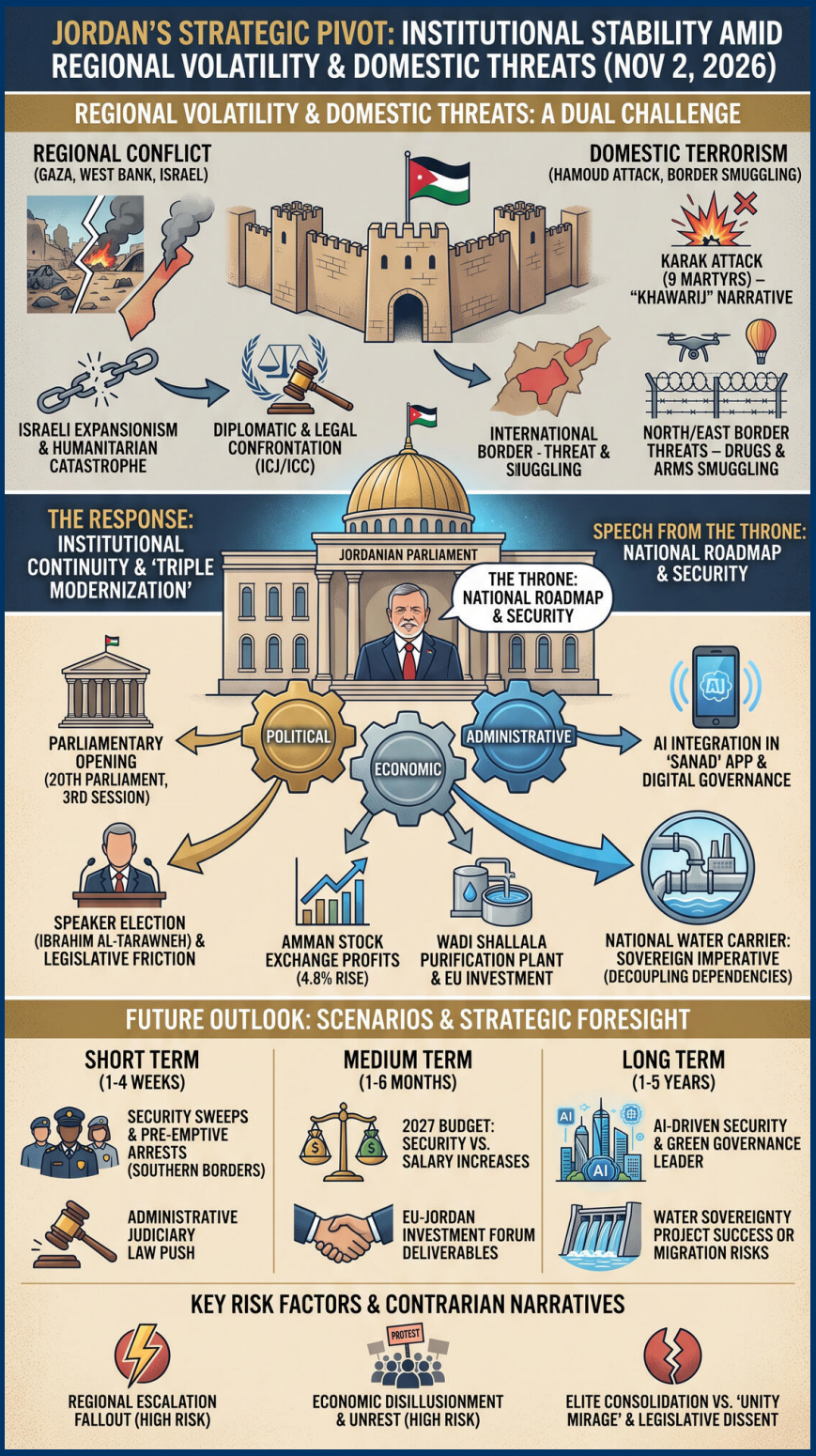
TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

