

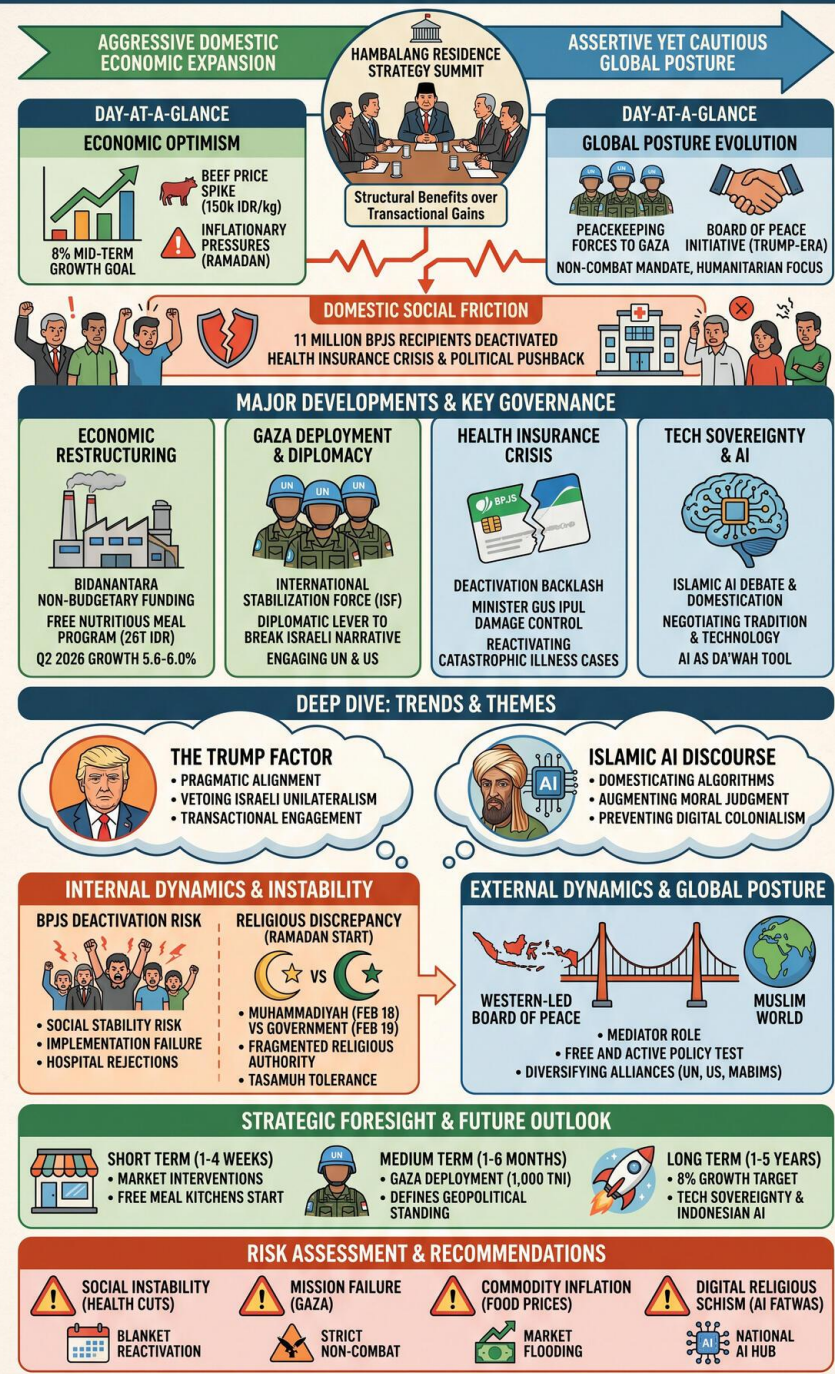
TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVRIN

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

INDONESIA'S DUAL-TRACK STRATEGY: NAVIGATING GEOPOLITICS & ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING AMIDST SOCIAL FRICTION



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INDONESIA NAVIGATES HIGH-STAKES GEOPOLITICS AND AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING AMIDST DOMESTIC SOCIAL SAFETY NET FRICTION

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The Indonesian administration under President Prabowo Subianto is currently executing a dual-track strategy of aggressive domestic economic expansion and a more assertive, yet cautious, role in Middle Eastern security. On February 17, 2026, the leadership held high-level meetings at the **Hambalang residence** to consolidate a new [economic strategy](#) ahead of negotiations with the United States. This strategy emphasizes a shift from purely transactional international agreements to those that structurally strengthen the national economy, aiming for an ambitious **8% mid-term growth rate**. This economic optimism, however, is being tested by immediate inflationary pressures, specifically a **10-15% spike in beef prices** as the country approaches the holy month of Ramadan.

