

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

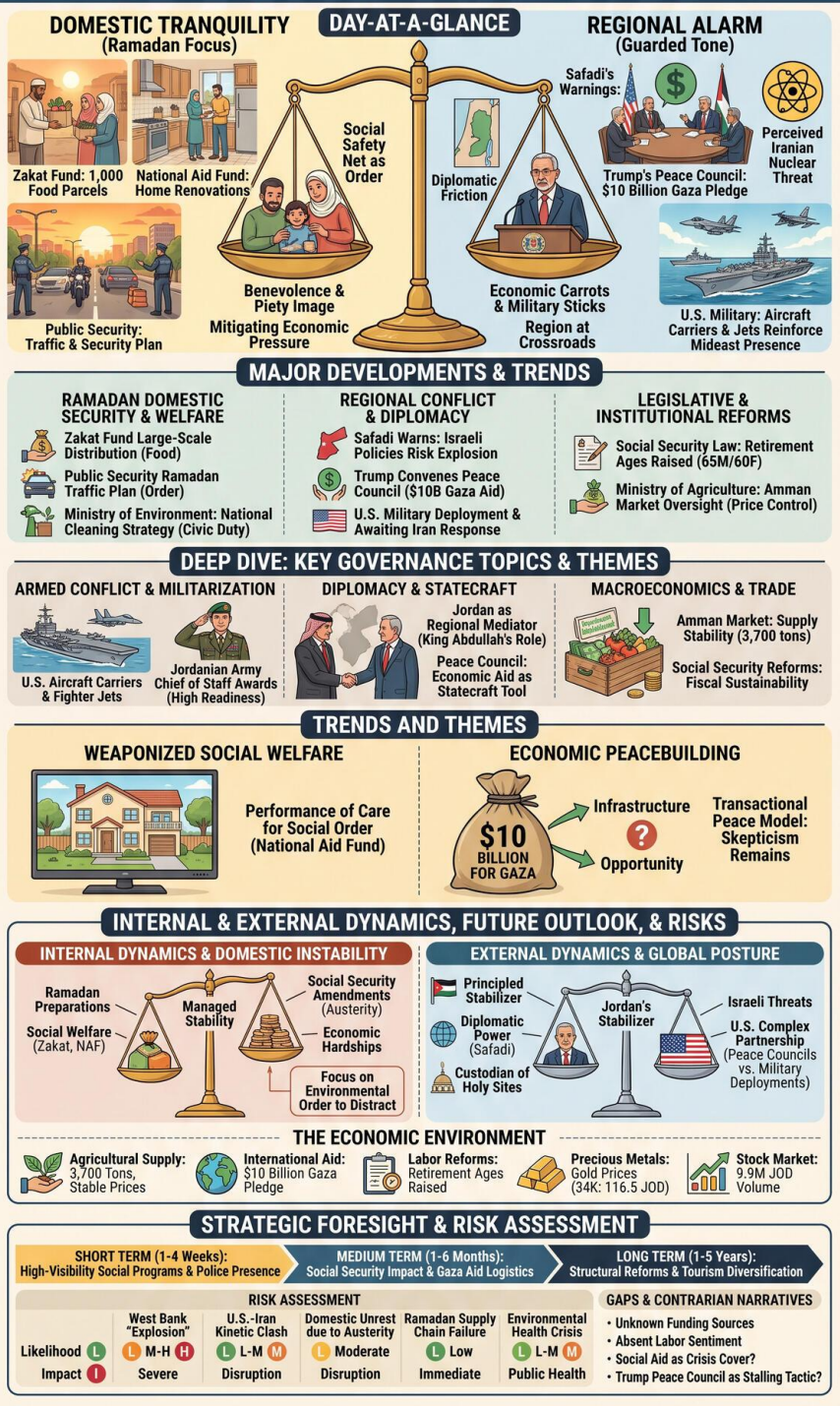
JORDANTV

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

JORDAN'S STRATEGIC BALANCE:

Domestic Stability & Ramadan Readiness Amidst Regional Tensions
& Military Posturing - February 19, 2026 Report



