

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

SUDAN

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

SUDANESE STATE MEDIA PROJECTS RESILIENCE THROUGH TOTAL SOCIETAL MOBILIZATION AND STRATEGIC NORMALIZATION AMIDST ONGOING CONFLICT

TRACK 1: TOTAL SOCIETAL MOBILIZATION



REBELLIOUS MILITIAS/JANJAWEEED

MILITARY CONSOLIDATION & "RETURN TO LIFE" OPERATIONS: SAF victories emphasized in West Darfur & North Kordofan. "Return to Life" committee restoring services in liberated Khartoum/Omdurman. New battalions graduating.



STRATEGIC SHIFT IN EDUCATIONAL POLICY: "Technical Education Revolution" with UNESCO. Education framed as a STRATEGIC ASSET for reconstruction-ready workforce.



CIVILIAN MOBILIZATION & POPULAR AUTHORITY: Mobilizing youth, unions, religious institutions for the war effort. Framing conflict as national struggle against foreign-backed entity.

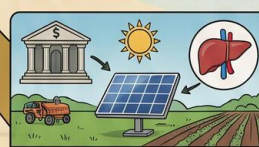
TRACK 2: STRATEGIC NORMALIZATION & GOVERNANCE



ECONOMIC MITIGATIONS VIA STATE COOPERATIVES: Expansion of "Dignity and Development" cooperatives (Sennar model). Subsidized food for Ramadan to mitigate inflation. State-led market regulation.



DIPLOMACY PIVOT & BILATERAL TIES: Shift from hostile multilateral bodies (AU) to bilateral security cooperation with Morocco & Libya. Seeking alternative regional legitimacy.



KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS & SERVICE RESTORATION: Bank of Sudan maintaining liquidity. Promotion of solar energy as survivalist alternative. "Prestige projects" like liver transplants to signal capacity.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES



THE "SENNAR MODEL" OF GOVERNANCE: Grounding wartime governance in historical legitimacy & civil order. Focus on self-sufficiency & communal mobilization against shocks.



TECHNICAL EDUCATION AS RECONSTRUCTION PRE-POSITIONING: Signaling to international community SAF is the sole legitimate partner for future development. Psychological operation for inevitable victory.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY



STRUGGLING STATE: Hyper-inflation, displacement, reliance on non-state actors. Elite unity narrative masks social tension. "Patience" calls during Ramadan indicate desperation.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE



MULTIPOLAR CONSPIRACY & RETREAT TO BILATERALISM: Framing global environment as hostile. Prioritizing North African/Red Sea bloc to bypass AU suspension & sanctions. Positioning SAF as barrier to regional chaos.

FUTURE OUTLOOK & STRATEGIC FORESIGHT



SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS): Potential "Ramadan Offensive" to consolidate gains. Volatile food prices.



MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS): Continued marginalization of AU/UN mediation. Expansion of technical education for military-industrial complex.



LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS): Transition to HIGHLY MILITARIZED STATE-CAPITALIST MODEL (Sennar Model Nationally).

RISK ASSESSMENT

- ECONOMIC COLLAPSE & FOOD RIOTS** (Moderate): Failure of cooperative system.
- CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE BREAKDOWN** (High): Sabotage of banking/telecoms.
- INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION** (Moderate): Rejection of multilateral mediation.
- PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS** (Moderate): Malnutrition & broken medical system.
- INTERNAL MILITARY FACTIONALISM** (Low): Disagreement between technocrats & hardliners.

EDITORIAL POSTURE: Militantly nationalistic & cautiously optimistic. Conspicuous Omissions: SAF setbacks, RSF territorial control, civilian casualties of SAF operations.

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DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Sudanese broadcasting cycle for February 19, 2026, reflects a sophisticated, dual-track strategic narrative designed to project state stability and military momentum. On one track, the government is emphasizing **total societal mobilization**, framing the conflict with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF)—consistently referred to as "rebellious militias" or "Janjaweed"—not merely as a military engagement but as a national struggle involving education, youth unions, and religious institutions. This is evidenced by a major push for [technical education reform](#) in partnership with UNESCO, intended to create a skilled workforce for post-conflict reconstruction.