JORDANTV

NOVEMBER 2, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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JORDAN PROJECTS INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY VIA PARLIAMENTARY OPENING AMID REGIONAL VOLATILITY AND DOMESTIC TERRORIST THREATS

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The political landscape in Jordan on November 2, 2026, was dominated by the **opening of the third ordinary session** of the 20th Parliament, a constitutional event leveraged by the monarchy to project domestic resilience and institutional continuity. King Abdullah II's "Speech from the Throne" served as the primary vehicle for a strategic pivot, addressing a recent **terrorist attack in the village of Hamoud**, Karak, which left nine martyrs. By framing the attackers as "Khawarij" (outcasts) and "terrorist gangs," the state unified the legislative and executive branches under a banner of national security, effectively utilizing the tragedy to bolster the domestic front during a period of transition toward a more party-based political system.

Simultaneously, the Jordanian leadership intensified its **rhetorical confrontation with Israel**, describing Israeli "expansionist ambitions" as the preeminent threat to regional stability. The King's speech and subsequent parliamentary debates underscored a deepening concern regarding the **humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza** and escalating tensions in the West Bank. A notable development in the state's strategic posture is the elevation of **water security** to a "national priority" and a sovereign imperative, with explicit statements that Jordanian water needs will not be held hostage to external circumstances, signaling a desire to decouple critical infrastructure from regional geopolitical dependencies.

Domestic governance is currently characterized by the "Triple Modernization" tracks: political, economic, and administrative. While the state celebrates the increase in **Amman Stock Exchange profits** and the launch of major infrastructure projects like the **Wadi Shallala purification plant**, there remains a palpable tension regarding the "individualistic" nature of current parliamentary work versus the desired transition to institutionalized party blocs. The election of Ibrahim Al-Tarawneh as Speaker of the House, amidst allegations of government interference by some members, highlights the friction inherent in Jordan's gradual democratic opening.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The following key developments define the strategic environment as of November 2, 2026:

- **Inauguration of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 20th Parliament:** King Abdullah II delivered the Speech from the Throne, outlining a national roadmap focusing on security, economic modernization, and water sovereignty.

- **National Response to the Hamoud/ Karak Terrorist Attack:** The state narrative characterized the ISIS-linked attack on a church in Hamoud as an attempt to fracture national unity, responding with a high-profile "moment of silence" in Parliament and a vow to hunt down "Khawarij" ideologies.
- **Election of Legislative Leadership:** Ibrahim Al-Tarawneh was elected Speaker of the House with 70 votes, while the Senate (Ayan) re-elected Faisal Al-Fayez and appointed Abdullah Ensour as First Deputy.
- **Prioritization of the "National Water Carrier":** Explicit directives were issued to the government to accelerate projects ensuring water independence, framing it as an existential security issue in the face of regional blackmail.
- **Digital and AI Governance Integration:** The government announced the integration of AI into the "Sanad" application and a broader strategy to transition from a consumer to a producer of technology by 2027.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The Jordanian military and security services are being positioned as the "impregnable fence" of the nation. The King reaffirmed the centrality of the Army in maintaining stability amidst the "regional storm."
- The SOFEX 2026 Special Operations Exhibition highlighted Jordan's role as a hub for defense technology, featuring participants from 75 countries and showcasing autonomous systems and AI-driven border security.

Terrorism & Asymmetric Threats

- The "Hamoud attack" serves as a catalyst for a new internal security push. Officials are calling for a "war of ideas" to uproot extremist ideology before it manifests in violence.
- Persistent threats on the northern and eastern borders regarding drug and arms smuggling remain a top-tier security priority, often linked in state rhetoric to regional destabilizing actors (Iran/militias).

Food & Water Security

- The King's directive to the government emphasized that there is no room for compromise on water security, calling for "proactive plans" to protect national resources and the rights of future generations.
- The $68 million Wadi Shallala expansion project is a key component of the Jordan-EU Investment Forum deliverables, aimed at improving irrigation and water recycling.

