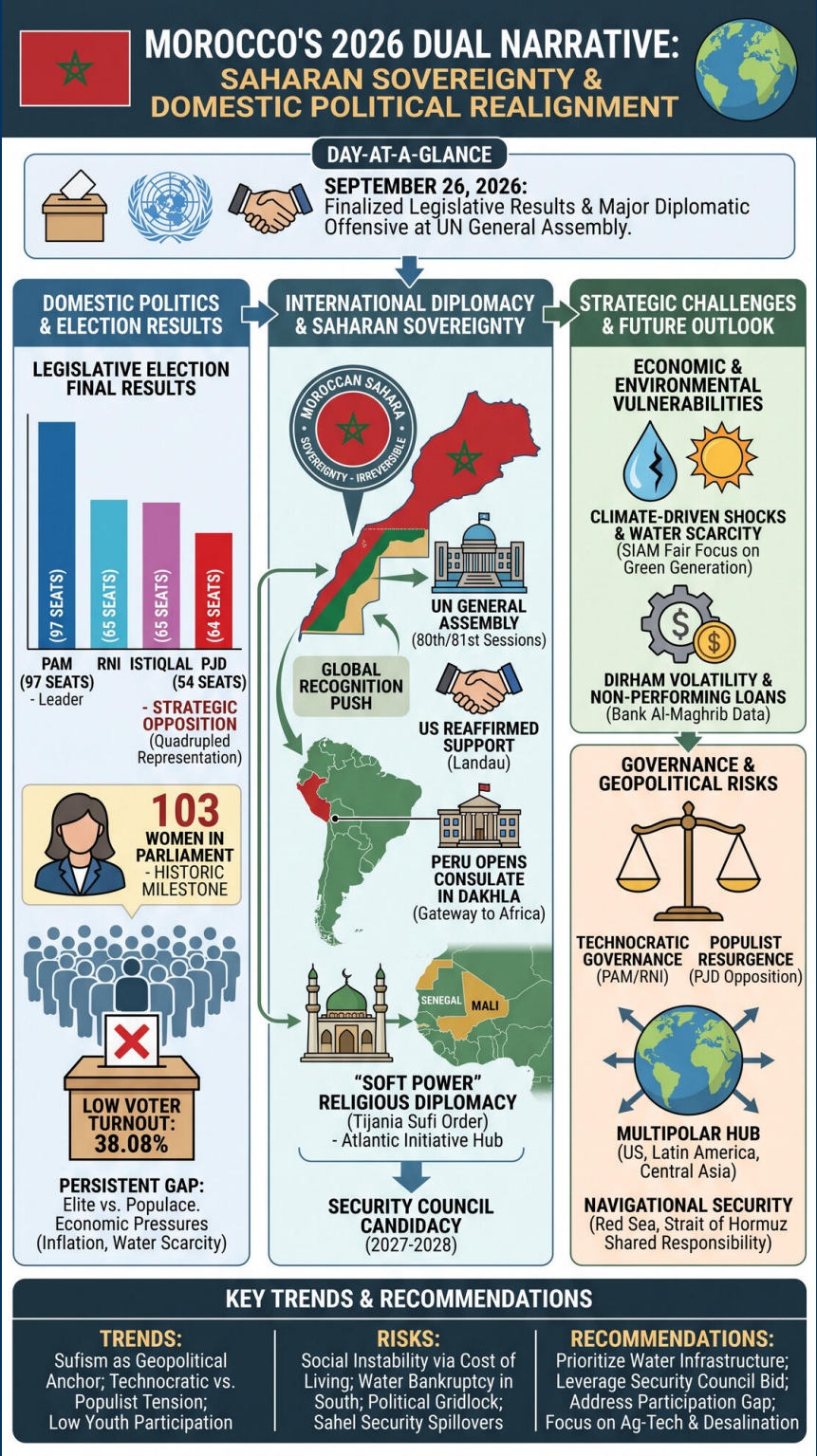


TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

ALMAGHRIBIA

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

THE GDELT PROJECT



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ALMAGHRIBIA

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

MOROCCO CONSOLIDATES ITS
SAHARAN SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS
THROUGH A MAJOR UN
DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE WHILE
FACING A FRAGMENTED DOMESTIC
POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOLLOWING
THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

