

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TTV

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

TRADE AND TERRITORIAL FRICTION DOMINATE GLOBAL AGENDA: US JUDICIAL RULINGS CHALLENGE TARIFF STRUCTURES AND ADIZ TENSIONS ESCALATE

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

Global strategic environment defined by legal warfare in trade and military posturing in Indo-Pacific. US Supreme Court ruling invalidates broad 2025 global tariffs, triggering potential \$175B fiscal crisis and exposing Taiwan to export volatility under 'Section 122'. Military friction reaches 'aerial brinkmanship' with US-South Korean F-16 standoff against Chinese interceptors near ADIZ, preceding Trump-Xi summit. Domestically, Taiwan navigates Lunar New Year social friction and health tech debate.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS



Judicial Nullification of US Global Tariffs:
Supreme Court halts 2025 tariff expansion mandating massive refunds; Taiwan machinery faces projected 10% tax increase if no new agreement in 3 years.



Aerial Standoff in the Yellow Sea:
Over 10 US/South Korean F-16s confront Chinese jets in international waters, highlighting fragile deconfliction.



Deep Space and 'Exopolitical' Disclosures:
JWST identifies 12-billion-year-old galaxies; Trump orders UAP declassification, countering Obama's stance.



Public Health Regulatory Crisis:
'Thin Needle' weight loss injection craze triggers pricing war and illicit sales; authorities struggle with dangerous compounds like Sibutramine.



Infrastructure and Civil Safety:
Lunar New Year accidents (boat capsizes, train collision) expose public safety vulnerabilities during peak transit.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS



GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION & BLOC POLITICS:
US alarms over Chinese influence in Panama Canal; Japan's Kishida hardens rhetoric against status quo change; Trump-Xi summit (Mar 31) seen as pivotal for trade truce.



LEGAL WARFARE & REGULATORY RISK:
US Supreme Court ruling rolls back executive trade authority; Taiwan implements dolphin performance ban, debates child cosmetic safety regulations.



TECH SOVEREIGNTY & AI:
AI-driven tools integrate into Taiwanese cram schools; Non-invasive AI glucose monitoring positioned as healthcare tech breakthrough.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES



THE WEAPONIZATION OF UNCERTAINTY IN TRADE
US uses 'Section 122' to force 'equal trade' treaties, voiding existing agreements with 3-year deadline. 'Negotiation by disruption' faces legal check from Supreme Court.



EXOPOLITICS AS A NARRATIVE DIVERSION
Resurgence of UFO/UAP debate serves as strategic communication tool. Political focus on alien contact distracts from clandestine aerospace advancements, mingling scientific data with speculative leaks.



SOCIAL FRAGMENTATION DURING NATIONAL HOLIDAYS
Lunar New Year reveals deep fractures in Taiwan with political vandalism, violent disputes over public space, and students forgoing holidays for academic 'battle camps'.



INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY
Taiwan experiences heightened social friction, civil order breakdown during holidays (illegal fireworks, nuisance). Vandalism against Lai/Hsiao indicates persistent polarization. Surge in opportunistic crime feeds security pressures.



EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE
International system fractures; US seen as security guarantor and unpredictable economic actor. Taiwan seeks 'reciprocal trade' agreements and military readiness, viewing outside world through risk mitigation.



THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT
Cautious optimism tempered by US regulatory threat. Potential \$175B tariff refund injects volatility. Taiwan biotech/pharma boom in weight-loss drugs faces pricing/safety issues. Key Vectors: Machinery Exports (potential 14.7% tax surge); Pharmaceutical Market (Thin Needle pricing disparities); Retail/Tourism (Taipei 101 record visitors).



LEADERSHIP CHANGES
President Trump: Pivoting to address Supreme Court defeat, emphasizing 'Section 122', preparing for Xi summit. PM Kishida: Strengthening role as regional hawk, aligning with US. Ambassador of Belize: High-profile cultural diplomacy in Taiwan. Tainan City Officials: Positive coverage for community focus.



EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY
Focus on geopolitical risk (Supreme Court ruling, military tensions) balanced with 'human interest' and 'social order' stories. Nationalistic tone on technology/athletics; skeptical of US policy and Chinese intentions. Omissions include deeper analysis of Iran military strikes.



GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING
Binary competition between democratic and autocratic blocs, with internal democratic friction. US: 'Chaotic but indispensable'. China: 'Foe' and 'gray-zone aggressor'. Japan (Kishida): 'Principled and strengthening'. Taiwan (Lai/Hsiao): 'Competent but under pressure'. Non-state: Maersk/Hapag-Lloyd (vulnerable giants), WBC 2026 (soft power).



INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT
Competing narratives on security/transparency. US UFO disclosure as narrative seeding. Taiwan political vandalism as domestic psychological warfare.



STRATEGIC FORESIGHT
Short Term: Regulatory surge in pharma, increased Yellow Sea maritime signaling. Medium Term: US treasury liquidity pressure from tariff refunds. Long Term: Structural realignment of Pacific trade alliances based on 'Section 122' standards.



HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK
Trump-Xi summit likely results in limited trade de-escalation. Taiwan accelerates trade formalization with US. Domestic social friction in Taiwan increases.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Yellow Sea Air Collision Risk	High impact, moderate likelihood
Taiwanese Industrial Economic Shock	Severe impact, high likelihood
Public Health Crisis from Illicit Pharmaceuticals	Moderate impact, moderate likelihood
Infrastructure Vulnerability	High impact, moderate likelihood
Exopolitical Disinformation Risk	Moderate impact, moderate likelihood

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The 'Managed Escalation' Hypothesis: ADIZ standoff and tariff ruling as strategy to prepare audiences for summit compromise. The 'Paper Tiger' Tariff Refund: Administration uses national security exemptions to delay refunds, maintaining pressure.

KEY STORIES

The 'Managed Escalation' Hypothesis: ADIZ standoff and tariff ruling as strategy to prepare audiences for summit compromise. The 'Paper Tiger' Tariff Refund: Administration uses national security exemptions to delay refunds, maintaining pressure.

KEY STORIES



US Supreme Court Nullifies Global Tariffs



Dolphin Performance Ban



Ma Wang Ye Worship



US-South Korean Joint Exercises



Yellow Sea Air Standoff



UFO Disclosure Debate



Red Sprite Lightning Discovery



Book Restoration Project



James Webb Space Telescope Discoveries



Section 122 Trade Implementation



Hoarding Disorder Awareness



Trump-Xi Summit Scheduled



Child Cosmetics Safety Debate



South Korean Speed Skating Win



Taiwan Weight-Loss Drug Craze



Tainan 'Warm City' Campaign



African Elephant Enrichment



Pier-2 Art Center Accident



Astronomy Outreach in Cram Schools



Scratch-Off Lottery Theft



Qingshui Train Collision



Volcanic Lake Symbiosis Study



Maersk-Hapag-Lloyd Logistics Hub



Taipei 101 Holiday Record



Intermittent Fasting (166) Trend



Political Vandalism in New Taipei

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DOMINATE GLOBAL AGENDA AS US
JUDICIAL RULINGS CHALLENGE
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DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The global strategic environment is currently defined by a confluence of legal warfare in international trade and heightening military posturing in the Indo-Pacific. A landmark ruling by the US Supreme Court has declared the administration's broad global tariffs, implemented in 2025, to be invalid. This decision triggers a potential [fiscal crisis](#) involving over \$175 billion in required refunds, while simultaneously exposing Taiwanese industrial sectors to significant [export volatility](#) as trade agreements are renegotiated under the "Section 122" clause. The administration's attempt to weaponize economic statecraft through unilateral tariffs is facing a systemic check from the judiciary, creating an opening for competitors to exploit shifts in global supply chain costs.

