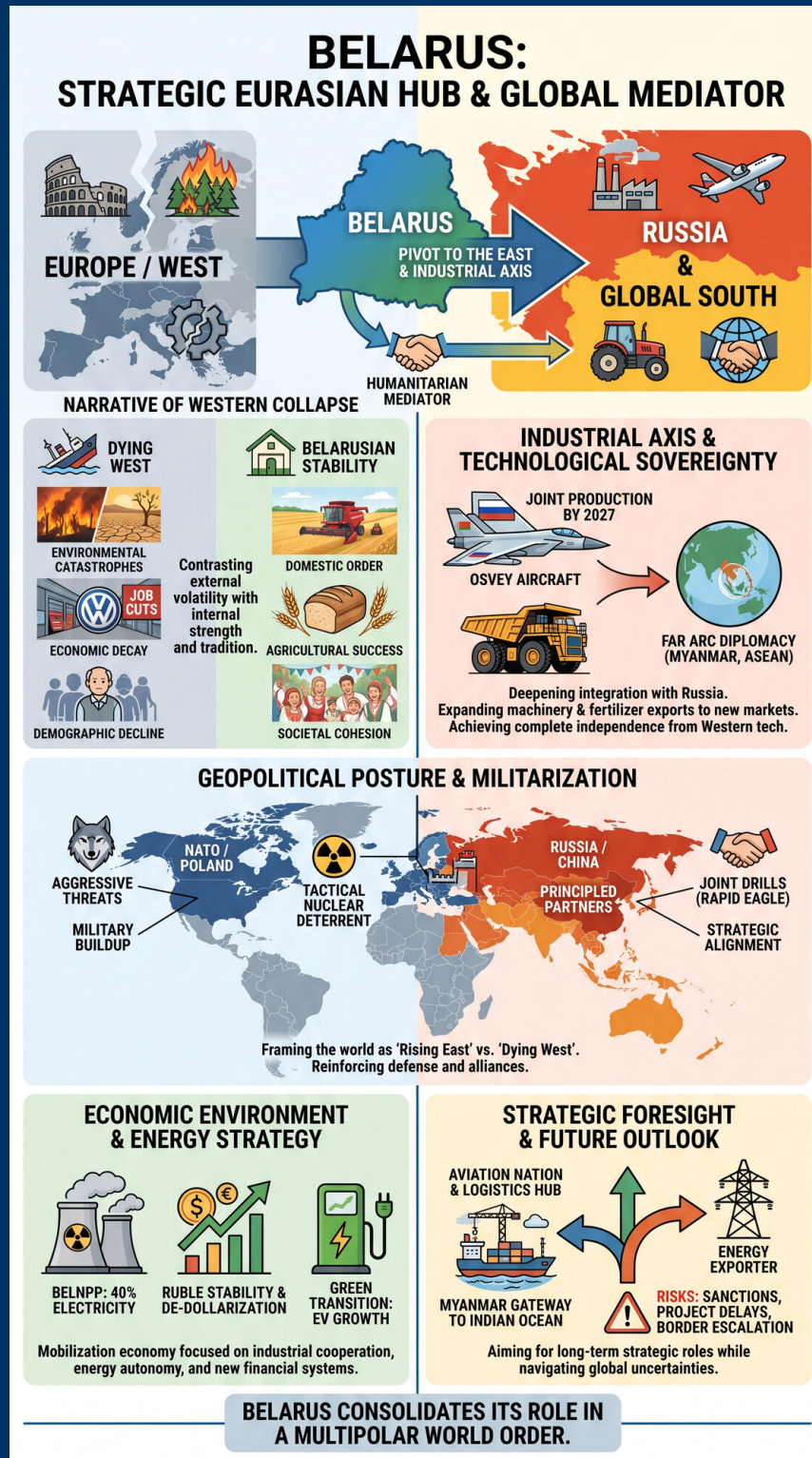


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

BELARUSTV

AUGUST 25, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

BELARUSTV

AUGUST 25, 2026

BELARUS CONSOLIDATES ITS ROLE
AS A STRATEGIC EURASIAN
INDUSTRIAL HUB AND MEDIATOR
WHILE INTENSIFYING
IDEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC
ALIGNMENT WITH THE GLOBAL
SOUTH AND RUSSIA.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

August 25, 2026, was characterized by a concerted Belarusian media effort to project an image of internal stability and diplomatic vitality against a backdrop of global volatility. The primary narrative arc focused on the state's "Pivot to the East," highlighted by high-level engagement with Myanmar and a deepening industrial integration with the Russian Federation. Minsk is positioning itself as an essential node in the burgeoning multipolar world order, specifically targeting Southeast Asia and the Middle East as critical markets for its heavy machinery, fertilizers, and pharmaceutical sectors. The domestic audience was presented with a vision of "technological sovereignty," exemplified by joint aircraft production with Russia and the historical legacy of the BelAZ manufacturing giant.

