

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

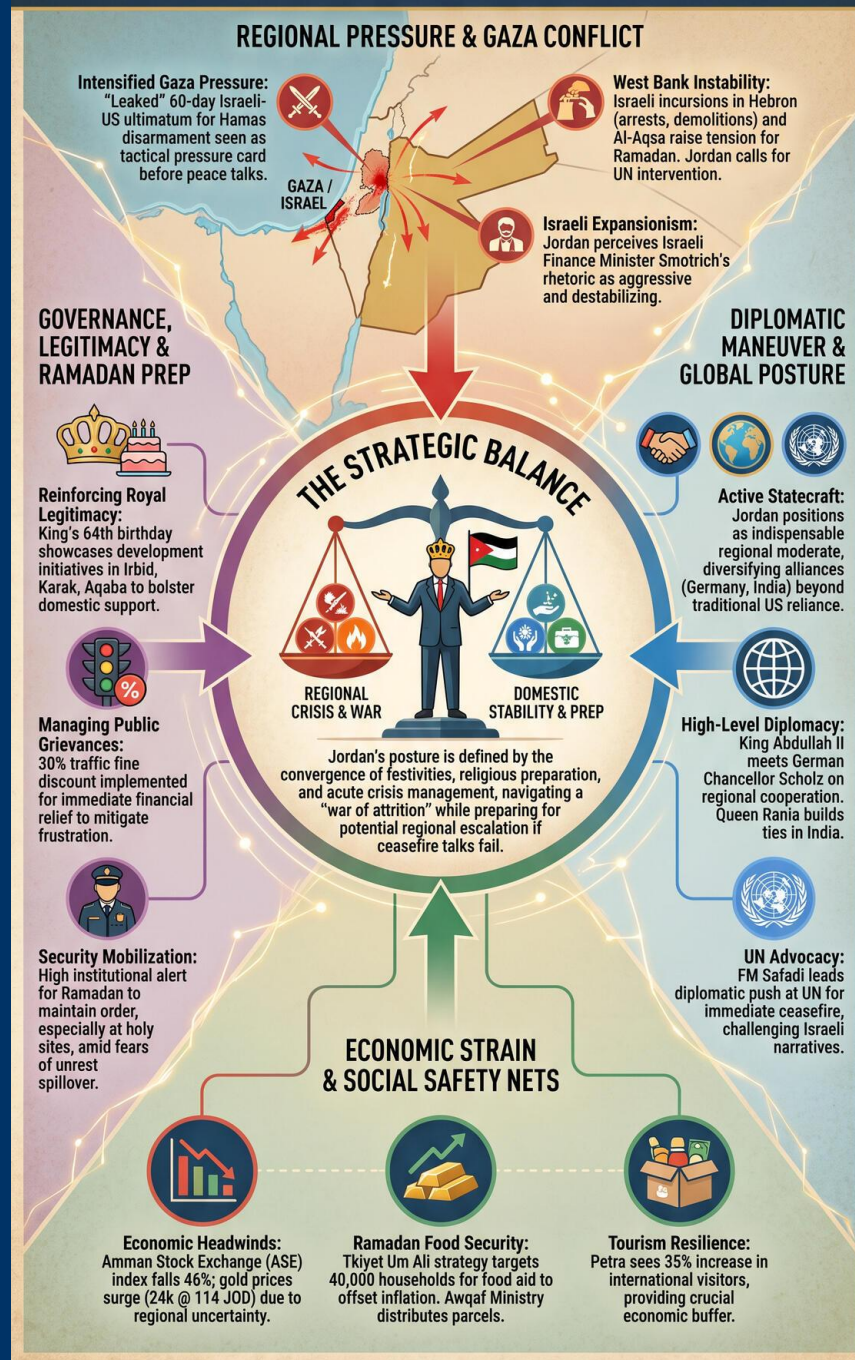
## JORDANTV

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

### JORDANIAN STATEHOOD: BALANCING REGIONAL VOLATILITY & DOMESTIC STABILITY (FEB 2026)

Navigating Gaza Conflict Pressures and Economic Headwinds Ahead of Ramadan



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### JORDANIAN STATEHOOD AMIDST REGIONAL VOLATILITY AND RAMADAN DOMESTIC PREPARATION

#### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

On February 18, 2026, Jordanian state media portrayed a nation balancing severe regional geopolitical pressures with intensive domestic preparations for the upcoming month of Ramadan. The central narrative focused on the **Gaza conflict**, where reports characterized Israeli "leaks" regarding a 60-day ultimatum to Hamas as a coordinated pressure tactic involving the U.S. administration. Jordanian diplomacy, led by Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi at the UN, remains focused on an immediate ceasefire, while domestic reporting highlights continued **Israeli incursions** in the West Bank and at Al-Aqsa Mosque, signaling high tensions ahead of the holy month.