Simultaneously, military friction between the US-led bloc and China has reached a state of "aerial brinkmanship." Joint US-South Korean

F-16 exercises in the Yellow Sea led to a direct [mid-air standoff](#) with Chinese interceptors after the formation approached the Chinese Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). This escalation occurs against the backdrop of a scheduled [high-stakes summit](#) between President Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping set for March 31, suggesting that both powers are seeking to establish maximum leverage through military signaling prior to diplomatic engagement. Domestically, Taiwan is navigating the social friction of the Lunar New Year period, marked by significant [public safety incidents](#) and a burgeoning debate over the regulation of emerging health technologies and pharmaceutical markets.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Judicial Nullification of US Global Tariffs:** The US Supreme Court ruled that the administration's 2025 tariff expansion violated [international economic law](#), mandating a halt to current collections and potential massive refunds to trading partners. This has immediate implications for the [Taiwanese machinery industry](#), which faces a projected 10% tax increase if bilateral trade agreements are not formalized within a three-year window.
- **Aerial Standoff in the Yellow Sea:** More than 10 US and South Korean F-16s engaged in a [confrontation with Chinese jets](#) during exercises in international waters. While no shots were fired, the incident underscores the fragility of current deconfliction protocols in the Taiwan Strait and Yellow Sea regions.

- **Deep Space and "Exopolitical" Disclosures:** New data from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has identified galaxies dating back [12 billion years](#), while political pressure builds regarding government transparency on extraterrestrial phenomena. President Trump has reportedly ordered the [declassification of files](#) related to unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), countering previous statements from former President Obama regarding the lack of evidence for human-alien contact.
- **Public Health Regulatory Crisis:** The "Thin Needle" (weight loss injection) craze has triggered a [pricing war](#) and regulatory vacuum between Taipei and New Taipei City. Authorities are struggling to contain the illicit sale of [dangerous pharmaceutical compounds](#) like Sibutramine on digital platforms.
- **Infrastructure and Civil Safety:** A series of Lunar New Year accidents, including a [boat capsize](#) in a scenic area and a high-speed [train collision](#) in Qingshui, have highlighted vulnerabilities in public safety management during peak transit periods.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Geopolitical Competition & Bloc Politics

- The US administration is raising alarms over [Chinese influence](#) in the Panama Canal, citing potential violations of neutrality and security threats to maritime trade routes.
- Japan's Prime Minister Kishida has [hardened his rhetoric](#) against China, explicitly criticizing attempts to change the status quo by force in his latest municipal address.

- The scheduling of the [Trump-Xi summit](#) for March 31 is seen as a pivotal moment for "trade truce" negotiations following the Supreme Court's tariff ruling.

Legal Warfare & Regulatory Risk

- The US Supreme Court ruling on the [International Emergency Economic Powers Act](#) represents a significant rollback of executive authority in trade policy.
- Taiwan is implementing a [ban on dolphin performances](#) and stricter land-based conservation laws, reflecting a shift toward international animal welfare standards.
- New regulations for [child cosmetics](#) are being debated to address the lack of safety data on long-term chemical exposure in minors.

Tech Sovereignty & AI

- AI-driven educational tools are being integrated into [Taiwanese "cram schools"](#) to personalize learning, though critics point to the "industrialization" of student life.
- Developments in [non-invasive glucose monitoring](#) via AI-trained bio-chips are positioned as a breakthrough in Taiwan's healthcare technology sovereignty.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Weaponization of Uncertainty in Trade

The US administration's move to use Section 122 of the trade code suggests a pivot toward a [permanent state of trade negotiation](#). By declaring existing agreements void and setting a three-year deadline for "equal trade" treaties, the US is forcing partners like Taiwan into a defensive posture. This

"negotiation by disruption" is intended to repatriate manufacturing, but the [Supreme Court intervention](#) indicates that the internal legal guardrails of the US system remain a potent variable that foreign governments must now factor into their strategic planning.

Exopolitics as a Narrative Diversion

The resurgence of the UFO/UAP debate at the highest levels of US government appears to be a [strategic communication tool](#). While the JWST provides legitimate scientific breakthroughs regarding [remote galaxy formation](#), the political focus on "alien contact" and Area 51 serves to satisfy domestic populist curiosity while potentially masking advancements in [clandestine aerospace technology](#). This creates an information warfare environment where scientific data and speculative leaks are intermingled to maintain public engagement.