Simultaneously, Indonesia is deepening its involvement in the Palestinian theater, signaling a readiness to deploy **peacekeeping forces** to Gaza under the auspices of a **Board of Peace** reportedly initiated by U.S. President Donald Trump. While the government maintains a strict **non-combat mandate** focused on humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, the move represents a significant evolution in Jakarta's global posture. This geopolitical maneuvering is complicated by domestic friction over the **deactivation of 11 million health insurance (BPJS) recipients**, a move that has triggered political pushback and necessitated high-level damage control to prevent a loss of government mandate among the lower deciles of the population.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Economic Restructuring and the "Hambalang Strategy"

- President Prabowo Subianto convened a strategic meeting with economic ministers to ensure that [international economic negotiations](#) yield structural benefits for Indonesia rather than short-term gains.
- The administration is projecting a **Q2 2026 growth rate** of 5.6% to 6.0%, supported by the **Bidanantara** non-budgetary funding scheme for [priority programs](#) like the "Free Nutritious Meal" initiative.
- The "Free Nutritious Meal" (MBG) program has been allocated **26 trillion rupiah** for the current quarter, as the government pivots toward [downstream industrialization](#) and supply chain resilience.

Deployment to the Gaza Strip and Middle East Diplomacy

- Indonesia is preparing to send personnel to Gaza as part of the **International Stabilization Force (ISF)**, following a [non-combat mandate](#) focused on civil protection and healthcare.
- Analysts warn that an Indonesian withdrawal from the **Board of Peace** would allow [right-wing Israeli factions](#) to dominate the narrative and isolate Gaza.
- The mission is framed as a **key diplomatic lever** to prevent Israel from using political vetoes against Muslim-nation participation in the [peace process](#).

Health Insurance Crisis and Social Safety Net Volatility

- The deactivation of over **11 million BPJS PBI** (government-subsidized) recipients has caused widespread confusion and [public outcry](#).
- Social Affairs Minister Saifullah Yusuf (Gus Ipul) was forced to deny that the President issued [direct instructions](#) to remove recipients from Deciles 6 through 10, blaming misinformation for the panic.
- The government is rushing to **reactivate 40,000** individuals with catastrophic illnesses to [mitigate immediate health risks](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- TNI AD is preparing **1,000 personnel** for deployment to Gaza, with a [readiness timeline](#) targeted for early April 2026.

- The mandate is strictly limited to **humanitarian aid, reconstruction, and police training** within the integral territory of [Palestine](#).

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Foreign Minister Sugiono is actively engaging with **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** to support the [two-state solution](#) and cement Indonesia's role on the Board of Peace.
- Indonesia's presence is seen as vital to [breaking the monopoly](#) of Israeli narratives in international forums.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Bank Indonesia has prepared **185.6 trillion rupiah** in cash for [Ramadan and Idulfitri](#) needs, a significant increase from the previous year.
- The government is utilizing **non-APBN (non-budgetary)** financing to preserve [fiscal space](#) while funding massive populist projects.

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- Religious and academic leaders are debating the **existential risk of AI** to traditional religious authority, questioning if [artificial intelligence](#) can eventually replace the role of the Ulama.
- There is a concerted effort to develop a **"Indonesian Version"** of AI that [incorporates local cultural](#) and religious values to prevent "digital colonialism."

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The "Trump Factor" in Indonesian Foreign Policy

A striking theme in the transcripts is the frequent reference to **U.S. President Donald Trump** and his "Board of Peace" (Dewan Perdamaian). Indonesia appears to be pragmatically aligning with this Trump-era framework to secure a seat at the table in the [Middle East peace process](#). This alignment is not ideological but strategic; by participating in a U.S.-led initiative, Jakarta seeks to **veto Israeli unilateralism** while maintaining its constitutional mandate to support Palestinian independence. The framing of Trump as a [facilitator of this new council](#) suggests a shift in how Indonesian elites perceive the U.S. role in the region, moving toward a more transactional and "deal-based" engagement.

