

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

METROTV

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

REPORT: Geopolitical Brinkmanship in the Persian Gulf and Strategic Reciprocal Trade Negotiations Define a Global Landscape of Volatility and Opportunity

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE & MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

US-Iran Military Escalation & Gulf Tension



US Deployment: 'Credible Threat', 15-Day Ultimatum

Tehran Response: Carrier Vulnerability, Joint Exercises with Russia

Indonesia-US Strategic Reciprocal Trade & Gaza Role



Prabowo **Trump**

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Bypassing Global 10% Tariff

Indonesia: Deputy Commander, Int'l Stabilization Force (ISF) 'Board of Peace' (BoP)

Domestic Crisis & Internal Dynamics



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- Audit for Regulatory Compliance (Skincare/Mining)
- Enhance Safety Standards (Industrial Security)

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GEOPOLITICAL BRINKMANSHIP IN
THE PERSIAN GULF AND
STRATEGIC RECIPROCAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS DEFINE A GLOBAL
LANDSCAPE OF VOLATILITY AND
OPPORTUNITY

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The global security environment is currently dominated by a rapid escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf, characterized by the deployment of massive U.S. naval assets and retaliatory rhetoric from Tehran. The arrival of the [USS Gerald Ford](#) and the USS Abraham Lincoln in the Mediterranean and Arabian Sea signals a potential shift from posturing to active military preparation. Concurrently, the suspension of civil aviation in [Sofia, Bulgaria](#), to accommodate U.S. military logistics suggests a broader multi-theater mobilization aimed at pressuring Iran during stalled nuclear negotiations. This military buildup is juxtaposed against a domestic backdrop in Iran where, despite the looming threat, societal routines remain centered on the observance of Ramadan, though international pressure remains acute.

Simultaneously, Indonesia is executing a high-stakes diplomatic maneuver to secure its economic interests through direct engagement with the Trump administration. President Prabowo's visit to Washington has yielded a reported breakthrough in the form of a [Reciprocal Trade Agreement \(ART\)](#), which ostensibly exempts nearly 2,000 Indonesian products from a global 10% tariff. This suggests a strategic pivot toward bilateral transactionalism as a means of insulating national industries from broader protectionist trends. However, this diplomatic success is clouded by severe domestic instability, including a series of [violent criminal acts](#), infrastructure failures in Aceh and Karawang, and a persistent insurgency in [Papua](#) that continues to exact a lethal toll on military personnel.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **U.S.-Iran Military Escalation:** The deployment of the [USS Gerald Ford](#) to the Middle East, accompanied by over 150 military flights and the stationing of F-35 and F-22 jets, indicates a transition toward a "credible threat" posture. Iran has responded by declaring U.S. carriers vulnerable to [sinking](#) and holding joint naval exercises with Russia in the Gulf of Oman.
- **Indonesia-U.S. Reciprocal Trade Success:** Negotiations between Presidents Prabowo and Trump have reportedly secured a [0% reciprocal tariff](#) for 1,819 Indonesian industrial and agricultural products, effectively circumventing the 10% global tariff established by U.S. policy.

- **Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza Stabilization Efforts:** Indonesia has been appointed [Deputy Commander](#) of the International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza, a move sanctioned by the "Board of Peace" (BoP) initiated by President Trump, though the mission faces significant legitimacy hurdles from non-participating global actors like the Vatican.
- **Papua Insurgency Lethality:** The KKB (Kelompok Kriminal Bersenjata) conducted a lethal ambush at a [mining post in Nabire](#), resulting in the deaths of Indonesian military (TNI) personnel and private security, highlighting persistent vulnerabilities in critical mineral-rich regions.
- **Domestic Crisis and Social Order:** Severe flooding in [Karawang](#) (reaching 2 meters) and a major banking system failure in [Jambi](#) have triggered localized unrest and mass evacuations, testing state capacity for disaster response during the holy month of Ramadan.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- The massive buildup of U.S. air and naval power in the [Persian Gulf](#) and Eastern Europe represents a strategic encirclement of Iranian interests, aimed at forcing concessions on missile and nuclear programs.
- The lethal attack by the [KKB in Nabire](#) demonstrates the insurgent group's continued ability to disrupt mining operations and inflict casualties on state security forces.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Indonesia's "Reciprocal Trade Agreement" (ART) is framed as a [stabilizing force](#) for exports, particularly palm oil, coffee, and textiles, amid shifting U.S. trade regulations.
- Price volatility in essential commodities, specifically [chili peppers](#) reaching Rp140,000 per kg, poses a risk to social stability during Ramadan consumption peaks.