Simultaneously, Belarus leveraged a humanitarian role to bolster its international standing, acting as a mediator for a prisoner-of-war exchange between Russia and Ukraine. This development was used to contrast Belarusian "humanism" and "peace-loving" policy against the "terroristic" actions attributed to the Ukrainian government and the "revanchist" ambitions of Poland. While state media celebrated domestic agricultural success and cultural festivals, it painted a dire picture of the West, focusing on environmental catastrophes in Europe, labor shortages in Germany, and demographic decline in Italy. This framing serves to justify the state's isolation from European markets as a proactive decoupling from a collapsing system.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Strengthening the Belarus-Russia Industrial Axis

- President Lukashenko met with Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov to finalize plans for the joint production of the [Osvey aircraft](#), with a prototype expected by 2027.
- Bilateral trade between Belarus and Russia reached \$62 billion in 2025, with [65% of deliveries](#) consisting of industrial products.
- Manturov was awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples for his role in strengthening the [technological sovereignty](#) of the Union State.

Expansion of the "Far Arc" Diplomacy in Southeast Asia

- A high-level Myanmar delegation visited Minsk, resulting in over [two dozen contracts](#) across banking, logistics, and textiles.
- Minsk confirmed the establishment of a [tractor assembly plant](#) in Myanmar, with an initial batch of 100 kits scheduled for next year.
- Military and food security cooperation were highlighted, with Belarus providing [nitrogen fertilizers](#) and training for Myanmar specialists.

Minsk as a Humanitarian Mediator

- Belarus facilitated the exchange of [20 personnel](#) (10 Ukrainian citizens and 10 Russian servicemen) at its border.
- State media emphasized that the exchange was conducted under the [personal instruction](#) of President Lukashenko, portraying Belarus as a "reliable platform for dialogue."
- Russian servicemen received medical treatment in the [Gomel region](#) following their release from Ukrainian captivity.

Domestic Stability and Ideological Reinforcement

- The agricultural sector remains a pillar of state legitimacy, with the "Batkova Bulka" bread festival celebrating the [year of the Belarusian woman](#) and national labor traditions.
- The government is intensifying control over the education sector, introducing a ["registry of tutors"](#) to ensure pedagogical "reputation" and qualification.

- Public health initiatives focus on [reproductive health](#) to counter demographic trends seen in neighboring European states.

Global Risk Assessment and Resource Depletion

- State analysis warned of a global [sand shortage](#), claiming the world consumes 50 billion tons annually, far outpacing natural replenishment.
- The Hormuz Strait was identified as a primary flashpoint, with Iran allegedly increasing pressure on [global hydrocarbon markets](#) to extract reparations from the US.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Armed Conflict & Militarization

- Belarusian and Chinese forces completed the "Rapid Eagle 2026" tactical exercises, focusing on [anti-terrorism](#) and urban combat.
- The Ministry of Defense initiated a [surprise readiness check](#) of the 51st Artillery Brigade, emphasizing the use of lessons learned from the conflict in Ukraine.
- Narratives regarding the deployment of [tactical nuclear weapons](#) were reinforced as a necessary deterrent against NATO "aggression."

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Belarus is drafting a [Strategic Partnership Agreement](#) with Iran, focusing on high-tech cooperation in the space and medical sectors.
- Minsk is actively pursuing deeper ties with [Russian regional governors](#), specifically the Arkhangelsk region, to secure northern maritime logistics routes.