Islamic AI: Negotiating Tradition and Technology

There is a sophisticated discourse emerging regarding **Artificial Intelligence** within the context of Islamic governance and education. Rather than outright rejection, religious scholars are calling for the **domestication of algorithms**. The "Islamic AI" narrative posits that AI is a "descendant of Islamic intellectual heritage" (referencing Al-Khwarizmi) and should be used to [augment rather than replace](#) human moral judgment. This trend indicates that Indonesia is preparing for a future where technology is a primary tool for **da'wah (proselytizing)** and legal fatwas, provided it can be anchored in [ethical frameworks](#) that prevent the "nudity" of secular data exploitation.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

- **The BPJS Deactivation Backlash:** The government's decision to cut 11 million people from health subsidies represents a major **social stability risk**. Ministers are currently in "damage control" mode, attempting to [reframe the deactivation](#) as a data-cleaning exercise (targeting Decile 6-10) rather than a service cut. However, the confusion in hospitals, where PBI patients are [reportedly being rejected](#), suggests an implementation failure that could erode the Prabowo administration's populist mandate.
- **Religious Discrepancy (Ramadan Start):** A recurring point of friction is the differing criteria for the start of Ramadan between **Muhammadiyah** (using global high-tech calculations) and the **Government/MABIMS** (using local observation). Muhammadiyah has set the start for [February 18](#), while the government leans toward **February 19**. While handled with "tasamuh" (tolerance), this persistent [dual-calendar reality](#) highlights the fragmented nature of religious authority in Indonesia.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Indonesia is portraying itself as an emerging mediator that can **bridge the gap** between the Western-led "Board of Peace" and the Muslim world. By committing **1,000 non-combat troops** to Gaza, Jakarta is testing the limits of its "Free and Active" foreign policy. The state is framing the "outside world" not as a threat, but as a [competitive arena](#) where Indonesia must fight for structural economic advantages. The Prabowo administration is

actively seeking to **diversify alliances**, maintaining strong ties with the UN while participating in U.S.-led Middle East initiatives and strengthening regional ties via the [MABIMS](#) (Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore) religious consensus.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is characterized by high-growth aspirations dampened by immediate commodity price shocks and complex fiscal maneuvering to fund populist legacies.

- **Growth Targets:** 5.6-6.0% projected for Q2 2026; **8% mid-term goal** maintained by the [Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs](#).
- **Inflationary Flashpoints:** Beef prices reached **150,000 IDR/kg** in Jakarta markets, a sharp rise from the [135,000 IDR/kg baseline](#), driven by Ramadan demand.
- **Populist Spending:** 89 trillion rupiah total projected for Q1 spending, including **26 trillion for free meals** and **55 trillion for ASN (civil servant) bonuses** ([THR](#)).
- **Currency/Liquidity:** Bank Indonesia is injecting **185.6 trillion rupiah** in cash into the economy to facilitate [festive season consumption](#).
- **Food Security:** Bulog has **160,000 tons of rice** in stock in Lampung alone, aiming for **1.5 million tons nationally for 2026** to stabilize prices.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Key personnel are being deployed to manage the "Hambalang Strategy" and the peacekeeping mission, while veteran religious

leaders attempt to define the "New Indonesia" in the digital age.

- **Prabowo Subianto:** Consolidating power through direct **Hambalang summits** with his economic team to bypass [traditional bureaucratic delays](#).
- **Sugiono (Foreign Minister):** Emerging as the **point man for the Gaza mission**, navigating the delicate balance between UN mandates and [Trump-era peace initiatives](#).
- **Brikjen TNI Doni Pramono:** Leading the **operational readiness** of the Gaza task force, emphasizing a [non-combat defensive posture](#).
- **Purbaya Yudi Sadewa (Finance Minister):** Tasked with maintaining **fiscal Ruang (space)** while funding the massive [social programs](#) through non-budgetary schemes.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy is **heavily nationalist and developmentalist**. The "Hambalang Strategy" and Gaza peacekeeping were given the most airtime, framed as proofs of Indonesia's "Golden Generation" 2045 ambitions. The **BPJS deactivation crisis** was "buried" or framed as a technical data update rather than a policy failure, with significant airtime devoted to **Gus Ipul's denials**. The emotional tone is **reassuring regarding the economy** but **urgent regarding Gaza**. A **conspicuous omission** is the lack of detailed analysis on the environmental impact of the massive "3 Million Houses" program or the specific terms of the **Bidanantara** funding scheme, which appears to operate with less transparency than the national budget (APBN).

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The transcripts reveal a world where Indonesia is the "protagonist" in a shifting multipolar system, carefully balancing relationships with major powers while prioritizing "National Interest."