Critical Infrastructure Security

- The [Bank Jambi](#) incident, involving the draining of customer accounts and deactivation of mobile banking, suggests a significant failure in digital financial infrastructure or internal control protocols.
- The sinking of the [KLM Reski Akirah 03](#) carrying 4,480 gas canisters highlights maritime safety risks in Indonesian waters during extreme weather conditions.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

- **The Transactional Geopolitical Era:** The day's coverage illustrates a global shift toward bilateral, transactional diplomacy. The "Board of Peace" (BoP) and the Indonesia-U.S. trade deal both bypass traditional multilateral institutions (like the UN or WTO) in favor of [direct leadership agreements](#) led by the U.S. administration. This "deal-making" approach is being applied to both trade and conflict resolution (Gaza), effectively re-mapping global power dynamics around Washington's current executive priorities.

- **Ramadan as a Fragile Socio-Political**

Lens: Ramadan serves as a common denominator for diverse stories, from the [calm streets of Tehran](#) to the [flooded villages of Karawang](#). However, the holy month also amplifies socio-economic pressures, as seen in the reporting on [food price spikes](#) and the [sahur festival brawls](#) in Jambi. Governance is being measured by its ability to maintain order and affordability during this period of heightened public scrutiny.

- **Viral Justice and Social Media**

Vigilantism: Several lead stories originated from or were driven by viral social media content, particularly regarding child abuse in [Sragen](#) and the horrific death of a child in [Sukabumi](#). This indicates that public perception of justice is increasingly mediated by digital platforms, forcing official institutions to react to viral narratives to maintain legitimacy.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Indonesia:

- State capacity is under strain as it simultaneously manages the [Karawang floods](#), the [Papuan insurgency](#), and infrastructure collapses like the giant sinkhole in [Aceh Tengah](#). The government's focus on "One Data Indonesia" and legislative revisions for [victim protection](#) indicates an awareness of institutional decay, yet the execution of basic social order (e.g., controlling youth brawls or securing bank deposits) appears inconsistent.

Iran:

- The domestic front in Iran is characterized by a "normalcy" narrative designed to project internal stability. Reporting emphasizes that citizens are [mingling and shopping](#) as usual during Ramadan, which serves as a psychological counter-measure to the threat of imminent U.S. military action. However, the evacuation of [foreign nationals](#) (Sweden, Bosnia) suggests a growing delta between state-controlled narratives and external risk assessments.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

- **The Frame of Strategic Encirclement:** The international system is portrayed as a fracturing arena where traditional norms are secondary to military and economic leverage. The U.S. is framed as an aggressive but decisive actor, moving assets to [Mediterranean ports](#) while simultaneously organizing a "Board of Peace" for Gaza. This suggests a "carrot and stick" strategy where the U.S. dictates the terms of both conflict and commerce.
- **Indonesian Non-Alignment vs. Transactionalism:** Indonesia's global posture is evolving. By joining the BoP and taking a [leadership role](#) in the Gaza stabilization force, it is moving away from passive non-alignment toward active, transactional participation in U.S.-led global initiatives to secure bilateral gains (like the trade agreement).

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic environment is defined by an aggressive push for bilateral trade certainty amidst global protectionist risks. While

national leadership celebrates trade victories in Washington, the domestic consumer experience is marred by high inflation in essential food sectors and systemic failures in the regional banking sector.

- **Trade Agreements:** Reported agreement on [0% tariffs](#) for 1,819 products, including palm oil and textiles, between Indonesia and the U.S.
- **Commodity Prices:** Red chili peppers at [Rp140,000/kg](#); meat prices rising to [Rp150,000/kg](#) ahead of Eid.
- **Industrial Risk:** Disruption of mining operations in [Nabire, Papua](#), due to lethal KKB attacks.
- **Financial Infrastructure:** Bank Jambi reports [system maintenance](#) following account draining incidents, affecting mobile banking reliability.
- **Logistics:** Sinkholes in [Aceh Tengah](#) have severed alternative transport routes, impacting local distribution.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Strategic leadership shifts are focused on Indonesian domestic political consolidation and international conflict management roles.

