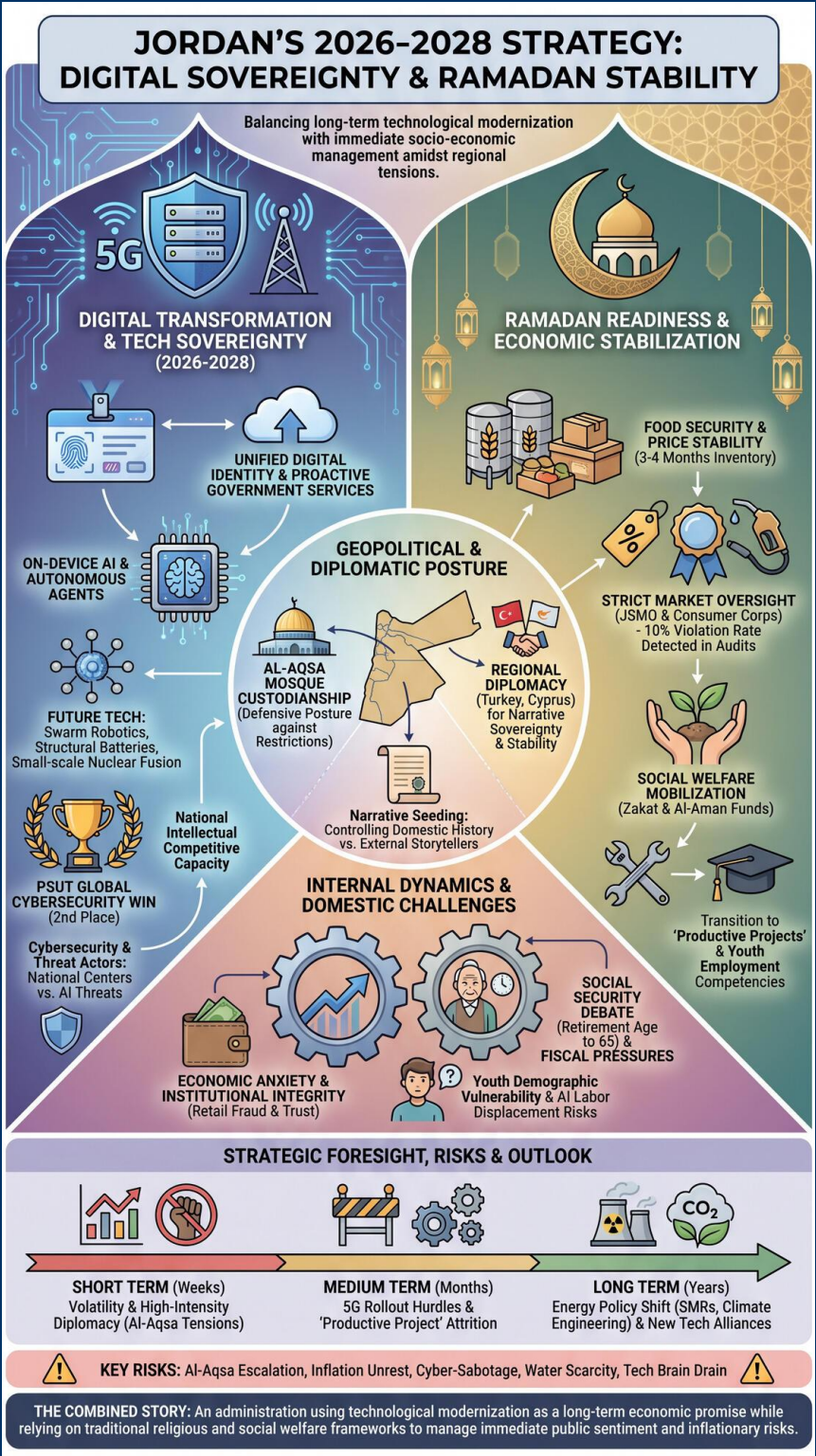


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

JORDANTV

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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JORDAN FORMALIZES 2026-2028
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
STRATEGY WHILE LEVERAGING
RAMADAN SOCIAL SAFETY NETS TO
MANAGE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC
PRESSURES AND REGIONAL
PALESTINIAN TENSIONS.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

On February 17, 2026, Jordanian state media focused heavily on the intersection of technological sovereignty and domestic stability as the nation enters the 2026-2028 strategic cycle. The government officially launched an integrated strategy for **cybersecurity and digital transformation**, aiming to position the Kingdom as a regional advanced technology hub [regional advanced technology hub](#). This push for "Digital Sovereignty" involves the rollout of 5G networks and unified digital identities to streamline government services and bypass bureaucratic friction. The narrative of technological prowess was reinforced by the global second-place finish of a Jordanian university team in a New York-based cybersecurity competition, which was framed

as evidence of national intellectual competitive capacity.

