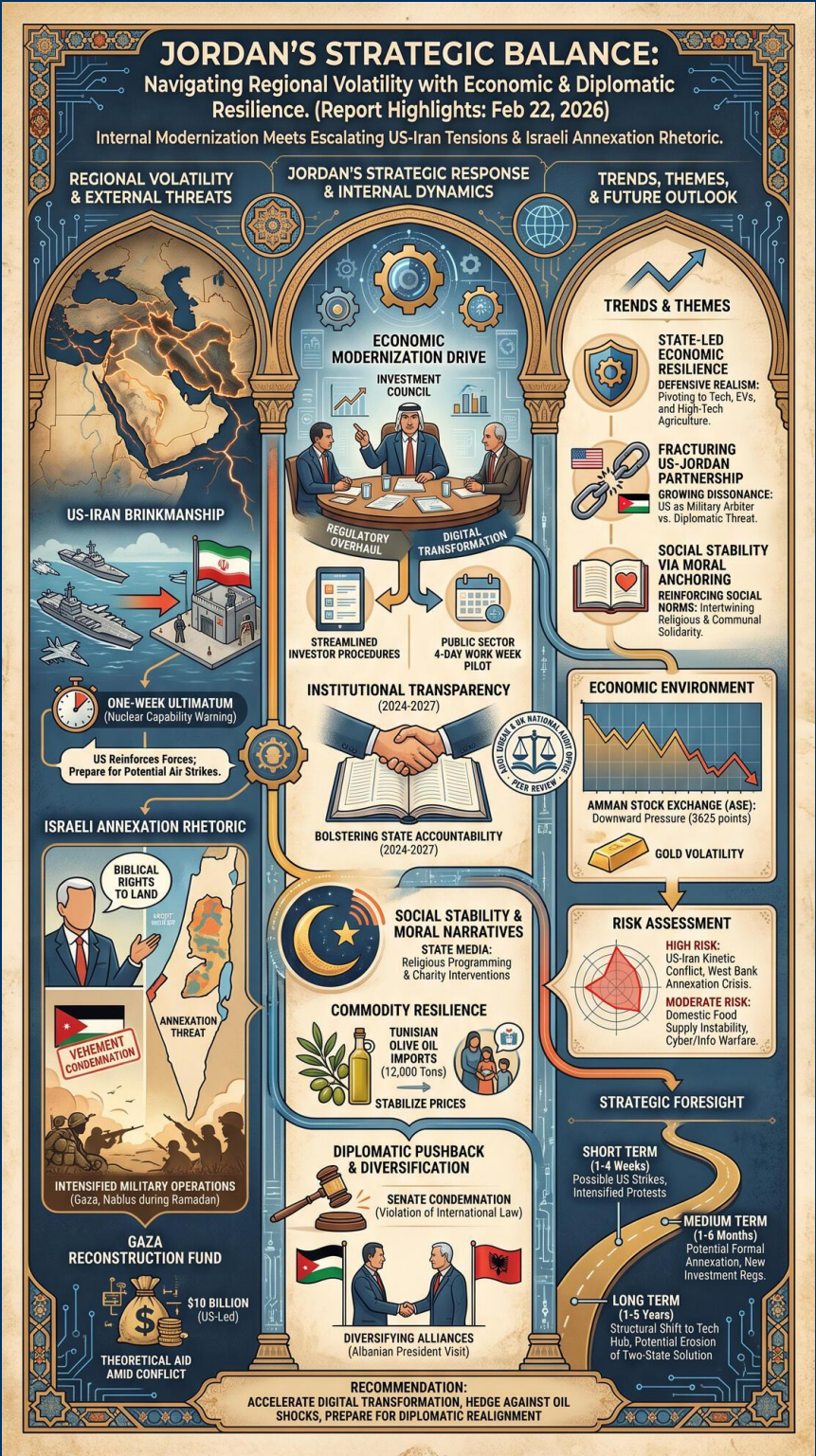


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

JORDANTV

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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JORDAN NAVIGATES REGIONAL
VOLATILITY AS US-IRAN TENSIONS
ESCALATE AND ISRAELI
ANNEXATION RHETORIC TRIGGERS
SHARP CONDEMNATION.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

Broadcasts from February 22, 2026, reveal a Jordanian government aggressively pursuing domestic economic modernization and institutional transparency while simultaneously reacting to an increasingly volatile regional security environment. Domestically, the Prime Minister is spearheading a **legislative overhaul** to streamline investment, while the Audit Bureau has initiated an unprecedented peer-review partnership with the United Kingdom to bolster state accountability. These moves suggest a leadership attempting to insulate the domestic economy from regional shocks through structural resilience and digital transformation.