On the second track, the state is leveraging the upcoming month of Ramadan to demonstrate **governance capacity and social care**. Significant airtime is dedicated to state-led "cooperatives" in Sennar and

North Kordofan, aimed at mitigating war-induced inflation and food insecurity. By highlighting these initiatives, the government seeks to maintain a mandate over the civilian population and counter narratives of state failure. Simultaneously, diplomatic efforts are being pivoted away from perceived hostile multilateral bodies (like the AU) toward [strengthening bilateral ties](#) with Morocco and Libya, signaling a search for alternative regional legitimacy and security cooperation.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Military Consolidation and "Return to Life" Operations

- The Sovereignty Council's "Return to Life" committee, led by Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Jaber, is aggressively promoting the [restoration of services](#) in liberated areas of Khartoum and Omdurman.
- Military reports emphasize SAF victories in West Darfur and North Kordofan, framing the RSF as being in a state of [strategic collapse](#).
- State media is publicizing the graduation of new military battalions, including a [430-man force](#) assigned to the 21st Infantry Division.

Strategic Shift in Educational Policy

- Announcement of a "Technical Education Revolution" in partnership with UNESCO to align vocational training with [market needs](#) and reconstruction requirements.
- Emphasis on educational continuity, including the organization of national exams in conflict-affected states like [North Kordofan](#).

Economic Mitigations via State Cooperatives

- Expansion of the "Dignity and Development" cooperative model in Sennar State, involving [4,200 cooperative societies](#) to provide subsidized food during Ramadan.
- State-led efforts to regulate markets and combat "war profiteering" through direct government [intervention in supply chains](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Narrative focus on the "Popular Authority for Supporting the Armed Forces," which is mobilizing [civilians and Christian communities](#) for the war effort.
- Continuous portrayal of the RSF as a foreign-backed, criminal entity ("Oubash") targeting [civilian infrastructure](#).

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Lt. Gen. Al-Burhan met with Moroccan and Libyan ambassadors to discuss [security cooperation](#) and bilateral support.
- Skeptical framing of the African Union (AU) and the "Quad" (US, UK, UAE, Saudi), with officials claiming these bodies try to [impose solutions](#) that ignore Sudanese popular will.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The Bank of Sudan is attempting to maintain [financial liquidity](#) and regulatory oversight despite the disruption of national banking systems.
- Focus on "Ramadan cooperatives" as the primary tool for [price stabilization](#) and social safety nets.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The "Sennar Model" of Governance The state is promoting Sennar as a beacon of civil order and historical legitimacy. By connecting modern cooperative movements to the [Sennar Sultanate's heritage](#), the government is attempting to ground its wartime governance in traditional and historical authority. This model focuses on self-sufficiency and communal mobilization as a defense against both the RSF and global economic shocks.

Technical Education as Reconstruction Pre-positioning A significant trend is the framing of education not just as a social service, but as a **strategic asset**. The partnership with UNESCO is being used to signal to the international community that the SAF-led government is the [sole legitimate partner](#) for future development. This "reconstruction-ready" narrative is a psychological operation aimed at convincing both domestic and foreign audiences of an inevitable SAF victory.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

The broadcasts reveal a state struggling with **hyper-inflation and displacement** while attempting to project strength. The reliance on "popular mobilization" and "volunteer cooperatives" suggests that official state capacity in many sectors is depleted, forcing a reliance on non-state or semi-state actors. While the elite narrative is one of unity, the repeated calls for "patience" during Ramadan and the focus on [religious guidance](#) regarding poverty suggest significant underlying social tension and economic desperation among the populace. The focus on [medical liver transplants](#) in Gezira serves as a "prestige

project" to distract from widespread healthcare system decay.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Sudan is portraying itself as a victim of a **multipolar conspiracy**, specifically blaming regional actors (the UAE is often the unspoken target of "militia support" rhetoric) and international organizations for meddling. The global operating environment is framed as hostile, leading to a retreat into **bilateralism**. By prioritizing [ties with Morocco and Libya](#), the Sudanese leadership is signaling its intent to forge a "North African/Red Sea" bloc of stable states to bypass the AU's suspension and Western sanctions pressure. The SAF-led government is positioning itself as the only barrier to "chaos and migration" that would threaten the Mediterranean.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment is characterized by **extreme wartime volatility**, with the state taking an increasingly interventionist role. The government is moving toward a "war economy" model where market mechanisms are replaced by state-led distribution networks.

- **Market Stabilization:** Implementation of the "Ramadan Bag" program and cooperative centers to [reduce cost of living](#) burdens.
- **Banking:** Efforts to resume [SME lending](#) and trade finance through the Bank of Sudan despite national infrastructure damage.