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Jordan continues to leverage its **Hashemite Custodianship** of Jerusalem's holy sites to maintain its regional relevance. The King emphasized that Arab unity, though currently "distant," remains the ultimate goal.
- Tensions with the Israeli government are at a peak, with Jordan utilizing international legal forums (ICJ/ICC) to challenge the legality of the Israeli occupation.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Evolution of "The Sovereign Citizen"

There is a concerted effort to redefine the Jordanian citizen's role from a passive recipient of services to an active "partner in modernization." The King's address to the people as his "support and tribe" seeks to build an emotional contract that transcends traditional tribal divisions in favor of a unified national identity. This is particularly visible in the "City That Cares" project, which seeks to integrate vulnerable populations (children, elderly, disabled) into urban planning, suggesting a shift toward a more inclusive social welfare model.

Securitization of Resources

Resources—specifically water and energy—are no longer viewed purely through an economic lens but as critical components of **asymmetric warfare**. The "water as hostage" rhetoric suggests that Jordan perceives its current dependency on regional agreements as a strategic vulnerability that its neighbors (implied: Israel/Syria) can exploit. The drive for the "National Water Carrier" (desalination) is now being framed with the same urgency as military defense.

The Institutionalization of the Arab Interior

Across the region, there is a trend toward "legal warfare" (lawfare). Jordanian legal experts are framing the Israeli occupation not just as a political dispute but as a systematic violation of international humanitarian law, particularly highlighting the "illegal" nature of settlements as recognized by the ICJ in 2024. This trend indicates that the next phase of regional conflict will increasingly play out in international courts and regulatory bodies.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Jordan's domestic health is currently stable but under significant pressure. The **election of the Speaker of the House** revealed latent fissures; MP Aitullah Freihat openly criticized what he termed "government intervention" in selecting legislative leadership, arguing that the Speaker must be the product of free will, not external arrangements. This indicates a continuing struggle for legislative independence against an executive branch that remains dominant.

- **Elite Consolidation:** The re-appointment of Faisal Al-Fayez and the prominence of figures like Abdullah Ensour and Hani Al-Mulki in the Senate suggest the monarchy is relying on a "steady hand" of experienced loyalists to navigate the current regional crisis.
- **Public Sentiment:** The Hamoud attack has temporarily muted economic grievances in favor of national solidarity. However, the King's focus on **tangible development**—stating that real development is what the citizen feels in their livelihood—acknowledges that the government's mandate rests on solving the cost-of-living crisis.
- **The Youth Gap:** Efforts like the "Local Youth Conference for Climate Change" and the "Zaha Cultural Center" projects show the state is actively trying to co-opt youth energy into formal channels to prevent radicalization or social unrest.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Jordan frames the international system as increasingly **anarchic and hypocritical**. The

state narrative posits that the world's failure to stop the "Gaza disaster" threatens the very foundations of global order. Jordan is positioning itself as a "bridge" between the West and the Arab world, while simultaneously hardening its stance against the Israeli right-wing government.

- **Israeli Expansionism:** Defined as the "greatest threat" to the region. Jordan is actively warning the international community that "tyranny does not grant legitimacy" and that "time does not erase the truth."
- **US-Iran Nexus:** Jordan remains wary of being caught in the crossfire of a potential escalation between the US and Iran. The recent border incidents involving drones and "thermal balloons" carrying weapons are interpreted as external actors attempting to use Jordanian soil as a theater for proxy conflict.
- **European Partnerships:** The upcoming Jordan-EU Investment Forum in the Dead Sea is a vital pillar of the economic posture, seeking to capitalize on trade agreements to offset the costs of regional instability.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Jordanian economy shows signs of resilience in specialized sectors, though it faces structural headwinds from regional disruptions and global inflation. The state is doubling down on **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)** and foreign direct investment to drive "major projects."

Key Economic Vectors:

- **Stock Market Performance:** Listed companies on the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) achieved their second-highest historic profits for the first nine months of the year, with a 4.8% increase.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** A $68 million agreement for the Wadi Shallala purification plant is set for signature during the European-Jordanian Investment Forum.
- **Trade Growth:** Jordanian exports to the European Union rose by 11.4% ahead of the investment conference.
- **Fiscal Planning:** The 2027 General Budget law is being prepared with a focus on increasing salaries for civil servants and retirees earning below certain thresholds.
- **Banking & FinTech:** The adoption of "RegTech" and AI for detecting money laundering is increasing, in response to more sophisticated digital fraud and "deepfake" financial crimes.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Legislative and administrative reshuffling has prioritized loyalty and technocratic expertise to ensure the implementation of the "Modernization" tracks.