However, the regional landscape is dominated by a sharp escalation in rhetoric and military posturing. Jordanian officials and legislative bodies have issued **vehement condemnations** of recent statements by the

U.S. Ambassador to Israel regarding "Biblical rights" to land, which Amman interprets as a precursor to formal annexation of the West Bank. This diplomatic friction coincides with reports of intensified Israeli military operations in Gaza and Nablus during the month of Ramadan, threatening to ignite broader civil unrest. Concurrently, the Trump administration's special envoy has issued a **one-week ultimatum** to Iran regarding its nuclear program, as the U.S. reinforces its regional military footprint for potential air strikes.

The confluence of these events portrays a Jordan caught between a commitment to **Western-aligned economic standards** and a deepening ideological and security rift with U.S.-Israeli policy. The government is leveraging state media to promote social cohesion through religious programming and high-profile charitable interventions, likely intended to maintain domestic stability as commodity prices—particularly for staples like olive oil—require state intervention to remain affordable for the populace.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Crisis in West Bank Diplomacy:** The Jordanian Senate's Palestine Committee and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have denounced statements by the U.S. Ambassador to Israel concerning [Biblical claims](#) to the West Bank, viewing them as a violation of international law and a threat to the two-state solution.
- **US-Iran Military Brinkmanship:** The U.S. has reportedly reinforced its forces in the Middle East in preparation for [potential air strikes](#) on Iran, following a warning from Special Envoy Steve Witkoff that Iran is one week away from nuclear weapon capability.

- **Economic Modernization Drive:** Prime Minister Jafar Hassan chaired the Investment Council to implement [regulatory changes](#) aimed at simplifying investor procedures and accelerating digital transformation across government services.
- **Audit Bureau Transparency Initiative:** Jordan has launched its first-ever "Peer Review" mission with the British National Audit Office to [evaluate regulatory practices](#) and enhance institutional transparency for the 2024-2027 period.
- **Ramadan Security Escalation:** Tensions have spiked following Israeli raids in [Beit Lahiya and Nablus](#) during Ramadan, despite ongoing talk of a \$10 billion Gaza reconstruction fund led by the U.S. President.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Intensified military posturing in the Middle East as U.S. forces prepare for [confrontation with Iran](#).
- Continued Israeli military operations in Gaza and the West Bank (Nablus, Jenin) resulting in [Palestinian casualties](#).

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Albanian President Bajram Begaj's official visit to Jordan to [strengthen bilateral relations](#) and tour historic sites.
- Jordanian Senate condemnation of U.S. diplomatic rhetoric favoring [Israeli annexation](#).
- U.S.-Iran indirect negotiations slated for next month, despite the [threat of military action](#).

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Strategic import of [12,000 tons of Tunisian olive oil](#) to stabilize domestic market prices during Ramadan.
- Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) facing downward pressure, closing at [3625 points](#).

Leadership Dynamics & Governance

- Minister of Communication Mohammad Al-Momani emphasizes the balance between [freedom of opinion](#) and national security laws.
- Government consideration of a [four-day work week](#) for the public sector to improve efficiency.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

State-Led Economic Resilience as Defensive Realism

The prominent coverage of the Investment Council and the Audit Bureau's partnership with the UK [National Audit Office](#) suggests a strategic narrative: Jordan is attempting to signal "governance maturity" to global capital. By focusing on IT, electric vehicles, and high-tech agriculture [training programs](#), the state is trying to pivot its economy away from traditional dependencies. This internal focus serves as a hedge against regional instability, aiming to make the Jordanian state a "stable hub" even as its neighbors face military escalation.

The Fragmentation of the U.S.-Jordan Security Partnership

There is a growing dissonance in the portrayal of the United States. On one hand, U.S. military power is acknowledged as the primary regional arbiter against Iran [potential](#)

[air strikes](#). On the other, the U.S. diplomatic posture regarding Palestinian land is framed as an [existential threat](#) to Jordanian interests. The Senate's unusually sharp rebuke of the U.S. Ambassador indicates that Amman may be losing confidence in the U.S. as a "neutral broker," leading to increased diplomatic outreach to European and Balkan partners like [Albania](#).