- **Energy:** Significant discussion of [solar energy](#) as a survivalist alternative for agriculture and households due to the collapse of the national power grid.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The day's reporting emphasizes the consolidation of power around military figures and "technocratic" state governors who are successfully managing the war effort.

- **Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Jaber:** Emerging as the [key administrative lead](#) for reconstruction and civil services, effectively acting as a wartime prime minister.
- **Lt. Gen. Al-Burhan:** Portrayed as the [uncontested head of state](#) engaging in high-level diplomacy to secure regional legitimacy.
- **Governor of Sennar:** Cited as the [architect of the cooperative model](#), positioning himself as a leading civil administrator in the new "national model."

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Sudan TV's editorial posture is **militantly nationalistic and cautiously optimistic**. The lead stories are consistently SAF battlefield successes and high-level diplomatic receptions. Stories about the suffering of displaced persons are marginalized or framed as "resilience" narratives. **Conspicuous Omissions:** There is zero mention of SAF military setbacks, the extent of territorial control held by the RSF in Khartoum or Darfur, or the specific names of countries allegedly supplying the RSF. The channel also ignores reports of internal SAF dissent or the humanitarian toll of SAF airstrikes.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcasting environment is defined by a clear friend/foe dichotomy, where legitimacy is tied strictly to support for the SAF.

- **Morocco:** Framed as a **stable and principled ally** through "eternal and historical" [ties and links](#).
- **Libya:** Portrayed as a **partner in regional security**, despite its own internal divisions, with a focus on [reciprocal support](#) for government return to capitals.
- **The African Union (AU):** Characterized as **inept and compromised**, with officials accusing it of being [biased toward the rebels](#).
- **The RSF ("Militia"):** Systematically framed as **chaotic, corrupt, and foreign-controlled**, consistently referred to as "Oubash" (scum/rabble) to [dehumanize the opposition](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The state is engaged in an intense **narrative seeding** operation. Key themes include the "inevitability of victory" and the "unpatriotic nature" of anyone calling for neutral negotiation. The media is weaponizing [religious discourse](#) to equate support for the SAF with religious piety, particularly during the Ramadan preparations. There is a clear effort to "nationalize" the conflict by highlighting [support from diverse religious and ethnic groups](#), attempting to mask the reality of the war as a factional struggle between two rival military elites.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Escalation of the "Popular Defense" Model As conventional SAF manpower reaches its limits, expect a surge in state-sponsored "People's Militias" and civilian training camps. The broadcast's focus on [youth and civilian unions](#) suggests the state is preparing for a long-duration, attritional conflict that requires full societal absorption.

Ramadan as a Strategic Lull or Offensive The heavy focus on Ramadan charity could be a precursor to a [major holiday offensive](#), using the period of religious observance to mobilize sentiment and catch "unprincipled" RSF forces off guard. Conversely, if economic conditions worsen, Ramadan could become a flashpoint for internal civil unrest if state-led cooperatives [fail to deliver](#) subsidized goods.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): SAF will likely launch a "Ramadan Offensive" in the Khartoum/Omdurman axis to consolidate gains and bolster the ["return to life" narrative](#). Food prices will remain volatile despite government subsidies.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Continued marginalization of the AU/UN mediation tracks in favor of [bilateral security deals](#) with North African and Red Sea neighbors. Expansion of the technical education program will serve as a recruitment tool for the military-industrial complex.

Long Term (1-5 Years): If SAF maintains control, Sudan will transition into a **highly militarized state-capitalist model** where the military-led "Sovereignty Council" controls key economic sectors (energy, agriculture)

through a network of cooperatives and state companies, mirroring the [Sennar model](#) nationally.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Economic Collapse and Food Riots:** Failure of the state cooperative system to meet Ramadan demand could lead to urban unrest. **Triggers:** Hyper-inflation crossing a critical threshold; supply chain sabotage. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Critical (loss of government mandate). **Mitigations:** Securing foreign aid from Morocco/Libya; aggressive market price controls.
- **Total Breakdown of Critical Infrastructure:** Sabotage of the [banking or telecommunications systems](#) by RSF hackers or field units. **Triggers:** RSF offensive on major data centers. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Severe. **Mitigations:** Decentralization of state systems; deployment of military technicians.
- **International Diplomatic Isolation:** The AU or UN may implement more [severe sanctions](#) if SAF continues to reject multilateral mediation. **Triggers:** Formal rejection of an AU peace plan. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Moderate (mitigated by bilateral ties). **Mitigations:** Pivoting to non-Western/non-AU partners.
- **Public Health Crisis during Ramadan:** Malnutrition combined with a [broken medical system](#) could lead to an epidemic outbreak. **Triggers:** Displacement camp overcrowding. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High. **Mitigations:** Scaling up state-run "mobile clinics" and Ramadan food bags.