September 26, 2026, was characterized by a heavy state-driven narrative focusing on two pillars: the finalization of the September 23rd legislative election results and a broad diplomatic blitz at the United Nations General Assembly. Domestically, the Ministry of Interior confirmed the victory of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM), which secured 97 seats, followed by the National Rally of Independents (RNI) and Istiqlal. A significant development is the resurgence of the Justice and Development Party (PJD), which quadrupled its representation to 54 seats but strategically opted for the opposition, signaling a potential period of parliamentary friction. Despite the celebration of 103 women entering parliament, a historically low voter turnout of 38% suggests a persistent gap between the

political elite and a populace grappling with economic pressures like inflation and water scarcity.

On the international stage, Rabat is leveraging the 80th and 81st sessions of the UN General Assembly to finalize global recognition of its sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara. High-level reaffirmed support from the United States, alongside Peru's decision to open a consulate in Dakhla, represents a significant shift in Latin American and Western posturing. This is coupled with a "soft power" push highlighting Morocco's religious influence through Sufi orders (Tijania) in West Africa, positioning the Kingdom as a spiritual and economic hub for the "Atlantic Initiative" aimed at Sahelian states. However, the domestic focus on agricultural sovereignty at the SIAM trade fair underscores the underlying vulnerability of the Moroccan economy to climate-driven shocks.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Legislative Election Finalization and Coalition Maneuvering

- The Ministry of Interior confirmed final results for the September 23, 2026, elections, showing [PAM leading with 97 seats](#), followed by RNI (66) and Istiqlal (65).
- The PJD made a significant comeback, increasing its seat count from [13 to 54 seats](#), but the party's leadership under Abdelilah Benkirane has formally announced it will lead the "national opposition."
- A record [103 women](#) obtained seats in the new parliament, a milestone highlighted as a redefinition of the Kingdom's political map.

- Negotiations for a majority government require reaching the [198-seat threshold](#), with analysts suggesting a likely renewal of the previous coalition but with new internal power dynamics.

US and Latin American Diplomatic Breakthroughs

- U.S. Sub-Secretary of State Christopher Landau reaffirmed Washington's [commitment to Moroccan sovereignty](#) over the Sahara and the development of the region.
- Peru announced the [opening of a consulate in Dakhla](#), viewing the city as a strategic gateway for Latin American products into African markets.
- Morocco is actively campaigning for [non-permanent membership](#) in the UN Security Council for the 2027-2028 term.

Strategic Resource Management and Agricultural Policy

- The International Agricultural Fair (SIAM) in Meknes highlighted the "Green Generation" strategy, focusing on [food sovereignty](#) and climate resilience.
- Research initiatives at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University are prioritizing [saline-resistant crops](#) and sustainable irrigation to combat recurring droughts in the south.
- Regional water and energy projects in Africa were central to discussions at the Asilah cultural [موسم](#), linking [strategic projects to African development](#) goals for 2030.

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Leadership Dynamics & Governance

- The confirmation of the election results moves the focus to King Mohammed VI's appointment of a [Head of Government](#) from the winning party (PAM).
- The PJD's decision to join the opposition is framed as a strategy to [rebuild the party](#) away from the "wear and tear of power."

Diplomacy & Statecraft

- Morocco conducted a "diplomatic marathon" at the UN, meeting with ministers from [Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados](#), and South Sudan to consolidate support for its territorial integrity.
- Relations with Spain remain anchored in the [April 2022 declaration](#), though tensions persist regarding the repatriation of irregular migrants and minors.

Climate & Extreme Weather

- Domestically, the government is accelerating the [energy transition](#) and water desalination projects to stabilize the agricultural sector.
- The "North-Easter" storm in the United States, causing [flight cancellations and flooding](#) in New York, was noted as a significant international weather disruption.