Domestically, the government is leveraging the occasion of King Abdullah II's 64th birthday to showcase "Royal Initiatives" and regional development projects in Irbid, Karak, and Aqaba. These initiatives serve as a stabilizer against economic headwinds, as the **Amman Stock Exchange** showed signs of

contraction and gold prices surged. The state is also heavily publicizing large-scale food security programs through Tkiyet Um Ali and the Ministry of Awqaf to mitigate the impact of inflation on citizens during Ramadan. This convergence of festivities, religious preparation, and regional crisis management defines the current Jordanian strategic posture.

#### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Escalation of Gaza Diplomatic Pressure:** Reports indicate a hardening of positions as Israeli sources "leaked" a 60-day deadline for [Hamas disarmament](#) before a resumption of full-scale hostilities, a move analyzed as a joint U.S.-Israeli [negotiation tactic](#).
- **West Bank Instability:** Significant military activity was reported in Hebron, including the [detention of 14 Palestinians](#) and the destruction of residential infrastructure, alongside increased settler [incursions at Al-Aqsa](#).
- **National Strategic Development:** The government promoted major infrastructure and tourism projects, notably the [Karak Teleferik](#) and specialized archaeology training programs in [Aqaba](#) to bolster the labor market.
- **Ramadan Food Security Mobilization:** Tkiyet Um Ali announced an ambitious 2026-2029 strategy to expand [food aid coverage](#), targeting 40,000 households across the kingdom to offset [rising costs](#).
- **Legislative Adjustments:** Parliament debated significant amendments to the [Gas Law](#) and insurance regulations, while the government implemented a [30% discount](#) on traffic fines to provide immediate financial relief to the public.

## KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

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**Armed Conflict & Militarization** The discourse is dominated by the ongoing war in Gaza and the perceived "war of attrition" in the West Bank. State media emphasized the  [Hamas call](#) for the UN Security Council to stop Israeli violations. The presence of Israeli [military checkpoints](#) and house demolitions in Hebron are framed as systemic aggression intended to provoke instability during the religious season.

**Diplomacy & Statecraft** Jordanian leadership is projecting a posture of regional mediation. King Abdullah II met with German Chancellor [Olaf Scholz](#) to discuss regional cooperation, while Queen Rania conducted a [high-profile visit](#) to India, focusing on cultural and economic ties. Relationship-building with Saudi Arabia was also highlighted through [Royal greetings](#) marking the King's birthday.

**Macroeconomics & Trade** The economic climate is mixed. While **Petra tourism** reportedly saw a [35% increase](#) in international visitors, the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) index [declined to 3647 points](#). Gold prices rose, with 24-karat reaching [114 JOD](#), reflecting regional uncertainty and hedging by local investors.

**Food & Water Security** The state is prioritizing **social safety nets** through the Ministry of Awqaf, which is distributing [1,000 food parcels](#) for Ramadan. The strategic intent is to prevent civil unrest driven by food inflation, particularly in underserved regions like [Ma'an and Irbid](#).

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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### Scientific Rationalism vs. Social Prestige

A significant portion of the broadcast was dedicated to an interview with **Dr. Rana Dajani**, who challenged the Jordanian societal obsession with "prestige" careers like medicine, advocating for [pure research](#) and the biological understanding of [cell memory](#). This represents a state-backed push toward a [knowledge economy](#) and critical thinking as tools for national resilience.

### Information Warfare and "Leaked" Ultimatums

There is a sophisticated awareness of how **leaked reports** from Washington and Tel Aviv are used to shape the negotiation environment. The broadcast analyzed these leaks not as news, but as a [pressure card](#) designed to disrupt ceasefire potential and force Hamas into total disarmament before the Ramadan [peace summit](#) in Washington.

## INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

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Jordan's domestic health is characterized by **institutional mobilization** to maintain social order. The government is acutely aware of the potential for **economic grievances** to translate into instability. The [30% traffic fine reduction](#) is a transparent attempt to mitigate public frustration. Factional stability appears high, with the "Royal Initiatives" serving as the primary vehicle for political signaling. However, the heavy emphasis on [security and traffic plans](#) for Ramadan suggests an underlying concern regarding crowd control and public order in the capital and holy sites.

## EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

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Jordan is positioning itself as the **indispensable regional moderate**. The state media frames the outside world as increasingly chaotic, specifically citing the [extremist rhetoric](#) of Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich. In response, Jordan is forging deeper ties with **Germany and India**, diversifying its alliance portfolio beyond its traditional reliance on the U.S. This "Global Posture" is one of **active statecraft**, where Jordan seeks to be a voice of reason while preparing for the possibility of a [wider regional explosion](#) if ceasefire talks fail.

## THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

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The economic environment is under strain from regional instability, despite pockets of growth in the tourism sector. Market sentiment appears cautious, with a noted downturn in the stock exchange and a flight to gold.

- **Stock Market Performance:** The ASE general price index [fell by 46%](#) compared to previous closes, with only 41 companies rising while 30 fell.
- **Commodities:** Gold prices surged to [4998 USD](#) per ounce globally, impacting local markets where 21-karat gold hit [100 JOD](#).
- **Tourism Growth:** Petra saw a [35% increase](#) in foreign visitors, a critical indicator for foreign currency reserves.
- **Social Spending:** Tkiyet Um Ali strategy targets [40,000 families](#) for meat and food distribution to combat the [cost of living crisis](#).

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES

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The day's reports focused more on the reinforcement of existing hierarchies than on sudden shifts, emphasizing the King's central role in regional development.

- **King Abdullah II:** Centrally framed as the architect of "Royal Initiatives" in [Irbid and Karak](#), reinforcing his domestic mandate during his 64th birthday.
- **Ayman Safadi (Foreign Minister):** Portrayed as a [strong diplomatic lead](#) at the UN, directly challenging Israeli narratives on the global stage.
- **Dr. Rana Dajani:** Elevated as a [national intellectual figure](#), signaling a shift in how the state wants to model success for Jordanian youth.

## EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

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The **Lead Stories** were the Gaza conflict and the King's birthday celebrations. These stories received the most airtime and were presented with a tone of **sober urgency** mixed with national pride. **Buried Stories** included the specific economic details of the ASE decline, which were reported but not given the same analytical depth as the humanitarian efforts. A **Conspicuous Omission** was any detailed discussion of the energy crisis or specific costs of the Gas Law amendments, which were mentioned as "debated" but without clarifying their impact on consumer prices.

## GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

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The broadcast frames the geopolitical landscape as one of **aggressive expansionism** by Israel countered by

**principled resistance** and diplomatic maneuver by Jordan.

- **Israel:** Portrayed as an **extremist aggressor**. Quote: "Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich [renewed his call](#) to occupy the Gaza Strip and establish settlements."
- **USA (Trump Administration):** Portrayed as a **pressuring ally**. Framing suggests the U.S. is using "common pressure papers" with Israel to [enforce a disarmament agenda](#) on Hamas.
- **Hamas:** Portrayed as a **demanding negotiator**. Quote: "Hamas called on the Peace Council to move [immediately to stop violations](#)."
- **Germany:** Framed as a **strategic partner**, seeking "cooperation and [regional developments](#)" through the King-Scholz meeting.

## INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

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- **Narrative Seeding:** The Jordanian broadcast proactively identified Israeli "leaks" as **psychological operations** meant to influence the upcoming Washington peace talks, warning that these reports are meant to [confuse the ceasefire path](#).
- **Propaganda:** The extensive coverage of [Royal birthday festivals](#) in Ma'an and Irbid serves as domestic propaganda to ensure tribal and regional loyalty amidst high economic stress.

## HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

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**Ramadan Flashpoints:** The current level of **Al-Aqsa incursions** and West Bank arrests suggests that Ramadan will see a significant escalation in local civil unrest, potentially drawing Jordan into a deeper [security crisis](#).

**Economic Pivot:** The decline in the Amman Stock Exchange may lead the government to introduce more aggressive [stimulus measures](#) or further debt relief for the middle class beyond the current fine discounts.