- **President Prabowo Subianto:** Elevated status as a "principled negotiator" following the [Washington summit](#), successfully leveraging personal diplomacy for economic concessions.
- **Rieke Diah Pitaloka:** Emerging as a key legislative force in [Commission 13](#) (Law and Human Rights), pushing for the "One Data" policy and victim protection reforms.

- **Saan Mustofa:** Positioning the Nasdem party through [safari Ramadan](#) activities, signaling early organizational preparation for the 2029 political cycle.
- **Indonesia (State):** Appointed as [Vice Commander](#) of the International Stabilization Force in Gaza, marking a major increase in the nation's global military-diplomatic footprint.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial choices emphasize **nationalistic success** and **imminent global threat**. The Prabowo-Trump trade deal is the dominant "win" story, often leading segments to reassure the public of economic stability. This is balanced by the high-tension "Meet Nite Live" coverage of the U.S.-Iran conflict, which uses a **fear-inducing** tone to keep viewers engaged. Domestic tragedy, particularly child abuse and deaths, is given high priority, serving both as a reflection of societal concern and a **distraction** from systemic governance failures in flood management and internal security. Notably, details on the **Jambi bank theft** were minimized, potentially to avoid triggering a bank run or broad panic regarding digital security. The network also conspicuously omitted any deep analysis of **Chinese reaction** to the burgeoning Indonesia-U.S. trade alignment, a critical geopolitical blind spot.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

Geopolitical framing focuses on the return of U.S. hegemony as a transactional negotiator

and the precarious resilience of the Middle East.

- **United States / Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a "strong" and "tough cookie" who uses military assets to force deals. Quote: "you think it's easy dealing with him... [you are tough cookie](#)."
- **Indonesia / Prabowo Subianto:** Characterized as a "competent" and "friend" to the U.S., successfully navigating the "Trump effect" for national gain. Quote: "Indonesia kira jadi negara satu-satunya di [pertuan bilateral](#)."
- **Iran / Pezeshkian:** Portrayed as "principled" but "encircled." The frame highlights defiance against world powers. Quote: "tidak akan tunduk pada [kekuatan dunia](#)."
- **Israel:** Framed by analysts as the "customer" or "client" of the U.S.-Iran conflict, pushing for war to ensure its own existence. Quote: "keamanan Israel sama dengan [keamanannya Amerika](#)."
- **KKB (Papua):** Defined as a "terrorist" and "chaotic" non-state actor disruptively targeting both TNI and civilian subcontractors. Quote: "teroris KKB kembali berulah di [Papua Tengah](#)."

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The Iranian government is actively seeding a "normalcy" narrative to prevent domestic panic, as shown by the reporter's focus on [Ramadan routines](#) while U.S. jets mobilize.

- **Strategic Leaks:** The release of details regarding the [ART \(Reciprocal Trade Agreement\)](#) appears timed to bolster President Prabowo's domestic approval ratings during a period of economic pressure.
- **Psychological Operations:** The U.S. military's [suspension of civil flights](#) in Bulgaria is a form of public posturing aimed at demonstrating the breadth of its logistical reach to both Russian and Iranian observers.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Gulf Kinetic Action:** If Iran does not agree to new nuclear protocols within 15 days, a "limited" U.S. strike on Iranian naval or missile assets is highly likely, given the current [concentration of forces](#).
- **Indonesian Export Surge:** The ART deal will likely trigger an immediate investment surge in Indonesian [manufacturing and agriculture](#) to take advantage of the 0% U.S. tariff before potential competitors can react.
- **Domestic Unrest:** Continued [food price inflation](#) toward the end of Ramadan will likely lead to street protests if the government does not implement emergency price controls or subsidies.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Increased arrests in child abuse cases following viral videos; escalation of TNI operations in [Nabire](#) to secure mining posts; potential localized banking panics in [Jambi](#) if system maintenance remains opaque.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Implementation of the 800-person [Gaza stabilization force](#); formalization of the "One Data Indonesia" law to address census and subsidy discrepancies; results of the U.S.-Iran nuclear ultimatum leading to either a deal or regional kinetic conflict.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Shift of the regional balance of power in SE Asia as Indonesia deepens its [U.S. trade dependency](#); potential regime transition or fundamental policy shift in Iran under sustained naval blockade or military pressure.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Current risks are heavily weighted toward regional conflict escalation and systemic domestic failures in Indonesia.

