

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVRIN

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

INDONESIA'S STRATEGIC SHIFT & ASSERTIVE POSTURE: Aggressive Asset Recovery, Maritime Resource Protection, and Deepened Global Engagement (Feb 2026)

STRATEGIC SHIFT: ASSERTING SOVEREIGNTY, SECURING RESOURCES, PIVOTING GLOBALLY

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: Aggressive stance on sovereignty, military-secured resources, economic pivot to US, massive Gaza deployment. Domestic "Triple Convergence" (Ramadan, Imlek) drives liquidity amidst infrastructure and climate challenges.



FUTURE OUTLOOK & RISKS

OUTLOOK (1-5 Years)

Economic Reorientation (US Deal, Special Status)
Military Transformation (Expeditionary Force)
Social Volatility (Price Hikes & Holiday Stress)
Long-term shift to Autarkic policies.

KEY RISKS & GAPS

Geological Instability (Semeru Eruption).
Systemic Corruption in Security Forces.
Supply Chain Shock (Food Inflation)
Peacekeeping Overstretch.
Gaps in Illegal Mining Identities & US Deal Terms.

STAKEHOLDER IMPLICATIONS: Public Sector: Prioritize digital integration & military tech transfer.
Private Sector: Opportunity in construction materials; expect regulatory scrutiny and logistics delays.

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVRIN

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

INDONESIA SIGNALS A STRATEGIC
SHIFT TOWARD AGGRESSIVE ASSET
RECOVERY, MARITIME RESOURCE
PROTECTION, AND DEEPENED
DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT IN
MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT ZONES.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The reporting from February 15-16, 2026, depicts an Indonesian state aggressively asserting its sovereignty and economic interests during a complex period of social and religious convergence. The central narrative is dominated by the military's success in **securing high-value natural resources** and the executive's push for new legal frameworks to institutionalize asset seizures. This occurs as the administration prepares for a significant diplomatic pivot, specifically high-stakes trade negotiations with the United States and a massive peacekeeping deployment to Gaza. The convergence of these events suggests an administration attempting to project strength both domestically and internationally, leveraging maritime security wins to bolster its nationalist credentials while seeking to

integrate more deeply into the global supply chain.

Simultaneously, the domestic environment is characterized by large-scale preparations for the Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr season, which this year intersects with Lunar New Year (Imlek) and Valentine's Day. This "triple convergence" is driving significant **liquidity injections and retail activity**, though it is shadowed by rising food inflation and persistent infrastructure vulnerabilities. The state is responding to these pressures through highly publicized social interventions—ranging from bridge-building in rural areas to the "Gentengisasi" housing initiative—aiming to maintain social order and public support amidst natural disasters, including volcanic activity at Mount Semeru and widespread flooding in East Java.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Maritime Security and Economic Sovereignty

- The TNI-AL (Indonesian Navy) successfully intercepted illegal mining operations, seizing hundreds of tons of tin and [rare earth metals](#) valued in the billions of rupiah.
- Operation Trisakti targeted illegal mineral smuggling networks in the Bangka Belitung region, signaling a zero-tolerance policy toward resource depletion by non-state actors.
- The administration is framing these seizures as a direct fulfillment of President Prabowo's mandate to protect national wealth for domestic industrialization.

Legislative Push for Asset Seizure

- The government is accelerating the [Asset Seizure Bill](#) (RUU Perampasan Aset), which consists of 8 chapters and 62 articles designed to bypass lengthy criminal proceedings in recovering state losses.
- Proponents argue the law is essential for combating financial crimes and corruption, though the broadcast notes the need for "due process" to prevent its use as a tool of political power.
- The legislation specifically targets assets linked to narcotics, terrorism, and organized financial crime.

Global Posture and Peacekeeping

- Indonesia announced plans to deploy [8,000 peacekeepers](#) to Gaza as part of an International Stabilization Force (ISF).
- The deployment is characterized as a "humanitarian mission" under the auspices of a new "Board of Peace" proposed by the U.S. administration, though Indonesia maintains its stance on Palestinian sovereignty.
- Military leadership clarifies that the force will not engage in active combat but will focus on civilian protection and reconstruction.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The military has shifted focus to [coastal defense exercises](#), testing anti-access and anti-amphibian capabilities for the first time in response to shifting regional geopolitics.

- TNI engineering units are being utilized for civilian infrastructure, such as building "Aramco-type" bridges in [West Sumatra](#) to facilitate economic mobility.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- President Prabowo convened a strategic meeting at his Hambalang residence with key economic ministers to finalize a [negotiating position](#) with the United States.
- The Bank of Indonesia is releasing [188.6 trillion rupiah](#) in cash to meet the anticipated liquidity demands of the Ramadan and Eid holidays.
- The stock market (IHSG) showed strong performance, closing at 8,212, driven by investor confidence in the administration's economic "downstreaming" policies.