- **Ibrahim Al-Tarawneh:** Elected as the Speaker of the House (20th Parliament, 3rd Session). His victory signifies a consolidate of power among traditional blocs, despite pushback from independent/reformist members.
- **Faisal Al-Fayez:** Confirmed as President of the Senate. His role continues to be the primary stabilizer between the monarchy and the legislature.

- **Abdullah Ensour & Hani Al-Mulki:** Appointed as First and Second Deputies to the Senate President, reinforcing the presence of the "Old Guard" in the upper house.
- **Aitullah Freihat:** Emerged as a voice of dissent within the Parliament, challenging the executive's influence over legislative processes.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The state broadcaster adopted a **highly nationalistic and reassuring tone**. The "Speech from the Throne" was the undisputed lead story, receiving exhaustive coverage and analysis throughout the day. The "Hamoud Attack" was the secondary dominant theme, used primarily to evoke patriotism rather than to incite fear. Economic news was framed as "milestones in modernization," emphasizing success in trade and technology. **Buried stories** included the specific tactical details of how the Hamoud attackers breached security, focusing instead on the aftermath and state response. **Conspicuous Omissions** included any detailed discussion of the specific grievances of the southern tribes or a critical assessment of why drug smuggling on the Syrian border remains uncontained despite years of effort.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The day’s coverage reflected a hardening of regional alliances and a clear identification of existential threats.

COUNTRIES

- **Israel:** Portrayed as an expansionist "foe" whose "tyranny" and "delusions" threaten the region. Quoted as the "biggest threat to the future of the region."
- **Palestine:** Framed as the **"central cause"** and the "compass" of Jordanian policy. The relationship is described as "not transient" but deeply historical and strategic.
- **Netherlands:** Presented as a fracturing ally of Israel, with reports focusing on the "harassment" of Israeli travelers and the checking of settlement goods as evidence of Israel’s growing "international isolation."
- **Syria/Iran:** Implicity framed as sources of border instability and "external pressure," particularly regarding smuggling and asymmetric threats.

LEADERS

- **King Abdullah II:** Portrayed as the "principled stabilizer" and "guardian" of the nation. His use of military uniform and the "Red Moker" (Royal Procession) emphasizes his role as Supreme Commander.
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Framed as the architect of "extremist policies" whose government is "the most extremist in Israel's history."
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a potential source of escalation, with his rhetoric on Iran viewed as a catalyst for regional war.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The term **"Khawarij"** is systematically seeded across all government and media channels to categorize the Karak attackers. This is a deliberate psychological operation to de-legitimize the group in the eyes of a religious population by stripping them of their "Islamic" credentials.
- **Defensive Information Maneuvers:** The focus on the **EU Investment Forum** and ASE profits serves to counterbalance the negative impact of the Karak attack on tourism and investor confidence.
- **AI & Misinformation:** Official reports highlight the danger of **"deepfakes"** and "social engineering" in financial sectors, signaling a new front in domestic information security.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **The Sovereignty Pivot:** Jordan will likely begin a **rapid divestment** from Israeli water and energy infrastructure over the next 12-24 months, accelerating the "National Water Carrier" as a flagship sovereign project. Failure to do so will leave the government vulnerable to public anger over "dependency on the enemy."
- **Legislative Hardening:** The "Hamoud attack" will be used to justify **tighter anti-terror legislation** in the new parliamentary session, potentially impacting freedom of expression on social media under the guise of combating "hate speech" and "extremism."
- **Party Consolidation:** Small, fragmented political parties will likely merge or disappear before the next election cycle, as the state pushes for a "stable" three-to-four-party system that is easier to manage.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a series of **security sweeps** and "pre-emptive" arrests in southern Jordan and the border areas. The government will also likely push through the new administrative judiciary law to consolidate executive-legislative coordination.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The **2027 Budget** will be a major flashpoint. The government must balance increased security spending with the promised salary increases for the lower-middle class to maintain social order. The outcome of the Jordan-EU forum will determine the trajectory of the "Economic Modernization" track.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Jordan will attempt to position itself as the **regional leader in AI-driven security** and "Green Governance." If the "National Water Carrier" project fails to meet milestones, Jordan could face a **migration crisis** or severe urban unrest driven by resource scarcity.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary threat to Jordanian stability is the convergence of regional war and domestic economic exhaustion.