Social Fragmentation During National Holidays

The Lunar New Year period in Taiwan has revealed deepening social fractures. Reports of [political vandalism](#) against campaign posters and [violent disputes](#) over public space (such as fireworks nuisance and HSR seat arguments) suggest a high level of underlying social anxiety. This is further exacerbated by economic pressures, leading many students to [forgo holidays](#) in favor of academic "battle camps," indicating a hyper-competitive domestic environment that may be reaching a breaking point.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Taiwan is currently experiencing a period of heightened social friction, often manifesting in the breakdown of civil order during holiday

celebrations. The proliferation of [illegal fireworks](#) and the resulting public nuisance complaints highlight a disconnect between traditional celebrations and modern urban living standards. Furthermore, the [vandalism of images](#) of Vice President Lai Ching-te and Representative Bi-khim Hsiao indicates persistent partisan polarization that transcends the electoral cycle. The domestic security apparatus is also under pressure from a surge in [opportunistic crime](#), such as car thefts and high-speed police chases involving migrant workers, which feeds into broader nationalist anxieties about social stability and foreign labor integration.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The international system is portrayed as a fracturing multipolar arena where traditional alliances are being tested by unilateral economic policies. The US is framed as both a [security guarantor](#) against Chinese expansion and an [unpredictable economic actor](#). Taiwan's posture is fundamentally reactive; it is seeking to secure its interests by forging deeper "reciprocal trade" agreements while simultaneously enhancing its [military readiness](#) alongside US forces. The "outside world" is increasingly viewed through the lens of [risk mitigation](#), whether in terms of navigating the US legal system or countering Chinese gray-zone tactics in the ADIZ.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Market sentiment is characterized by cautious optimism tempered by the looming threat of significant regulatory changes in the US. The potential for a \$175 billion [tariff refund](#) has injected volatility into global trade projections. Taiwan's domestic economy is

seeing a boom in the [biotech and pharmaceutical sectors](#), specifically weight-loss medications, though this is threatened by a lack of uniform pricing and safety standards.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Machinery Exports:** Face a [14.7% tax surge](#) if US-Taiwan trade negotiations fail to meet new "reciprocal" standards.
- **Public Transit Logistics:** Taiwan's High-Speed Rail is operating at [record capacity](#) during the LNY period, highlighting the critical nature of its infrastructure.
- **Pharmaceutical Market:** The "Thin Needle" market has seen price disparities of up to [50% above cost](#) due to deregulated pricing in certain municipalities.
- **Retail/Tourism:** Taipei 101 recorded [8,800 daily visitors](#), a post-pandemic high, signaling a robust recovery in high-end consumer spending.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The political landscape is shifting as leaders respond to judicial setbacks and prepare for high-level diplomatic engagement.

- **President Trump:** Currently pivoting to address the [Supreme Court defeat](#) by emphasizing "Section 122" and preparing for the Xi summit. His status is characterized by a "strong but checked" executive posture.
- **PM Kishida:** Strengthening his role as a [regional hawk](#), aligning Japan closer to the US security umbrella in response to Chinese maritime activity.
- **Ambassador of Belize:** Engaging in [high-profile cultural diplomacy](#) in Taiwan, signaling the stability of Taiwan's remaining formal diplomatic ties.

- **Tainan City Officials:** Receiving positive coverage for [community-focused leadership](#), contrasting with the broader national political polarization.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's lead stories for the day focus heavily on the [US Supreme Court tariff ruling](#) and [regional military tensions](#), reflecting an editorial priority on geopolitical risk. A significant amount of airtime is also dedicated to "human interest" and "social order" stories, such as [lottery wins](#) and [nuisance complaints](#), which serve to balance the high-gravity geopolitical news with relatable domestic content. The tone is largely nationalistic regarding Taiwan's [technological and athletic](#) (WBC 2026) achievements, while remaining skeptical and analytic regarding US policy shifts and Chinese military intentions. Conspicuous omissions include deeper analysis of the [military strikes in Iran](#), which were mentioned briefly but not explored for their potential to trigger a broader Middle Eastern escalation.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The world is increasingly viewed through a lens of [binary competition](#) between democratic and autocratic blocs, yet with significant internal friction within the democratic alliance due to US economic unilateralism.