COUNTRIES

- **Israel:** Portrayed as a **manipulative antagonist** that "frequently hampers TNI officers" and attempts to [monopolize the narrative](#) to isolate Palestinians.
- **United States:** Framed as a **transactional partner**. Under Trump, it is seen as a source of "Board of Peace" [initiatives](#) that Indonesia must participate in to protect its interests.
- **Palestine/Gaza:** Portrayed as a **vulnerable ward** of Indonesia, an "integral part" that requires [humanitarian guardianship](#) and reconstruction.
- **Denmark:** Briefly highlighted as "still the best in Europe" in [sports/football](#) and as the origin of medical breakthroughs like Hirschsprung research.

LEADERS

- **Prabowo Subianto:** Framed as a **strong, decisive strategist** who "calls ministers to his residence" to enforce a [nationalist economic agenda](#).
- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a **powerful architect** of global peace structures, whose [Board of Peace](#) is a reality Jakarta must navigate.
- **Benjamin Netanyahu:** Implicitly characterized as the **leader of an isolate-and-control strategy** that Indonesia [seeks to disrupt](#).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The day's broadcasts illustrate a sophisticated **shaping of the "Golden Indonesia 2045" narrative**. The government is using **anticipatory propaganda** to manage expectations regarding the Ramadan calendar and meat prices. However, there is a clear **narrative delta** regarding the BPJS deactivations. While the media spins it as "data optimization," the ground reality appears to be a [service disruption](#) for the poorest citizens. Furthermore, the framing of **AI as an "Islamic heritage"** is a clear psy-op designed to reduce [technophobia](#) among the conservative religious base as the state moves toward a more digitized governance model.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **The Social Contract Breach:** If the BPJS deactivations are not fully resolved by March 14 (the BPS ground check date), there is a **high probability of localized civil unrest** in major urban centers as health costs for the poor [spike](#).
- **Gaza Mission Creep:** While the mandate is "non-combat," the proximity of TNI personnel to "ISF" operations in Gaza **risks Indonesian entanglement** in Israeli military skirmishes, potentially leading to [unintended escalations](#).
- **AI-Driven Fatwas:** The government will likely launch a **"National AI Hub"** within the Ministry of Religious Affairs to standardize digital religious guidance and [neutralize radical online narratives](#).

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a **surge in market interventions** (Pasar Murah) by Bulog to combat the [150k/kg beef price](#). The first "Dapur MBG" (Free Meal Kitchens) will likely open in [Lampung](#) as a proof-of-concept.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The formal deployment of **1,000 TNI personnel** to Gaza will serve as Indonesia's primary diplomatic bargaining chip in [Board of Peace negotiations](#). Success or failure here will define Indonesia's 2026 geopolitical standing.

Long Term (1-5 Years): If the **8% growth target** and "Bidanantara" funding model succeed, Indonesia will move toward **Tech Sovereignty**, potentially decoupling from some Western tech platforms in favor of [locally developed "Islamic-ethical" AI](#).

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Social Instability via Healthcare Cuts:** Risk of mass protests if health subsidies are not restored. **Trigger:** A high-profile death of a patient [denied care](#). **Likelihood:** Moderate-High. **Impact:** Severe political destabilization. **Mitigation:** Immediate **blanket reactivation** of Decile 1-5 recipients.
- **Mission Failure in Gaza:** TNI personnel being caught in crossfire. **Trigger:** An **Israeli strike** near an Indonesian medical station. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Crisis in RI-Israel/US relations. **Mitigation:** Strict adherence to the [non-combat perimeter](#).