Critical Infrastructure Security

- Persistent flooding in Jember led to the [collapse of a bridge](#), cutting off education and economic access for thousands of residents.
- Road damage in Central Java and Ciputat is causing a spike in traffic accidents, prompting emergency "patching" operations by provincial authorities.

Climate & Extreme Weather

- Mount Semeru remains at **Level 3 (Siaga)** following multiple pyroclastic flows (APG), with a 13km exclusion zone established along riverbeds.
- Jakarta's flood management is being challenged by morphology changes in the Pesanggrahan River, leading to community-led [bamboo conservation](#) efforts.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Secular-Sacred Economic Pivot

A significant trend is the state's attempt to commodify and manage the intersection of religious observance and economic activity. The "triple convergence" of Ramadan, Imlek, and Valentine's Day is being utilized as a **macroeconomic stimulant**. From the Bank of Indonesia's massive cash injection to the "Fish Festival" for Imlek, the government is actively steering cultural events toward "cuan" (profit) to buffer against global headwinds. This is exemplified by the promotion of "Urban Gardening" as not just a hobby, but a [micro-economic opportunity](#) for urbanites to achieve food self-sufficiency and supplemental income.

Institutional Cleansing and Reform

The broadcast highlights a dual-track approach to institutional integrity. While the "Asset Seizure Bill" provides a legal hammer, the arrest of [AKBP Didik Putra Kuncoro](#) (former Bima Police Chief) for drug possession serves as a high-profile "purge" to demonstrate accountability. This "iron fist" narrative is balanced by the "Hajj Reform" initiative, where the Ministry of Religious Affairs is banning all forms of [gratuities for Hajj officials](#) to clean up a historically corrupt ecosystem.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Elite Consolidation at Hambalang

The use of President Prabowo's **private residence** in Hambalang for cabinet-level meetings on US trade relations suggests a tightening of the inner circle and a shift

toward a "kitchen cabinet" style of governance. This centralized decision-making process is likely intended to ensure unity before facing international negotiators, but it also indicates a bypass of traditional bureaucratic channels.

Social Safety Net Friction

There is evidence of administrative decay in social services. The dispute over [BPJS health data](#), which led to the temporary suspension of aid for low-income residents, reveals a "data gap" that the government is struggling to close. This friction point is being mitigated by high-profile visits from VP Gibran to disaster zones, attempting to personalize the state's response to systemic failures like landslides and bridge collapses.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The US-Indonesia Strategic Re-alignment

The administration is positioning Indonesia as a critical node in the "global supply chain" (suple chin), specifically targeting the US market. The framing suggests a move away from over-reliance on any single bloc, instead seeking a **bilateral trade win** with the Trump administration. Indonesia is presenting itself as a "stable and principled" partner that can bridge Western economic interests with regional resource dominance.

Humanitarian Interventionism

The Gaza deployment marks a shift toward a more **interventionist foreign policy**. By committing 8,000 troops, Indonesia is moving beyond rhetorical support for Palestine to becoming a "security guarantor" in the Middle East. This is framed as a "free and active" (bebas aktif) foreign policy that allows

Indonesia to cooperate with US-led frameworks while maintaining its own sovereign ideological commitments.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Indonesian economy is characterized by high liquidity and a bullish stock market, though localized inflation in essential commodities (eggs, chilies) is putting pressure on the lower middle class. The "Gentengisasi" program represents a **state-led industrial intervention** to boost the domestic clay tile industry at the expense of imported zinc roofing.

- **Stock Market:** IHSG up 3.49% to [8,212](#); trading volume increased by 4.73%.
- **Liquidity:** 188.6 trillion rupiah released by BI for Ramadan; cash exchange services expanded to thousands of points.
- **Commodities:** Rare earth and tin seizures indicate a tightening of the "downstreaming" (hilirisasi) policy; gold prices remains a reference for asset stability.
- **Local Inflation:** Egg prices rose from 50,000 to [55,000 per carpet](#); chili prices up to 50,000 per kg in Bengkulu.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Current personnel shifts indicate a "clean-up" of the security apparatus and a heavy reliance on the Prabowo-Gibran inner circle for high-stakes diplomacy.

- **AKBP Didik Putra Kuncoro:** Former Bima Police Chief arrested and named as a suspect in a [major narcotics case](#); faces life imprisonment.

