

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

TVRIN

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT

INDONESIA AT THE STRATEGIC CROSSROADS: NAVIGATING GLOBAL VOLATILITY & DOMESTIC TRANSFORMATION (FEB 22-23, 2026 REPORT)



DAY-AT-A-GLANCE: BALANCING ACT

Indonesia faces a strategic juncture, committing 800 TNI troops to a Gaza Stabilization Force (ISF) while managing aggressive US tariffs and domestic environmental decay. Concurrently, the state funds religious education programs ('Sigi Religijs', 'Kampung Mengaji') for social stabilization, creating a tension between modernization and traditional values. Economically, massive liquidity injections for Ramadan buffer against external trade shocks. The nation positions itself as a moderate Islamic power in a fracturing global order.



GLOBAL POSTURE & EXTERNAL SHOCKS

GAZA STABILIZATION MISSION & MILITARY SHIFT



Formal commitment of 800 TNI personnel to International Stabilization Force (ISF). Indonesia secures strategic Vice Commander role, shifting from diplomatic to active military-led stabilization in a Trump-backed initiative. Focus is on civil protection and reconstruction with 'National Caveats'.

US PROTECTIONISM & MIDDLE EAST RHETORIC



US hikes global tariffs to 15% via Emergency Economic Law after legal setback, posing export threat. US Ambassador's territory claims trigger joint condemnation from Indonesia and Middle Eastern nations, sparking global backlash against 'provocative' and 'illegal' rhetoric.

DOMESTIC RESILIENCE & GOVERNANCE



RELIGIOUS NATIONALISM & EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Aggressive funding for 'Sigi Religijs' and 'Kampung Mengaji' to instill Islamic moral character, aimed at long-term social stabilization and combating crime (e.g., drug busts). Concurrent 16.9 trillion rupiah revitalization of over 16,000 educational units with technology integration. A paradox exists between traditionalism and modernization.

MACROECONOMIC MANAGEMENT & LIQUIDITY SURGE



Bank Indonesia injects 185.6 trillion rupiah for Ramadan and Lebaran demand across 8,755 service points. Massive seasonal liquidity is managed to prevent inflation. Retail surges noted, particularly for viral clothing lines.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY



Government pushes massive infrastructure but local delays persist (e.g., 20-year river dredging gaps). Criminal networks adopt tech like 'Alfred Camera' for drug operations. AI used for Mudik travel prediction to mitigate risks.

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES



Severe tidal flooding in Indramayu forces relocation of 93 families. Industrial pollution in Cijujung River decimates aquaculture, threatening food security. Bajo tribe faces high dropout rates (26%) due to traditional 'Sake' sea-wandering culture, highlighting vulnerability.

CLIMATE & EXTREME WEATHER RISKS



Mount Semeru remains active with 700m ash columns. Bengkulu reports extreme weather risks through mid-2026. Tidal floods (banjir rob) render areas uninhabitable, necessitating government-led relocation.

FOOD & WATER SECURITY CHALLENGES



Food task forces report no hoarding ahead of Ramadan, indicating successful supply chain management. However, long-term river silting and pollution in Banten threaten traditional livelihoods with no river normalization in 20 years.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & FUTURE OUTLOOK

SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS):



Localized protests against US Embassy. High alert for Mudik travel accidents despite AI predictions.

MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS):



Successful Serambi 2026 cash distribution claimed as stability. Initial TNI deployments to Gaza dominate news cycle, potentially distracting from trade slumps.

LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS):



Structural decay of coastal villages forces expensive relocations. Potential abandonment of traditional maritime cultures like the Bajo.

RISK ASSESSMENT



CONTRARIAN SCENARIO



Gaza mission as a deliberate distraction from failing domestic maritime economy and infrastructure? Religious focus undermining tech investment?