Simultaneously, the state is mobilizing a comprehensive "Ramadan Readiness" posture, coordinating ministries to ensure **food security and price stability** ahead of the holy month. This includes heavy oversight by the Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) and the Military/Civil Consumer Corporations to prevent market price gouging [market price gouging](#). Geopolitically, Jordan is maintaining a defensive posture regarding Al-Aqsa Mosque, warning against Israeli restrictions on worshippers, while engaging in high-level diplomatic statecraft with Turkey and Cyprus to reinforce its position on regional stability and international law. The convergence of these events suggests an administration using technological modernization as a long-term economic promise while relying on traditional religious and social welfare frameworks to manage immediate public sentiment and inflationary risks.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Launch of 2026-2028 Digital and Cybersecurity Strategy:** The Jordanian government has ratified an ambitious roadmap focusing on "proactive government" concepts, unified digital ID for all transactions, and the expansion of 5G and fiber optic networks [expansion of 5G](#). The state claims a "qualitative leap" in the global cybersecurity index, reaching the "first category" globally as of 2025.

- **State-Managed Ramadan Economic Stabilization:** The Ministry of Government Communication and the Standards and Metrology Organization have announced strict market controls. JSMO reports checking thousands of fuel and taxi meters, with approximately **10% of inspections resulting in violations**, indicating a persistent undercurrent of retail fraud [retail fraud](#).
- **Strategic Social Welfare Mobilization:** The Al-Aman Fund for the Future of Orphans and the Zakat Fund are pivoting toward "productive projects" rather than mere aid, aiming to transition 18-year-old youth from dependency to employment through 75 core competencies [75 core competencies](#).
- **Diplomatic Offensive on Palestinian Affairs:** Jordan is leveraging its role as the custodian of holy sites to pressure the international community regarding Al-Aqsa Mosque access during Ramadan, framing Israeli restrictions as a "denial of religious rights" that threatens regional peace [regional peace](#).
- **Technological Future-Mapping:** State broadcasts detailed 15 "Tech Trends" as national priorities, including swarm robotics, structural batteries for EVs, and small-scale nuclear fusion, signaling a desire to leapfrog traditional industrial stages [leapfrog traditional industrial stages](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Tech Sovereignty & AI: The government is framing digital sovereignty as a matter of national security. This includes the development of **on-device AI chips** to reduce cloud dependency and the integration of autonomous agents into the 2025-2026

administrative workflow [administrative workflow](#).

Food & Water Security: Ahead of Ramadan, the Military/Civil Consumer Corporation has guaranteed 3-4 months of inventory for essential goods, attempting to preempt panic buying. Separately, JSMO is intensifying audits of **water meter accuracy** and fuel dispensers to protect consumer purchasing power [fuel dispensers](#).

Cybersecurity & Threat Actors: Jordan is expanding its "National Cybersecurity Centers" to counter AI-driven cyber-attacks. This is coupled with a focus on "Climate Engineering" and carbon capture as defensive infrastructure [defensive infrastructure](#).

Diplomacy & Statecraft: High-level meetings with the Turkish and Cypriot ambassadors focused on the "Jordanian Narrative"—a state-sponsored effort to ensure historical and political perspectives on the region are managed internally rather than by "external storytellers" [external storytellers](#).

Critical Infrastructure Security: Restoration and preservation of historic Madaba (specifically the "Street of Peace") are presented as both a cultural imperative and a tourism infrastructure asset [tourism infrastructure asset](#).