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JORDAN PRIORITIZES DOMESTIC
SOCIAL STABILITY AND RAMADAN
READINESS AMID ESCALATING
WEST BANK TENSIONS AND
REGIONAL MILITARY POSTURING.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Jordanian broadcast cycle for February 19, 2026, is dominated by a concerted state effort to ensure domestic tranquility and social cohesion at the onset of Ramadan. This is manifest through high-profile social welfare interventions, including the **National Aid Fund's** housing renovations for impoverished families and the distribution of [1,000 food parcels](#) by the Zakat Fund. By emphasizing the "social safety net," the government appears to be mitigating potential domestic unrest driven by economic pressures, while simultaneously projecting an image of benevolence and religious piety. Internally, the state is also advancing significant structural reforms, most notably a **Social Security Law** amendment that recalibrates retirement ages and contribution requirements, signaling a shift toward long-term fiscal sustainability at the cost of immediate public benefit.

Regionally, the tone is one of guarded alarm. Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi has issued stern warnings regarding **Israeli escalations** in the West Bank, framing them as a direct threat to regional stability and the sanctity of holy sites. This diplomatic friction coincides with a complex geopolitical maneuvering in Washington, where **President Trump** is reportedly hosting a "Peace Council" involving 45 nations and pledging [\\$10 billion for Gaza](#). However, this economic carrot is shadowed by a significant military stick; the U.S. is simultaneously reinforcing its Middle East presence with aircraft carriers in response to a perceived **Iranian nuclear threat**. The broadcast portrays a region at a crossroads, where large-scale financial pledges for reconstruction are being made even as the mechanisms for a broader military conflict are being positioned.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Ramadan Domestic Security and Social Welfare Mobilization

- The Zakat Fund initiated a large-scale distribution of [food parcels](#) to 1,000 families to alleviate seasonal economic strain.
- The Public Security Directorate implemented a [comprehensive traffic and security plan](#) for the month of Ramadan to maintain order during peak hours.
- The Ministry of Environment launched a "National Cleaning Strategy" to combat littering and improve public hygiene, framing cleanliness as a [civic and religious duty](#).

Regional Conflict and Diplomacy

- Foreign Minister Safadi warned that Israeli policies in the West Bank are [undermining the prospects of peace](#) and risking a regional explosion.
- U.S. President Trump convened a Peace Council in Washington, proposing a [\\$10 billion aid package](#) for Gaza reconstruction.
- Tensions between the U.S. and Iran remain high, with the U.S. military [deploying aircraft carriers](#) to the region while awaiting a formal response from Tehran on nuclear proposals.

Legislative and Institutional Reforms

- The government approved amendments to the [Social Security Law](#), raising the retirement age to 65 for men and 60 for women.
- The Ministry of Agriculture increased oversight of the [Amman Central Market](#) to ensure supply stability and price control for essential goods during Ramadan.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The U.S. military presence in the Middle East has been reinforced with **aircraft carriers and fighter jets** to deter potential Iranian aggression [following nuclear negotiation stalls](#).
- Jordanian Army Chief of Staff distributed awards to units for [advanced training levels](#), signaling high domestic military readiness.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Jordan is positioning itself as a key regional mediator, with King Abdullah II receiving [congratulatory cables](#) from numerous Arab and Islamic leaders, reinforcing Jordan's central role in the Islamic world.
- The "Peace Council" in Washington serves as a [multilateral platform](#) where economic aid is being used as a primary tool of statecraft.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The Ministry of Agriculture reported that vegetable and fruit supply at the central market reached [3,700 tons](#), ensuring price stability despite increased Ramadan demand.
- Social security reforms are explicitly linked to [economic sustainability](#), adjusting for demographic shifts and longer life expectancies.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

Weaponized Social Welfare

The state is utilizing television programming to showcase direct interventions in the lives of the poor. The detailed coverage of the **National Aid Fund** renovating a home in Salt serves a dual purpose: it provides tangible evidence of government efficacy and functions as a [psychological operation](#) to reassure the public during a period of economic uncertainty. This "performance of care" is a critical component of maintaining social order.