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INDONESIA MANEUVERS THROUGH
GLOBAL TRADE VOLATILITY AND
MIDDLE EAST INSTABILITY WHILE
SCALING DOMESTIC RELIGIOUS
AND EDUCATIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

The reporting cycle of February 22-23, 2026, reveals a nation at a strategic crossroads, balancing aggressive global protectionism with a heightened role in international security. The most significant development is Indonesia's formal commitment to the Gaza theater, announcing the phased deployment of [800 TNI personnel](#) to join an International Stabilization Force (ISF). This move, coupled with the appointment of an Indonesian official as Vice Commander of the ISF, signals a shift from purely diplomatic support to active military-led stabilization in a conflict zone now dominated by the controversial rhetoric of the United States. Concurrently, the domestic administration is aggressively funding the "Sigi Religius" and "Kampung Mengaji" programs to instill [Islamic moral character](#) in the youth, suggesting a strategy of long-term

social stabilization through religious education.

Economically, the environment is dominated by external shocks and internal liquidity surges. The US administration's decision to hike global tariffs to [15 percent](#)—following a Supreme Court ruling that initially challenged the policy—poses a direct threat to Indonesian exports and supply chain stability. Domestically, Bank Indonesia is preemptively injecting [185.6 trillion rupiah](#) into the economy to manage the massive seasonal demand of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr. However, these macro-successes are undermined by localized environmental and social decay, specifically the collapse of traditional livelihoods in Indramayu and the Bajo community due to [tidal flooding](#) and extreme river pollution in Banten.

The convergence of these events paints a picture of a state using international prestige (the Gaza mission) and religious nationalism to buffer against the "Cold War" rhetoric re-emerging in the Middle East and the South China Sea. While infrastructure projects like the [16.9 trillion rupiah](#) school revitalization plan show a commitment to modernization, the persistent issues of drug trafficking, rural poverty, and high dropout rates among maritime tribes indicate that the state's reach remains uneven across the archipelago.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Indonesia Escalates Involvement in Gaza Stabilization

- Foreign Minister Sugiono confirms Indonesia will not provide financial aid to the Board of Peace but will contribute [human resources via the TNI](#).

- Indonesia secures a strategic leadership role as [Vice Commander](#) of the International Stabilization Force (ISF).
- The mission focuses on civil protection and reconstruction rather than the political interests of major powers, though the ISF is noted to be a [Trump-backed initiative](#).

US Protectionism and Middle East Rhetoric Spark Global Backlash

- US Ambassador Mike Hakabi's claim that Israel has rights to territory from the [Nile to the Euphrates](#) triggers a joint condemnation from Indonesia and Middle Eastern nations.
- Donald Trump announces a [15% global tariff](#) after a brief legal setback, citing the Emergency Economic Law.
- The Indonesian government warns that such statements threaten [regional security stability](#) and the peace process in Gaza.

Massive Domestic Liquidity and Infrastructure Spending

- Bank Indonesia prepares [185.6 trillion rupiah](#) in cash to facilitate Ramadan and Lebaran transactions.
- Ministry of Education allocates [16.9 trillion rupiah](#) for the revitalization of over 16,000 educational units.
- The government utilizes AI to predict [peak travel dates](#) for the 2026 Mudik season to mitigate traffic risks.

Socio-Environmental Crisis in Rural Coastal Communities

- Severe tidal flooding in Indramayu forces the relocation of [93 families](#) as homes are destroyed.

- The Bajo tribe faces a [high school dropout rate](#) (nearly 26% in some areas) due to the traditional "Sake" sea-wandering culture.
- Industrial pollution in the Ciujung River has decimated [aquaculture productivity](#), reducing fish harvests from four times a year to just one.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Deployment of [800 TNI personnel](#) to Gaza marks a transition to a more assertive military presence in global peacekeeping.
- Establishment of "National Caveats" and "National Kiihiyat" to guide Indonesian troops in [multinasional missions](#) while maintaining sovereign policy.

Climate & Extreme Weather

- Tidal floods (banjir rob) in Indramayu have made areas [unsuitable for habitation](#), forcing government-led relocation.
- Mount Semeru remains active with an ash column reaching [700 meters](#), necessitating constant monitoring by PVMBG.
- Bengkulu reports [extreme weather risks](#) through mid-2026, prompting calls for early mitigation and drainage clearing.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The [15% US tariff](#) is identified as a major risk factor for Indonesian exports, potentially triggering legal challenges under international trade law.
- Bank Indonesia expands the "Serambi 2026" program to include [8,755 service points](#) for currency exchange.