Macroeconomics & Trade

- The Dirham showed [volatility against major currencies](#), rising against the Euro but falling against the US Dollar due to global energy market shifts.

- The fishing sector in Laayoune reported a [36% increase in volume](#), reaching a market value of 1.35 billion Dirhams.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The "Spiritual Bridge": Sufism as Geopolitical Anchor

Morocco is increasingly weaponizing its religious history, specifically the Tijania Sufi order, to maintain deep ties with West African elites. By positioning Fez as the **spiritual capital** for millions of Senegalese and Malians, Rabat creates a layer of "human security" that transcends political regimes. This [religious diplomacy](#) serves as a buffer against extremist ideologies and a foundation for the King's "Atlantic Initiative," which seeks to grant landlocked Sahelian states access to the ocean.

Technocratic Governance vs. Populist Resurgence

The election results display a tension between the technocratic efficiency of parties like PAM/RNI and the populist recovery of the PJD. While the state emphasizes the inclusion of [103 women](#) and successful technical management of elections, the PJD's decision to lead the [national opposition](#) suggests that the next government will face heightened scrutiny on social issues and the "high cost of living," which the PJD intends to exploit to regain its 2011-era dominance.

INTERNAL DYNAMICS & DOMESTIC INSTABILITY

Political Legitimacy and Participation

- The national voter turnout of [38.08%](#) is a sharp decline from the 50.35% seen in 2021, indicating a growing detachment of the youth and urban populations from the electoral process.
- In contrast, the **Southern Provinces** (Laayoune, Dakhla) saw exceptionally high turnout, reaching [77%](#), which state media characterizes as a popular referendum on Moroccan identity in the Sahara.

Social Pressures and Public Services

- Public demands are centered on [job creation and education](#), with unemployment remaining a critical pressure point despite GDP growth targets.
- Health governance is pivoting toward [supportive care for cancer](#), acknowledging the need for higher quality of life in public health outcomes beyond basic treatment.

EXTERNAL DYNAMICS & GLOBAL POSTURE

Morocco as a Multipolar Hub

The broadcasting highlights Morocco's strategy of diversifying alliances. While the U.S. remains the primary security guarantor for the Sahara, Morocco is courting **Latin American** states (Peru, Chile, Bolivia) and **Central Asian/Eastern European** interests (Armenia). The framing of the [Atlantic Initiative](#) as a global logistical solution portrays Morocco not just as a regional power, but as a critical link in the global supply chain, particularly for energy and fertilizers.

Navigational Security in Global Trade

Rabat is closely monitoring the [Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab](#), acknowledging that its own economic security depends on global maritime stability. The broadcast frames the protection of these corridors as a "shared responsibility," aligning Morocco with GCC and Western interests in maintaining open trade routes amidst the Yemeni and Russo-Ukrainian conflicts.

THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Moroccan economy is navigating a period of currency adjustment and sector-specific growth. Bank Al-Maghrib reports a stable but high level of **non-performing loans**, particularly among private companies, which may constrain future credit expansion.

- **Currency:** The Dirham rose [0.2% against the Euro](#) but fell 0.6% against the Dollar in the July-August 2026 window.
- **Debt:** Non-performing loans reached [8.1% of total bank loans](#); specifically, a 1.6% rise for private firms and 6% for households.
- **Global Outlook:** The OECD raised its [global growth forecast to 2.9%](#) for the current year, citing AI investments and energy price stabilization.
- **Agriculture:** The SIAM fair emphasized the [Green Generation strategy](#), aiming to build a food-sovereign model by 2030.
- **Energy Costs:** Fuel prices reaching [15 Dirhams per liter](#) remain a significant domestic concern and a driver for the energy transition.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The electoral shift has reordered the political hierarchy, favoring technocratic conservatives

while signaling a generational handover in the media and opposition sectors.