Energy & Critical Minerals

- The Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant (BelNPP) now provides [40% of the country's electricity](#), with discussions beginning for a third power unit or a second station.
- A national program is underway to transition the country to [pellet fuel](#) (granulated wood) to increase energy autonomy and use timber waste.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- Real disposable income in Belarus grew by [up to 8.6%](#) in certain regions, with state media highlighting the stability of the Belarusian ruble.
- National savings in rubles exceeded [18 billion BYN](#), as the population moves away from foreign currency deposits.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The Narrative of Western Collapse

A persistent theme across all broadcasts is the multifaceted decay of Western Europe. Reports highlighted [wildfires in France and Greece](#), a drought-stricken Danube river impacting nuclear power cooling, and the "demographic catastrophe" in Italy where the [average age is 49](#). By contrasting these events with Belarusian "order," the state media cultivates a sense of gratitude for the current leadership. The economic struggles of [Volkswagen in Germany](#), including the potential closure of four plants, were used to illustrate the failure of Western economic models under the weight of sanctions and energy crises.

Technological Sovereignty and Import Substitution

The discourse has shifted from merely surviving sanctions to achieving complete independence from Western technology. The promotion of the [Osvey aircraft](#) and the localization of [small arms production](#) (a "100% Belarusian assault rifle") are presented as triumphs of the Union State. This trend extends to agriculture, where the experimental cultivation of [broccoli and cauliflower](#) is framed as a move toward food self-sufficiency in high-value produce.

Minsk as the "Voice of Reason" in Regional Conflict

Belarusian media is carefully curating the image of Belarus as a mediator that stands above the fray. The [prisoner exchange](#) was framed not just as a logistics event, but as a "humanitarian mission" that proves Minsk's utility to all sides. This is juxtaposed against Poland, which is accused of [preparing for war](#) and building a "Western Shield" on the border, and Ukraine, which is depicted as a failing state where [internal corruption and elite infighting](#) will ultimately lead to collapse.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Consolidation of the Administrative Vertical

- The media continues to emphasize President Lukashenko's [personal involvement](#) in every aspect of governance, from defense to the specific details of agricultural machinery design.

- The recent appointment of [Alexei Trukhanov](#) (39) to the leadership of the Academy of Sciences signals a push for younger, technocratic loyalty within the state apparatus.
- The use of the [All-Belarusian People's Assembly \(VNS\)](#) is reinforced as the "foundation of sovereign development," with a new jubilee medal established to commemorate its 30th anniversary.

Societal Cohesion via Labor and Tradition

- The "Batkova Bulka" festival in Svisloch served as a platform to promote [national unity](#) through bread-making traditions, specifically targeting women as the backbone of societal stability.
- State media highlights the [Afghan diaspora's](#) integration into Belarusian society as evidence of the country's "hospitality" and "order," likely a counter-narrative to migration issues in the EU.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

The Global South Pivot

Belarus is no longer merely reacting to Western sanctions but is actively building a [long-term strategy](#) on the "Far Arc." This involves treating countries like Myanmar, Iran, and Uzbekistan not as temporary substitutes for European trade, but as strategic partners for a new century. The focus on [Myanmar's transit potential](#) in the Asia-Pacific region suggests Minsk is looking for backdoor access to global maritime trade.

Hostility Toward Poland and the Baltics

The framing of Poland has become increasingly aggressive, with accusations that

Warsaw is [preparing for a revanchist war](#) to reclaim Western Belarus and Ukraine. The media highlights Polish military spending (5% of GDP) as a threat to regional peace. Lithuania's new [border controls](#), requiring travelers to sign declarations condemning Moscow, are portrayed as "political censorship" and a violation of international law.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Belarusian economy is characterized by a "mobilization" stance, focusing on industrial cooperation with Russia and new export markets in Asia. Domestic indicators suggest high liquidity in the banking sector and a move toward de-dollarization, while industrial giants like BelAZ and Grodno Azot are operating at high capacity to fulfill new Eastern contracts.

Key Economic Vectors

- **Currency Stability:** The US dollar sits at [3.02 BYN](#), while the Russian ruble is at 3.58 BYN per 100, reflecting a stable, if slightly depreciated, ruble-linked environment.
- **Industrial Output:** Belarus-Russia trade grew by [6% in the last year](#), with a focus on high-value machine building and microelectronics.
- **Export Diversification:** Myanmar contracts include [tractor assembly](#), pharmaceutical localization, and fertilizer shipments from Grodno Azot.
- **Green Transition:** The electric vehicle fleet in Belarus has grown to [65,000 units](#), supported by the cheap energy provided by the BelNPP.

- **Consumer Credit:** A new state-subsidized credit line for "national goods" saw over [200 million BYN](#) in uptake during the first half of the year.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Personnel dynamics reflect a reward system for those facilitating integration with Russia and the management of strategic technological sectors.