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

- **The Secular-Sacred Hybrid Model:** The state is increasingly blending its "Modernization Vision" with religious cycles. By using Ramadan as a focal point for the Standards and Metrology Organization's (JSMO) efficiency and the Zakat Fund's "productive project" launches, the government is attempting to modernize traditional religious obligations into economic drivers [economic drivers](#).
- **Transition to a "Proactive State":** A recurring theme in the 2026-2028 strategy is moving away from reactive governance. The focus on **autonomous agents and AI-driven scheduling** (e.g., the Reclaim app) suggests an elite interest in using technology to automate administrative tasks and reduce the need for a large, potentially inefficient civil service [reduce the need](#).
- **Identity Management through Culture:** The emphasis on "Nabati poetry" and the legacy of the poet Arrar (Mustafa Wahbi al-Tal) indicates a deliberate effort to solidify a Jordanian national identity that is distinct yet regionally compatible (e.g., with UAE cultural programs like "Million's Poet") [distinct yet regionally compatible](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The domestic focus remains squarely on **economic anxiety and institutional integrity**. The high prominence given to the JSMO's audit of fuel pumps and taxi meters suggests that retail-level fraud is a significant point of public contention. By publicly highlighting the **10% violation rate** and the subsequent legal punishments (including

prison and heavy fines), the state is attempting to demonstrate a "firm hand" in the market to maintain public trust [maintain public trust](#).

Furthermore, the debate surrounding the **Social Security retirement age (increasing to 65)** reflects underlying fiscal pressures. The government is framing this as a "governance and sustainability" move, but the need for a "comprehensive integrated package" to protect various demographic categories hints at potential labor pushback. The heavy focus on the Al-Aman Fund for orphans aging out of foster care at 18 suggests a specific state concern regarding a vulnerable youth demographic that could become a source of unrest if not economically integrated [economically integrated](#).

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Jordan is portraying the "outside world" as a rapidly evolving technological arena where the Kingdom must secure "Digital Sovereignty" or face obsolescence. The state's strategic maneuverability is displayed through **cultural diplomacy**, using Jordanian Nabati poets to project soft power in the Gulf (specifically Abu Dhabi) while simultaneously acting as a defensive shield for Palestinian religious rights [project soft power](#).

The framing of international relations is increasingly multipolar, with state media highlighting coordination with **Turkey and Cyprus** on "sovereign narratives." This indicates a shift away from reliance on any single Western power toward a more diversified regional diplomatic posture. The government is weaponizing "narrative sovereignty," insisting that Jordan's history—particularly the Great Arab Revolt—be written

and taught through a domestic lens to counter foreign disinformation [domestic lens](#).

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Jordan's economy is in a state of high-alert stabilization, with the government intervening directly to suppress seasonal inflation. The market is being pre-loaded with essential supplies, and regulatory bodies are being deployed as "consumer defense" units.

- **Consumer Protection Oversight:** JSMO checked 2,500 health units and thousands of fuel nozzles; violation rates hover around 10% for meters [10% for meters](#).
- **Commodity Reserve Management:** 3-4 months of food stocks are currently held by state corporations to prevent Ramadan shortages.
- **Social Welfare Spending:** 360,000 JOD allocated for shopping coupons via the Zakat Fund, alongside the distribution of 12,000 shopping coupons [Zakat Fund](#).
- **Digital Infrastructure Investment:** Rollout of 5G and fiber optic networks is touted as a primary driver for future GDP growth and job creation in the "Space Economy" and AI sectors [AI sectors](#).

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's reports indicate a consolidation of technocratic and social welfare leadership under royal initiatives, emphasizing continuity and specialized expertise over political shifts.

- **Dr. Abdulla Bani Khaled (Director of JSMO):** Emerging as a key enforcer of economic stability, managing the regulatory fallout of market violations [managing the regulatory fallout](#).

- **Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan:** Portrayed as the architect of Jordan's technological and intellectual posture, specifically through the success of the Princess Sumaya University for Technology [intellectual posture](#).
- **Zaid al-Nawayseh (Secretary of Govt Communication):** Serving as the primary coordinator for inter-ministerial Ramadan "Readiness" [ministerial](#) [Ramadan Readiness](#).

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy placed **technological advancement and national readiness** at the top. The "lead stories" were the 2026-2028 Digital Strategy and the PSUT cybersecurity win, designed to project an image of a modernizing, competent state. The secondary tier focused on Ramadan readiness (food stocks/price monitoring), serving to reassure a domestic audience sensitive to inflation. "Buried" or minimized stories included the complexities of the retirement age increase and the details of regional environmental pollution, which were addressed with less urgency [retirement age increase](#).

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

Jordan is framing itself as a principled and competent mediator in a chaotic regional

arena, while portraying Israeli actions at holy sites as inept and provocative.