- **PAM (Authenticity and Modernity Party):** Emerging as the primary victor, the party's collective leadership is now the [main candidate to form the government](#).
- **Abdelilah Benkirane (PJD):** Retains control over the PJD, choosing to position it as the [sole coherent opposition voice](#) to the incoming coalition.
- **Hamid Berrada:** The death of this prominent journalist at age 87 marks the end of an era for [Franco-Maghrebian political analysis](#).
- **Christopher Landau:** Re-emerging in a high-level U.S. State Department role (Sub-Secretary), signaling a [continuity of Trump-era pro-Morocco policies](#) in the current U.S. administration.

EDITORIAL POSTURE & STORY HIERARCHY

Almaghribia's editorial stance is overtly nationalistic, prioritizing diplomatic "victories" at the UN and the successful execution of elections. The **Lead Stories** throughout the day were consistently the U.S. reaffirmation of Saharan sovereignty and the final election seat counts. The network emotional tone is one of stability and "historical milestones." However, **Buried Stories** include the specifics of the 38% voter turnout—which is mentioned but not interrogated for its roots in social discontent. **Conspicuous Omissions** include any detailed reporting on the ongoing cost-of-living protests or the specifics of the maritime security risks in the Red Sea, which are only mentioned in the context of Saudi statements at the UN.

GEOPOLITICAL FRAMING

Morocco is portrayed as the stable center of a turbulent region, a "model" of religious tolerance and diplomatic pragmatism.

COUNTRIES

- **United States:** Framed as a **steadfast, centennial ally** whose recognition of the Sahara is "irreversible" and increasingly focused on economic implementation. "We reaffirm the centennial friendship... for greater cooperation under Moroccan sovereignty" ([Landau](#)).
- **Peru:** Portrayed as a **pragmatic convert** to Moroccan interests, abandoning "separatist" support in favor of economic access to Africa ([Al-Ghali](#)).
- **Spain:** Framed as a **necessary but difficult partner**. The broadcast emphasizes that delays in migrant repatriation are due to "Spanish internal debates and obstacles," not Moroccan will ([Bourita](#)).
- **Senegal and Mali:** Depicted as **spiritual satellites** whose relationship with Morocco is defined by deep-rooted Sufi ties and shared religious moderation ([Tijania features](#)).

LEADERS

- **King Mohammed VI:** Framed as the **visionary architect** of both domestic development (Green Generation) and international strategy (Atlantic Initiative) ([African diaspora perspective](#)).
- **Nasser Bourita:** Portrayed as a **hyper-competent diplomat** managing dozens of bilateral files simultaneously to secure the "National Cause" ([UNGA coverage](#)).

INFORMATION WARFARE ENVIRONMENT

- **Narrative Seeding:** The broadcast repeatedly uses the term **"fictitious conflict"** to describe the Sahara issue, aiming to delegitimize any counter-claims as historical anomalies that are now being corrected by global powers ([Bourita's summary](#)).
- **Domestic Messaging:** The focus on the "103 women" in parliament is used as a **shield against criticism** of the low voter turnout, framing the election as a qualitative victory for progressivism even if quantitative participation was low ([Election special](#)).
- **Soft Power Projection:** Extensive coverage of the Tijania order in Senegal and Mali serves to **legitimize Moroccan influence** in West Africa as something "organic" rather than imperialistic ([Sufism documentary](#)).

HYPOTHESES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- **Coalition Formation:** A new government will likely be formed within 4 weeks, led by PAM, but the PJD's presence in the opposition will force the government to adopt more populist economic measures to maintain social peace.
- **Diplomatic Expansion:** Morocco will likely secure at least two more Latin American or African consulates in the Sahara by the end of 2026, further isolating the Polisario Front.

- **Resource Scarcity:** If winter rains fail, the "Green Generation" strategy will face its first major test, potentially leading to increased state subsidies for desalination and grain imports to prevent rural unrest.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Intense horse-trading between PAM, RNI, and Istiqlal will occur. Expect the announcement of a "broad majority" coalition that excludes the PJD but includes smaller parties like USFP to ensure the 198-seat threshold is comfortably met ([Constitutional analysis](#)).