- **Economic Ministers (Hartarto, Sadewa, Hadi, Roselani):** Identified as the core [negotiating team](#) for US relations, signaling their high-standing in the Hambalang hierarchy.
- **Babe Idin:** Framed as a "Hero of the Earth" for river conservation, signaling the state's use of **non-state local leaders** to manage environmental crises.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

TVRI's editorial stance is **nationalistic and reassuring**. The "Lead Stories" are consistently about military success (TNI-AL seizures) and the President's strategic vision (Hambalang meetings). "Buried Stories" include the actual impact of Semeru's eruption on local agriculture and the specifics of the BPJS data failure, which are treated as technical glitches rather than systemic issues. The tone is distracting, often pivoting from hard news about drug busts or floods to soft-feature segments on [Ancient Volcanoes](#) or traditional cake businesses. **Conspicuous Omissions** include any critical discussion of the environmental impact of the military's "Aramco bridge" construction or the potential for regional blowback from the massive Gaza deployment.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The broadcast frames the world as a "fracturing but opportunistic" arena where Indonesia must act with "principled strength."

COUNTRIES

- **United States:** Portrayed as a powerful but transactional partner. Indonesia seeks to be "the best and most profitable" partner for the [Donald Trump](#) administration, indicating a pragmatic shift.
- **Palestine:** Framed as a "brother in need" whose sovereignty is "integral." Indonesia's role is that of a "protective sibling" rather than just a diplomatic observer.
- **Cape Verde (Tanjung Verde):** Portrayed as a [football underdog](#) that succeeded through "consistent performance," serving as a metaphor for Indonesia's own global aspirations.

LEADERS

- **Prabowo Subianto:** Portrayed as a "decisive strategist" and "protector of national wealth." Quotes emphasize his **commitment to sovereignty** and "downstreaming" (hilirisasi).
- **Gibran Rakabuming Raka:** Framed as the "compassionate administrator," focusing on [disaster relief](#) and community-level "time reactions."

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The term "Gentengisasi" is being seeded as a populist success story to distract from broader housing shortages.
- **Propaganda:** The TNI-AL's seizure of rare earth metals is being used as a **demonstration of force** to deter illegal mining and foreign exploitation, though the identities of the smugglers are notably absent.

- **Digital Hygiene:** The Ministry of Communication (Mutia Hafid) is actively warning against "digital disinformation" and "hoaxes" during the Imlek/Ramadan period, framing digital order as a [national security priority](#).

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Economic Reorientation:** Indonesia will likely secure a "special status" trade deal with the US, focusing on mineral supply chains, which will lead to a cooling of relations with other major regional trade blocs.
- **Military Transformation:** The Gaza mission will be used as a **proving ground** for a more expeditionary Indonesian military, leading to increased defense budgets for transport and logistical hardware.
- **Social Volatility:** The intersection of high food prices and religious holidays may trigger localized protests if the 188T liquidity injection does not reach the informal sector effectively.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Massive migration (Mudik) for Eid will stress the newly "patched" infrastructure; expect a rise in traffic-related fatalities and localized flooding disruptions in East Java.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The passage of the Asset Seizure Bill will lead to a flurry of "high-profile" raids on financial institutions and political figures from the previous administration to consolidate power.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The "Gentengisasi" and "Urban Gardening" initiatives represent a long-term shift toward **autarkic domestic policies**, aiming to reduce reliance on global supply chains for basic needs like shelter and food.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Geological Instability:** Mount Semeru's continued activity poses a risk of a major eruption. Triggers: Increased seismic activity or dome collapse. Likelihood: High. Impact: Devastating for local agriculture and displacement. Mitigations: Strict enforcement of exclusion zones and BPBD readiness.
- **Systemic Corruption in Security Forces:** The arrest of the Bima Police Chief suggests deeper rot. Triggers: Further high-level drug arrests. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Loss of public trust in the national police. Mitigations: Independent oversight and "cleansing" operations.
- **Supply Chain Shock (Food):** Rising egg and chili prices during Ramadan could lead to unrest. Triggers: Poor harvest or hoarding. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Inflationary pressure on the poor. Mitigations: Market monitoring and government-subsidized "Cheap Markets."
- **Peacekeeping Overstretch:** 8,000 troops in Gaza is a massive commitment. Triggers: Indonesian casualties in a crossfire. Likelihood: Low but rising. Impact: Political crisis for Prabowo. Mitigations: Robust ROE and US coordination.

- **Infrastructure Collapse:** Aging bridges and roads are failing under flood stress. Triggers: Continued heavy rain. Likelihood: High. Impact: Economic paralysis in rural regions. Mitigations: Rapid TNI-led engineering deployments.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The identities and nationalities of the entities behind the **illegal rare earth mining** are not disclosed, leaving a gap in understanding the geopolitical source of the threat.
- The exact terms of the **US trade negotiations** at Hambalang are unknown, specifically what concessions Indonesia is offering on domestic "downstreaming" laws.
- The potential for **inter-religious friction** during the "triple convergence" of Ramadan and Imlek is ignored in favor of a "harmony" narrative.
- The environmental cost of the massive "Gentengisasi" push (clay mining) is not addressed.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The Hambalang Mirage: The high-profile "summit" at the President's residence might not be a show of strength, but a sign of **paralysis in formal government institutions**. The administration may be struggling to get its own ministries to align, requiring informal "residence meetings" to force consensus on the US trade deal.