Food & Water Security

- Food task forces report [no hoarding or price spikes](#) in Cilegon ahead of Ramadan, indicating successful pre-holiday supply chain management.
- River silting and pollution in Banten threaten [traditional fishing livelihoods](#), with no river normalization in 20 years.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Paradox of Religious Nationalism and Modernization

The "Sigi Religius" movement demonstrates a state-sponsored effort to integrate [Islamic values](#) into local governance as a tool for "human development with character." This religious anchoring is being used to combat social ills like drug trafficking—evidenced by the [80kg methamphetamine bust](#) in Medan—and animal abuse. However, there is a clear tension between this traditionalism and the economic necessity of modernization, such as the [TNR \(Trap-Neuter-Return\)](#) programs for street cats, which face cultural resistance from those who prefer long-haired "status" breeds over local "kampung" cats.

Vulnerability of Traditional Maritime Communities

A recurring theme is the decay of maritime life. Whether it is the [relocated families in Indramayu](#) or the Bajo tribe in Torusiaji, coastal Indonesians are increasingly marginalized by both climate change and economic shifts. The Bajo's "Sake" tradition, once a sustainable way of life, is now viewed by the state as a [barrier to education](#), leading to fears of school closures. This highlights a struggle between the central government's

goal of 100% literacy and the survival of ancient, nomadic cultural identities.

Shift Toward Multipolar Security Roles

Indonesia is no longer just a diplomatic mediator but a [strategic partner](#) in military stabilization. By taking a leadership role in the ISF, Jakarta is positioning itself as a moderate Islamic power capable of managing Western-backed security initiatives without compromising its support for Palestinian sovereignty. This "strategic maneuvering" is essential as the US adopts a [more aggressive stance](#) through tariffs and expansionist rhetoric.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Institutional Capacity and Infrastructure

- The government is pushing a massive [14 trillion rupiah](#) school revitalization program, yet local reports indicate [20-year delays](#) in critical river dredging, highlighting a disparity between high-profile national projects and basic local infrastructure maintenance.
- The use of ["Alfred Camera" apps](#) by drug syndicates to monitor couriers suggests that criminal networks are rapidly adopting technology to stay ahead of law enforcement.

Public Sentiment and Religious Cohesion

- Ramadan preparations, such as the [Arakan Sahur festival](#) in Tanjung Jabung Barat, are being leveraged by local leaders to boost "Islamic character" and prevent crime among youth.

- The simultaneous celebration of [Chinese New Year \(Imlek\) and Ramadan](#) is framed as a test of "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika," with leaders like Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono emphasizing justice as a pillar of national stability.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Proactive Neutrality in a Fracturing Global Order

- Indonesia's foreign policy is becoming increasingly "militant" in its pursuit of peace, shifting from rhetoric to [troop deployment in Gaza](#) to ensure a "free and independent Palestine."
- The framing of the US as an erratic actor is clear, with its [ambassador's statements](#) characterized as "provocative" and its [tariff policies](#) as "illegal."
- In the South China Sea, Indonesia supports regional sovereignty, as seen in the coverage of Philippine Senator [Risa Hontiveros' visit to Titu Island](#), signaling a unified front against unilateral territorial claims by China.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The economic outlook is characterized by strong domestic demand management and significant external risks from US trade policy. National liquidity is being aggressively managed to prevent inflation during the peak religious season, while long-term investment is sought through [engagement with US investors](#) in Washington DC.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Global Tariff Hike:** The increase to [15% global tariff](#) by the US is the primary external threat, expected to impact maritime trade and export margins.
- **Currency Management:** Bank Indonesia is distributing [185.6 trillion rupiah](#) in cash, with [177 trillion](#) dedicated to banking needs and [8.6 trillion](#) for direct exchange services.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** A total of [16.9 trillion rupiah](#) is being spent on education technology and building revitalization.
- **Commodity Resilience:** Milkfish and shrimp aquaculture in Banten is struggling, with [production cycles disrupted](#) by industrial pollution and silting.
- **Consumer Trends:** Retail surges are noted in Pasar Tanah Abang, particularly for the viral ["Gamis Bini Orang"](#) and "Mertua Series" clothing lines.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Political appointments and international leadership roles are being used to project stability and religious moderate values both at home and abroad.

