

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

METROTV

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

INDONESIA'S STRATEGIC GAMBLE: BALANCING GLOBAL REALIGNMENT & DOMESTIC FRAGILITY (FEB 18-19, 2026 REPORT)

EXTERNAL POSTURE: HIGH-STAKES GLOBAL MANEUVERING



**U.S.-INDONESIA RECIPROCAL
TRADE AGREEMENT:**
Targeting 19% Tariff Slash on Exports
(CPO, Coffee) & U.S. Energy Imports



**GAZA "BOARD OF
PEACE" ROLE:**
Leveraging
Economic Ties for
Geopolitical Influence

Strategic Dependency Shift towards Western Alignment

THE DUAL-SPEED NATION: EXTERNAL AMBITION vs. INTERNAL STRAIN

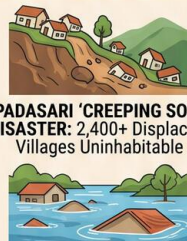
DOMESTIC REALITY: ESCALATING CRISES & FRAGILITY

PRE-RAMADAN ECONOMIC SHOCK & FOOD HYPER-INFLATION



Chili Prices >100% Surge;
Beef at 160k IDR/kg.
Waning Consumer Power
Ahead of Holiday

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE & INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURE



**PADASARI 'CREEPING SOIL'
DISASTER:** 2,400+ Displaced,
Villages Uninhabitable

**SUMATRA FLOODS &
AID GRIDLOCK:**
Humanitarian Shipments
Stalled at Customs due to
Bureaucracy

INSTITUTIONAL RIFT & ELITE CONFLICT



DR. PIPRIM DISMISSAL:
Professional Autonomy vs.
State Control. Deepening
Polarization in Healthcare

TRENDS & THEMES

Weaponization of Administrative Mutability

Distrust in Food Security Narratives



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & KEY RISKS



SHORT TERM: Populist Market Raids, Localized Social Unrest Risk due to Food Prices

MEDIUM TERM: Energy Supply Chain Realignment to U.S.

LONG TERM: Climate Adaptation Swallows Infrastructure Budget

KEY RISKS: Hyper-Inflation Riots, Diplomatic Trade Deal Backlash, Institutional Collapse in Healthcare, Permanent Displacement Crisis



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INDONESIA NAVIGATES STRATEGIC
TRADE REALIGNMENT WITH THE
UNITED STATES AMID ESCALATING
DOMESTIC FOOD INFLATION AND
CLIMATE-DRIVEN
INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURES.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The reporting cycle for February 18-19, 2026, depicts a nation operating at two speeds: high-level strategic maneuvering on the global stage contrasted with significant domestic fragility. The centerpiece of Indonesia's external posture is President Prabowo Subianto's **bilateral engagement** with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington D.C., which has yielded a [reciprocal trade agreement](#) aimed at slashing tariffs on Indonesian exports from 32% to 19%. This diplomatic pivot is coupled with Indonesia's role in the newly formed "Board of Peace" for Gaza reconstruction, signaling an attempt to leverage economic alignment with the U.S. into broader geopolitical influence. However, this projection of strength is challenged by an impending **domestic crisis** as the country enters the holy month of Ramadan.

Internally, the government is struggling to contain **hyper-inflation** of food staples, with chili prices surging by [over 100%](#) in some regions. This economic strain is compounded by catastrophic **climate events**, including a massive landslide in Tegal (Padasari) that displaced over 2,400 people and destroyed 900 homes, alongside persistent flooding in Sumatra. The state's capacity to manage these crises is under scrutiny as legislative debates reveal **logistical bottlenecks**—most notably the failure to process humanitarian aid from the diaspora in Malaysia due to bureaucratic hurdles at customs. Furthermore, the dismissal of a high-ranking medical official, Dr. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso, suggests a deepening **institutional rift** between the professional medical class and the Ministry of Health over administrative autonomy and policy dissent.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **U.S.-Indonesia Reciprocal Trade Agreement:** The Prabowo administration has finalized a landmark deal to reduce [export tariffs](#) to 19%, covering key commodities such as palm oil (CPO), coffee, and cocoa. The deal also includes provisions for Indonesia to import U.S. oil and gas to stabilize domestic energy costs.
- **Ramadan Food Security Crisis:** Market monitors report that chili rawit has reached [140,000 IDR per kilogram](#) in Jakarta and other regions, a sharp increase from normal levels. Traders report a 50% drop in sales volume as consumer purchasing power wanes ahead of the holiday season.