- **Regional Escalation Fallout:** Triggered by a direct US/Israeli strike on Iran or an Israeli ground operation in Lebanon. Likelihood: **High**. Impact: **Catastrophic** for Jordanian energy prices and border security. Mitigation: Strengthening internal national unity and diversifying energy sources.
- **Asymmetric Domestic Attacks:** Further "lone wolf" or small-cell attacks on religious or state targets. Triggered by extremist propaganda regarding Gaza. Likelihood: **Medium**. Impact: **High** (damage to tourism/stability). Mitigation: Aggressive counter-ideology programs and community policing.
- **Water Scarcity Crisis:** Failure of regional water agreements or delays in desalination projects. Triggered by climate change or political blackmail. Likelihood: **Medium**. Impact: **Existential**. Mitigation: Prioritizing the National Water Carrier as a non-negotiable sovereign project.
- **Economic Disillusionment:** Public rejection of the "Modernization" tracks if they fail to produce jobs. Triggered by rising unemployment or inflation. Likelihood: **High**. Impact: **Severe** (civil unrest). Mitigation: Ensuring tangible benefits reach the "support and tribe" (the people).
- **Cyber-Financial Warfare:** Targeted attacks on Jordan's digital banking and "Sanad" app. Triggered by state-sponsored actors (Iran/North Korea-linked). Likelihood: **Low-Medium**. Impact: **High** (loss of institutional trust). Mitigation: Investing in AI-driven cybersecurity.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Logistics of Smuggling:** The broadcasts fail to explain how sophisticated weaponry and drugs continue to cross the northern border despite the Army's stated dominance. This suggests potential corruption or gaps in technological surveillance.
- **Youth Unemployment Specifics:** While "youth participation" is discussed, there is no granular data provided on **actual job creation** in the technology or agricultural sectors mentioned.
- **The Southern Grievance:** The "Hamoud attack" is framed as a foreign ideology, but the broadcast avoids discussing whether **economic neglect in Karak** provided a fertile ground for recruitment.
- **Israeli-Jordanian Energy Deal:** The transcripts do not address the status of the **"Water-for-Energy"** deal with Israel, leaving a major piece of the regional puzzle unexamined.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The "Unity" Mirage:** While the King and Parliament project unity, the **dissent of MP Freihat** and the re-appointment of the "Old Guard" in the Senate could indicate that Jordan is not modernizing, but rather **entrenching a "Neo-Loyalist" elite**. If this is the case, the apparent stability is brittle and could collapse if the monarchy loses the ability to "buy" tribal loyalty during a major economic shock.
- **The "National Water Carrier" as a White Elephant:** A contrarian view might suggest that the drive for water sovereignty is a **distraction from systemic mismanagement**. If the $68M and subsequent billions are sunk into projects that cannot be completed due to "regional constraints," the government will have exhausted its last "sovereign" promise.
- **Black Swan:** A **collapse of the Palestinian Authority (PA)** in the West Bank, leading to a massive refugee surge and an Israeli "transfer" attempt. This would immediately overwhelm Jordanian state capacity and likely trigger a declaration of martial law.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Accelerate the "National Water Carrier" as a **defense priority** and secure international financing via the "Jordan-EU Forum" to ensure it is independent of Israeli-Syrian leverage.
- **Economic:** Implement the salary increases for low-income civil servants immediately to prevent the "security-first" narrative from being undermined by "empty-stomach" protests.
- **Diplomatic:** Formalize the **"Jordanian Lawfare"** strategy by creating a permanent task force to pursue Israeli "expansionist" violations in international courts, shifting from reactive rhetoric to proactive legal warfare.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Investors should expect **increased volatility** on the northern (Syrian) border and plan for alternate logistics routes via Aqaba or the Saudi border.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Rapid adoption of **RegTech** will be required as the Jordanian Central Bank tightens oversight on "AI-driven" financial crimes.
- **Opportunities:** The AI integration into government services (Sanad) and the $68M water projects represent significant opportunities for tech and engineering firms willing to navigate the "Modernization" regulatory environment.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The opening of the 3rd Ordinary Session saw the activation of several high-priority legislative tracks aimed at administrative and economic reform.

