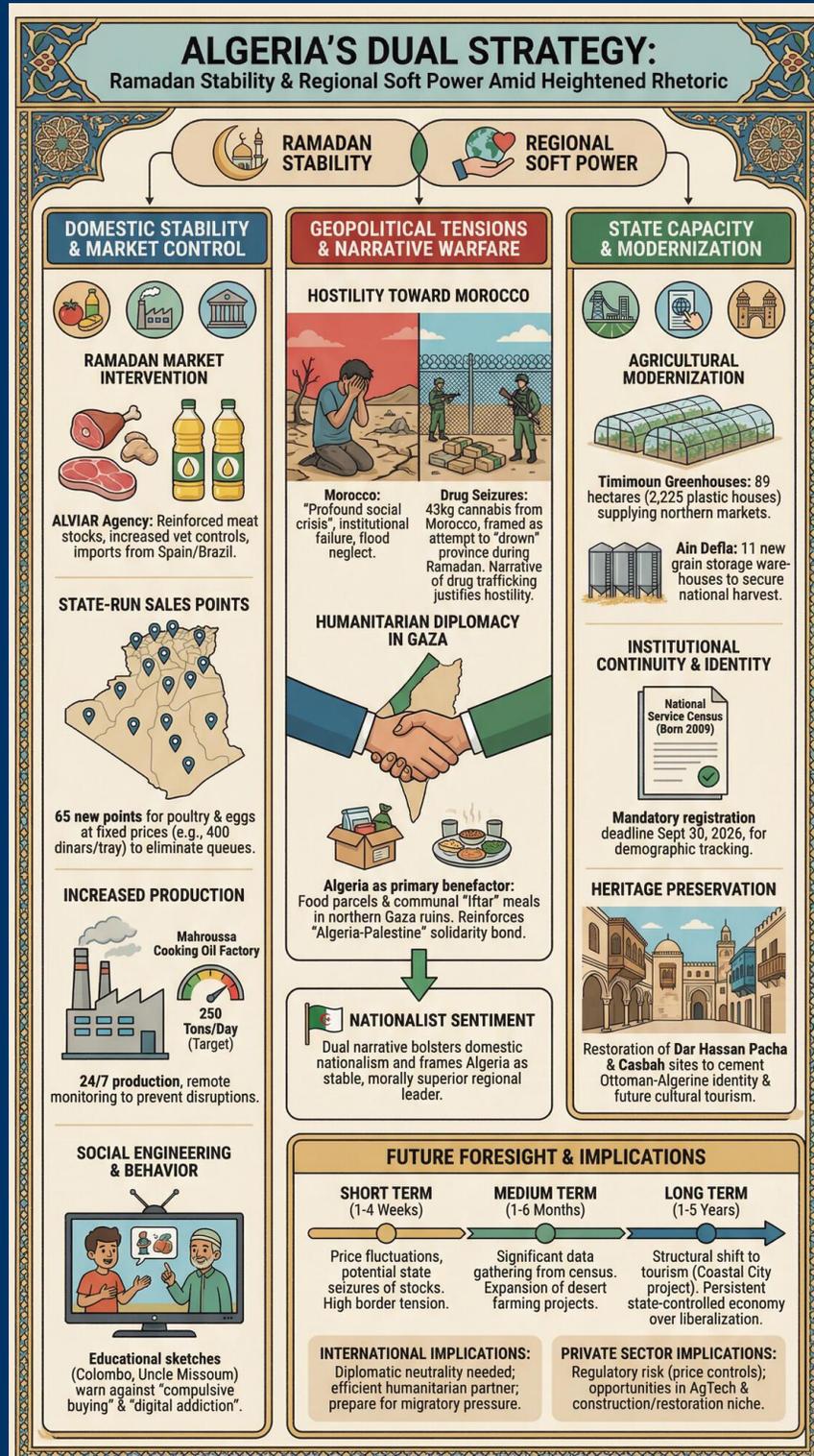


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CANALALGERIE

FEBRUARY 20, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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ALGERIA PRIORITIZES RAMADAN MARKET STABILITY AND REGIONAL SOFT POWER AMID HEIGHTENED RHETORIC AGAINST MOROCCO

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

On February 20, 2026, Algerian state media focus heavily on the intersection of religious observance, food security, and regional geopolitical positioning. As the month of Ramadan approaches its peak, the administration is aggressively leveraging state capacity to stabilize the domestic market, particularly regarding meat and cooking oil. By establishing 65 new points of sale for poultry and increasing cooking oil production to 250 tons per day, the government aims to mitigate the historical trend of price gouging and "compulsive buying" that characterizes the start of the holy month. This economic intervention is framed as a moral duty of the state to protect the citizen's "purchasing power" against speculators ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

Simultaneously, Algeria is projecting significant soft power through its humanitarian involvement in the Gaza Strip. The narrative emphasizes Algeria as a primary benefactor for the Palestinian cause, highlighting the de-

livery of food parcels and the organization of communal "Iftar" meals amidst the ruins of northern Gaza. Domestically, this is paired with an intensified media campaign against the Moroccan "Makhzen," depicting its neighbor as a failing state plagued by social crises, institutional neglect, and complicity in drug trafficking. This dual narrative serves to bolster nationalist sentiment while framing Algeria as a stable and morally superior regional leader ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)).

