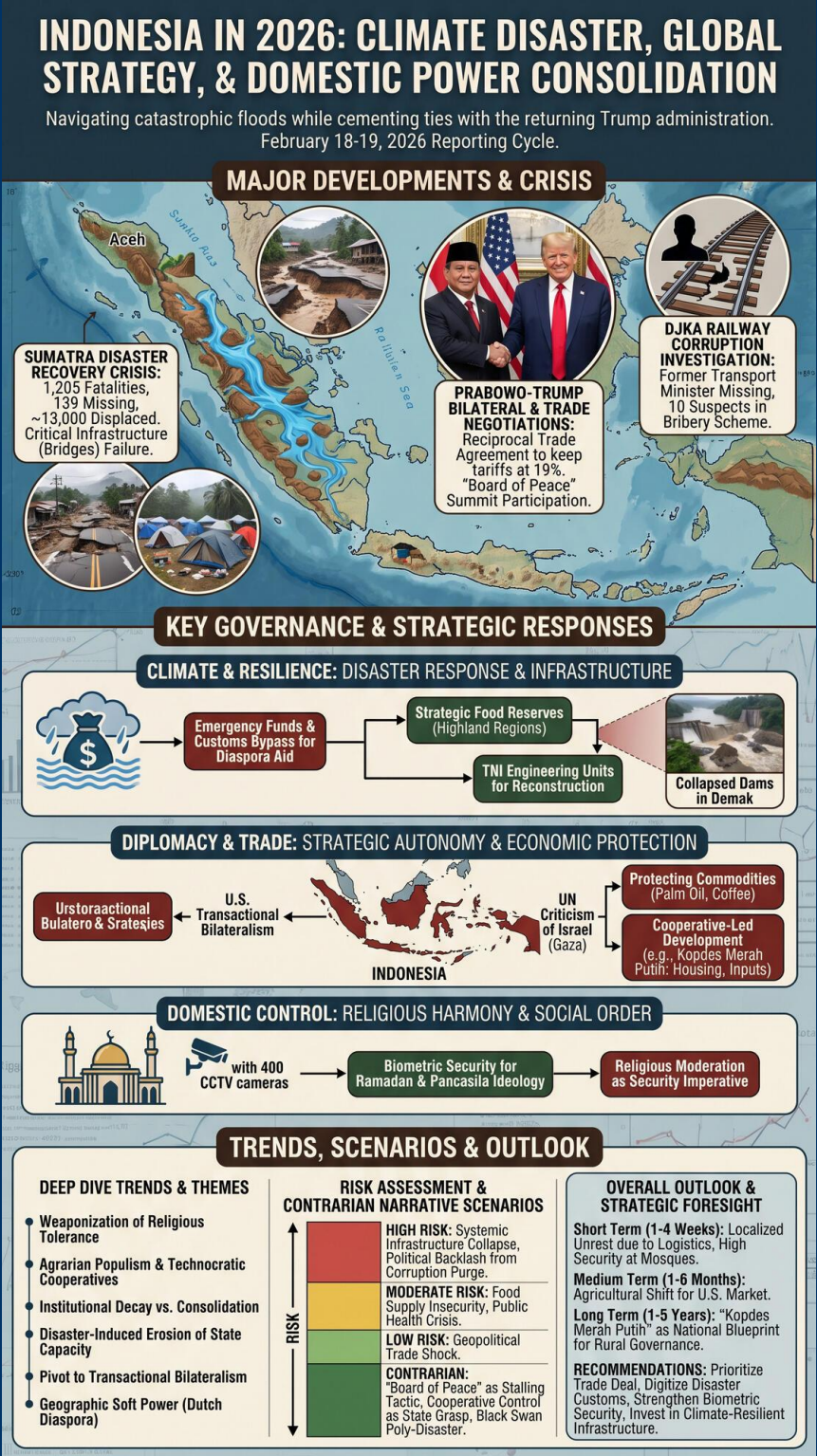


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVRIN

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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INDONESIA MANEUVERS THROUGH
MASSIVE DOMESTIC CLIMATE
DISASTERS WHILE SOLIDIFYING
STRATEGIC TRADE AND SECURITY
TIES WITH THE RETURNING TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The reporting cycle for February 18-19, 2026, depicts an Indonesian state under simultaneous pressure from extreme climate events and complex geopolitical shifts. Domestically, the government is grappling with the catastrophic aftermath of the late 2025/early 2026 Sumatra floods and landslides, which have claimed over [1,205 lives](#) and displaced millions. The legislative and executive branches are currently engaged in high-stakes coordination to release emergency funds and bypass bureaucratic bottlenecks to facilitate international aid, particularly from the Indonesian diaspora in Malaysia. Concurrently, a significant corruption investigation into the Ministry of Transportation's railway projects (DJKA) remains active, with high-profile figures failing to meet [summons for testimony](#).