Social Stability Through Religious and Moral Narratives

A significant portion of the broadcast cycle is dedicated to reinforcing social norms via religious fatwas and charity human-interest stories [charity story in Zarqa](#). By intertwining lessons on embryology with Quranic verses [embryology segment](#) and providing minute details on Ramadan fasting rules [fasting rules](#), the state media is performing a stabilization function. This "moral anchoring" is likely intended to dampen the domestic impact of regional wars and economic fluctuations by emphasizing communal solidarity and divine order.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Jordan appears to be in a state of managed domestic tension. The government's emphasis on **legal warfare against misinformation** regarding disabled persons and child exploitation [media commission warning](#) indicates a sensitivity to social media-driven unrest. The Minister of Communication's remarks on **national unity** vs. freedom of speech [freedom of opinion](#) suggest that the state is actively monitoring and potentially suppressing dissent that could exacerbate tribal or partisan divisions. While the government projects a mandate through modernization initiatives, the reliance on

commodity subsidies (like olive oil imports) and **rural electrification** [rural electrification](#) highlights the fragility of the social contract under current inflationary pressures.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Jordan is positioning itself as a **principled defender of the international order** while pragmatically engaging with a fracturing multipolar reality. The framing of the "outside world" is increasingly hostile, defined by Israeli expansionism and U.S. military ultimatums. Amman is reacting by:

- **Weaponizing Diplomatic Rhetoric:** Utilizing legislative bodies to issue formal condemnations that cite [international law](#) and UN charters.
- **Diversifying Alliances:** Hosting the Albanian President to project [global connectivity](#) beyond the immediate Middle East crisis.
- **Strategic Mediation Support:** While not the primary mediator, Jordan signals support for [indirect talks](#) between the U.S. and Iran, preferring a diplomatic off-ramp to a regional conflagration.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic climate is characterized by defensive state intervention to mitigate global price shocks and a stagnant stock market. Market sentiment appears cautious as geopolitical risks increase.

- **Currency & Markets:** The Amman Stock Exchange dropped to [3625 points](#); gold prices remained volatile with 24K at 118.80 JOD and 21K at 103.60 JOD [gold prices](#).

- **Commodity Resilience:** The Ministry of Industry and Trade imported [12,000 tons of Tunisian olive oil](#) and released 300,000 5-liter units to state corporations to suppress price gouging.
- **Energy Infrastructure:** The Rural Electrification Project approved [652,000 JOD](#) for connecting 131 homes/sites to the grid.
- **International Aid:** The U.S. President reportedly collected [\\$10 billion](#) for Gaza reconstruction, though these funds are currently theoretical given the ongoing conflict.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Recent governance shifts indicate a consolidation of power under the modernization agenda led by Prime Minister Jafar Hassan, while technical roles are being professionalized through international oversight.

- **Jafar Hassan (Prime Minister):** Emerging as the primary driver of [economic modernization](#), focusing on investment laws and public sector reform.
- **Mohammad Al-Momani (Minister of Communication):** Tasked with [information control](#) and setting the parameters of acceptable public discourse.
- **Steve Witkoff (U.S. Special Envoy):** Positioned as the aggressive "face" of the [U.S. posture toward Iran](#), signaling a shift toward ultimatum-based diplomacy.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy prioritizes **National Sovereignty and Religious**

Continuity. The lead stories are consistently the Prime Minister's economic meetings and the Senate's defense of Palestinian land rights, framed through a lens of national dignity. Buried stories include the significant [ASE stock market dip](#), which is reported with minimal analysis, likely to avoid triggering economic panic. The tone is a mix of **reassuring domestic paternalism** (charity segments) and **analytical skepticism** toward foreign powers (US/Israel). A conspicuous omission is the lack of detailed reporting on the specific logistics or casualties of the U.S. military buildup, focusing instead on the rhetoric of the "ultimatum."

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The subtext reveals a region bracing for a "Trump 2.0" style of transactional and aggressive foreign policy, which Jordan is struggling to reconcile with its traditional roles.