Economic Peacebuilding

There is a clear trend toward using massive capital injections—specifically the [\\$10 billion for Gaza](#)—as a method to stabilize volatile

regions. This reflects a "Transactional Peace" model favored by the current U.S. administration, where infrastructure and economic opportunity are offered in exchange for a reduction in asymmetric threats. However, the broadcast remains skeptical of whether this economic incentive can overcome [long-standing ideological and territorial disputes](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Jordan appears to be in a state of managed stability. The heavy focus on **Ramadan preparations** suggests an underlying concern about the potential for social friction during the holy month. The **Social Security Law amendments** are a potential flashpoint; while framed as necessary for "regime stability" and fiscal health, raising the retirement age is a [sensitive issue](#) that could lead to public dissatisfaction if not coupled with visible social support. The prominent display of the **Zakat Fund** and **National Aid Fund** activities acts as a counterbalance to these structural austerity measures. The broadcast also highlights a focus on **environmental order** through the "National Cleaning Strategy," suggesting an effort to improve the quality of life and national pride to distract from deeper economic structural issues.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Jordan frames itself as a **principled stabilizer** in a chaotic region. It portrays the "outside world"—particularly Israeli actions in the West Bank—as a source of [systemic threat](#). In contrast, its relationship with the U.S. is portrayed as strategically vital but complex, as the U.S. balances diplomatic

"Peace Councils" with [major military deployments](#). Jordan is actively projecting power through diplomacy, with the Foreign Minister serving as the primary voice of warning to the international community. The state seeks to secure its interests by maintaining its role as the **Custodian of Holy Sites** and a indispensable partner in U.S.-led regional security frameworks.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The domestic economy is heavily influenced by seasonal factors and significant structural shifts in social policy. Market sentiment appears cautiously optimistic regarding food supply but remains wary of regional instability. Capital flows are largely dictated by foreign aid and government social spending.

- **Agricultural Supply:** Amman Central Market received [3,700 tons](#) of produce; tomato prices ranged from 20 to 40 piasters per kilogram.
- **International Aid:** U.S. pledged [\\$10 billion](#) for the Gaza sector via the Peace Council.
- **Labor Reforms:** Retirement ages raised to [65 for males and 60 for females](#) under new Social Security amendments.
- **Precious Metals:** Gold prices in Jordan: 24K at [116.5 JOD](#), 21K at 100.6 JOD, 18K at 90.5 JOD.
- **Stock Market:** Amman Stock Exchange saw a trading volume of [9.9 million JOD](#) with 3.9 million shares traded across 2,830 contracts; the index closed at 3,628 points.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The transcripts indicate a consolidation of military and administrative leadership through public ceremonies and legislative approvals. The emphasis is on continuity and reward for institutional loyalty.

- **Major General Yousef Huneiti:** The Army Chief of Staff's distribution of [training awards](#) underscores his status as the primary steward of military modernization and unit cohesion.
- **Dr. Jaffar Hassan:** As Prime Minister, his approval of the [Social Security Law amendments](#) marks him as the architect of the state's current fiscal and social policy overhaul.
- **Ayman Safadi:** The Foreign Minister continues to be the **primary face of Jordanian external posture**, successfully framing national security concerns as [regional imperatives](#) during high-level meetings.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial priority is **domestic social cohesion**. The "Lead Stories" are consistently about Ramadan preparations, social aid, and religious reflections. Regional conflict (Safadi's warnings, U.S.-Iran) is presented with urgency but is secondary to the "Sehtein wa Afieh" cooking show and home renovation segments, which occupy significant airtime. The tone is **reassuring and nationalistic**, aimed at reinforcing the bond between the state and the populace. Conspicuous omissions include any detailed discussion of the **economic hardships** that necessitate the very aid programs being lauded, or the potential negative public

reaction to the **Social Security retirement age hike**.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcast portrays a multipolar regional arena where economic incentives and military threats are used in equal measure. Jordan is framed as a "Strong Friend" to the international community, while regional rivals are depicted as "Chaotic Foe" or "Inept Stable" actors depending on their alignment with Jordanian interests.

- **Jordan:** Framed as a principled, stable, and compassionate state. Quote: "Jordan is an oasis of stability... [ascending with the clear truth](#) that revives us."
- **Israel:** Portrayed as a destabilizing and aggressive actor. Quote: "Israeli escalations... [pushing the West Bank toward explosion](#)."
- **USA (Trump):** Framed as a powerful but transactional broker. Quote: "Trump clarified that his country [will provide 10 billion dollars](#) for the Gaza sector."
- **Iran:** Characterized as a secretive and dangerous adversary. Quote: "Waiting for a [written response from Tehran](#) regarding nuclear proposals."