- **Minister Sugiono:** Emerging as a key architect of the new [Gaza military policy](#), emphasizing human resource over financial contribution.
- **Mike Hakabi:** Portrayed as an [unstable and dangerous actor](#) whose tenure as Ambassador is viewed as a threat to regional peace.

- **Minister Abdul Muhti:** Managing a massive [revitalization budget](#), positioning education as a central pillar of the administration's legacy.
- **Frenzin Wijaya:** Rising influence in [animal welfare advocacy](#), successfully lobbying for state-supported sterilization and anti-abandonment campaigns.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

The network's editorial hierarchy is dominated by national pride and religious observance. The Gaza troop deployment and the US tariff controversy are the "Lead Stories," presented with a sense of urgent nationalism and collective defense of Palestinian rights. "Buried Stories" include the [long-term environmental degradation](#) in Banten and the [high dropout rates](#) among indigenous maritime tribes, which are treated as localized human-interest pieces rather than systemic governance failures. The tone is largely reassuring regarding domestic food and cash supplies, while being highly skeptical and alarmist regarding US foreign policy and its "biblical claims." A conspicuous omission is any detailed criticism of the TNI's readiness for a high-risk stabilization mission in a complex urban conflict zone like Gaza.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The world is portrayed as a fracturing landscape where traditional alliances are under strain from erratic leadership in the West, while Southeast Asian nations are attempting to forge a more independent and sovereign path.

COUNTRIES

- **United States:** Framed as erratic and expansionist. The administration is seen as [violating international law](#) and its own constitution through "illegal" tariffs and "dangerous" support for Israeli expansionism.
- **Palestine:** Portrayed as a resilient but suffering victim in [desperate need of stabilization](#) and international military protection to secure its future independence.
- **Philippines:** Characterized as a **principled defender of sovereignty** in the face of "unilateral claims," particularly regarding the [Cina Selatan \(South China Sea\)](#) dispute.

LEADERS

- **Donald Trump:** Portrayed as **inept and legally compromised**, with his policies described as being [overturned by his own courts](#) before he re-asserted them under emergency laws.
- **Mike Hakabi:** Framed as **corrupt and provocative**, using "biblical claims" to undermine [international law](#) and established borders.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The government is heavily seeding the idea of ["Gaza Stabilization"](#) as a neutral, humanitarian military mission to avoid public concern about TNI casualties.

- **Propaganda/Nationalism:** The "Sigi Religius" and [Arakan Sahur](#) coverage serves as domestic propaganda to ensure religious alignment and social order during the high-stress Ramadan period.
- **Censorship/Omission:** There is a noticeable lack of detail on the [drug syndicate's use of technology](#), likely to prevent copycat behavior or to obscure law enforcement's inability to counter encrypted mobile apps.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Hypothesis 1: Gaza Mission Creep

Indonesia's role as Vice Commander of the ISF will lead to **greater-than-expected military engagement**. If the ceasefire fails, the 800 TNI personnel will likely face direct combat or asymmetric attacks, testing Jakarta's resolve and potentially leading to domestic backlash if casualties mount.

Hypothesis 2: Accelerated Economic Realignment

The [15% US tariff](#) will force Indonesia to **pivot trade further toward regional blocs** and potentially China, despite the maritime tensions. This will accelerate the decline of US influence in the Indonesian supply chain.

Hypothesis 3: Socio-Religious Fragmentation

The aggressive push for religious education in places like Sigi will create a **generational divide** between those integrated into the global "modernity" (internet, tech) and a local youth population focused on traditional scriptural studies, potentially leading to future labor market mismatches.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks):

Expect localized protests against the US Embassy following the [Hakabi statements](#). High alert for "Mudik" travel accidents despite AI predictions, as [train-pedestrian fatalities](#) suggest ongoing safety infrastructure gaps.