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect heightened security presence in Amman and major cities as Ramadan begins. The [Ministry of Interior](#) will likely implement strict traffic and crowd control measures to prevent political protests from merging with religious gatherings.

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The result of the [Washington peace summit](#) will determine Jordan's economic trajectory. A failed summit will likely see gold prices remain high and local [stock market volatility](#) continue.

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** The [Tkiyet Um Ali strategy](#) suggests the state is preparing for **long-term economic hardship**, signaling that food security will remain a pillar of national stability for the foreseeable future.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

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Jordan faces a multifaceted risk profile where external conflict and internal economic pressure converge.

- **West Bank Spillover:** The risk of mass displacement or increased violence in Hebron destabilizing Jordan's borders. **Triggers:** A major incident at [Al-Aqsa Mosque](#) during Ramadan. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Severe political instability. **Mitigations:** Active Jordanian-Israeli security coordination and UN diplomatic pressure.
- **Economic Inflation Shock:** Rapidly rising food prices during Ramadan leading to localized protests. **Triggers:** Further [spikes in gold](#) and import costs. **Likelihood:** Medium. **Impact:** Civil unrest. **Mitigations:** Large-scale [food aid distribution](#) and legislative fine discounts.
- **Failed Gaza Negotiations:** Total breakdown of the Washington peace talks. **Triggers:** Implementation of the [60-day disarmament ultimatum](#). **Likelihood:** Medium. **Impact:** Regional escalation. **Mitigations:** Strengthening alliances with [Germany and India](#).

## GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

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- **The Scholz Meeting Details:** The broadcast was vague on the [specific outcomes](#) of the Jordanian-German meeting, omitting details on potential military or energy aid.
- **Amman Stock Market Context:** The [46% index decline](#) was reported without explaining the underlying sector failures (e.g., banking vs. industrial).

- **Gas Law Impact:** The strategic intent of the [Gas Law](#) debate was not connected to consumer utility costs, leaving a gap in understanding energy security.

## CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

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**The "Birthday Stabilizer" Illusion:** While the King's birthday festivals are presented as shows of strength, they may actually be a desperate attempt to **mask deep regional fractures** and the loss of state mandate in tribal areas like Ma'an, where [food aid dependency](#) is highest.

**Black Swan - The Israeli Settlement Pivot:** If the Israeli government follows through on [settling Gaza](#), it would effectively end the two-state solution narrative that Jordan's foreign policy relies upon, forcing an **abrupt and chaotic shift** in Jordan's global posture.

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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**For Statecraft/Public Sector:** Jordan must accelerate its **diplomatic diversification** with Asian and European powers to offset the unpredictable nature of U.S.-Israeli policy. Immediate focus should be on **Ramadan security de-escalation**.

**For Private Sector/Investors:** Capital should be directed toward the **tourism sector**, which shows resilience despite the war. However, hedging against **ASE volatility** through gold or foreign assets remains prudent given the [index downturn](#).

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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Parliamentary activity focused on balancing regulatory oversight with public financial relief through new laws and temporary discounts.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED: Gas Law Amendment** - intended to modernize energy distribution; **Social Security Law** - focused on [expanding coverage](#) to vulnerable sectors.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS: Traffic Fine Discount Announcement** - The government implemented a [30% reduction](#) to alleviate public economic pressure.

## KEY STORIES

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- **Gaza Negotiation Ultimatum:** Israeli leaks suggest a 60-day deadline for  [Hamas to disarm](#) or face continued war, coinciding with Trump's demands.
- **King's 64th Birthday Celebrations:** National festivals in [Al-Husseinieh](#), [Jerash](#), and Irbid to celebrate the monarch.
- **West Bank Raids:** Israeli forces arrested [14 Palestinians in Hebron](#) and demolished a residential building.
- **ASE Market Downturn:** The Amman Stock Exchange index dropped to [3647 points](#) in a high-volume trading day.
- **Tkiyet Um Ali Strategy:** A new 2026-2029 plan to reach [40,000 households](#) with food aid.
- **Queen Rania in India:** A visit to New Delhi and Mumbai focused on [cultural exchange](#) and women's empowerment.
- **Dr. Rana Dajani Interview:** A feature on biological research, [epigenetics](#), and educational reform.

- **Traffic Law Relief:** Implementation of a [30% discount](#) on all traffic fines nationwide.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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**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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