- **Regional War in the Persian Gulf:** Trigger: Failure of Iran to meet the [15-day ultimatum](#) or a naval skirmish. Likelihood: Moderate-High. Impact: Global oil price shock, disruption of global shipping. Mitigations: Back-channel diplomacy via Qatar/Oman.
- **Financial Infrastructure Collapse (Indonesia):** Trigger: Confirmation of a systemic cyberattack on [Bank Jambi](#) or other regional banks. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Erosion of public trust in digital banking, localized economic standstill. Mitigations: Immediate audit by OJK and government guarantee of deposits.
- **Lethal Insurgency Escalation:** Trigger: Success of KKB in disrupting [Nabire mining](#) or capturing high-value targets. Likelihood: High. Impact: Threat to critical mineral supplies (nickel/gold), increased military deaths. Mitigations: Enhanced drone surveillance and site-hardening for mining posts.

- **Environmental Migration:** Trigger: Sustained 2m flooding in [Karawang/Citarum basin](#) beyond the rainy season. Likelihood: High. Impact: Mass displacement, loss of agricultural productivity. Mitigations: Immediate completion of regional pumping/dam projects.
- **Socio-Political Backlash over Child Welfare:** Trigger: Further horrific [abuse cases](#) going viral without rapid state conviction. Likelihood: High. Impact: Vigilantism, loss of faith in police/judiciary. Mitigations: Fast-track legislative changes for victim protection and stricter sentencing.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Chinese Response to US-ID Trade Deal:** The broadcast fails to address how Indonesia's largest trading partner, China, will react to the preferential [ART deal](#) with the U.S.
- **Cyberattack vs. System Error:** The Bank Jambi incident is labeled as "[system maintenance](#)" while also reporting drained accounts—a contradiction that strongly suggests a censored report on a cyber-breach.
- **Logistics of Gaza Mission:** The deployment of [800 troops](#) to Gaza is announced without detailing the rules of engagement or the logistical support required in a hostile environment.
- **True Scale of Nabire Ambush:** There is a lack of clarity on the total casualties and the identity of the "[subcontractors](#)" killed alongside the TNI personnel in Papua.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

- **The U.S. Naval Buildup as a Bluff:** The massive deployment could be a performative "theatre of strength" designed by the Trump administration to secure domestic polling wins rather than a genuine preparation for war. In this scenario, the [15-day ultimatum](#) is a negotiating tactic intended to be extended or quietly dropped once concessions are made.
- **Prabowo's ART Deal as a Debt Trap:** While 0% tariffs sound positive, the "Reciprocal" nature of the ART deal may involve [hidden concessions](#) regarding U.S. access to Indonesian critical minerals or data, potentially compromising long-term sovereign wealth in exchange for short-term export gains.
- **Black Swan: The Jambi Breach Spreads:** If the Bank Jambi event was indeed a [coordinated cyberattack](#), it may be a "canary in the coal mine" for a broader attack on the Indonesian national financial grid, potentially timed to destabilize the nation during Eid festivities.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- **Security:** Indonesia must immediately harden its digital financial infrastructure and investigate the Bank Jambi "system maintenance" as a potential national security threat.
- **Economic:** The Ministry of Trade should diversify supply chains to ensure that [ART-linked exports](#) do not become vulnerable to future U.S. policy reversals.