COUNTRIES

- **Jordan:** Portrayed as a **principled and modernizing** state under pressure from irrational external actors. Quotes emphasize "adherence to international standards" in both [auditing](#) and [diplomacy](#).
- **Israel:** Framed as a **hostile and extremist** entity, particularly its government, which is accused of "feeding extremism" and "gradual annexation" [annexation plans](#).
- **United States:** Portrayed as a **chaotic and biased** power. While the U.S. is the source of the \$10B fund, its ambassador is framed as a "diplomatic outlier" making "dangerous precedents" [US Ambassador](#).

- **Iran:** Depicted as **secretive but cornered**, currently facing a "good faith" test from the U.S. [Witkoff warning](#).

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** (Implicitly referenced via Witkoff/Funding) Portrayed as a **powerful, transactional, yet threatening** figure whose policies both promise reconstruction and threaten total war.
- **Bajram Begaj:** Portrayed as a **respectful ally** and friend of Jordan, validating the nation's cultural and historical significance [Begaj visit](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The state is seeding the narrative that economic hardship is being managed through "scientific" and "transparent" governance (e.g., the Audit Bureau peer review) to preempt accusations of corruption.
- **Psychological Operations:** The extensive religious segments during a period of high military tension serve as a "calming mechanism" to redirect public anxiety from the U.S.-Iran threat to spiritual and familial duties.
- **Censorship:** The Media Commission's [ban on filming](#) "contrived or partial" human-interest situations regarding the disabled suggests a crackdown on social media content that could go viral and damage the government's image.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Regional Hypotheses

- If the U.S. one-week deadline to Iran passes without a deal, Jordan will likely see a significant influx of U.S. aircraft and potential [kinetic strikes](#), leading to an oil price spike.
- The Senate's condemnation suggests a **looming diplomatic downgrade** or formal protest against the U.S. embassy if West Bank annexation rhetoric continues.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Possible U.S. air strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities or proxies; high likelihood of intensified protests in Jordan against the U.S. embassy; finalization of the [4-day work week](#) pilot.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Potential for formal [Israeli annexation](#) of parts of Area C; implementation of new Investment Environment Regulations; stabilization of olive oil prices following the Tunisian imports.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Structural shift in Jordan's economy toward tech and EVs as a regional hub; potential erosion of the two-state solution necessitating a total [realignment of Jordanian security policy](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

The current risk profile is dominated by external military flashpoints and internal economic sensitivities.

- **Risk: U.S.-Iran Kinetic Conflict.**

Triggers: Expiry of the Witkoff ultimatum [Witkoff warning](#). Likelihood: High. Impact: Massive regional disruption, oil price surge, refugee potential. Mitigations: Indirect negotiations, Russian/Chinese mediation.

- **Risk: West Bank Annexation Crisis.**

Triggers: Formal Israeli legislative action or further U.S. endorsements of "Biblical rights" [annexation rhetoric](#). Likelihood: Moderate-High. Impact: Collapse of Jordan-Israel peace treaty, massive civil unrest in Amman. Mitigations: International pressure on Israel, European diplomatic intervention.

- **Risk: Domestic Food Supply Instability.**

Triggers: Failure of olive oil supply chains or global inflationary spikes. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Erosion of state mandate, social unrest in rural areas like [Zarqa](#). Mitigations: Continued strategic imports, price controls.

- **Risk: Cyber/Information Warfare Overload.**

Triggers: Coordinated misinformation campaigns regarding the Gaza fund or the disabled [media commission warning](#). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Polarization, loss of trust in state media. Mitigations: Enhanced digital literacy programs, transparency in the Audit Bureau.

- **Risk: Failure of Investment Modernization.** Triggers: Regional war scaring away foreign capital despite regulatory reforms [Investment Council](#). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Long-term economic stagnation, youth unemployment. Mitigations: Bilateral investment treaties with non-regional partners.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts fail to provide the **Israeli official response** to the Jordanian Senate's condemnation, leaving the potential for diplomatic escalation one-sided in the narrative.
- There is no mention of the **economic cost** of reinforcing U.S. forces in the region and who is financing the operations.
- The details of the **4-day work week** survey lack data on potential productivity losses or private sector opposition.
- The "one week away" nuclear claim by Witkoff [Witkoff warning](#) is presented as fact without citing IAEA data or contradictory intelligence assessments.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

Hypothesis: The "Controlled Crisis" for Domestic Reform

The intense focus on external threats (US/Israel/Iran) may be a deliberate strategy by the Jordanian government to manufacture a "rally around the flag" effect. This allows the PM to push through [drastic economic and labor reforms](#) (like the 4-day work week or regulatory overhauls) that might otherwise face significant bureaucratic or public resistance.

