

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## METROTV

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

### INDONESIA'S DUAL POSTURE: GLOBAL MEDIATORY AMBITIONS AMIDST DOMESTIC FRAGILITY (FEB 19-20, 2026)

#### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: THE STRATEGIC PIVOT



#### GLOBAL LEADERSHIP & EXTERNAL DYNAMICS

##### GAZA "BOARD OF PEACE" (BOP) & ISF ROLE



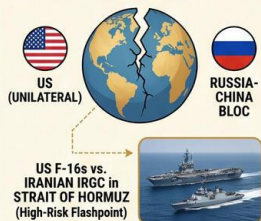
Prabowo formalizes role in US-led Gaza reconstruction; Indonesia appointed Deputy Commander of 32,000-strong International Stabilization Force (ISF)

##### EVOLUTION OF "ACTIVE HEDGING"

PASSIVE "FREE & ACTIVE" → MUSCULAR "ACTIVE HEDGING"

Leveraging Islamic identity to bridge West & Muslim world; risks domestic blowback if perceived as prioritizing US interests over Palestinian political sovereignty.

##### FRAGMENTATION & HOSTILE THREAT MATRIX



#### DEEP DIVE: TRENDS, THEMES & GOVERNANCE

##### KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS



##### THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

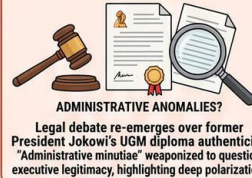


##### LEADERSHIP CHANGES

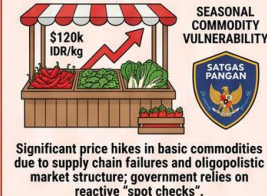


#### DOMESTIC INSTABILITY & INTERNAL DYNAMICS

##### RESURGENCE OF JOKOWI DIPLOMA DISPUTE



##### PRE-RAMADAN ECONOMIC VOLATILITY

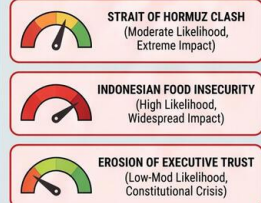


##### SYSTEMIC CORRUPTION & JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY



#### STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & RISK ASSESSMENT

##### RISK ASSESSMENT (HIGH-IMPACT SCENARIOS)



##### STRATEGIC FORESIGHT TIMELINE



##### CONTRARIAN NARRATIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS



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## INDONESIA POSITIONS FOR GLOBAL MEDIATORY ROLE AMIDST RESURFACING DOMESTIC LEGITIMACY CHALLENGES AND SEASONAL ECONOMIC VOLATILITY

### DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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On February 19-20, 2026, Indonesia's governance narrative is characterized by a deliberate pivot toward assertive international diplomacy, contrasted against persistent domestic institutional vulnerabilities. The primary geopolitical development is President Prabowo Subianto's high-profile visit to Washington D.C. to participate in the "Board of Peace" (BOP), a US-led initiative under the Trump administration aimed at Gaza's reconstruction. Indonesia's appointment as deputy commander of the [International Stabilization Force \(ISF\)](#) signals a strategic elevation in its "Middle Power" status, transitioning from reactive neutrality to active, "assertive hedging" in a fracturing multipolar arena. However, this external power projection is complicated by domestic skepticism regarding the BOP's alignment with the "two-state solution," with analysts warning of a disconnect between US

reconstruction plans and Palestinian political aspirations.

Domestically, the administration faces a renewed challenge to institutional credibility as the "fake diploma" case involving former President Jokowi resurfaces in legal and public discourse. The debate between legal experts and presidential counsel highlights deep-seated polarization and the weaponization of "administrative anomalies" to question executive legitimacy. Concurrently, the state is grappling with seasonal economic stressors typical of the pre-Ramadan period, specifically [significant price hikes](#) in basic commodities like chili and green vegetables. These economic pressures are exacerbated by reports of systemic corruption in regional infrastructure projects, including stadium and irrigation developments, suggesting that despite high-level diplomatic successes, the "last mile" of governance remains susceptible to graft and bureaucratic inefficiency.

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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#### Global Leadership and the Gaza "Board of Peace"

- President Prabowo Subianto attended a business summit and high-level meetings in Washington D.C. to formalize Indonesia's role in the [Board of Peace](#) for Gaza reconstruction.
- The United States announced Indonesia's appointment as deputy commander of the [International Stabilization Force \(ISF\)](#), involving 12,000 police and 20,000 soldiers for Gaza security.