On the international stage, President Prabowo Subianto is in Washington, D.C., for a high-priority bilateral meeting with President Donald Trump. The visit is strategically focused on finalizing a [Reciprocal Trade Agreement](#) and participating in the inaugural "Board of Peace" Summit. This diplomatic push seeks to protect Indonesian exports like palm oil and coffee from potential U.S. tariff hikes while positioning Indonesia as a mediator in global conflicts, specifically the Israel-Palestine crisis. The administration is balancing this outward-facing diplomacy with a strong domestic narrative of religious harmony, as the start of Ramadan coincides with Chinese New Year and Christian Lenten observances, framed as a testament to the **Pancasila** ideology.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

• Sumatra Disaster Recovery Crisis

- Official data confirms [1,205 fatalities](#) and 139 missing persons following massive landslides and flooding across Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra.
- Critical infrastructure failure is widespread, with reports of temporary bridges being [washed away](#) repeatedly in Bener Meriah and Aceh Tengah, isolating agricultural communities.
- The government is attempting to streamline [Customs and Excise](#) regulations to allow direct aid from Malaysian-based Aceh communities to enter disaster zones without bureaucratic delays.

• **Prabowo-Trump Bilateral and Trade Negotiations**

- President Prabowo's visit to Washington aims to secure a [bilateral trade deal](#) to keep tariffs at 19% for Indonesian goods, countering broader U.S. protectionist trends.
- Participation in the [Board of Peace](#) summit indicates an effort to align Indonesian foreign policy with the new U.S. administration's transactional mediation style.

• **DJKA Railway Corruption Investigation**

- Former Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi [failed to appear](#) as a witness in the ongoing DJKA railway project bribery case.
- The KPK has already named 10 individuals and [two corporations](#) as suspects in a scheme involving projects in Java, Sumatra, and Sulawesi.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Climate & Extreme Weather The disaster in Sumatra has become a primary governance challenge, revealing significant gaps in [logistics and food supply](#) for highland regions. Landslides in areas previously considered safe have forced a rethink of [logistic systems](#), with a new 3-month strategic food reserve mandate for mountainous districts. Meanwhile, a dam failure in [Demak, Central Java](#) due to heavy rain has triggered a new emergency response, highlighting national infrastructure fragility.

Diplomacy & Statecraft Indonesia is aggressively pursuing "Strategic Autonomy" by engaging the Trump administration on trade while simultaneously criticizing Israel's actions in Gaza at the [United Nations](#). The administration is using the [Board of Peace](#) as

a platform to maintain relevance in a fracturing multipolar world.

Macroeconomics & Trade A central focus is the protection of traditional sectors against digital disruption. Reports highlight the [rattan handicraft industry](#) in Jakarta struggling against online furniture sales. Conversely, the government is promoting cooperative-led development, such as the [Kopdes Merah Putih](#) in Sleman, which provides subsidized inputs and housing to farmers to ensure food security.

Civil Unrest & Social Order While large-scale unrest is not reported, there are mentions of [logistic-related protests](#) in Takengon, where residents demonstrated over food shortages following the floods. The government is also deploying [400 biometric CCTV cameras](#) at the Istiqlal Mosque, citing security for high-density Ramadan gatherings.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Religious Tolerance Transcripts repeatedly emphasize "Moderasi Beragama" (Religious Moderation) as the start of Ramadan overlaps with [Chinese New Year and Lent](#). This is framed not just as a social value but as a security imperative, with leaders urging citizens to avoid "nyinyir" (cynicism) over differences in the [start date of fasting](#) between government and religious organizations like Muhammadiyah. This narrative serves to maintain stability during a period of economic and environmental stress.

Agrarian Populism and Food Sovereignty The "Kopdes Merah Putih" initiative and the promotion of local products like "Wondis" Centella chocolate represent a trend toward **technocratic populism**. By linking farmers

directly to cooperatives that offer [basic medical services](#) and subsidized housing, the Prabowo-Gibran administration is attempting to build a loyal base among the rural poor while addressing chronic supply chain issues in the [agricultural sector](#).