- **Jordan:** Framed as "competent" and "stable," leadings regional tech trends while maintaining traditional religious custodianship. "Jordan is a regional center for technology and innovation" [competent and stable](#).
- **Israel:** Characterized as a "foe" and "illegal actor" regarding Palestinian lands. Narratives focus on "illegal steps" and "restrictions on religious freedom" [illegal actor](#).
- **Turkey/Cyprus:** Portrayed as "principled friends" in the pursuit of regional stability and historical narrative sovereignty [principled friends](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The government is actively promoting the "Jordanian Narrative" through state media, specifically regarding the Great Arab Revolt, to ensure that domestic history is not "managed" by external actors [managed by external actors](#).
- **Counter-Rumor Operations:** Government Communication Secretary Zaid al-Nawayseh explicitly mentioned the need to "counter rumors" about food shortages during Ramadan, indicating a proactive psychological operation to maintain market calm [counter rumors](#).
- **Technological Exceptionalism:** The heavy promotion of the PSUT team's global win is used as a meta-narrative to distract from internal fiscal pressures (like the retirement age debate) [meta-narrative](#).

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Ramadan Friction:** Tensions over Al-Aqsa Mosque are likely to escalate into localized civil unrest if Israeli restrictions remain in place, forcing Jordan into a more aggressive diplomatic or rhetorical stance [localized civil unrest](#).
- **Digital Surveillance Expansion:** The "Unified Digital Identity" initiative will likely be used not just for service delivery, but for enhanced state monitoring of economic transactions and social welfare compliance [state monitoring](#).
- **AI Labor Displacement:** As Jordan pushes for AI-driven "Autonomous Agents" in governance, a medium-term risk of youth unemployment in the civil service sector emerges, despite the rhetoric of job creation [youth unemployment](#).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Anticipate sharp volatility in food prices despite government oversight. Expect high-intensity diplomatic messaging regarding Al-Aqsa Mosque as the Ramadan start date approaches [food prices](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The government will face its first major test of the 2026 Digital Strategy as 5G rollout encounters infrastructure hurdles. The "productive project" transition for youth will likely show early attrition rates as foster youth struggle to enter the private sector [private sector](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural reliance on small nuclear reactors and "Climate Engineering" will dictate Jordan's energy policy, potentially leading to new alliances

with tech-exporting nations in the swarm robotics and fusion sectors [new alliances](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Al-Aqsa Conflict Escalation:** Tensions over holy site access during Ramadan. **Triggers:** Implementation of Israeli age or quota restrictions on worshippers. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Regional instability, diplomatic rupture, domestic riots. **Mitigations:** Jordanian-US-Israeli security coordination, pre-emptive diplomatic summits [holy site access](#).
- **Inflation-Driven Civil Unrest:** Public anger over rising food costs during the peak consumption month. **Triggers:** Failure of the Military/Civil Consumer Corporation to maintain price caps. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Erosion of government legitimacy, labor strikes. **Mitigations:** Zakat Fund expansion, emergency price controls [rising food costs](#).
- **Cyber-Infrastructure Sabotage:** Attacks on the newly digitalized unified ID or 5G systems. **Triggers:** Regional state-sponsored threat actors or domestic hacktivists. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Total administrative paralysis. **Mitigations:** Rapid expansion of the National Cybersecurity Center, air-gapping critical records [total administrative paralysis](#).
- **Water Scarcity Crisis:** Environmental degradation and illegal siphoning. **Triggers:** Discovery of widespread meter inaccuracies or severe drought. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Inter-provincial conflict over resource allocation. **Mitigations:** JSMO meter audits, investments in carbon-neutral desalination [water scarcity](#).

- **Technological Brain Drain:** High-skilled tech youth emigrating to the West/Gulf despite local university success. **Triggers:** Lack of high-paying jobs in the domestic "Space Economy." **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Failure of the 2026 Strategy. **Mitigations:** Royal initiatives for venture capital, regional hub incentives [2026 Strategy](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts mention a "10% violation rate" in JSMO audits but fail to clarify if this is an increase or decrease from previous years, obscuring the actual trend of retail corruption [retail corruption](#).
- There is no mention of the funding sources for the "Small Nuclear Reactors" or the "Climate Engineering" projects, raising questions about Jordan's debt-to-GDP ratio for these high-cap tech investments [high-cap tech investments](#).
- While "digital sovereignty" is touted, there is no discussion of the privacy implications for citizens regarding the "Unified Digital Identity" [privacy implications](#).
- The "Million's Poet" segment focuses on cultural soft power but avoids the potentially contentious politics of Emirati influence on Jordanian tribal Nabati identity [Nabati identity](#).