The "Gentengisasi" Distraction: Replacing zinc roofs with clay tiles may be an **elaborate subsidy for well-connected tile manufacturers** rather than a genuine safety

initiative. The "safety" framing (preventing heat/noise) could be a cover for a protectionist industrial policy that will ultimately raise housing costs for the poor.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize the **digital integration** of BPJS data to prevent social unrest during the Ramadan transition.
- Leverage the Gaza deployment to secure **enhanced military technology transfers** from the United States as part of the "Board of Peace" framework.
- Institutionalize the "Aramco bridge" model to bypass slow provincial infrastructure procurement processes.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Opportunity:** High demand for **construction materials** and "Genteng" production as state-led housing initiatives scale.
- **Risk:** Increased **regulatory scrutiny** on all financial assets following the passage of the Asset Seizure Bill.
- **Logistics:** Prepare for severe delays in Central/East Java due to bridge collapses and flood-damaged national roads during the peak holiday season.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The primary legislative focus is on **asset recovery and financial crime**, with secondary policies focusing on "National Food

Sovereignty" through decentralized production.

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **RUU Perampasan Aset (Asset Seizure Bill):** Aimed at streamlining the recovery of assets from corruption, narcotics, and terrorism. Focus on "civil forfeiture" models to bypass criminal delays.
- **National Food Sovereignty Mandate:** A series of executive orders (Prabowo-Gibran) promoting domestic lobster, durian, and catfish production to reduce imports.

• **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Hambalang Economic Summit:** Private meeting to finalize the US trade negotiation strategy; focuses on "Global Supply Chain" integration.
- **Haji Supervision Mission:** Ministry of Religious Affairs press event in Makkah banning gratuities and standardizing Indonesian food (bumbu) for pilgrims.

KEY STORIES

- **TNI-AL Resource Seizure:** Operation Trisakti seizes billions in [rare earth metals](#) and tin in Bangka Belitung.
- **Asset Seizure Bill Promotion:** PDI-P's Hasto Kristianto and DPR experts push for the 8-chapter law to **recuperate state losses**.
- **Bank Indonesia Cash Release:** 188.6 trillion rupiah injected into the market for Ramadan/Eid; [3D method](#) (seen, felt, translucent) promoted to spot counterfeits.

- **Prabowo's Hambalang Summit:** High-level meeting with economic ministers on [US trade relations](#) and global supply chains.
- **Gaza Peacekeeping Deployment:** Indonesia to send 8,000 troops; Ministry of Foreign Affairs clarifies [non-combat role](#) under PBB Resolution 2803.
- **Mount Semeru Eruption:** Multiple pyroclastic flows (APG) recorded; [level 3 alert](#) maintained; 13km exclusion zone.
- **Jember Bridge Collapse:** Floodwaters from Bedadung River destroy "Jembatan Cinta" (Gantung Darus); [7km detour](#) for residents.
- **Gibran's Landslide Visit:** VP visits Semarang landslide victims, prioritizes "resident safety" and **relocation solutions**.
- **Police Drug Scandal:** Former Bima Police Chief AKBP Didik Putra Kuncoro arrested with a [white suitcase](#) containing sabu, ecstasy, and ketamine.
- **Urban Gardening Campaign:** Mataram and Gorontalo promote "Mini Portable Hydroponics" for [economic profit](#) and food security.
- **Gentengisasi Initiative:** President Prabowo's plan to replace zinc roofs with **domestic clay tiles** to support local artisans.
- **KAI Eid Preparations:** PT KAI prepares [62 additional trains](#) for the 37,700 passengers expected daily from Jakarta stations.
- **Imlek "Triple Convergence":** Flower sales in Tangerang double due to the [closeness of Imlek, Ramadan, and Valentine's Day](#).
- **Dayak Babukung Ritual:** Central Kalimantan preserves the "ritual of the mask" to comfort the bereaved; [indigenous culture](#) used as a tool for social cohesion.
- **Paralympic Training Center:** New facility in Karanganyar praised as [best in Southeast Asia](#) by Sports Minister Erik Tohir.
- **Pesanggrahan River Conservation:** "Babe Idin" leads community effort to [plant bamboo](#) instead of concrete to prevent Jakarta flooding.
- **Aramco Bridge Construction:** TNI units build strategic economic bridges in [West Sumatra](#) to improve regional mobility.
- **Food Price Monitoring:** bengkul monitoring shows [significant hikes](#) in egg and chili prices ahead of the fasting month.

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. To learn more or subscribe to our free daily newsletters, visit <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/announcing-our-new-daily-todays-trends-on-capitol-hill-todays-media-trends-newsletter-briefings/>. You can also learn more about the GDELT Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.