- **Padasari Geological Disaster:** A phenomenon of "creeping soil" in Tegal has caused [total structural collapse](#) in several villages. The BNPB (National Disaster Management Agency) has confirmed that the land is no longer suitable for habitation, necessitating a large-scale relocation project involving thousands of citizens.
- **Elite Institutional Conflict:** The Ministry of Health's summary dismissal of [Dr. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso](#) has sparked public debate regarding the "martyrdom" of professional autonomy versus state-mandated administrative loyalty, specifically regarding contentious medical college regulations.
- **Humanitarian Aid Gridlock:** A significant shipment of aid from the Aceh diaspora in Malaysia, including 3,000 liters of cooking oil and various staples, remains [stalled at customs](#) due to lack of certification from the Ministry of Agriculture, highlighting critical failures in emergency logistics.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Diplomacy & Statecraft: Indonesia is pursuing a high-stakes alignment with the U.S., focusing on **reciprocal trade** and involvement in Middle Eastern peace initiatives. President Prabowo's visit to Andrews Air Force Base and subsequent [bilateral talks](#) with Donald Trump indicate a move toward a more transactional and pragmatically Western-aligned foreign policy.

Climate & Extreme Weather: The nation is facing simultaneous disasters. The "creeping soil" in Tegal, caused by [intense rainfall](#) infiltrating clay-heavy soil layers, has created a permanent displacement crisis. Simultaneously, flood recovery in Aceh and West Sumatra continues to lag, with [recurring](#)

[floods](#) hitting Tapanuli Tengah three times in recent months.

Macroeconomics & Trade: Despite the trade win in Washington, the domestic **equity market** remains volatile. The IHSG showed a [slight recovery](#) to the 8,285 level, driven by conglomerate stock buybacks, though foreign investors continue a "net sell" trend due to global uncertainties and local inflation risks.

Supply Chain Resilience & Logistics: The failure to move [essential aid](#) from Malaysia to Aceh disaster victims reveals a rigid and potentially obstructive regulatory environment at the Bureau of Customs (Bea Cukai), prompting legislative calls for emergency dispensations.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Administrative Mutability: A recurring theme is the government's use of "mutations" or administrative reshuffling to enforce policy compliance. The case of Dr. Piprim, who was [dismissed after refusing](#) a transfer he viewed as punishment for his critical stance, reflects a broader trend of centralized control over professional institutions. This is described by the official as an "abuse of power" by the Ministry of Health.

Pre-Ramadan Economic Fragility: There is a palpable tension between government claims of "safe stocks" and the reality of [market speculation](#). Editorial analysis suggests that while stock levels may be sufficient, long distribution chains and "speculative behavior" by middlemen are driving prices beyond the reach of the average consumer, creating a **distrust** in official food security narratives.

Strategic Dependency Shift: Indonesia is pivoting its energy and trade dependency toward the United States. By [negotiating for U.S. crude oil](#) and LPG, the administration is seeking to hedge against global supply shocks while simultaneously tying its export success to the whims of U.S. trade policy (the "Trump Tariff").

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Elite Infighting and Institutional Decay:

The tension within the health sector indicates a significant **loss of government mandate** among professional classes. Dr. Piprim's public statement that he is "ready to be a martyr" [against tyranny](#) suggests a deepening polarization between the bureaucracy and the scientific community.

Social Order and Urban Unrest: While the news focuses on the festive atmosphere of Tanah Abang, the [crackdown on illegal parking](#) and the heavy presence of TNI/Polri in market areas suggest an underlying anxiety about social order. The "Bini Orang" fashion trend [going viral](#) acts as a populist distraction from the grim reality of 100% inflation on basic goods.

Disaster Recovery Failures: In regions like Tapanuli Tengah and Aceh, citizens are expressing [extreme sadness](#) and desperation as they enter Ramadan in temporary shelters (Huntara) or flooded homes. The "mismatch" between government reconstruction schedules and ground reality is a growing source of potential civil unrest.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Multipolar Maneuvering: Indonesia is framing itself as a bridge between the West and the Islamic world. President Prabowo's participation in the [Board of Peace](#) for Gaza while simultaneously securing a trade deal with Trump shows an attempt to maximize strategic maneuverability. The state is projecting itself as a **regional leader** capable of dealing with transactional superpowers without sacrificing its ideological commitments to Palestinian stability.