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Ramadan Market Intervention and Food Security**
 - The "Algerian Red Meats" (ALVIAR) agency has reinforced stocks and increased veterinary controls to ensure price stability and health standards during Ramadan. Red meat is being imported from Spain and Brazil to meet increased demand ([Source](#)).
 - The poultry sector in eastern Algeria (Setif) has opened 65 dedicated points of sale, providing eggs at 400 dinars per tray and frozen chicken to eliminate consumer queues ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
 - The Mahroussa cooking oil factory has increased its production capacity to 220 tons daily, targeting 250 tons, using a 24/7 rotation and remote monitoring systems to prevent supply chain disruptions ([Source](#)).

- **Geopolitical Hostility Toward Morocco**
 - State media reports highlight a "profound social crisis" in Morocco, claiming institutional failure in the wake of floods and accusing the Moroccan government of neglecting its most vulnerable citizens ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
 - Judicial authorities in Sidi Bel Abbes reported the seizure of 43 kilograms of treated cannabis originating from Morocco, described as an attempt to "drown" the province in narcotics during Ramadan ([Source](#)).

- **Humanitarian Diplomacy in Gaza**

- Algeria has successfully delivered food parcels to thousands of families in the Gaza enclave, specifically targeting the start of Ramadan ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Communal Iftar meals were hosted in northern Gaza under the ruins of destroyed homes, funded by Algerian charitable contributions, reinforcing the "Algeria-Palestine" solidarity bond ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Modernization of the Agricultural Sector**

- Greenhouse farming in Timimoun (Ougrout region) has reached 89 hectares (2,225 plastic houses), providing a vital supply of vegetables (cucumbers, peppers) to northern markets ([Source](#)).
- Ain Defla has commissioned 11 new grain storage warehouses to secure the national harvest and support local farmers with fertilizers and seeds ([Source](#)).

- **National Service and Institutional Continuity**

- The Ministry of National Defense announced the mandatory census for citizens born in 2009, setting a registration deadline of September 30, 2026 ([Source](#)).
- Former Minister of Tourism and Craftsmanship, Mujahid Haj Abdelwahab Bakli, passed away, marked by official tributes to the "revolutionary family" ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

- **State Capacity and Economic Statecraft**

- The government is utilizing state-owned entities (Agrodiv, ALVIAR) to bypass private wholesalers and sell directly to consumers at "competitive prices," a clear move to control inflation through direct market entry ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- Expansion of grain storage and greenhouse output indicates a long-term strategy to decouple food security from climate volatility and international market fluctuations ([Source](#)).

- **Geopolitics and International Relations**

- Algeria continues to position itself as the ideological and material leader of the Arab response to the Gaza crisis, emphasizing direct aid over rhetorical support ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- The use of "drug trafficking" narratives serves as a security-based justification for continued hostility and border closures with Morocco ([Source](#)).

- **Domestic Stability and Social Order**

- The Algerian Red Crescent has deployed 17 large tents across the country, serving 800-1,200 meals daily, supported by 400 "solidarity restaurants" to prevent civil unrest related to food costs ([Source](#)).
- Religious governance is emphasized through the opening of 12 new mosques in Bejaia and the restoration of historical sites in the Casbah ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Infrastructure and Critical Assets**

- Significant investment in heritage preservation is evident in the restoration of Dar Hassan Pacha and Ahmed Pacha palaces, intended to preserve national identity and eventually support cultural tourism ([Source](#), [Source](#)).
- The development of a new "Coastal City" in eastern Algiers was mentioned as a flagship architectural and economic project ([Source](#)).

- **Legislation and Regulatory Affairs**

- **Law No. 14-06 (August 9, 2014):** Relative to National Service. Implementation of the census for the 2009 cohort. It mandates registration for all male citizens reaching the age of 19 ([Source](#)).
- **Market Regulation Policies:**Source).

LEGISLATION/POLICY

Governance during this period is characterized by the rigid application of military service laws and the activation of emergency economic distribution policies. The state is prioritizing demographic tracking for security purposes while temporarily suspending free-market

mechanics to ensure social tranquility through the Ramadan month.