Hypothesis: The \$10B Gaza Fund as a Bribe for Annexation

The simultaneous mention of a [\\$10B reconstruction fund](#) and U.S. rhetoric favoring "Biblical rights" suggests a transactional "deal of the century" scenario where economic aid is offered to Palestinians and neighboring states in exchange for accepting formal Israeli annexation of the West Bank. Jordan's public condemnation might be a negotiating tactic to increase its share of such a fund.

Black Swan Event: A sudden collapse of the Iranian-U.S. indirect talks leading to a preemptive strike **before** the one-week deadline, triggering a regional missile exchange that hits Jordanian airspace or infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Accelerate the [digital transformation](#) of government services to maintain administrative continuity in the event of regional kinetic conflict.
- Formulate a contingency plan for a **breakdown in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty** should annexation rhetoric formalize into policy.
- Leverage the [Audit Bureau's UK partnership](#) to secure European grant funding by demonstrating high fiduciary standards.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Hedge against a **regional oil price shock** by diversifying energy sources or investing in the government's EV infrastructure push [electric vehicles](#).

- Monitor the [4-day work week](#) survey results, as this will set a new regulatory benchmark for labor costs and operational scheduling in Jordan.
- Exercise caution in **long-term real estate investment** near borders or sensitive diplomatic areas until the annexation rhetoric stabilizes.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Jordan's legislative activity is currently split between defensive foreign policy resolutions and aggressive internal economic restructuring. The Prime Minister is leading a push for regulatory modernization to attract FDI.

• BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Investment Environment Regulation Amendment:** Proposed system to [simplify procedures](#) and accelerate digital services for investors.
- **Public Sector Attendance Policy:** An evaluation of the [4-day work week](#) proposal for government employees.

• HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Investment Council Meeting:** Chaired by PM Hassan to track economic modernization [investment environment](#).
- **Senate Palestine Committee:** Emergency session to denounce [US diplomatic statements](#).
- **Audit Bureau Inception Meeting:** Launched the [Peer Review](#) with the UK National Audit Office.

KEY STORIES

- **Investment Environment Reform:** PM Jafar Hassan chairs a meeting to implement a new project for [modernizing the investment climate](#), focusing on digital transformation and regulatory ease.
- **US Ambassador Condemnation:** The Jordanian Senate and Foreign Ministry sharply criticize the U.S. Ambassador to Israel's comments on [Biblical rights](#) to the West Bank.
- **US-Iran Nuclear Ultimatum:** Special Envoy Steve Witkoff warns Iran has [one week](#) to prove nuclear good faith or face U.S. air strikes.
- **Albanian President Visit:** Bajram Begaj visits Amman, touring the [Romanian Theater](#) and Citadel as part of an official diplomatic mission.
- **Audit Bureau UK Partnership:** Jordan begins a [peer-review process](#) with the UK National Audit Office to enhance transparency through 2027.
- **Olive Oil Market Intervention:** Ministry of Trade imports [12,000 tons of Tunisian oil](#) to stabilize prices during Ramadan.
- **Gaza Reconstruction Fund:** Reports of a [\\$10 billion fund](#) collected by the U.S. President for Gaza, amid ongoing Israeli raids in [Beit Lahiya](#).
- **Rural Electrification Approval:** 131 housing sites to be connected to the grid at a cost of [652,000 JOD](#).
- **Public Sector Work Week Survey:** The Media Commission launches a survey for a [4-day work week](#) pilot.
- **Ramadan Fatwa & Charity:** Extensive coverage of [fasting rules](#) and a high-profile case of social assistance for a family in [Zarqa](#).

- **Media Censorship Warnings:** The Minister of Communication warns against spreading [misleading content](#) about child exploitation and disabled persons.
- **Scientific Embryology Segment:** A detailed segment mapping [embryonic development](#) to Quranic descriptions of creation.
- **Petra Heritage Story:** A segment detailing the [Nabatean history](#) and the religious significance of the site.

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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