Medium Term (1-6 Months): Morocco will use its UNGA momentum to push for a favorable UN Security Council resolution in October. Domestic policy will shift toward **inflation control** as the 15-Dirham fuel price becomes the primary political target for the PJD opposition ([Consumer advocacy focus](#)).

Long Term (1-5 Years): The "Atlantic Initiative" will transform Dakhla into a regional hub, but this will require massive infrastructure investment and could heighten tensions with regional rivals if the Sahelian states pivot too sharply toward Rabat's orbit ([Geopolitical analysis](#)).

RISK ASSESSMENT

The primary risks to the Kingdom involve a decoupling of diplomatic success from

domestic economic reality, which could be exploited by a resurgent religious opposition.

- **Social Instability via Cost of Living:** Rising energy and food prices could trigger urban unrest. Triggers: Fuel prices exceeding 18 MAD/liter or further crop failure. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High. Mitigations: Targeted subsidies and acceleration of the social protection program.
- **Water Bankruptcy in Southern Agriculture:** Recurring drought could collapse the "Green Generation" goals. Triggers: A third consecutive year of below-average rainfall. Likelihood: High. Impact: Extreme. Mitigations: Massive investment in [desalination and solar-powered irrigation](#).
- **Political Gridlock:** A fragmented parliament could delay critical reforms. Triggers: Failure of PAM to secure a stable coalition with RNI/Istiqlal. Likelihood: Low. Impact: Moderate. Mitigations: Direct intervention by the Monarchy to facilitate consensus.
- **Regional Security Spillovers:** Instability in Mali or Niger could disrupt the Atlantic Initiative. Triggers: Further coups or major terrorist offensives in the Sahel. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: High. Mitigations: Enhanced [intelligence sharing and religious soft power](#).
- **International Debt Pressure:** Rising non-performing loans could lead to a banking sector squeeze. Triggers: Global interest rate hikes or a drop in phosphate prices. Likelihood: Moderate. Impact: Moderate. Mitigations: Central bank intervention and [tighter fiscal policy](#).

GAPS & BLIND SPOTS

- **Voter Apathy Context:** The broadcast fails to analyze **why** 62% of the electorate stayed home, leaving a major blind spot regarding the depth of popular frustration with the current political class.
- **Sahel Military Realities:** While the "Atlantic Initiative" is praised, there is no mention of the **security risks** for Moroccan infrastructure in regions currently plagued by jihadist activity.
- **PJD-PAM Animosity:** The history of ideological conflict between the winning PAM and the PJD is minimized, ignoring the potential for **polarized legislative gridlock**.
- **Spanish Tensions:** The report frames Spanish delays on migration as purely internal "obstacles," ignoring potential Moroccan **cooperation lapses** or bilateral leverage tactics ([Bourita's framing](#)).

CONTRARIAN NARRATIVE SCENARIOS

The "Illusion of Sovereignty": While the US and Peru offer diplomatic wins, a contrarian view suggests these are symbolic gestures that do not resolve the ground-level military stalemate. A "Black Swan" event would be a sudden U.S. policy reversal under a new administration or a major escalation by regional actors that forces a UN peacekeeping rethink, potentially trapping Morocco in a permanent "development" sinkhole in the south.

The PJD "Trojan Horse": The PJD's retreat into opposition may not be a sign of weakness but a calculated move to let the PAM-led coalition bear the brunt of the coming economic crisis. By remaining untainted by

the next four years of potential austerity, the PJD could position itself for a landslide in 2030, effectively ending the current technocratic era.