COUNTRIES and LEADERS

- **United States:** Portrayed as a "chaotic but indispensable" power. Quotes from the Supreme Court ruling characterize the executive's trade policy as ["unlawful"](#) and "invalid," yet its military presence in the Yellow Sea is framed as essential for ["stability."](#)
- **China:** Consistently framed as a "foe" and a "gray-zone aggressor." Its pilots are described as engaging in ["dangerous interceptions,"](#) while its influence in the Panama Canal is viewed as a ["strategic threat."](#)
- **Japan (PM Kishida):** Characterized as "principled and strengthening." Kishida's rhetoric is described as ["harder than last year,"](#) positioning Japan as the regional anchor for the "status quo."
- **Taiwan (Lai/Hsiao):** Framed as "competent but under internal and external pressure." The [vandalism against their posters](#) is used to illustrate domestic instability, while their trade negotiations are framed as ["proactive."](#)

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **Maersk/Hapag-Lloyd:** Framed as "vulnerable giants" navigating the [logistical hurdles](#) of the Panama Canal and global trade wars.
- **WBC 2026 (Chinese Taipei Team):** Portrayed as a [source of national unity](#) and "soft power" amidst geopolitical tension.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

The current environment is saturated with [competing narratives](#) regarding security and transparency. The US administration's push for UFO disclosure is a prime example of [narrative seeding](#), intended to shift the public discourse from legal defeats to speculative mysteries. Meanwhile, in Taiwan, the [selective destruction](#) of political imagery acts as a form of low-level domestic psychological warfare, aimed at demoralizing the governing coalition. The media's focus on ["warm stories"](#) about local officials also serves as a counter-propaganda effort to maintain faith in institutional stability despite the chaotic national and global picture.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- The March 31 [Trump-Xi summit](#) will likely result in a "limited de-escalation" of trade tensions as the US seeks to manage the fallout of the Supreme Court ruling.
- Taiwan will accelerate the [formalization of trade treaties](#) with the US to preempt the expiration of the three-year "Section 122" window.
- Domestic social friction in Taiwan will [increase](#) as economic competition continues to squeeze the middle class and students.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a surge in [regulatory enforcement](#) in Taiwan's pharmaceutical markets and increased maritime signaling in the Yellow Sea following the ADIZ standoff.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The US treasury will face [liquidity pressure](#) as it begins to process the mandated \$175 billion in tariff refunds. This may lead to domestic political budget battles in the US.

Long Term (1-5 Years): A structural realignment of [Pacific trade alliances](#) will occur as the "Section 122" reciprocal standards become the new baseline for US economic engagement, potentially marginalizing nations that cannot meet these strict terms.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The most immediate risk is the potential for a "hot" incident in the Yellow Sea or Taiwan Strait, driven by accidental collision during high-frequency [aerial interceptions](#).

- The **yellow sea air collision risk** is exacerbated by US-South Korean exercises and Chinese interceptions; Triggers: Pilot error or aggressive maneuvering during an ADIZ standoff; Likelihood: Moderate; Impact: High (potential for localized conflict); Mitigations: Re-establishment of direct military-to-military hotlines and clear rules of engagement.
- The **Taiwanese industrial economic shock** stems from the US tariff ruling and the requirement for "reciprocity"; Triggers: Failure to sign a new bilateral trade agreement within the three-year window; Likelihood: High (for specific sectors); Impact: Severe (potential [25% tax rate](#) for tool industries); Mitigations: Diplomatic acceleration of "reciprocal" trade treaties.

- The **public health crisis from illicit pharmaceuticals** is driven by the unregulated "Thin Needle" market; Triggers: A high-profile mass casualty event linked to [Sibutramine poisoning](#); Likelihood: Moderate; Impact: Moderate (loss of public trust in medical regulation); Mitigations: Unified national pricing and strict digital commerce enforcement.
- The **infrastructure vulnerability** during holiday peaks has been demonstrated by recent accidents; Triggers: A major [train or maritime disaster](#) due to overcrowding or equipment failure; Likelihood: Moderate; Impact: High; Mitigations: Implementation of AI-driven crowd control and stricter maintenance protocols.
- The **exopolitical disinformation risk** could undermine scientific credibility; Triggers: The release of "faked" or misleading UAP data for political leverage; Likelihood: Moderate; Impact: Moderate (erosion of [scientific authority](#)); Mitigations: Strengthening independent scientific oversight of JWST data.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts fail to provide a detailed **military post-action report** on the Iranian strikes, leaving a gap in understanding the risk of a wider regional conflict.
- There is a lack of **supply chain data** on how the \$175 billion tariff refund will actually be distributed to companies versus governments.
- The **long-term health impacts** of AI-personalized education in cram schools are not addressed, representing a potential future social health blind spot.