- Domestic foreign policy analysts are debating the merits of "active hedging," with some expressing concern that the BOP initiative may prioritize [reconstruction over political sovereignty](#) for Palestine.

### **Resurgence of Executive Legitimacy Disputes**

- The Indonesian legal community is embroiled in a renewed debate over the [authenticity of former President Jokowi's diploma](#), with forensic and constitutional experts analyzing "administrative anomalies" in UGM documents.
- Legal teams for Roy Suryo and other plaintiffs are challenging the government to produce original documents in open court, while the President's counsel dismisses the claims as [political theater](#).

### **Pre-Ramadan Economic and Food Security Volatility**

- Prices for essential food items, particularly [red chili](#), rose from 100,000 to 120,000 IDR, attributed to seasonal demand and weather-related supply chain disruptions.
- The government is launching "Satgas Pangan" (Food Task Force) checks at 46 locations in Jakarta to [prevent hoarding](#) and price manipulation during the holy month.

### **Systemic Corruption and Judicial Accountability**

- A major sting operation (OTT) in Muara Enim resulted in the arrest of a local legislator (KT) and his son for accepting [1.6 billion IDR in bribes](#) related to an irrigation project.

- The Prosecutor's Office in Muna raided government offices following allegations of a [34.8 billion IDR embezzlement](#) scheme involving the Motwe stadium project.
- High-profile skincare entrepreneur Mira Hayati was [forcibly arrested](#) to serve a 2-year sentence for distributing mercury-laden products, highlighting public health risks in the unregulated beauty sector.

## **KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS**

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### **Armed Conflict & Militarization**

- International reports indicate that United Nations-backed investigators have documented [war crimes and genocide](#) by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary in Darfur, Sudan.
- The United Kingdom's Metropolitan Police arrested [Prince Andrew](#) on his 66th birthday in connection to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation, signaling a major shift in royal accountability.

### **Diplomacy & Statecraft**

- Cuba's Foreign Minister visited Moscow to secure oil supplies and energy aid as the island nation [faces a severe energy crisis](#) compounded by US embargoes.
- Russia pledged continued support for Cuba's sovereignty, urging the US to [end the blockade](#) that has crippled Cuban electrical grids.

### **Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk**

- The Parliament of Wales is drafting pioneering legislation to [sanction politicians who spread disinformation](#), with full implementation targeted for 2030.

- Indonesia's National Narcotics Agency (BNN) launched a [new psychoactive substance \(NPS\)](#) alert system to track thousands of unregulated synthetic drugs entering the domestic market.

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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### The Evolution of "Active Hedging"

Indonesia is moving away from a passive "Free and Active" foreign policy toward a more muscular "Active Hedging" strategy. By joining the Trump administration's Board of Peace while maintaining its deputy role in the ISF, Jakarta is attempting to leverage its Islamic identity to become an [indispensable bridge](#) between the West and the Muslim world. However, this strategy risks domestic blowback if the government is seen as facilitating a "US-centric" solution that marginalizes Palestinian leadership [in favor of reconstruction projects](#).

### Administrative Anomalies as Political Weapons

The fixation on Jokowi's UGM diploma reflects a trend where administrative minutiae—such as the number of digits in a bureaucrat's ID or the [lack of a specific date](#) on a document—are used to catalyze large-scale legitimacy crises. This "administrative warfare" suggests a lack of trust in official institutions, where even legally verified documents are treated as [highly suspect](#) by partisan actors.

### Seasonal Commodity Vulnerability

The spike in chili prices every Ramadan highlights a chronic failure in Indonesian supply chain resilience. The market structure remains [oligopolistic](#), where "middlemen" control information and stock, preventing

price stabilization despite increased production. The government's reliance on "Sidak" (spot checks) is a reactive measure that fails to address the underlying [market asymmetric information](#).

## INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

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### Elite Infighting and Institutional Decay

The resurgence of the diploma scandal, even after Jokowi has left office, indicates that elite factions are still using [legal challenges](#) to settle political scores or delegitimize the previous administration's legacy. This persistent litigation suggests a fragile political consensus that could destabilize future transitions.