Medium Term (1-6 Months):

Successful completion of the [Serambi 2026](#) cash distribution will be used to claim economic stability. Initial TNI deployments to Gaza will dominate the news cycle, serving as a distraction from potential export slumps caused by [US tariffs](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years):

Structural decay of [coastal villages due to tidal floods](#) will force expensive, permanent relocations, potentially stressing the national budget and leading to the abandonment of traditional maritime cultures like the Bajo.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Risk of **Military Overextension in Gaza**. **Triggers:** Collapse of the Gaza ceasefire or direct attack on ISF units. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Severe political instability and potential military crisis. **Mitigations:** Strict "National Caveats" to limit engagement types.
- Risk of **Trade War Shock**. **Triggers:** Implementation of the [15% US tariff](#) on Indonesian maritime and industrial goods. **Likelihood:** Very High. **Impact:** Reduction in GDP growth and supply chain disruptions. **Mitigations:** Diversifying export markets to the EU and BRICS.

- Risk of **Domestic Environmental Collapse**. **Triggers:** Continued [pollution of the Ciujung River](#) leading to a total failure of the local aquaculture sector. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Localized famine and economic ruin for rural Banten. **Mitigations:** Immediate industrial waste auditing and river dredging.
- Risk of **Cyber-Enhanced Narcotic Syndicates**. **Triggers:** Expansion of [app-based drug monitoring](#) outstripping police cyber capabilities. **Likelihood:** High. **Impact:** Surge in addiction and related crime in urban hubs like Medan. **Mitigations:** Advanced electronic surveillance investment for Polrestabes.
- Risk of **Indigenous Culture Erasure**. **Triggers:** Closing of schools in [Bajo villages](#) due to low attendance and state standardized testing pressures. **Likelihood:** Moderate. **Impact:** Permanent loss of unique maritime knowledge and tradition. **Mitigations:** Integrating nomadic traditions into the formal curriculum.

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts fail to explain the **logistical costs** of the Gaza deployment, which are likely to be massive and have not been clearly budgeted in the public reports.
- There is a lack of information on **US retaliation** to Indonesia's joint condemnation of their ambassador, which could take the form of reduced investment or further targeted tariffs.
- The report on [Ciujung River pollution](#) mentions "industrial waste" but conspicuously avoids naming the specific companies responsible, suggesting political protection of local industries.

- The effectiveness of the [AI-driven Mudik planning](#) is taken as a given, without explaining the data sources or the margin of error, which could lead to false confidence in traffic management.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

Gaza as a Sovereign Distraction: The deployment of 800 TNI troops might not be a humanitarian mission but a **deliberate move to distract** from the failing domestic maritime economy. By focusing public attention on a foreign conflict, the government can ignore the fact that it hasn't dredged its own rivers or protected its coastlines from flooding in two decades.

The Religious Education Debt Bomb: The focus on "Kampung Mengaji" and religious character building, while socially popular, may be **undermining the 16.9 trillion rupiah tech-education investment**. If youth are spending more time on scriptural studies than on the new "interactive flat panels" mentioned by [Minister Muhti](#), the technological dividend will never materialize.

Black Swan Event: A **major volcanic eruption of Mount Semeru** combined with a failing Gaza mission could lead to a sudden collapse in government approval ratings, triggering mass civil unrest as resources are split between a foreign war and domestic disaster recovery.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Establish a **Strategic Communication Task Force** to manage the fallout of any TNI casualties in Gaza to prevent domestic religious radicalization.
- Accelerate **River Normalization projects** in Banten and Indramayu as a national security priority to prevent the collapse of rural economies.
- Coordinate with the Philippines to form a **Maritime Sovereignty Coalition** to counter both China's territorial claims and the US's erratic trade policies.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Hedge:** Diversify away from US-centric export routes to avoid the [15% tariff burden](#); focus on ASEAN and EU markets.
- **Aquaculture Risk:** Divest from aquaculture projects in Banten until industrial waste [audits are verified](#) and water quality improves.
- **Religious Market Opportunity:** Leverage the surge in [seasonal liquidity \(185.6 trillion rupiah\)](#) by focusing on halal-certified consumer goods and traditional apparel.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative and policy focus is currently centered on **asset seizure for corruption**,

infrastructure funding, and managing the legal complexities of US trade shocks.