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The broadcast cycle is an exercise in **narrative seeding**, where the government is actively shaping the "Ramadan story." By interweaving news of regional threats with domestic aid success stories, the state is creating a narrative where **external dangers** justify **internal structural changes** (like Social Security reform), while social welfare acts as the palliative. The use of "human

interest" stories, such as the [Salt family renovation](#), is a clear psychological operation intended to boost government approval and dampen potential dissent during a period of high regional tension.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Social Stability Hypotheses

- The combination of **Ramadan-focused aid** and **security plans** will likely prevent major domestic unrest in the next 4 weeks, despite economic grievances.
- The **Social Security reforms** may face delayed public pushback once the immediate religious focus of Ramadan passes and the reality of extended working years sets in.

Regional Conflict Hypotheses

- If the U.S. [military posturing](#) fails to extract a favorable response from Tehran, a limited kinetic engagement in the Middle East is possible within the medium term.
- The West Bank remains the primary regional flashpoint; continued Israeli settlement activity will likely lead to a [diplomatic crisis](#) between Amman and Jerusalem.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Jordan will maintain internal order through high-visibility social programs and a [heightened police presence](#) during Ramadan. Diplomatic pressure on Israel will intensify at the UN and other multilateral forums.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The implementation of [Social Security changes](#)

will begin to affect labor market dynamics. The \$10 billion Gaza pledge will face logistical hurdles, potentially leading to increased local frustration if aid delivery is slow.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural reforms in [retirement and social aid](#) are intended to stabilize Jordan's fiscal position against regional shocks. The tourism sector in [Wadi Rum](#) will be a key pillar for economic diversification.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks identified involve regional spillover of conflict and domestic economic disillusionment. The state is actively working to mitigate these through a mix of security and social welfare measures.

- **Risk of West Bank "Explosion":** Continued Israeli military operations and settlement expansion could trigger a mass uprising or refugee influx. **Triggers:** Major security incidents in Holy Sites. **Likelihood:** Moderate-High. **Impact:** Severe regional instability. **Mitigations:** Jordanian diplomatic mediation and U.S. pressure on Israel.
- **U.S.-Iran Kinetic Clash:** Miscalculation during naval posturing could lead to direct conflict. **Triggers:** Confrontation between U.S. carriers and Iranian vessels. **Likelihood:** Low-Moderate. **Impact:** Disruption of global energy flows and regional war. **Mitigations:** Ongoing nuclear negotiations and back-channel diplomacy.

- **Domestic Unrest due to Austerity:** The [Social Security retirement hike](#) could spark labor strikes. **Triggers:** Implementation of new retirement ages without adequate wage growth. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Economic disruption and loss of government mandate. **Mitigations:** Gradual implementation and increased National Aid Fund spending.
- **Ramadan Supply Chain Failure:** Sudden price spikes for essential goods during the holy month. **Triggers:** Logistics disruptions or market hoarding. **Likelihood:** Low. **Impact:** Immediate public anger. **Mitigations:** [Ministerial oversight of central markets](#).
- **Environmental Health Crisis:** Littering and waste management failure during peak summer/Ramadan. **Triggers:** Breakdown in municipal waste collection. **Likelihood:** Low-Moderate. **Impact:** Public health risks and reputational damage to tourism. **Mitigations:** The [National Cleaning Strategy](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

The broadcast fails to provide context on the funding source for the massive renovation programs, the actual public reaction to retirement age increases, and the specific terms of the U.S. \$10 billion Gaza deal.

- **Funding Sources:** No mention of whether the [home renovations](#) are funded by international grants or the domestic budget.
- **Labor Sentiment:** A total absence of interviews with citizens or labor unions regarding the [Social Security law changes](#).