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Social Security Law Amendment:** A proposed overhaul intended to expand insurance coverage and ensure the fund's long-term sustainability.

- **Administrative Judiciary Law:** Aimed at speeding up litigation in state-related disputes, a key component of "Administrative Modernization."
- **Associations Law Amendment:** Seeking to regulate the NGO and charity sector more tightly to prevent illicit funding flows.
- **General Budget Law 2027:** Initial frameworks focusing on debt management and civil servant welfare.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **The Throne Speech:** Defined the legislative agenda for the next six months.
- **Speaker Election Session:** Featured a debate on the independence of the legislature from the executive.
- **Jordan-EU Forum Briefing:** Outlined $68M in immediate infrastructure deliverables.

KEY STORIES

- **Opening of the 3rd Ordinary Session of the 20th Parliament:** King Abdullah II delivered the Speech from the Throne, framing the nation's response to regional and internal threats and outlining the modernization agenda. Full Coverage.
- **The Hamoud/Karak Terrorist Attack Response:** National mourning and political denunciation of the "Khawarij" group responsible for the attack on a church in Karak, which resulted in 9 martyrs. Full Coverage.
- **Ibrahim Al-Tarawneh Elected Speaker:** Winning with 70 votes, Al-Tarawneh takes the leadership of the House amidst calls for greater legislative independence. Full Coverage.
- **Water Security Mandate:** King Abdullah II declared water sovereignty as a non-negotiable "national priority" and directed the government to accelerate desalination projects. Full Coverage.
- **Amman Stock Exchange Profit Growth:** Profits of listed companies increased by 4.8% in the first nine months of 2026, reaching historic highs. Full Coverage.
- **Jordan-EU Investment Forum:** Announcement of the upcoming forum and the $68 million Wadi Shallala project signature. Full Coverage.
- **"City That Cares" Launch:** A Zaha Cultural Center project supported by the Ministry of Local Administration to integrate child and caregiver needs into urban design. Full Coverage.
- **AI Integration in "Sanad" App:** Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship announced plans for AI-driven government services by 2027. Full Coverage.
- **Jerusalem and West Bank Tensions:** Intense focus on Israeli "expansionism" and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as the primary regional threat. Full Coverage.
- **SOFEX 2026 Highlights:** Showcasing Special Operations and defense technologies with over 75 participating countries in Aqaba. Full Coverage.
- **Census 2026 Extension:** The Department of Statistics extended data collection for three weeks to ensure full coverage across the kingdom. Full Coverage.
- **Prosthetic Innovation:** A school project by Amal Assaf to develop a "3D printed robotic finger" for children with limb differences, gaining national recognition. Full Coverage.

- **Climate Change Youth Conference:** Youth leaders gathered to draft a "National Statement on Climate" ahead of COP31. Full Coverage.
- **Education in Gaza:** Tkiyet Um Ali reported severe damage to its educational units in Gaza due to Israeli strikes, impacting 3,000 students. Full Coverage.
- **Domestic Health - Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD):** A psychological awareness segment discussing the rise of OCD and "postpartum intrusive thoughts" in the Jordanian community. Full Coverage.
- **Jordan TV "New Day" Program:** Various segments on agriculture (honey production), digital health (migraine prediction), and historical preservation of "Umm al-Rassas." Full Coverage.

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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