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For Statecraft/Public Sector:

- Prioritize **water security infrastructure** as a national security emergency to ensure the "Green Generation" strategy remains viable despite climate volatility.
- Leverage the **Security Council candidacy** to position Morocco as the bridge between the Global South and the West, particularly on food security and counter-terrorism.
- Address the **participation gap** by reforming local governance to reconnect with the 62% of non-voters before the 2030 cycle.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- Focus on **Ag-Tech and Desalination** sectors, which are receiving prioritized state funding and research support ([SIAM Fair findings](#)).
- Monitor **Dakhla's logistical expansion** as a long-term opportunity for Atlantic-bound trade, particularly for Latin American firms seeking African entry.
- Prepare for **currency volatility** as the Dirham continues to be influenced by Euro-Dollar fluctuations and energy import costs.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

The period following September 23, 2026, is dominated by the administrative and legal certification of the new parliament. The

Ministry of Interior has concluded the formal tallying process, passing the mandate to the **Constitutional Court** for final validation of seat allocations and any subsequent appeals.

- **BILLS/POLICIES DISCUSSED:**

- **Organic Law on the House of Representatives:** Article 96 was invoked to allow candidates to [review vote tallies](#) and file appeals within 8 days.
- **Article 47 & 88 of the Constitution:** Discussions focused on the legal requirements for [forming a government](#) and securing a vote of confidence based on a specific program.
- **April 2022 Joint Declaration:** Remains the binding [treaty-level framework](#) for all Morocco-Spain relations, covering migration and territorial waters.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Ministry of Interior Statement:** Confirmed that final regional and provincial [countings perfectly match](#) provisional results.
- **UNGA Bilateral Marathon:** Nasser Bourita held meetings with over [a dozen foreign ministers](#) to secure Sahara support.
- **SIAM Press Conference:** Highlighted the success of the [40 intellectual and artistic symposiums](#) held during the agricultural fair.

KEY STORIES

- **Official Confirmation of 2026 Election Results:** PAM wins 97 seats, RNI 66, Istiqlal 65, and PJD 54. The process is now in the [appeals and coalition phase](#).

- **U.S. Reaffirmation of Sahara Sovereignty:** Christopher Landau reiterates Washington's support for [Moroccan sovereignty](#) at the UN in New York.
- **Peru Consulate in Dakhla:** Peru announces plan to open a [consular mission](#) in the southern provinces to boost trade.
- **PJD Strategic Opposition:** Benkirane's party [opts for opposition](#) despite winning 54 seats, aiming to strengthen its influence outside the government.
- **Women in Parliament Milestone:** Record [103 women](#) win seats in the legislative body.
- **Morocco-Spain Relations Update:** Bourita confirms the [April 2022 principles](#) remain the basis for cooperation, despite migration-related hurdles.
- **International Agriculture Fair (SIAM):** Focus on [food sovereignty](#) and the Green Generation 2020-2030 strategy.
- **Sufi Religious Diplomacy:** Features on the [Tijania and Muridiya](#) orders in Senegal and Mali and their historical ties to Fez.
- **Bank Al-Maghrib Economic Report:** Data shows [Dirham volatility](#) and a rise in household debt.
- **Fishing Sector Growth:** Laayoune port reports a [36% increase](#) in fish landings.
- **OECD Global Growth Forecast:** Global growth estimated at [2.9%](#) for 2026.
- **Historical Museum of Casablanca:** Feature on the [Villa Carl Fieg](#) and its transformation into a memory museum.
- **Aleppo Market Restoration:** Syrian efforts to rebuild the [historical markets](#) of Aleppo after years of war.

- **Obituary: Hamid Berrada:** Tributes to the [veteran journalist](#) who passed away at 87.
- **AFCON 2027 Qualifiers:** Morocco defeats [Gabon 2-0](#) in their opening match.
- **Asilah Cultural Season:** Symposiums on [water and energy challenges](#) in Africa.
- **Childhood Education Initiative:** Ministry of Education promotes [free early childhood schooling](#) across the Kingdom.
- **Jebel Ayachi Exploration:** Geographic and tourist feature on the [Midelt region and Jebel Ayachi](#) mountain range.
- **U.S. Weather Crisis:** The "North-Easter" storm causes [mass flight cancellations](#) in the US Northeast.
- **Harmonica Craftsmanship:** Feature on the [100-year history](#) of artisanal harmonica making.

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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