- **Gaza Aid Conditionality:** The broadcast omits any "strings attached" to the [\\$10 billion aid](#), such as political concessions by local actors.
- **Iranian Response:** While awaiting a response from Tehran, there is no analysis of **internal Iranian dynamics** that might influence their reply.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **Social Aid as a Cover for Crisis:** The intense focus on [single-family renovations](#) and Zakat parcels may not be a sign of state strength, but a desperate, low-cost attempt to stave off a widespread economic collapse that the state can no longer afford to fix at a systemic level.
- **The Trump Peace Council as a Stalling Tactic:** The \$10 billion pledge may be a diplomatic distraction to allow for [military positioning against Iran](#), rather than a genuine attempt at Palestinian reconstruction.
- **Black Swan Event:** A sudden collapse of the [Amman Stock Exchange](#) triggered by a regional security breach, despite the current "stability" narrative, which would instantly evaporate the state's ability to fund social welfare programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize the **de-escalation of West Bank tensions** as a prerequisite for the success of any Gaza economic reconstruction plan.

- Ensure that **Social Security reforms** are accompanied by transparent, long-term communication strategies to avoid labor unrest.
- Leverage the **National Cleaning Strategy** to build broader civic engagement and local governance capacity.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Opportunity:** The [\\$10 billion Gaza pledge](#) represents a massive opportunity for construction and logistics firms, provided regional security holds.
- **Agricultural Stability:** Continued investment in the [Jordanian agricultural sector](#) is a safe bet, given state-mandated supply stability and seasonal demand peaks.
- **Tourism Infrastructure:** The promotion of [Wadi Rum](#) suggests ongoing state support for high-end eco-tourism and adventure travel infrastructure.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The legislative focus is on long-term structural economic reform and environmental regulation, balanced by traditional social welfare initiatives.

- **Social Security Law Amendments:** Raised retirement ages to [65 \(male\) and 60 \(female\)](#) and adjusted contribution requirements to ensure fund longevity.
- **National Cleaning Strategy:** A new policy framework to [enforce public hygiene](#) and environmental standards through community-state partnerships.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Trump Peace Council:** A Washington meeting involving 45 nations to [fund Gaza's future](#).
- **Safadi Press Briefing:** Warning against [Israeli West Bank policies](#).
- **Ministerial Market Inspection:** Agriculture Minister's visit to [Amman Central Market](#) to monitor Ramadan prices.

KEY STORIES

- **King's Ramadan Greetings:** King Abdullah II receives cables of congratulations from heads of [Arab and Islamic states](#).
- **Safadi Warns Israel:** Jordan's Foreign Minister warns of the [regional danger](#) posed by Israeli actions in the West Bank.
- **U.S. Gaza Pledge:** Trump announces a [\\$10 billion package](#) for Gaza at a Peace Council in Washington.
- **Social Security Reform:** Prime Minister approves [raising the retirement age](#) to 65 for men and 60 for women.
- **National Aid Fund Home Renovation:** The program renovates the home of a struggling [family in Salt](#), providing new appliances and structural repairs.
- **Zakat Fund Food Distribution:** The fund distributes [1,000 food parcels](#) for Ramadan.
- **Amman Market Supply:** The central market receives [3,700 tons of produce](#) ensuring price stability.
- **National Cleaning Strategy:** Environment Ministry launches an [initiative](#) to clean public and tourist spaces.

- **Wadi Rum Tourism:** A feature on the "Moon Valley" highlighting its [wildlife and natural beauty](#).
- **U.S.-Iran Military Standoff:** U.S. [deploying carriers](#) to the Middle East as nuclear talks stall.
- **Army Awards:** Army Chief of Staff awards [competitions cups](#) to military units.
- **Science and Religion:** A discussion on the [significance of the number 40](#) in the Quran and human brain development.
- **Agricultural Education for Girls:** A feature on the [Al-Rehab Secondary School](#) teaching girls modern agricultural techniques.
- **Jellyfish Biological Research:** Analysis of [jellyfish for anti-aging](#) and medical treatments.
- **Ramadan Traffic Plan:** Public Security Directorate outlines its [strategy](#) for managing city congestion during the holy month.
- **Sehtein wa Afieh Cooking Show:** A chef demonstrates a [ribs crown recipe](#) for Ramadan.
- **Am Al-Naml Nature Debate:** A cultural talk show discusses [nature in Irbid](#) and Ramadan food naming conventions.
- **Mosque Cleaning Initiative:** Zakat Fund and Ministry of Endowments [clean mosques](#) in Petra ahead of Ramadan.

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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