### Societal Order and Youth Violence

A high-profile case of a student murdered by a friend in Bandung has sparked a national conversation about [emotional regulation in adolescents](#) and the impact of violent content on social media. Criminologists warn that the erosion of "parenting literacy" and a lack of emotional control are contributing to a [rising trend](#) of extreme youth aggression.

## EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

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### The Fragmentation of the Liberal Order

The broadcast frames the international system as a "fracturing multipolar arena" where traditional alliances are under strain. The US is portrayed as a unilateral actor driving the "Board of Peace," while Russia and China are framed as a bloc [holding the keys](#) to regional stability that the US cannot unlock alone. Indonesia sees itself not as a pawn, but as a

[Middle Power](#) capable of negotiating with both the Trump administration and the Russia-China axis.

### Hostile Threat Matrix: US vs. Iran

Military escalations in the [Strait of Hormuz](#), featuring US F-16 deployments and Iranian IRGC missile drills, are presented as a high-probability flashpoint. The media portrays the US as an aggressive force facing a defiant and technologically capable Iran, which claims to have the [capability to sink aircraft carriers](#).

## THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

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The Indonesian economy is entering a period of high seasonal demand, with the central bank (BI) preparing [2.89 trillion IDR in cash supply](#) for the Central Sulawesi region alone. While the stock market (IHSG) opened with [positive psychological levels](#), the rejection of tax hikes by high-level officials like Purbaya Yudi Sadewa indicates a policy priority of protecting consumer purchasing power amidst global uncertainty.

- **Currency/Capital Flows:** The IHSG level hit 8,357, showing moderate investor confidence despite pre-Ramadan profit-taking.
- **Commodities:** Chili prices reached 120,000 IDR/kg; green vegetables like [kangkung and bayam](#) saw 60% price hikes.
- **Industry:** PT Freeport Indonesia is prioritizing [downstreaming \(hilirisasi\)](#) projects for 2026 to ensure domestic supply chain resilience.
- **Fiscal Policy:** LPS Head Purbaya Yudi Sadewa rejected IMF recommendations to [raise employee income tax \(PPH 21\)](#), citing a need to bolster the national economy first.

## LEADERSHIP CHANGES

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Personnel shifts reflect a mix of judicial crackdowns and political consolidation. The arrest of a former mining head in East Kalimantan and regional legislators in Muara Enim suggests a targeted effort to clean up infrastructure procurement.

- **Prabowo Subianto:** Solidified his role as a global statesman via the [Board of Peace](#) in D.C.
- **Prince Andrew:** The loser of the day; his [arrest by UK police](#) marks a definitive fall from royal grace.
- **Muhammad Saroni:** A winner in the political arena, [inaugurated as Deputy Chair of House Commission III](#) after a 6-month hiatus.
- **Jose Maria Balqasar:** The 83-year-old was elected as [interim President of Peru](#), the 8th leader in a decade, highlighting extreme regional instability.

## EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

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MetroTV maintained a "National Reassurance" tone, heavily featuring Ramadan preparations and "Mutiara Hikmah" religious segments to balance the reports of corruption and international conflict. The **Lead Stories** focused on Prabowo's diplomacy and the Gaza Board of Peace, framing Indonesia as a rising global actor. The **Buried Stories** included the Sudan genocide and the South Korean coup trial, which were given minimal airtime compared to lengthy segments on [skincare trends](#) and sarong advertisements. A **Conspicuous Omission** was the lack of detailed analysis on how the US "Board of Peace" reconstruction contracts would be awarded, potentially masking

commercial interests behind the humanitarian facade.

## GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

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The day's news portrays a world in transition, where established powers (US, UK) are grappling with internal scandals, while emerging powers (Indonesia, Iran) are testing their regional and global influence.

- **United States:** Portrayed as a strong but polarizing unilateral actor. While Trump's "Board of Peace" is seen as a [lasting solution](#) by some, it is critiqued as neglecting political realities in favor of "reconstruction business."
- **Iran:** Framed as a [technologically advanced and defiant](#) foe of the West, capable of independent military operations and resisting blockade via alliances with Russia and China.
- **Sudan:** Depicted as a [zone of horrific human rights failure](#), where the international community has failed to stop genocidal acts by paramilitary groups.
- **Cuba:** Framed as a [principled victim](#) of US "economic warfare," surviving through a strategic energy axis with Russia.
- **Israel:** Portrayed as a [destabilizing actor](#) whose continued strikes in Gaza threaten the very peace plans (BOP) its allies are proposing.

## INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

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The meta-narrative is dominated by the battle over "Fake News" and document authenticity. In Wales, the move to [legislate against political lies](#) represents a state-level attempt to control the information environment. In

Indonesia, the Jokowi diploma case is a prime example of **narrative seeding**, where administrative inconsistencies are used to sow doubt about the state's highest office. The "spin" from Jokowi's lawyers emphasizes [administrative habit](#) (e.g., UGM's lack of dates), while the opposition frames this as a [substantive forgery](#).

## HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

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- **Diplomatic Overstretch:** Indonesia may face a domestic crisis if its participation in the Board of Peace is perceived as betraying the Palestinian cause for the sake of [US-led economic incentives](#).
- **Judicial Backlash:** The arrest of Prince Andrew and Indonesian regional officials suggests a global trend toward **radical transparency**, which may lead to further high-profile arrests in the Epstein and regional corruption cases.
- **Food Riots Risk:** If the "Satgas Pangan" fails to curb chili and vegetable inflation [before the end of Ramadan](#), localized civil unrest in urban centers is highly probable.

## STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Expect a flurry of "Ramadan Diplomacy" where Indonesia uses its ISF role to negotiate humanitarian corridors in Gaza. Domestically, food prices will remain the primary [source of public anxiety](#).

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** The Welsh fake news law and BNN's NPS tracking will likely trigger [new regulatory debates](#) in Southeast Asia regarding digital censorship and synthetic drug control.

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** If the Board of Peace succeeds in reconstructing Gaza but fails in statehood, Indonesia's "Active Hedging" may pivot toward a [Russia-China security architecture](#) to balance perceived US failures.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

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The current geopolitical and domestic environment presents several high-impact risks that could deteriorate rapidly.

- **Strait of Hormuz Naval Clash:** Escalation between US F-16s and Iranian IRGC fast-boats could halt 20% of global oil flow. **Triggers:** An accidental collision or miscalculation during [Iranian missile drills](#). **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Extreme global energy shock. **Mitigations:** Hot-line communication between US and Iranian regional commanders.
- **Indonesian Food Insecurity:** Oligopolistic control of chili and vegetable markets leading to artificial shortages. **Triggers:** Prolonged [monsoon rains](#) disrupting harvests. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Widespread public dissatisfaction and inflation. **Mitigations:** Direct government intervention in the distribution chain and Bulog price caps.
- **Erosion of Executive Trust:** The Jokowi diploma case successfully casting doubt on all institutional certifications. **Triggers:** A [court-ordered release](#) of documents that reveal further inconsistencies. **Likelihood:** Low to Moderate. **Impact:** Constitutional crisis. **Mitigations:** Transparent, public forensic audit of the university records.

- **Regional Infrastructure Collapse:** Systemic corruption causing the failure of disaster-recovery housing. **Triggers:** Discovery of [sub-standard materials](#) in Aceh/Sumatra Huntaras. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Loss of life in future natural disasters. **Mitigations:** Bappenas-led independent quality audits of all [disaster-relief construction](#).
- **Synthetic Drug Epidemic:** The influx of NPS drugs overwhelming domestic law enforcement. **Triggers:** Failure of the [BNN alert system](#) to keep pace with lab-produced variations. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Severe public health crisis and rising crime. **Mitigations:** Increased international intelligence sharing and immediate banning of chemical precursors.

## GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

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A comprehensive risk assessment is limited by several significant informational gaps in the day's broadcasts.

- The transcripts mention a "military coup" or [martial law attempt in South Korea](#) (Dec 2024) but fail to explain the current internal stability of Seoul, which is a key regional security partner.
- There is no mention of the specific **funding sources** for the 70 trillion IDR Sumatra disaster budget, raising questions about Indonesia's debt levels or source of capital [Bappenas is leveraging](#).
- The actual **political status of Hamas** within the "Board of Peace" framework remains vague; the US wants them out, but their level of local control is not detailed [in the reconstruction plans](#).

- The transcripts ignore the **environmental impact** of the Freeport hilirisasi (downstreaming) projects, a critical piece of context for long-term land stability [in Papua](#).

## CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

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### The "Board of Peace" as a Stalling Tactic

Rather than a genuine reconstruction effort, the BOP could be a strategic stalling tactic by the US and its allies to stabilize Gaza enough to [prevent a broader regional war](#) without ever addressing Palestinian statehood. In this lens, Indonesia's role as deputy commander is less about leadership and more about providing **Islamic legitimacy** to a permanent status quo of occupation-by-reconstruction.

### Administrative Anomalies as State-Led Purges

The resurfacing of the diploma scandal could be a "Black Swan" event—a coordinated state-led effort to [purge the remaining Jokowi-loyalist elements](#) within UGM and the bureaucracy by using document forgery as a pretext for widespread institutional reform and power consolidation by the current administration.

## RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

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### For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Prioritize the interoperability of Indonesian police within the ISF framework to ensure [tactical readiness](#) for Gaza deployment.

- **Economic:** Accelerate the "Koperasi Merah Putih" model to bypass [oligopolistic food middlemen](#) and stabilize prices.
- **Diplomatic:** Clarify the "two-state solution" baseline within the BOP to avoid domestic accusations of [diplomatic betrayal](#).

### For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Investors in Indonesian agriculture should prepare for [increased government scrutiny](#) of distribution networks and potential price controls.
- **Compliance:** Beauty and health brands must tighten QC to avoid the [draconian legal fallout](#) seen in the Mira Hayati mercury case.
- **Capital Allocation:** The [Freeport downstreaming commitment](#) provides a long-term opportunity for investors in the domestic processing and manufacturing sectors.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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Legislative activity centered on disinformation control and fiscal sustainability, with international precedents setting the stage for domestic Indonesian debate.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:** The **Wales Disinformation Act** (proposed) aims to [criminalize lying by politicians](#) to restore faith in democratic institutions. The **Indonesia Health Law 17/2023** was invoked in the [Mira Hayati case](#), providing a 2-year prison precedent for illegal skincare distribution.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:** The **Bappenas Disaster Briefing** announced a [70 trillion IDR budget](#) for Sumatra recovery. The **LPS Fiscal Hearing** where Yudi Sadewa [formally rejected](#) IMF-backed tax hikes.

## KEY STORIES

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- **Gaza Board of Peace & ISF Deployment:** Indonesia appointed to lead Gaza security and reconstruction under a [US-led 32,000-person force](#).
- **Jokowi Diploma Legal Dispute:** Plaintiffs challenge the [authenticity of the former President's university credentials](#), citing missing dates and ID digit anomalies.
- **Pre-Ramadan Food Inflation:** Chili prices [spike 20%](#) while Satgas Pangan initiates market raids to prevent hoarding.
- **Prince Andrew Arrest:** UK police detain the royal figure in connection with the [Jeffrey Epstein case](#) on his 66th birthday.
- **Muara Enim Irrigation Bribe:** A legislator and his son arrested for [1.6 billion IDR graft](#) in a public water project.
- **Cuba-Russia Energy Axis:** Cuba seeks [Russian oil](#) to alleviate nationwide blackouts caused by the US embargo.
- **Mira Hayati Mercury Sentencing:** The "Queen of Gold" skincare mogul [imprisoned for two years](#) for selling dangerous cosmetics.
- **South Korea Coup Trial:** Former President Yun faces [life imprisonment](#) for an attempted military takeover in late 2024.
- **Sudan Genocide Documentation:** UN-backed investigators report [mass killings and genocide](#) by RSF forces in Darfur.
- **BNN Synthetic Drug Alert:** Launch of a [call center and monitoring system](#) for new psychoactive substances entering Indonesia.
- **Peru Political Instability:** 83-year-old Jose Maria Balqasar appointed [interim president](#) following prolonged crisis.
- **Bandung Student Homicide:** A teen girl [stabbed eight times](#) by her friend over a social dispute, sparking youth violence debate.
- **Strait of Hormuz Escalation:** Iranian IRGC conducts [missile tests](#) targeting carrier mock-ups amid US F-16 deployments.
- **Aceh Huntara Delays:** Bureaucratic [bottlenecks](#) prevent the completion of disaster-relief housing for flood victims before Ramadan.
- **Surabaya Illegal Gold Processing:** Police raid a [25.8 trillion IDR](#) illegal gold and money laundering operation in East Java.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

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**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.

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