- **Diplomatic:** Clarify the "Rules of Engagement" for the [Gaza deployment](#) to avoid TNI personnel being drawn into a multi-sided kinetic conflict without international legal coverage.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain:** Agricultural and textile firms should rapidly scale up U.S.-destined production to lock in [0% tariff benefits](#).
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Skincare and cosmetic companies must urgently audit for [mercury and illegal ingredients](#) following the high-profile imprisonment of the "Queen of Gold" in Makassar.
- **Safety Standards:** Industrial operators in Papua must implement military-grade perimeter security following the lethal [Nabire mining post attack](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity focuses on nationalizing data sovereignty and reforming protections for vulnerable populations, while trade policy

is being driven by direct executive negotiation.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **One Data Indonesia Bill:** Aimed at centralizing national data to ensure accurate distribution of social subsidies and welfare. Strategic intent: Eliminate errors in the [poverty registry](#) and improve policy precision.
- **Witness and Victim Protection Law Revision:** Aimed at providing explicit legal definitions and comprehensive protection for [survivors of sexual violence](#) and grooming. Strategic intent: Modernize human rights protections to match current societal threats.
- **Reciprocal Trade Agreement (ART):** A bilateral treaty structure negotiated with the U.S. Strategic intent: Secure [0% tariff access](#) for Indonesian goods.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Q&A with Rieke Diah Pitaloka:** Legislative hearing style interview on [Commission 13](#) priorities, focusing on "working ideology" and data-driven governance.
- **Prabowo-Trump Press Statement:** Summary of the [30-minute bilateral meeting](#) regarding the cancellation of global tariffs and regional peace.
- **Mentan (Minister of Agriculture) Sidak:** Surprise inspection at Kebayoran market to force price reductions in [chicken and garlic](#).

KEY STORIES

- **US-Iran Gulf Tension:** Deployment of the [USS Gerald Ford](#) and 500 aircraft to the Persian Gulf. Trump sets a [15-day ultimatum](#) for a nuclear deal. Tehran vows Carrier destruction. Sofia airport in Bulgaria suspends civil flights for U.S. military logistics.
- **Prabowo-Trump Trade Deal:** Indonesia secures 0% tariffs for [1,819 products](#) under a new Reciprocal Trade Agreement (ART). Agreement covers palm oil, coffee, and textiles.
- **Gaza International Stabilization Force:** Indonesia appointed [Deputy Commander](#) for an 800-troop mission sanctioned by the U.S.-led "Board of Peace."
- **KKB Lethal Attack in Nabire:** KKB insurgents killed a TNI soldier ([Serda Hamdani](#)) and a private security officer at a mining post in Papua.
- **Sukabumi Child Torture Case:** A 12-year-old boy ([NS](#)) died after allegedly being beaten and doused with boiling water by his stepmother, TR.
- **Bank Jambi Infrastructure Failure:** Customers report [drained accounts](#); bank disables mobile banking for "system maintenance."
- **Karawang Flooding:** 2-meter deep floods submerge [4,996 residents](#) and 15 villages due to Citarum river overflow.
- **Magelang Mining Protests:** Villagers in [Sambeng](#) protest an 16-hectare earth-filling mining project near Borobudur heritage site.
- **Sragen Child Abuse Video:** A father was arrested after a viral video showed him [kicking his daughter's head](#) to intimidate his migrant-worker wife.

- **Medan Major Drug Bust:** Police seized [80kg of meth](#) and 50,000 ecstasy pills after a shootout during a car chase.
- **Aceh Sinkhole/Landslide:** A massive [5-hectare sinkhole](#) in Aceh Tengah is expanding by 5 meters daily, severing road access.
- **Nunukan Plane Crash:** An Air Tractor AT-802 fuel transport aircraft crashed in [Krayan, North Kalimantan](#), killing the pilot.
- **Makassar "Queen of Gold" Prisoned:** Influencer [Mira Hayati](#) sentenced to 2 years for selling mercury-laden skincare.
- **Pakistan Border Strikes:** Pakistan military strikes alleged [Tehrik-e-Taliban](#) camps in Afghanistan following cross-border militant attacks.
- **Lebanon Ramadan Lantern:** A 20-meter [giant lantern](#) unveiled in Nabatieh as a symbol of hope amid crisis.
- **Sumatran Elephant Rescue:** A baby elephant was rescued after falling into a [2-meter septic tank](#) in Siak, Riau, while the herd rioted.
- **Car Free Day Ramadan:** Jakarta citizens maintain [CFD routines](#) despite rainfall on the first Sunday of Ramadan.

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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