External Threat Matrix: The broadcasts frame the "outside world" primarily as an economic arena, but with notable **hostile elements**. The U.S. embargo on Cuba is mentioned in the context of Russia's counter-narrative [in Moscow](#), reflecting a subtle alignment with multipolar sentiments even as Jakarta pursues closer ties with Washington. The trade negotiations are framed as a defensive reaction to the global "Trump Tariff" regime.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic climate is characterized by a "wait-and-see" approach from foreign investors, tempered by aggressive domestic buybacks and significant trade negotiations. The domestic market is bracing for **Ramadan-driven inflation** while attempting to capitalize on a stronger relationship with the U.S. Treasury.

- **Equity Markets:** The IHSG rose 3.49% over the week to [8,212](#), though foreign investors conducted a net sell of 2.03 trillion IDR.

- **Interest Rates:** Bank Indonesia is expected to maintain the benchmark rate at [4.75%](#) in February 2026.
- **Commodities:** Gold prices dropped to [2.87 million IDR](#) per gram, a 2.47% decrease, driven by a strengthening U.S. dollar and profit-taking after the Lunar New Year.
- **Trade Tariffs:** The proposed [reduction to 19%](#) on Indonesian goods is the primary optimistic indicator for the export sector.
- **Agriculture Inflation:** Chili prices have doubled, with beef prices reaching [160,000 IDR/kg](#) in Jakarta markets.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Significant personnel shifts this cycle indicate political volatility in South America and institutional friction in Indonesia.

- **Jose Jerry (Peru):** Removed from the interim presidency by Congress following allegations of [corruption and influence peddling](#) involving Chinese businessmen. He is the 7th president in less than a decade, signaling total systemic instability in Peru.
- **Dr. Piprim Basarah Yanuarso:** Dismissed from his post as a senior pediatric cardiologist at RSCM and from his leadership in IDAI. His [public opposition](#) to the Ministry of Health's centralized authority over medical colleges appears to be the primary cause.
- **President Prabowo Subianto:** Consolidating his international mandate through a high-profile [U.S. visit](#), positioning himself as the primary negotiator for Indonesia's economic future.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network adopts a **nationalistic yet critical** tone. The "Lead Stories" are dominated by President Prabowo's U.S. visit and the festive preparations for Ramadan at Tanah Abang. This creates a veneer of stability and growth. However, the "Buried Stories" reveal deep systemic issues: the [aid shipment disaster](#) at customs and the [Piprim dismissal](#) are presented in segments that highlight government incompetence or overreach. The emotional tone oscillates between reassuring consumers about Lebaran fashion and inducing anxiety about food prices. There is a **conspicuous omission** of detailed data regarding the exact cause of the Padasari land movement, with the channel relying on a vague "creeping" geological explanation rather than exploring potential failures in local land-use planning.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The global arena is portrayed as a transactional space where Indonesia must aggressively fight for its market share while navigating the tensions of a fracturing international order.

- **United States / Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a **powerful but transactional foe-turned-friend**. The "Trump Tariff" is the threat, but the bilateral meeting is the solution. The framing emphasizes the [19% tariff target](#) as a victory of Indonesian diplomacy.
- **Peru:** Framed as **chaotic and corrupt**. The removal of Jose Jerry is presented as a [cautionary tale](#) of political instability and moral incompetence.