- **Commodity Inflation:** Unrest due to food price spikes. **Trigger:** Beef prices crossing **175k/kg**. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Erosion of [lower-class support](#). **Mitigation:** Emergency imports and **Bulog market flooding**.
- **Digital Religious Schism:** Radical groups using AI to bypass government-sanctioned Ulama. **Trigger:** A **viral AI-generated fatwa** inciting violence. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** National security threat. **Mitigation:** Acceleration of ["Indonesian Version" AI](#) development.
- **Fiscal Overextension:** The "Bidanantara" scheme failing to attract investors. **Trigger:** A **downgrade in credit rating** due to non-budgetary debt. **Likelihood:** Low-Moderate. **Impact:** Halt of [infrastructure and social projects](#). **Mitigation:** Transparent **ESG-aligned reporting** for Bidanantara projects.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **The Trump Peace Terms:** The transcripts refer to Trump's Board of Peace but omit the **actual conditions** or geographic boundaries of this [negotiated peace](#).
- **Bidanantara Transparency:** There is no mention of **who the investors are** in this non-budgetary scheme, leaving a blind spot regarding [sovereign debt or foreign influence](#).
- **Environmental Cost of 8% Growth:** The push for [hilirisasi \(downstreaming\)](#) and housing completely ignores the **ecological impact** and land-use conflicts.
- **BPJS Funding Shortfall:** The "data cleaning" explanation for PBI deactivation likely masks a **systemic budget deficit** in the [health insurance fund](#) that is not being publicly admitted.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The Gaza Mission as a Diversion:** A contrarian view suggests the Gaza peacekeeping mission is a **deliberate distraction** from the failing domestic safety net. By projecting strength abroad, the administration seeks to **shroud the deactivation** of 11 million health insurance [recipients](#) in a fog of nationalistic pride.
- **The 8% Growth Trap:** The focus on 8% growth and non-budgetary funding might be a **cover for an imminent fiscal cliff**. If "Bidanantara" is merely off-balance-sheet debt, Indonesia could be **leveraging its future** for present-day [populist "Free Meal" projects](#).
- **Black Swan - The Hilal Schism:** A catastrophic black swan would be a **violent clash between religious factions** over the Ramadan start date if coupled with [food riots](#), breaking the long-held "tasamuh" (tolerance) social contract.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Maintain the "non-combat" firewall in Gaza to prevent [diplomatic blowback](#).
- **Economic:** Formalize the "Bidanantara" scheme within a **legislative framework** to prevent [long-term fiscal instability](#).
- **Diplomatic:** Use the Board of Peace seat to advocate for [Gaza's maritime independence](#) and economic autonomy.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Risk:** Monitor **meat and poultry** logistics closely; Ramadan [inflation](#) may trigger price controls.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Prepare for new **AI ethics guidelines** that may favor [locally developed models](#) over global platforms.
- **Investment Opportunity:** The "3 Million Houses" and "Free Nutritious Meal" programs represent **massive capital allocation** in [construction and agriculture](#) sectors.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The policy environment is currently dominated by **executive decrees** and the implementation of ambitious development goals, with a focus on waste management and [MSME digitalization](#).

• BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Perpres 12/2025 (Waste Management):** A national plan to move toward circular economies in [waste processing](#) starting with Banyumas.
- **BNSP AI Certification:** A new regulatory framework to [certify AI operators](#) and ensure ethical technology use.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**
 - **Hambalang Economic Summit:** A closed-door session defining Indonesia's [negotiation stance](#) with the US.
 - **Gus Ipul Press Briefing:** An emergency event aimed at [debunking misinformation](#) regarding BPJS deactivations.
 - **MABIMS/Hilal Seminar:** A technical hearing to [standardize Ramadan start criteria](#) across SE Asian nations.

KEY STORIES

- **Prabowo's Hambalang Economic Directive:** A strategic meeting to shift trade negotiations from transactional to [structural national benefit](#).
- **Gaza Peacekeeping Mission:** Readiness of [1,000 TNI personnel for humanitarian deployment under the International Stabilization Force \(ISF\)](#).
- **BPJS Healthcare Crisis:** The [deactivation of 11 million citizens from subsidized insurance and the government's subsequent damage control](#).
- **Ramadan Economic Preparation:** Bank Indonesia preparing [185.6 trillion rupiah](#) cash injection and Bulog's **160,000 ton rice reserve** in Lampung.
- **The Ramadan Calendar Schism:** Muhammadiyah setting Feb 18 as the start of fasting while [government observation](#) suggests Feb 19.
- **The "Islamic AI" Debate:** Religious leaders discussing the role of AI in [spirituality and the replacement of traditional Ulama](#).
- **Meat Price Inflation:** Beef prices surging to [150,000 IDR/kg](#) in Jakarta markets ahead of Ramadan.
- **MBG Program Rollout:** The launch of the "Free Nutritious Meal" program with a [26 trillion rupiah](#) Q1 allocation.
- **Hirschsprung Disease Medical Feature:** A deep dive into the diagnosis and treatment of neonatal [intestinal obstruction](#).
- **Imlek Cultural History:** Exploration of Chinese New Year's role in the [shaping of Indonesian-Islamic culture](#).
- **Banyumas Waste Innovation:** Implementation of Perpres 12/2025 for [high-tech waste separation](#).
- **MSME Digital Empowerment:** Training for housewives and [Srikandi entrepreneurs](#) in the digital economy.
- **Sumba Megalithic Tradition:** Preservation of stone-carving and [tomb-building culture](#) in Pasunga, NTT.
- **Hilal Monitoring Network:** Deployment of observers at [133 points across Indonesia to confirm the start of Ramadan](#).
- **Mangrove Conservation in West Kalimantan:** Ahmad Baswan's efforts to protect [coastal ecosystems](#) from abrasion.

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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