapid rollout of a national digital identity by late 2026, increasing state data collection capabilities.
- **Economic Reliance on the Gulf:** Dependence on Saudi and other Gulf funds for major infrastructure will increase, potentially constraining Jordan's foreign policy autonomy in regional disputes.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a surge in **Zakat-funded charity** and high security presence around Ramadan sites. Potential for social engineering cyberattacks against government portals as digital services expand.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The implementation of the **2025 Gas Law** will begin to reshape the domestic energy market, possibly leading to price adjustments. Diplomatic efforts will focus on securing more **Saudi/Gulf investment** for hospital and transit projects.

Long Term (1-5 Years): A structural shift toward a **fully digitized administration** will change the nature of Jordanian governance, likely centralizing power further through the [digital identity framework](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Flashpoint at Al-Aqsa Mosque:** Restrictions on worshippers could spark a regional crisis. **Triggers:** Major security incident in Jerusalem or total ban on West Bank access. **Likelihood:** High during Ramadan. **Impact:** Severe regional destabilization. **Mitigations:** International diplomatic pressure on Israel and increased Jordanian logistical support for worshippers.
- **Cyber-Security Collapse:** Rapid digitization without adequate defense could lead to a massive data breach of national identities. **Triggers:** Successful state-sponsored phishing attack. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Loss of public trust and national security vulnerability. **Mitigations:** Aggressive public awareness campaigns and investment in sovereign encryption.
- **Economic Unrest:** Failure of Zakat charity to cover inflationary costs could lead to civil unrest. **Triggers:** Sudden spike in food prices during Ramadan. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Institutional decay and loss of state mandate. **Mitigations:** Market price controls and emergency subsidy programs.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The broadcasts fail to mention the **specific terms of Saudi aid**, which may include political concessions or future energy tie-ins.
- There is a lack of information on **Israeli responses** to Jordanian restoration work at Al-Aqsa, which often involves significant friction not reported by state TV.
- The efficacy of the **Zakat Fund** in reaching the most vulnerable undocumented populations is not addressed.
- The transcripts do not explain how the **new Gas Law** will affect consumer pricing in the short term.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Digital Facade" Hypothesis: The push for digital identity and robotics might be a "Potemkin village" strategy to distract from **brain drain** and the collapse of traditional manufacturing. If the youth demographic sees no real-world jobs following their robotics achievements, the state risks creating a highly educated, technologically proficient, yet radicalized opposition.

The "Managed Collapse" of the West Bank: The emphasis on Al-Aqsa restoration may be a defensive posture by Amman, anticipating a total Israeli annexation of Palestinian areas. In this scenario, Jordan's religious custodianship becomes the **last vestige of sovereignty**, rather than a proactive defense.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector: Jordan must balance its digital modernization with **robust data privacy laws** to maintain public trust. Security cooperation with Saudi Arabia should be formalized to ensure long-term stability of infrastructure funding.

For Private Sector/Investors: The **Jordanian pharmaceutical and tech sectors** offer growth opportunities, particularly in robotics and AI. However, regulatory risks remain high as the state transitions to new digital identity and energy frameworks.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The Jordanian Senate and relevant committees have accelerated a package of laws aimed at modernizing the state's administrative and economic functions. The focus is on **digital transactions, notary public reforms, and energy sector regulation**.

- **Electronic Transactions Law:** Strategic intent is to enable a paperless economy and secure digital identity integration.
- **2025 Gas Law:** Aimed at regulating the natural gas sector to attract foreign investment and secure energy supply chains.
- **Notary Public Law:** Intended to streamline legal documentation and reduce bureaucratic delays in corporate affairs.
- **Senate Hearing on Islamic Affairs:** Discussion on the management of endowments to ensure [religious institutional stability](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Veterans Loyalty Day:** King Abdullah II and senior PSD officials honor veterans across the country, emphasizing **institutional loyalty** and state gratitude. Celebrations held in Amman, Mafraq, and Madaba.
- **Al-Aqsa Mosque Restoration:** The Hashemite Fund reports on the completion of **wall and floor renovations** at Al-Aqsa despite Israeli restrictions. Preparations for Ramadan worshippers are underway.
- **Robotics Global Success:** A team of Jordanian students (Princess Sumaya University) took **2nd place** in a global competition at the University of Rochester, US, against teams from 200 countries.
- **Saudi-Jordanian Healthcare Collaboration:** Prime Minister Jafar Hassan lays the foundation stone for the **9 million JOD Prince Faisal Hospital expansion**, funded by the Saudi Fund for Development.
- **Zakat Fund Ramadan Initiatives:** Announcement of assistance for **12,000 households**, housing for the poor, and a specialized medical program for the holy month.
- **Jordanian Narrative (Sardiya al-Urduniya):** The Ministry of Culture launches a project to document and promote a unified **national historical identity**.
- **Gas Law 2025 Advancements:** The Senate debates a new framework to regulate natural gas distribution and private sector participation.
- **Cybersecurity Awareness:** A national campaign warns citizens against **social engineering links** on WhatsApp and Snapchat designed to steal personal data.

- **Film "Fanus" Premiere:** A local film portraying the **Right of Return** and Palestinian struggle is highlighted for its humanistic approach to the conflict.
- **Madaba Youth Initiatives:** Local young filmmakers and podcasters from Madaba are featured for their work in promoting **religious coexistence** and tourism through the "Bil-Arabi" platform.
- **Bee and Pollination Crisis:** A report on the **decline of bee populations** and the resulting risk to national food security, urging immediate environmental protection measures.
- **Sea Lion Preservation:** A segment on the conservation efforts for **California Sea Lions**, highlighting global biodiversity challenges.
- **Diabetes and Ramadan:** Medical experts provide guidelines for **diabetics to fast safely**, focusing on insulin management and diet.
- **Stroke Awareness:** Health professionals detail the **"Golden Hour"** and symptoms of strokes to improve public health outcomes.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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