- **BILLS & POLICIES DISCUSSED**

- **National Service Law 14-06 Implementation:** A directive requiring citizens born in 2009 or their legal guardians to register at municipal seats. Failure to comply leads to "insubordination" status at age 25 ([Source](#)).
- **Ramadan Price Control Plan:** An anticipatory plan by the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture to reinforce stocks and control prices of essential red and white meats ([Source](#)).
- **Casbah Safeguarded Sector Plan:** Extension of UNESCO-protected zones to include the Maritime Museum and Admiralty of Algiers ([Source](#)).

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS**

- **Setif Avicultural Group Briefing:** Regional officials outlined the feed-to-market pipeline designed to provide eggs and chicken at fixed prices ([Source](#)).
- **Sidi Bel Abbes Police Press Conference:** Announcement of the arrest of a five-member drug trafficking cell linked to cross-border Moroccan networks ([Source](#)).
- **Eastern Algiers Coastal Project Presentation:** Introduction of the "Sultan Arab" coastal city project, blending cultural, maritime, and tourism goals ([Source](#)).

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

- **The Weaponization of Social Disparity**

Algerian state media has transitioned from standard geopolitical rivalry with Morocco to a strategy of "comparative suffering." By meticulously documenting Moroccan villagers carrying patients on stretchers due to lack of roads and showing Moroccan shops "empty" of essentials, the state creates a narrative of Algerian superiority in governance. This trend suggests a move to preempt any domestic complaints about the Algerian economy by framing the neighbor's situation as catastrophic. The drug seizures further criminalize the neighbor, shifting the blame for societal ills (narcotics) onto external actors ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Technological Leapfrogging in Traditional Sectors**

There is a growing emphasis on high-tech solutions within traditional Algerian industries. The Mahroussa oil factory's use of "remote control monitoring" and Timimoun's massive greenhouse expansion into the Sahara represent a trend of "industrialized agriculture." The government is signaling that it is no longer reliant on subsistence farming but is moving toward a tech-enabled, centrally managed food security apparatus ([Source](#)).

- **Ramadan as a Tool for Social Engineering**

Ramadan is being used as a platform for extensive behavioral correction. Educational sketches (Colombo, Uncle Missoum) and religious lectures (Mosque Safir) are utilized to warn against "compulsive buying," "digital addiction" (AI/ChatGPT scams), and "neighborhood noise." The state is attempting to "detoxify" the population both physically (through fasting) and socially (through civic discipline), reinforcing the imam's role as an arbiter of social behavior ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Identity through Architecture**

The focus on restoring Dar Hassan Pacha and the Admiralty of Algiers—sites dating to the 16th and 18th centuries—reflects a desire to cement an identity rooted in the Ottoman-Algerine period. By highlighting resistance against Spanish and French forces (Barberoussa, Charles V), the state is drawing a direct line from historical anti-colonial struggles to modern sovereignty ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

- **Short Term (1-4 Weeks)**

Expect localized price fluctuations in the meat market as demand peaks toward the middle of Ramadan, potentially leading to more aggressive state seizures of private stocks if "speculation" is suspected. Tensions along the Moroccan border will likely remain high with increased military patrols following the drug bust announcements ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Medium Term (1-6 Months)**

The 2009 cohort national service registration will lead to a significant data-gathering exercise for the Ministry of Defense. In agriculture, the success of the Timimoun greenhouses will likely trigger more state-subsidized desert farming projects to expand vegetable exports to sub-Saharan Africa ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **Long Term (1-5 Years)**

The restoration of the Casbah and the development of the Eastern Algiers Coastal City project suggest a structural shift toward a more robust tourism economy. However, the persistent rhetoric against Morocco and the state's heavy-handed role in food markets suggest that economic liberalization will remain secondary to state-controlled "stability" and national security imperatives ([Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- **For International Policy**

- **Diplomatic Neutrality:** Observers should note that the intensified anti-Moroccan rhetoric signals that normalization is unlikely in the medium term; regional security frameworks should account for a bifurcated Maghreb.
- **Humanitarian Partnerships:** Algeria's logistical success in Gaza suggests they are an efficient, albeit politically vocal, partner for Palestinian aid distribution.
- **Migratory Pressure:** If the Algerian narrative regarding Moroccan social collapse is even partially accurate, European partners should prepare for increased secondary migration from Morocco through Algerian/Tunisian corridors ([Source](#), [Source](#)).

- **For Private Sector/Investors**

- **Regulatory Risk:** Investors in the food and consumer goods sectors should expect heavy state interference and price controls during religious periods, which may impact quarterly profitability.
- **Opportunity in AgTech:** The expansion of desert greenhouses and grain storage infrastructure offers opportunities for firms specializing in irrigation, climate-controlled logistics, and automated storage solutions ([Source](#)).
- **Construction/Restoration Niche:** The state's commitment to high-end heritage restoration (palaces and Casbah) presents a stable, government-funded market for specialized architectural and restoration services ([Source](#)).

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.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. You can also learn more about the GDEL T Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.