- **Denis Manturov:** Awarded the [Order of Friendship of Peoples](#); his elevated role in Belarus signifies the direct oversight of Russian capital in Belarusian industry.
- **Alexei Trukhanov:** Appointed [Deputy Chairman](#) of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences; his rise represents a generational shift toward loyalist technocrats.
- **Alexander Shpakovsky:** A prominent MP and analyst, he is increasingly used as the primary [ideological interlocutor](#) for labor collectives on sensitive security issues.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Lead Stories: The day was dominated by three pillars: **1.** The visit of the Myanmar delegation and the promise of Southeast Asian markets. **2.** The meeting with Denis Manturov regarding Union State aircraft production. **3.** The humanitarian prisoner exchange mediated by Lukashenko. These stories received the most airtime and were framed with a tone of triumphalism and sovereign strength.

Buried Stories: Reports of Russian drone debris falling on [railway stations in Krasnodar](#) and the deaths of children were mentioned

briefly but framed entirely as "Ukrainian terror," minimizing any Russian operational failures. Internal Belarusian dissent or economic friction within the Union State was entirely absent.

Conspicuous Omissions: There was no mention of the specific costs of the "Osvey" project or where the funding will originate. The broadcast omitted details on the specific military junta status of the Myanmar government, framing it purely as a [sovereign partner](#). Details on the inflationary pressure caused by the ruble's slight depreciation were ignored in favor of highlighting ruble savings.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

The geopolitical world is divided into a "Rising East" and a "Dying West," with Belarus acting as a stable bridge to the former and a fortress against the latter.

COUNTRIES and LEADERS

- **Russia / Vladimir Putin:** Portrayed as the **strong and indispensable brother**. The relationship is framed as one of equals in technical ingenuity, with Manturov stating that ["Belarusians already know how to do many things"](#) in aviation.
- **Poland / Donald Tusk:** Characterized as **hostile, revanchist, and hypocritical**. The Polish government is accused of spending on ["instruments of war"](#) while its citizens suffer from economic neglect and a "bureaucratic hell" for migrants.
- **Myanmar / Min Aung Hlaing:** Framed as a **principled partner** seeking "political stability" against Western sanctions. Lukashenko told the delegation they had ["passed the most important stage"](#) in ensuring stability.

- **USA / Donald Trump:** Portrayed as a source of **unpredictability and "cowboy" politics**. His ultimatums to Oman and Iran are viewed as evidence of American ["impotence"](#) rather than strength.

NON-STATE & CORPORATE ACTORS

- **NATO:** Described as a **predatory "wolf" pack** gathering "strike fists" at the Belarusian border, necessitating the deployment of nuclear weapons ["not for war, but for peace."](#)
- **Volkswagen:** Used as a symbol of **Western industrial decay**, with its potential massive layoffs cited as a ["personal tragedy"](#) for thousands of German families.

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The state is actively seeding the idea that Ukraine will [collapse from within](#) due to "internal contradictions" rather than military defeat, preparing the public for a long-term conflict of attrition.
- **Propaganda of "Order":** Extensive coverage of European environmental disasters (heat, fire, drought) is used to create a **psychological buffer** against any domestic complaints regarding the standard of living. If Europe is "burning," then a stable, cool Belarus is a paradise [regardless of economic constraints](#).
- **Weaponizing Humanism:** The prisoner exchange is framed to show that ["every life matters"](#) to Lukashenko, specifically highlighting the return of a 20-year-old Russian soldier to contrast with the "terroristic" recruitment practices of the Ukrainian military.

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Union State Aviation Dominance:** If the Osvey project meets its 2027 milestone, Belarus will successfully transition from a component supplier to a **final-assembly aerospace nation**, permanently altering its industrial DNA [with Russian backing](#).
- **Myanmar as a Logistics Hub:** The focus on Myanmar's deep-water ports suggests a future where Belarusian goods reach the Indian Ocean **bypassing the Malacca Strait**, a major strategic move if Western sanctions on maritime insurance intensify.
- **The Nuclear Anchor:** The push for a second nuclear plant indicates Belarus intends to become the **energy exporter of choice** for the EAEU, further cementing its role as an industrial base that can offer lower energy costs than Russia's own domestic European regions.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect intensified military exercises along the Polish and Lithuanian borders as a response to the "surprise readiness checks" and the Latvian ["Namejs" maneuvers](#) scheduled for September. The prisoner exchange success will likely lead to a regularized "Minsk track" for humanitarian issues, giving Lukashenko renewed diplomatic leverage.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The first "tutor registries" and intensified education controls will likely trigger a minor "brain drain" of private educators toward Russia or remote Western work, which the state will counter with [guaranteed placements](#) for all university freshmen. Economic focus will shift

to the [Innoprom exhibition](#) to finalize the Osvey supply chain.