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Institutional Decay and Corruption The refusal of a former minister to attend [KPK summons](#) suggests ongoing friction within the elite regarding accountability for past infrastructure spending. The DJKA case serves as a litmus test for the current administration's willingness to purge legacy corruption from the previous cabinet.

Disaster-Induced Erosion of State Capacity The sheer scale of the Sumatra disaster—with nearly [13,000 people](#) still in tents and thousands of homes buried in mud—is stretching regional government budgets to the breaking point. The reliance on [community aid from Malaysia](#) indicates that official state mechanisms for disaster relief may be insufficient for current climate realities.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Pivot to Transactional Bilateralism Indonesia's posture toward the U.S. is notably transactional. Rather than broad alliance-building, the focus is on the [Reciprocal Trade Agreement](#) to bypass wider tariffs. Prabowo is presenting Indonesia as a "responsible middle power" that can talk to all sides, exemplified by his simultaneous engagement with the [U.S. President](#) and his diplomatic representatives' [condemnation of Israel](#) at the UN.

Geographic Soft Power The report on the "Lombok District" in [Utrecht, Netherlands](#) and the celebration of Ramadan there highlights Indonesia's use of its global diaspora and cultural footprints to maintain relevance in European social discourse, framing Indonesia as a model for "moderate" Islamic practices globally.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Indonesia is facing a bifurcated economic reality: high-level trade negotiations in the U.S. contrasting with micro-level struggles in traditional markets. Commodity prices show volatility, with [chili rawit and tomato](#) prices tripling in some regions due to flood-related harvest failures.

- **Capital Flows:** The government is seeking to increase the "TKD" (Regional Compensation Fund) to [trillions of rupiah](#) for provinces like Aceh and West Sumatra to fuel reconstruction.
- **Commodities:** Efforts to protect [palm oil, coffee, and rubber](#) from U.S. import duties are the top priority of the Washington visit.
- **Inflation:** Local food inflation is high; Bulog is intervening with [market operations](#) for rice and cooking oil to stabilize prices before Ramadan.
- **Supply Chain:** Bridge collapses in Sumatra have [severed agricultural logistics](#) for palm and rubber exports in Bener Meriah and Aceh Tengah.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The transcripts indicate a consolidation of power around the Prabowo-Gibran administration, with new ministerial and

military figures taking lead roles in disaster management and diplomacy.

- **Prabowo Subianto:** Actively projecting an image of a [global statesman](#), balancing trade with the U.S. and humanitarian leadership at home.
- **Budi Karya Sumadi:** Facing significant legal peril; his [absence from KPK hearings](#) marks him as a likely target of the anti-corruption drive.
- **Tito Karnavian (Mendagri):** Emerging as the [key crisis manager](#), coordinating the complex multi-province disaster response.
- **Sufmi Dasko Ahmad (DPR):** Acting as the [legislative enforcer](#), pushing for faster aid disbursement and bureaucratic overrides.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The lead stories focus heavily on **national resilience and tradition**. The Sumatra disaster is treated as a major crisis, but the coverage is interspersed with calming reports on [mosque cleaning](#) and health tips for Ramadan, suggesting an editorial attempt to prevent panic. The Prabowo-Trump meeting is portrayed with high optimism, downplaying potential friction points in the U.S.-Indonesia relationship. Conspicuously omitted is any deep analysis of the **long-term economic impact** of the infrastructure losses in Sumatra, focusing instead on immediate recovery and "spiritual" resilience.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The media landscape portrays a world in flux, with Indonesia attempting to anchor itself through traditional values and pragmatic diplomacy.

COUNTRIES

- **United States:** Framed as a [crucial but demanding](#) partner. The return of Trump is seen as an opportunity for transactional gains, provided Indonesia can navigate the "Board of Peace" framework.
- **Israel:** Consistently portrayed as a [destabilizing and hostile](#) actor in the Middle East, with media echoing Hamas's rhetoric regarding "genocidal war" in Gaza.
- **Netherlands:** Portrayed as a [hospitable host](#) to Indonesian culture, emphasizing the global reach of Indonesian soft power.