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Potemkin Technology" Scenario: The heavy focus on PSUT's win and AI strategies may be a performative "tech-washing" to distract from the reality that Jordan remains deeply vulnerable to external shocks (energy and water) and that the digital strategy lacks

the industrial base to sustain itself. If the 5G rollout fails, the entire "Regional Hub" narrative could collapse within 18 months [Potemkin Technology](#).

The "Social Security Trap" Scenario: The move to increase the retirement age to 65 might be the first sign of an imminent fiscal crisis in the pension fund. If this is not managed with extreme care, it could spark the very domestic instability the government is trying to prevent with its "Ramadan Readiness" bread-and-circuses posture [pension fund](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector: Jordan should intensify its tripartite security coordination with Egypt and the US to manage Al-Aqsa tensions. Diversification of energy sources via small modular reactors (SMRs) should be prioritized to reduce geopolitical vulnerability [modular reactors](#).

For Private Sector/Investors: Investors should look for opportunities in Jordanian **cybersecurity services and niche AI applications**, as the government is prioritizing this sector for tax incentives. However, supply chain analysts should monitor the JSMO's 10% violation rate as a proxy for operational risk in the local retail and fuel sectors [operational risk](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The Jordanian government officially ratified the **2026-2028 Digital Transformation and Cybersecurity Strategy**, which establishes the legal framework for unified digital identities and 5G spectrum allocation [5G spectrum allocation](#). Separately, the

government discussed **amendments to the Social Security Law** regarding the increase of the retirement age to 65 [retirement age to 65](#).

- **2026-2028 Digital Strategy:** A comprehensive law aimed at creating a "Proactive Government" through automated service delivery and digital sovereignty.
- **Social Security Amendment (Proposed):** A bill to raise the mandatory retirement age to 65, aimed at fiscal sustainability of the national pension fund.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:** Secretary of Government Communication Zaid al-Nawayseh held a press conference regarding "Ramadan Readiness," detailing the coordination between the Ministries of Awqaf, Interior, and Trade [inter-ministerial coordination](#).

KEY STORIES

- **2026-2028 Digital Transformation Strategy Launch:** Jordan ratifies a new roadmap for 5G, unified digital ID, and "Proactive Government" services [2026-2028 Digital Strategy](#).
- **PSUT Global Cybersecurity Win:** Princess Sumaya University for Technology team takes 2nd place in a New York global competition, beating elite international universities [PSUT Win](#).
- **JSMO Ramadan Market Audit:** Standards and Metrology Organization checks fuel, taxi, and water meters; 10% violation rate reported in Irbid and Amman [JSMO Audit](#).
- **Al-Aman Fund for Orphans Transition:** New strategy to move foster youth into the labor market via 75 core vocational competencies [Al-Aman Fund](#).

- **Al-Aqsa Mosque Ramadan Restrictions:** Jordan warns of Israeli measures denying worshippers' rights; diplomatic coordination with Turkey and Cyprus intensified [Al-Aqsa Restrictions](#).
- **Madaba Historic Preservation:** Detailed report on the restoration of the "Street of Peace" and Madaba's mosaic heritage as a tourism driver [Madaba Historic Preservation](#).
- **Top 15 Global Tech Trends:** State media details national priorities including swarm robotics, carbon capture, and small modular nuclear fusion [15 Tech Trends](#).
- **Arrar Cultural Legacy:** Celebration of the Jordanian national poet Mustafa Wahbi al-Tal (Arrar) and the training of Nabati poets [Arrar](#).
- **Zakat Fund "Productive Projects":** Launch of 12,000 shopping coupons and 360,000 JOD in aid while transitioning to employment-based charity [Zakat Fund](#).
- **Social Security Age Increase Debate:** Government discusses the rationale for raising the retirement age to 65 for fiscal sustainability [Social Security](#).
- **Super Typhoon Haiyan Retrospective/Warning:** A report on the devastating impact of Typhoon Haiyan (historical context) and the necessity of sustainable architecture [Haiyan](#).
- **Sustainable Architecture & Levi's Stadium:** Analysis of the 49ers' stadium as a model for solar-powered, water-reclaiming Jordanian infrastructure [Sustainable Architecture](#).
- **Environmental Health Crisis:** Report on 80% of diseases in developing nations being water-borne, linked to local pollution [Water-Borne Diseases](#).

- **Royal Initiatives in Irbid:** Royal Court Chief Yusuf al-Issawi inspects multi-purpose parks and development projects in the Irbid governorate [Royal Initiatives Irbid](#).

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.

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