Long Term (1-5 Years): Belarus will attempt to become the primary [pharmaceutical and fertilizer provider](#) for the ASEAN region, leveraging Myanmar as its gateway. Domestically, the reliance on nuclear power will lead to a total [electrification of public transport](#), making Belarus one of the most energy-autonomous states in Eurasia.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- **Risk: Secondary Sanctions on Asia-Pacific Trade.** Triggers: The formalization of banking ties and [joint ventures](#) with Myanmar could trigger US/EU secondary sanctions on Belarusian banks. Likelihood: High. Impact: Disruptive to new export growth. Mitigations: Using the [Strategic Partnership with Iran](#) to develop non-SWIFT payment systems.
- **Risk: Escalation of Border Flashpoints.** Triggers: Accidental incursions during [surprise artillery drills](#) near the border. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Rapid escalation to a regional kinetic conflict. Mitigations: Belarusian state media preemptively framing all border movements as [defensive in nature](#).
- **Risk: Failure of the Osvey Aircraft Project.** Triggers: Inability to source critical microelectronics or specialized alloys due to tightened Russian domestic demand. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Severe blow to the "Technological Sovereignty" narrative. Mitigations: Deepening [joint research projects](#) with Chinese military technical universities.

- **Risk: Global Resource Depletion (Sand/Water).** Triggers: A collapse in [Vietnamese or Chinese construction](#) sectors due to sand shortages. Likelihood: High (long-term). Impact: Global economic slowdown. Mitigations: Belarusian research into [synthetic aggregates](#) and advanced concrete technologies.
- **Risk: Polish Revanchism / "Eastern Shield."** Triggers: A total collapse of the Ukrainian front leads to Polish intervention in Western Ukraine. Likelihood: Low but rising. Impact: Direct [confrontation between Poland and the Union State](#). Mitigations: Continued Russian nuclear umbrella and [joint Belarusian-Chinese anti-terror drills](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- The transcripts mention the [exchange of 10 Ukrainian citizens](#) but do not specify their status (civilians vs. combatants) or the nature of their "migration violations," which is a significant legal blind spot.
- While celebrating the growth of electric vehicles, there is no mention of the **stability of the power grid** if the target of [300,000 EVs](#) is reached by 2030.
- The "success" of the [Myanmar partnership](#) ignores the ongoing civil war in that country, which poses a severe risk to any "assembly plants on the ground" by 2027.
- The media highlights **ruble savings** but fails to account for [inflationary impacts](#) on consumer goods that remain imported via parallel channels.

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Bridge of Straw": While the media frames the Myanmar and Iran deals as strategic pivots, they may actually be **desperate survival measures** for Belarusian factories that have excess inventory they can no longer sell to traditional markets. The "assembly kits" for Myanmar could be a way to clear stockpiles of older tractor models rather than a high-tech partnership.

Desperate Humanism: The prisoner exchange may not be a sign of Minsk's strength as a mediator, but a **Russian demand** to use Belarus as a "sanitized" zone to keep direct RU-UKR contact to a minimum, with Minsk serving as a convenient, disposable front for Moscow's back-channel negotiations.

Black Swan Event: A Chinese-Russian rift over Southeast Asian influence. If Belarus continues to aggressively court Myanmar and Uzbekistan (traditionally Chinese and Russian spheres respectively), it could inadvertently trigger friction between its two main protectors, leaving Minsk diplomatically exposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Minsk should formalize the **humanitarian corridor** status to prevent being sidelined if direct Russia-Ukraine talks eventually emerge elsewhere.