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Characterized as an [initiator and mediator](#), though the subtext suggests Indonesia is wary of his protectionist instincts.
- **Prabowo Subianto:** Framed as [stable, principled, and competent](#), a leader who can maintain national dignity while negotiating in Washington.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Hamas:** Their spokesperson is given a platform to express [distrust of U.S.-led peace initiatives](#), framing the group as a victimized defender of Palestinian rights.
- **Kopdes Merah Putih:** Framed as a [revolutionary social actor](#), providing the "heart" of rural development.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The government is seeding the idea that [bridge washouts](#) in Aceh are solely due to "extreme nature" rather than potential engineering failures, preemptively shifting blame for infrastructure decay.
- **Meta-Narrative:** The "Ramadan Semesta Rahmat" (Ramadan for All) segment is a deliberate psy-op to maintain religious harmony during a period when [competing religious holidays](#) could be used by extremist factions to stoke tension.
- **Censorship/Omission:** There is little mention of the **fiscal deficit** implications of the 1,400+ cattle being donated by the President or the R72.5 billion in [Sapi Megang](#) assistance, framing it as personal benevolence rather than state spending.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Corruption-Disaster Feedback Loop
The DJKA corruption case and the Sumatra bridge failures are likely linked. If funds meant for railway and road maintenance were siphoned, the [current failure of temporary bridges](#) could lead to a massive public inquiry into infrastructure resilience. We can expect more arrests in the transportation sector.

Trade-War Mitigation Indonesia is likely to succeed in securing a [special trade status](#) with the U.S. by offering to act as a "logistics hub" for American goods in Southeast Asia, essentially playing a middleman role to help the U.S. decouple from other regional actors.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect localized unrest or [protests](#) in flood-affected regions if food supply chains aren't restored by the peak of Ramadan. Security at mosques will be high, utilizing new [biometric systems](#).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The [Reciprocal Trade Agreement](#) will likely lead to a shift in Indonesian agricultural production, favoring commodities specifically requested by the U.S. market to maintain tariff-free status.

Long Term (1-5 Years): The "Kopdes Merah Putih" model will likely become the [national blueprint](#) for rural governance, effectively creating a state-within-a-state system for the agricultural class, potentially eroding traditional local government authority.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The following risks represent the most volatile points in the current Indonesian landscape:

- **Systemic Infrastructure Collapse:**
Triggers: Further heavy rains in Central Java or Sumatra. Likelihood: High. Impact: Massive. The failure of [dams in Demak](#) and bridges in [Biren](#) could isolate millions. Mitigations: Immediate deployment of TNI engineering units for permanent bridge reconstruction.
- **Political Backlash from Corruption Purge:**
Triggers: An arrest warrant for former Minister [Budi Karya Sumadi](#). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High. Mitigations: Framing the arrests as part of the "Astacita" national development plan.

- **Food Supply Insecurity:** Triggers: Logistic failure in [highland logistics](#). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Moderate (riots). Mitigations: Use of [3-month strategic food stocks](#) in mountain districts.
- **Geopolitical Trade Shock:** Triggers: Failure of [Prabowo-Trump trade deal](#). Likelihood: Low. Impact: Severe. Mitigations: Pivoting back toward ASEAN-centric trade blocks.
- **Public Health Crisis (Mental Health/Bullying):** Triggers: A high-profile suicide or incident related to [bullying in schools](#). Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Social. Mitigations: Nationwide school mental health screenings as discussed in current broadcasts.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts do not mention the **actual environmental causes** of the Sumatra landslides, such as illegal logging or mining, which are often the true catalysts.
- There is a lack of data on **private sector losses** in the tourism sector in Aceh and Sumatra following the disasters.
- The **fiscal cost** of the Prabowo administration's "Free Nutritious Meal" (MBG) program, mentioned as improving health in [NTT](#), is completely absent, hiding the potential strain on the national budget.
- The reporting on the **DJKA corruption case** fails to explain why the suspects were able to operate across multiple islands for years without detection until 2023.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Board of Peace" as a Stalling Tactic: While the broadcast frames the [Board of](#)

[Peace](#) as a legitimate diplomatic tool, a contrarian view suggests it is a performative distraction designed to give Indonesia and the U.S. "peace-maker" cover while they prioritize hard-line trade and military positioning against third-party competitors.

Cooperative Control: The [Kopdes Merah Putih](#) initiative, framed as farmer empowerment, could actually be a mechanism for the state to exert **tighter control** over agricultural outputs and political loyalty, effectively nationalizing the agrarian sector under a "cooperative" mask.