- **Russia:** Portrayed as a **principled ally** to Cuba, standing against "illegal" U.S. embargos. The framing of the [Russian-Cuban meetings](#) in Moscow suggests a stable counter-bloc to U.S. hegemony.
- **KKB (Papua Militants):** Categorized strictly as **criminal and violent**. The report on the arrest of two members in [Yahukimo](#) emphasizes their involvement in "terrorizing" civilians and murdering Brimob personnel.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The government is actively seeding a narrative of "adequate food stocks" to prevent panic buying, despite [evidence of market failure](#). The use of the "Bini Orang" fashion trend serves as a viral social narrative that softens the public mood during a period of extreme inflation.
- **State Spin vs. Ground Truth:** There is a significant delta between the [official statements](#) by the Ministry of Agriculture regarding aid for Aceh and the reality of the shipment being **blocked by customs**. The broadcast highlights this gap as a failure of inter-ministerial coordination.
- **Psychological Operations:** The framing of President Prabowo's U.S. visit as a "bilateral success" before the deals are even signed is a domestic signaling tactic meant to **bolster investor confidence** and distract from the 100% chili price surge.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Food Price Instability:** If the government does not successfully execute market operations within the next two weeks, the 100% price hike in chilies and beef could trigger **localized social unrest** during the first week of Ramadan.
- **Trade Deal Backlash:** The Reciprocal Trade Agreement with the U.S. is highly dependent on Trump's domestic political needs. If the U.S. domestic agricultural lobby pushes back, the 19% tariff target may **fail to materialize**, leading to a significant diplomatic embarrassment for Prabowo.
- **Medical Strike Risk:** The dismissal of Dr. Piprim could become a flashpoint for a broader **medical strike** or work-to-rule action, as other medical professionals fear similar administrative retaliation for policy dissent.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a surge in **populist market raids** by local authorities to force down food prices. The Padasari relocation effort will likely face protests as displaced residents realize the "Huntara" shelters are inadequate for the Ramadan period.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Indonesia will likely finalize its energy import shift toward U.S. crude, resulting in a **realignment of the energy supply chain** away from traditional Middle Eastern or Russian sources, provided the trade deal holds.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The geological instability in Central Java and recurrent

flooding in Sumatra suggest that Indonesia's **infrastructure budget** will be increasingly swallowed by climate adaptation rather than new development, potentially slowing overall GDP growth despite trade wins.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks center on the convergence of economic pressure and natural disaster, which threatens to overwhelm state logistics capacity.

- **Hyper-Inflation Riots:** Risk of civil unrest due to food price spikes. **Triggers:** Chili prices exceeding 150k IDR/kg or cooking oil shortages. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High. **Mitigations:** Immediate market operations and release of all stalled aid shipments.
- **Institutional Collapse in Healthcare:** Mass resignation or protest by medical specialists. **Triggers:** Further dismissals of IDAI or IDI leaders. **Likelihood:** Low to Moderate. **Impact:** Severe. **Mitigations:** Mediation between the Health Ministry and medical colleges.
- **Permanent Internal Displacement:** Failure to relocate the 2,400 Padasari refugees. **Triggers:** Second landslide or flooding of temporary shelters. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Moderate. **Mitigations:** Accelerating the "Huntap" permanent housing construction.
- **Diplomatic Trade Failure:** Collapse of the US-Indonesia Reciprocal Trade deal. **Triggers:** U.S. Congressional opposition or Trump's shifting priorities. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** High. **Mitigations:** Diversifying trade partnerships beyond the U.S.-Trump axis.

- **Narcotics Distribution Innovation:** The use of "VIP" e-cigarettes for synthetic drug distribution. **Triggers:** Upsurge in youth overdose cases. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Significant health risk. **Mitigations:** Aggressive BNN regulation of the vape liquid market.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The broadcast fails to explain the **origin of the funding** for the massive 10.6 trillion IDR Sumatra reconstruction budget, leaving a gap in understanding the national debt impact.
- There is no mention of the **environmental impact** of the planned U.S. crude oil imports versus Indonesia's stated net-zero goals.
- The specific **legal mechanism** used to dismiss Dr. Piprim is not detailed, making it unclear if this was a civil service violation or a purely political move.
- The "creeping soil" phenomenon in Tegal is presented as an act of God, with no analysis of whether **illegal logging or poor drainage** contributed to the disaster.
- The reporting on the KKB arrests does not address the **long-term political solution** for Papua, focusing only on tactical security wins.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Potemkin" Trade Deal: While the administration touts the 19% tariff reduction, a contrarian view suggests this is a **stalling tactic** by the U.S. to ensure Indonesia continues to import U.S. energy, with no intention of actually passing the necessary legislation to lower tariffs for palm oil.

The Managed Distraction: The virality of the "Bini Orang" fashion trend and the IIMS electric vehicle show are not accidental; they are a **deliberate media strategy** to keep the urban middle class focused on consumption while the rural poor suffer from 100% food inflation and infrastructure collapse.