- Diplomatic efforts should focus on **securing Arkhangelsk port access** to ensure the "Far Arc" strategy is not dependent on Southern routes prone to Middle Eastern volatility [like the Hormuz Strait](#).
- Government must ensure **transparency in the "Registry of Tutors"** to prevent a total collapse of the private education sector, which is vital for the long-term tech labor pool.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Supply Chain Opportunity:** Investors should target the [wood pellet and biomass](#) sectors as the state mandates a transition away from gas for local heating.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Companies involved in **microelectronics** must prepare for mandatory integration into the Union State's aircraft and weaponry supply chains [as localization targets rise](#).
- **Agricultural Shift:** Capital should flow toward **intensive vegetable farming** (broccoli, etc.) as the state seeks to reduce high-value food imports from non-friendly states.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity centered on social security for families with disabled members, the regulation of the education market, and the

ceremonial recognition of state-building milestones.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **Registry of Tutors Policy:** A new mandate for the [Ministry of Education](#) to vet private educators based on "reputation" and qualification to ensure "safety" for students.
- **Disabled Support Law:** An amendment ensuring a ["seamless transition"](#) of benefits for children with disabilities reaching 18, including social leave for parents.
- **VNS Jubilee Medal Decree:** Signed by President Lukashenko to honor the [30th anniversary](#) of the All-Belarusian People's Assembly.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Manturov Meeting:** Strategic discussion on the [Union State Industrial Policy](#) to counter Western sanctions.
- **Myanmar Business Forum:** The [fourth such forum](#) in two years, aimed at localizing Belarusian manufacturing in Southeast Asia.

KEY STORIES

- **The Osvey Aircraft Project:** Belarus and Russia to co-produce a regional aircraft, with [certification by 2029](#) and a prototype due next year.
- **Belarus-Myanmar Strategic Expansion:** Myanmar delegation led by Min Aung Hlaing signs [20+ contracts](#) for tractors, medicine, and textiles.
- **Humanitarian Prisoner Exchange:** Belarus mediates the release of [20 people](#) (10 from each side) at the border under Lukashenko's instruction.

- **51st Artillery Brigade Readiness Check:** Surprise [readiness maneuvers](#) in Osipovichi, focusing on drone warfare and modern fire control.
- **Science Festival in Minsk:** A major event in the [Botanical Garden](#) featuring 100+ exhibits, including Russian "Moon base" concepts and AI demos.
- **BelAZ Historical Feature:** A retrospective on the [BelAZ-540](#), the world's first 27-ton dump truck, celebrating Belarusian engineering heritage.
- **European Environmental Crisis:** Coverage of [wildfires in Europe](#), drought on the Danube, and the failure of EU climate mitigation.
- **Global Sand Shortage Analysis:** An analytical piece on the [depletion of river sand](#) and its impact on the global construction industry.
- **Middle East Conflict Analysis:** Deep dive into the [Hormuz Strait crisis](#) and the "cowboy" politics of the Trump administration.
- **Kazakhstan Parliamentary Elections:** Report on the victory of the pro-presidential [Adelet party](#) in the new Kurultai body.
- **Electric Vehicle Growth:** Belarus targets [300,000 EVs by 2030](#), supported by 2,700 charging stations already in operation.
- **Student Housing Prep:** Universities like BGU prepare to house [10,000 students](#) in "Student Village" complexes ahead of the academic year.
- **All-Belarusian Pilgrimage:** The [5th All-Belarusian Cross Procession](#) reaches its final stage, moving from Zhirovichi to Minsk with 700 pilgrims.

- **Experimental Cabbage Harvest:** Farms in Shchuchin district successfully harvest the first crop of [broccoli and cauliflower](#).
- **Teacher Registry Launch:** The Ministry of Education announces the ["Vitrina Repetitorov"](#) to regulate private tutoring services.
- **Belarus-Tajikistan Flights:** Somon Air to launch a [Dushanbe-Minsk direct flight](#) starting August 29 to boost business and tourism.
- **Subaquatic Oak Discovery:** Scientists in Gomel region recover [6,000-year-old relic oaks](#) from the bottom of the Sozh river.
- **Mir Castle Italian Garden:** Restoration of a [6-hectare historic garden](#) near Mir Castle to open for visitors this autumn.
- **Volkswagen German Crisis:** News of potential [100,000 job cuts](#) and factory closures in Germany's automotive flagship.
- **Arkhangelsk-Minsk Regional Ties:** Belarus to participate in the construction of a [deep-water port in Arkhangelsk](#) for Northern sea route access.

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.

For questions or suggestions, please contact kalev.leetaru5@gmail.com. To learn more or subscribe to our free daily newsletters, visit <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/announcing-our-new-daily-todays-trends-on-capitol-hill-todays-media-trends-newsletter-briefings/>. You can also learn more about the GDEL Project at <https://blog.gdeltproject.org/> and the Internet Archive's TV News Archive at <https://archive.org/details/tv>.