Black Swan Event: A massive [eruption of Mount Marapi](#) combined with current flooding could create a "poly-disaster" that overwhelms the national budget, forcing the government to declare **sovereign debt relief**, crashing the Rupiah despite trade deals with the U.S.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize the [Reciprocal Trade Agreement](#) to insulate the economy from global volatility.
- Accelerate the [digitization of Customs](#) for disaster relief to maintain state legitimacy in highland areas.
- Strengthen [biometric mosque security](#) without alienating moderate Muslim populations.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Opportunities exist in [bridge and infrastructure reconstruction](#) in Sumatra, with a preference for climate-resilient engineering.

- Risks to [retail furniture and craft businesses remain high due to digital competition and high local inflation](#).
- [Agricultural logistics firms should invest in high-altitude food storage](#) solutions to meet new government mandates.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity is dominated by disaster response and regional funding adjustments. The DPRRI is currently debating the [Regional Compensation Fund \(TKD\)](#) allocations for 2026, with significant pressure to increase emergency index payouts to R70 million per affected unit.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**
 - **Regional Compensation Fund (TKD) 2026 Budget Adjustments:** Aimed at increasing disaster relief indices to [R70 million](#) to cover permanent housing reconstruction.
 - **Customs Emergency Aid Bypass Policy:** A proposal to allow the [Indonesian diaspora](#) to send humanitarian goods without duties during declared emergencies.
- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**
 - **DPRRI Joint Coordination Meeting on Sumatra Disaster:** A high-level [session](#) involving the Ministry of Home Affairs and Satgas to release stuck emergency funds.
 - **KPK Press Briefing on DJKA Case:** Clarifying the status of [10 suspects](#) and the failure of former officials to appear.
 - **Istiqlal Security Briefing:** The Minister of Religion and Mosque Imam detailed the installation of [400 biometric cameras](#).

KEY STORIES

- **Sumatra Death Toll Reaches 1,205:** The government confirms [massive casualties](#) from landslides and floods, with 139 missing and nearly 13,000 displaced in tents.
- **Prabowo Meets Trump in Washington:** A strategic mission to finalize the [Reciprocal Trade Agreement](#) and participate in the "Board of Peace" Summit to protect Indonesian exports.
- **Ex-Minister Missing in DJKA Bribery Case:** Budi Karya Sumadi [fails to meet a summons](#) regarding corruption in railway projects across Java, Sumatra, and Sulawesi.
- **Aceh Bridge Crisis:** Temporary bridges in Bener Meriah and Aceh Tengah [repeatedly wash away](#), severing vital agricultural supply chains.
- **Demak Dam Failure:** Four embankments [jebol \(collapsed\)](#) in Demak, Central Java, causing fresh flooding and an emergency status declaration.
- **Biometric Security at Istiqlal Mosque:** Plans to monitor Ramadan crowds with [400 facial recognition cameras](#) were announced by Minister Nasaruddin Umar.
- **Wondis Chocolate Success:** A local cooperative in Kulon Progo develops [47 variants of Centella chocolate](#), aiming to boost rural income.
- **Kopdes Merah Putih in Sleman:** A new cooperative model [providing housing and medical care](#) to farmers is showcased as a national success.
- **California Avalanche Search:** Rescue teams look for [10 missing skiers](#) at Castle Peak following a massive snow event.

- **Mexico Drone Defense for World Cup:** The military prepares specialized equipment to [counter drones](#) ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- **Free Nutritious Meal Success in NTT:** Reports indicate that the [MBG program](#) has significantly improved the health of 99 toddlers and 14 pregnant women in Sumba Barat.
- **Bullying Awareness Campaign:** A public service broadcast warns that [bullying can lead to criminal charges](#) and deep psychological trauma.
- **Rhinitis and Fasting Benefits:** Health experts discuss how fasting triggers [stem cell regeneration](#) and helps manage chronic allergies like rhinitis.
- **Tanah Abang Pre-Ramadan Rush:** Markets in Jakarta see a [significant uptick in Muslim fashion sales, with "rompi lepas" and "bini orang" styles trending for 2026](#).
- **Utrecht Ramadan Decorations:** [The "Lombok District" in the Netherlands prepares for Ramadan with crescent moon lighting](#), highlighting global Islamic unity.

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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