- **Internal Military Factionalism:** Disagreement between "normalization" technocrats and "total war" hardliners within the SAF. **Triggers:** Stalled battlefield progress. **Likelihood:** Low. **Impact:** Catastrophic. **Mitigations:** Centralization of command under Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Jaber.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **RSF Capabilities:** The broadcasts provide zero information on the actual military strength or tactical successes of the RSF, leading to an incomplete picture of the battlefield risk.
- **State Revenue:** No discussion of how the government is funding [cooperatives or military recruitment](#) given the collapse of tax revenues and oil exports.
- **Darfur Realities:** The narrative of SAF "control" in Darfur is unverified and contradicts reports of widespread RSF dominance in the region.
- **Civilian Casualties:** The "collateral damage" of SAF operations is entirely absent, creating a "clean war" narrative that is likely at odds with the ground truth.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Potemkin State" Scenario The heavy focus on cooperatives and educational reform is not a sign of state strength, but a **desperate facade** of normalcy in a state that has effectively collapsed. The "Sennar model" may exist only on paper or in a handful of secure neighborhoods, used as propaganda to prevent a general civilian uprising or an internal military coup.

The "Tactical Pivot" Black Swan The diplomatic outreach to Libya and Morocco may not be for "support," but for **negotiated exit routes** for the top military brass. If the SAF leadership perceives an imminent military defeat in Khartoum, the sudden focus on "North African cooperation" could be a pre-positioning for a government-in-exile.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize bilateral engagement with the Sovereignty Council's "normalization" wing (Ibrahim Jaber) rather than defunct multilateral tracks like the AU.
- Monitor the [solar energy sector](#) in Sudan as a potential entry point for humanitarian and reconstruction support.
- Prepare for a surge in refugees if the "Ramadan cooperative" system fails to stabilize food prices.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Opportunities in **solar and off-grid technology** as the national grid remains high-risk and unstable.
- High risk for traditional banking; look for **fintech or cooperative-based** distribution channels for any essential goods.
- Regulatory compliance in SAF-controlled areas will increasingly require partnership with [state-sanctioned cooperatives](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Recent policy shifts focus on **market regulation and educational restructuring** to adapt to the war environment.

• HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- Press conference by the Governor of Sennar announcing the expansion of the [4,200 cooperative society initiative](#).
- Lt. Gen. Al-Burhan's diplomatic summit with the [ambassadors of Morocco and Libya](#) to finalize security agreements.
- The Sovereignty Council's "Return to Life" committee hearing on the [restoration of electricity and water](#) in Khartoum.

KEY STORIES

- **Technical Education Revolution:** A major initiative with UNESCO to reform vocational training to meet [wartime and reconstruction needs](#).
- **Ramadan Cooperatives in Sennar:** Establishment of thousands of cooperative societies to [subsidize food prices](#) for the civilian population.
- **Diplomatic Outreach to Morocco/Libya:** Meetings between Al-Burhan and foreign envoys to [bolster bilateral security](#) and political ties.
- **Khartoum Normalization:** The "Return to Life" committee claims success in restoring services to [Khartoum and Omdurman](#) neighborhoods.
- **SAF Military Graduations:** Graduation of a [430-man infantry battalion](#) in Central/Northern Sudan states.
- **Banking and SME Support:** Bank of Sudan's efforts to [restore liquidity](#) and support small businesses via cooperatives.

- **Solar Energy Push:** Promotion of [alternative energy solutions](#) for agriculture due to power grid failures.
- **Gezira Medical Milestones:** Successful [liver transplant operations](#) at specialized centers in Gezira State.
- **Religious Guidance for Ramadan:** Sheikh Mohammed al-Amin Ismail provides [theological justifications](#) for military support and communal endurance.
- **Youth and Civilian Mobilization:** The Youth Union's commitment to providing [support for SAF frontline troops](#).

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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