Black Swan Event: A major earthquake in Central Java, coinciding with the current "soil movement," could trigger a **regional tectonic collapse**, rendering significant portions of the province uninhabitable and creating a refugee crisis that the Indonesian state cannot financially or logistically survive.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Establish an **emergency customs corridor** for all humanitarian aid during the Ramadan period to bypass the current Bea Cukai bottlenecks.
- Engage in immediate **conciliatory dialogue** with medical professional associations to prevent a total breakdown in healthcare administration.
- Prioritize **geological mapping** of the southern Java coast to identify other "creeping soil" risks before they become mass casualty events.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Logistics firms should prepare for **increased scrutiny and delays** at customs as the government reacts to aid-stalling scandals.
- Investors in Indonesian conglomerates should monitor **buyback activity** as a sign of defensive posturing against foreign capital flight.

- The consumer goods sector should pivot toward **smaller packaging** (sachetization) to account for the 50% drop in market purchasing power for staples.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The current legislative cycle is dominated by **disaster recovery budgeting** and trade policy formalization. The DPR RI is pushing for a total allocation of [10.6 trillion IDR](#) for Sumatra, while debating the technicalities of "reciprocal" trade with the U.S.

• BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Revisi Undang-undang KPK (2019):** Ongoing debate about returning the KPK to its original independent status. The administration is signaling a "politics of washing hands" regarding its previous weakening. [Strategic intent:](#) Restoring public trust in anti-corruption efforts ahead of the 2029 cycle.
- **Peraturan Menteri Keuangan (PMK) on Disaster Funds:** A proposal for [relaxed budget usage](#) for regional rehabilitation. [Strategic intent:](#) To bypass bureaucratic delays in Aceh and West Sumatra.

• HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **DPR RI Coordination Meeting on Sumatra:** Attended by multiple ministers to finalize the [13-point conclusion](#) on disaster recovery. [Strategic intent:](#) To ensure all reconstruction is finished before Idul Fitri.
- **Ministry of Health Briefing:** Justifying the [mutations and dismissals](#) of medical staff. [Strategic intent:](#) To enforce central government authority over the IDI and medical colleges.

KEY STORIES

- **U.S.-Indonesia Bilateral Summit:** President Prabowo meets Donald Trump in Washington D.C. to finalize a [reciprocal trade agreement](#), targeting a 19% tariff rate for Indonesian exports.
- **Food Price Hyper-Inflation:** Chili rawit prices surge to [100-120k IDR/kg](#) in Gowa and Tuban, while beef reaches 160k IDR/kg in Jakarta.
- **Padasari Land Movement:** 2,453 residents displaced in Tegal due to [soil creeping](#); 900 houses destroyed, land deemed uninhabitable.
- **Dismissal of Dr. Piprim:** Senior pediatric cardiologist [dismissed](#) by Health Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin over refusal to accept a punitive mutation.
- **Aid Shipment Gridlock:** Humanitarian aid from Malaysia for Aceh victims [stalled at Port Klang/Jakarta](#) due to Bea Cukai and Ministry of Agriculture certification hurdles.
- **Papua KKB Arrests:** Two members of an armed criminal group arrested in [Yahukimo](#) for murder and terror acts.
- **Peru Political Crisis:** Interim President Jose Jerry [removed by Congress](#) for corruption; he is the 7th president in 10 years.
- **Tanah Abang Fashion Boom:** The "Bini Orang" style [goes viral](#) as consumers crowd markets for Lebaran clothing despite economic strain.
- **IIMS 2026:** PT PLN Persero promotes [electric vehicle charging infrastructure](#) at the Indonesia International Motor Show.

- **IHSG Market Trends:** The Indonesian stock market struggles with [net foreign sales](#) while maintaining the 8,200 level through conglomerate buybacks.
- **Gaza Reconstruction Initiative:** Indonesia joins the [Board of Peace](#) for Gaza, focusing on humanitarian aid and infrastructure rebuilding.
- **Illegal Parking Crackdown:** Seven individuals [detained in Tanah Abang](#) for charging exorbitant parking fees to Ramadan shoppers.
- **Drug Trafficking Innovation:** BNN warns of [synthetic drugs](#) being distributed via e-cigarette liquids (VIP).
- **Lunar New Year Global Celebrations:** Reports on Chinese New Year festivities in [Vietnam, Moscow, and Jakarta](#).
- **Sumatra Flood Recovery:** DPR RI allocates [10.6 trillion IDR](#) for Aceh and West Sumatra flood reconstruction efforts.

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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