• **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **RUU Perampasan Aset:** A bill with [8 chapters and 62 articles](#) aimed at maximizing the recovery of state losses from corruption, currently a top legislative priority.
- **US Tariff Policy (Emergency Economic Law):** Trump utilizes this law to bypass congressional hurdles for the [15% tariff](#).

• **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Sugiono Press Event:** Clarified Indonesia's refusal to provide [monetary aid to Gaza](#), opting for human resource deployment via the TNI.
- **Pelni Palu Press Event:** Announced a [30% discount](#) on ship tickets for Mudik to incentivize early travel and reduce congestion.

KEY STORIES

- **Gaza Military Deployment:** Indonesia to send [800 TNI troops](#) to Gaza in phases. Indonesia also secures the Vice Commander position in the International Stabilization Force (ISF) [to protect civilians](#).
- **US Global Tariff Hike:** President Donald Trump increases tariffs from [10% to 15%](#) using the Emergency Economic Law after the Supreme Court initially ruled his policy illegal [as a violation of the Constitution](#).
- **Greater Israel Claims:** US Ambassador Mike Hakabi sparks international outrage by claiming Israel has rights to territory from the [Nile to the Euphrates](#), leading to a joint condemnation by Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, and the OIC.

- **Bank Indonesia Liquidity Injection:** BI prepares [185.6 trillion rupiah](#) in cash across 8,755 service points for Ramadan and Eid transactions.
- **Education Revitalization:** Minister Abdul Muhti oversees a [14 trillion rupiah](#) budget to modernize 16,167 schools across Indonesia [with new technology](#).
- **Indramayu Tidal Flooding:** Floods as high as [6 meters](#) destroy homes in Indramayu, forcing the relocation of 93 families.
- **Medan Methamphetamine Bust:** Polrestaes Medan seizes [80kg of meth and 50,000 ecstasy pills from couriers monitored by syndicate bosses via the "Alfred Camera" app](#).
- **Mount Semeru Eruption:** [Semeru erupts 20 times, sending an ash column 700 meters high](#) toward the north and northeast.
- **Bajo Tribe Dropout Rates:** Torusiaji village reports high school dropout rates as children participate in ["Sake" sea wandering](#) for months at a time.
- **Ciujung River Pollution:** Industrial waste in Banten has turned the river [black and foul-smelling](#), reducing milkfish yields and causing health issues for residents.
- **Imlek National Celebration:** Indonesia celebrates Chinese New Year 2577 Kongzili at [Lapangan Banteng](#), attended by former President SBY and multiple ministers.
- **KLM Nurbalkis Search:** Search operations continue for two missing crew members after the [KLM Nurbalkis](#) (or Nurainul Balkis) sank in the Makassar Strait carrying 1,400 tons of seaweed.
- **Sigi Religius Programs:** The government in Sigi, Central Sulawesi, scales up ["Kampung Mengaji"](#) programs to provide Islamic education to youth and combat moral decay.
- **Batang Railway Accident:** Three teenagers are [killed by the Argo Merbabu train](#) while taking selfies on the tracks in Batang, Central Java.
- **Arakan Sahur Festival:** Local traditions for waking people for Sahur are turned into a [formalized festival](#) in Tanjung Jabung Barat to boost tourism and religious character.
- **Animal Welfare Campaign:** Activists in Jakarta and Medan push for [mandatory sterilization](#) and education to stop the abandonment of sick cats in urban areas.
- **Timun Suri Harvest:** Farmers in rural villages report high demand for [Timun Suri](#), with prices ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 rupiah per fruit ahead of Ramadan.
- **Philippine Island Visit:** Senator Risa Hontiveros visits [Titu Island](#) to assert Philippine sovereignty against Chinese claims in the South China Sea.

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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