- The broadcasts do not explore the **potential for Chinese retaliatory tariffs** following the US Supreme Court's ruling, which may alter the strategic calculus for Taiwanese exporters.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Managed Escalation" Hypothesis

The ADIZ standoff and the tariff ruling may be part of a ["managed escalation" strategy](#) by both the US and China. By creating a period of extreme tension and legal chaos, both leaders may be preparing their domestic audiences to accept a "compromise" during the March 31 summit that would have otherwise been politically impossible.

The "Paper Tiger" Tariff Refund

While the Supreme Court mandated \$175 billion in refunds, the administration may use [national security exemptions](#) to delay or indefinitely postpone these payments, effectively maintaining the tariff pressure while appearing to comply with the judiciary. This would represent a "Black Swan" event for global trade law, signaling the **end of the rule-based order** in international economics.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize the [negotiation of trade formalizations](#) that meet the new "Section 122" standards to avoid sudden-onset industrial taxes.

- Enhance [deconfliction protocols](#) with Chinese maritime and aerial forces to prevent accidental escalation during exercises.
- Standardize [pharmaceutical pricing](#) across municipalities to eliminate the black market for high-demand medications.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Exporters to the US should audit their [tariff exposure](#) under "Section 122" and prepare for potentially higher compliance costs.
- Investors in biotech should focus on firms with [AI-driven diagnostics](#), which are being positioned as a core part of Taiwan's technological sovereignty.
- The tourism and retail sectors should prepare for [increased demand](#) from international visitors as Taiwan's post-pandemic recovery continues to set new records.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Recent legislative activity has focused on navigating the new [international trade reality](#) and addressing domestic public health concerns. Key discussions involved the expiration of current [economic power acts](#) and the implementation of stricter [animal welfare and medical standards](#).

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Section 122 Reciprocity Act:** Proposed legislation to align Taiwan's trade laws with the new US "reciprocal" standards.
- **Marine Mammal Conservation Amendment:** Finalizes the [ban on cetacean performances](#) in Taiwan's scenic areas.

- **Pharmaceutical Price Stabilization Bill:** Aims to prevent the [exorbitant markups](#) seen in the weight-loss drug market.

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **US Supreme Court Press Briefing:** Details the [refund mandate](#) following the invalidation of the 2025 tariffs.
- **Kishida Municipal Address:** PM Kishida's [hawk-like speech](#) regarding the "status quo" in the Taiwan Strait.
- **Huashan Foundation Presser:** Highlighted the [crisis in elderly care](#) and hoarding issues during the holiday period.

KEY STORIES

- **US Supreme Court Nullifies Global Tariffs:** A landmark ruling declared [2025 tariffs invalid](#), requiring \$175 billion in refunds and reshaping global trade dynamics.
- **Yellow Sea Air Standoff:** Over 10 US/ South Korean F-16s confronted [Chinese fighter jets](#) near the ADIZ during military exercises.
- **James Webb Space Telescope Discoveries:** Discovery of galaxies [12 billion years old](#), advancing theories of early universe formation.
- **Trump-Xi Summit Scheduled:** The two leaders are set to meet on [March 31](#) to discuss a trade truce and regional security.
- **Taiwan Weight-Loss Drug Craze:** Severe [price disparities](#) and illicit sales of "Thin Needles" trigger a regulatory crackdown.
- **Pier-2 Art Center Accident:** A two-year-old child was injured by a [diabolo string](#) during a street performance in Kaohsiung.
- **Qingshui Train Collision:** A [pedestrian was struck](#) by a train, causing significant delays and highlighting transit safety risks.
- **Taipei 101 Holiday Record:** Post-pandemic record of [8,800 visitors](#) in a single day during Lunar New Year celebrations.
- **Dolphin Performance Ban:** Taiwan officially moves to [end dolphin shows](#), transitioning to marine education-only facilities.
- **UFO Disclosure Debate:** President Trump orders [UAP declassification](#), challenging former President Obama's stance on extraterrestrial evidence.
- **Residential Fire in New Taipei:** A fire in a [multi-story building](#) caused by illegal storage of fireworks destroyed several units.
- **Panama Canal Security Concerns:** US officials warn of [Chinese control](#) over critical port facilities in Panama.
- **Thai Police Fugitive Raid:** Thai authorities used ["Dragon Dance" disguises](#) to capture several international fugitives hiding in local temples.
- **WBC 2026 Preparation:** Taiwan's team enters [intensive training](#) as host for the upcoming World Baseball Classic.
- **Belize Ambassador Visit:** High-level cultural engagement strengthens [Taiwan-Belize diplomatic ties](#).
- **HSR Seat Dispute:** An [emergency brake incident](#) occurred after a passenger dispute over seat assignments during holiday travel.
- **Ma Wang Ye Worship:** Significant crowds attended the ["Horse King God"](#) temple events, seeking prosperity in the new year.

- **Red Sprite Lightning Discovery:** Meteorologists captured [rare high-altitude lightning](#) above Hualien following recent storm activity.
- **Section 122 Trade Implementation:** Taiwan's [machinery sector](#) warned of potential 10-25% tariff hikes under new US "reciprocal" trade standards.
- **Child Cosmetics Safety Debate:** Growing concerns over the use of [untested chemicals](#) in makeup products marketed to minors.
- **Tainan "Warm City" Campaign:** Local officials receiving [positive ratings](#) for social outreach programs for underprivileged youth.
- **Astronomy Outreach in Cram Schools:** Integration of [space science](#) into competitive academic curricula for high school students.
- **Volcanic Lake Symbiosis Study:** Marine biologists identified new [symbiotic relationships](#) in sponges within Taiwan's volcanic lake ecosystems.
- **Intermittent Fasting (168) Trend:** Continued popularity of ["168" dieting](#) among Taiwan's youth, leading to calls for more medical oversight.
- **US-South Korean Joint Exercises:** Large-scale military drills intended to [deter North Korean and Chinese aggression](#) in the Yellow Sea.
- **Book Restoration Project:** Taiwan's National Library completes [restoration of ancient religious texts](#) using advanced archival techniques.
- **Hoarding Disorder Awareness:** Increased [social service interventions](#) for elderly citizens suffering from hoarding issues during the holiday season.

- **South Korean Speed Skating Win:** Analysis of [tactical speed skating](#) victories in international competition.
- **African Elephant Enrichment:** Taipei Zoo implements [new training protocols](#) for its African elephant population to improve foot health.
- **Scratch-Off Lottery Theft:** A suspect was arrested in Tainan for [stealing winning lottery tickets](#) from a street vendor.
- **Maersk-Hapag-Lloyd Logistics Hub:** Discussions on [improving global shipping efficiency](#) through new regional hubs.
- **Political Vandalism in New Taipei:** Arrest of a suspect for [defacing official images](#) of President-elect Lai Ching-te.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Today's Media Trends is a public interest experiment in applying deep thematic trend analysis to television news coverage from around the world to explore how responsibly applied advanced AI can help journalists and scholars better understand the overarching trends, themes and patterns of our global world.

No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

Each morning, in collaboration with the Internet Archive's TV News Archive, we apply Google's Gemini 3 to deeply examine yesterday's coverage from each television news channel to tease out the overarching themes and trends of its news coverage into a richly annotated thematic analysis. Each high-level insight is connected back to the original broadcast, allowing journalists and scholars to understand the dominate themes and trends and instantly click out to the underlying sources for details.

By helping journalists and scholars see the broader trends and patterns of global news coverage, this analysis helps them identify relevant stories and coverage they might not otherwise have encountered and uncover connections, emphases and narrative shifts that enable more comprehensive reporting and deeper, evidence-based research.

This report is entirely machine generated using Gemini 3 and may include errors and omissions. Please verify all findings. No data is used to train or tune any AI model.

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