

# TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

## METROTV

MARCH 3, 2026

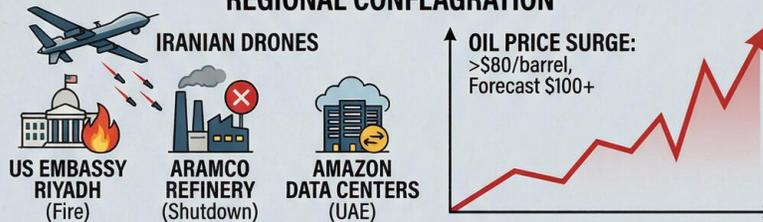
T H E G D E L T P R O J E C T

### GLOBAL CRISIS: KHAMENEI ASSASSINATION & HORMUZ CLOSURE

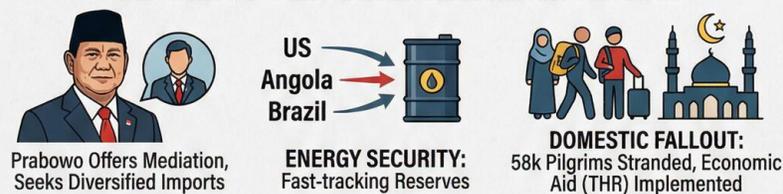
Escalation, Energy Shock, and the Fight for Regional Stability (Feb 2026)



#### REGIONAL CONFLAGRATION



#### INDONESIAN RESPONSE & MEDIATION EFFORTS



#### KEY TRENDS & THEMES

**END OF STRATEGIC AMBIGUITY**  
(Direct Conflict, No Inhibitors)

**RAMADAN AS CONFLICT VARIABLE**  
(Ideological Mobilization)

**ECONOMIC "BUTTERFLY EFFECT"**  
(Global Shocks, Local Price Sensitivities)

#### STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & IMPLICATIONS

**SHORT TERM**  
(1-4 Weeks):

Extreme Market Volatility, US War Powers Vote Crisis, Logistical Logjams

**MEDIUM TERM**  
(1-6 Months):

Hardline Iranian Succession, Supply Chain Breakdowns, Potential Fuel Price Hikes

**LONG TERM**  
(1-5 Years):

Fractured Security Architecture, US Influence Wanes, Catalyst for Energy Sovereignty

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**  
**POLICY:** Establish Neutral Channels, Protect Non-Gulf Lanes.

**PRIVATE SECTOR:** Hedge Supply Chains, Audit Cybersecurity, Brace for High Commodity Prices.

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GLOBAL ENERGY MARKETS AND REGIONAL STABILITY FACE AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER AND THE SUBSEQUENT CLOSURE OF THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ.

## DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

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The Middle East has descended into a state of open, high-intensity warfare following a joint United States and Israeli strike on February 28, 2026, that killed Iranian Supreme Leader [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](#). Iran has responded by initiating a formal succession process, naming Ayatollah Ali Reza Arafī to an interim leadership council, while simultaneously launching a massive "Operation True Promise 4." This military retaliation includes hypersonic missile strikes against US and Israeli targets and the [closure of the Strait of Hormuz](#), a move that has immediately paralyzed 20% of the world's oil supply and sent global energy markets into a tailspin.

The conflict has rapidly expanded into a regional conflagration. Iranian-linked drones and missiles have targeted US diplomatic facilities in Riyadh and Kuwait, as well as

critical energy infrastructure including the [Saudi Aramco refinery](#) in Ras Tanura. Global aviation is in chaos, with major hubs in Dubai, Doha, and Abu Dhabi closing their airspace, stranding tens of thousands of travelers and pilgrims. Domestically, Indonesia is bracing for the economic fallout, with the government monitoring a [20-day fuel reserve](#) while President Prabowo Subianto attempts to position himself as a primary mediator between the warring blocs.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

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- **Assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian Succession**
  - Confirmation of the death of the Iranian Supreme Leader in a US-Israeli strike has triggered a [formal succession process](#) via the Assembly of Experts.
  - Interim leadership has been established under Ayatollah Ali Reza Arafī, while names like Mojtaba Khamenei are [circulating as permanent successors](#).
  - Civilian casualties in Iran are mounting, with 165 reported dead in an [airstrike on a girls' school](#) in Minab.
- **Total Blockade of the Strait of Hormuz**
  - The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has [officially closed the strait](#), warning that no tankers will be permitted to pass.
  - An initial enforcement action involved the [sinking of a Palau-flagged tanker](#) that allegedly ignored Iranian radio warnings.
  - Global oil prices have spiked past \$80/barrel, with analysts forecasting a surge [above \\$100 per barrel](#) if the blockade persists.

### • **Regional Infrastructure and Diplomatic Facilities Under Attack**

- US Embassies in [Riyadh and Kuwait](#) were targeted by drone strikes; the Riyadh embassy reported a large fire and subsequent temporary closure.
- Iranian drones successfully struck the [Aramco refinery in Ras Tanura](#), forcing a shutdown of the 550,000 barrel-per-day facility.
- Data centers owned by Amazon in the [United Arab Emirates](#) were hit in retaliatory strikes targeting Western interests.

### • **Indonesian Mediation and Crisis Management**

- President Prabowo Subianto has offered to fly to Tehran to [mediate the conflict](#), leveraging Indonesia's non-aligned status and personal ties with Donald Trump.
- The Ministry of Energy (ESDM) is [diversifying oil imports](#) away from the Middle East toward the US, Angola, and Brazil to mitigate supply chain disruptions.
- Over 58,000 Indonesian Umrah pilgrims are currently [stranded or delayed](#) due to regional airspace closures.

## **KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS**

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**Energy Security** The closure of the Strait of Hormuz represents a "red line" event for global energy stability. Minister Bahlil Lahadalia confirmed that while Indonesia's [national fuel stocks](#) are currently above the 21-day minimum, the government is fast-tracking the construction of storage facilities to reach a [three-month reserve capacity](#). The state is actively calculating the fiscal impact

of a potential \$100+ oil price on [energy subsidies and the APBN](#).

**Geopolitical Power Dynamics** The conflict is reshaping global alliances. While the US and Israel are acting in a coordinated front, there are signs of [covert Russian and Chinese support](#) for Iran. Reports indicate high-level Iranian defense officials visited Moscow [two months prior](#) to the outbreak of hostilities, and Iran is reportedly utilizing "Shahed" drones to strike regional targets. Donald Trump has claimed he "forced Israel's hand" to [prevent a pre-emptive strike](#) by Iran.

**Diplomatic Engagement** Indonesia is attempting a high-wire diplomatic act. While President Prabowo offers mediation, the Iranian Ambassador to Indonesia, Muhammad Borujerdi, expressed appreciation but signaled [skepticism regarding further talks](#) with the US, citing repeated violations of trust. Concurrently, opposition figures like Jusuf Kalla suggest Indonesia's [economic dependence on the US](#) may undermine its neutrality.

**Domestic Stability & Social Order** In Indonesia, the war coincided with Ramadan, prompting religious leaders to link the concept of [leadership with prayer and integrity](#). However, domestic governance is under fire for a lack of "empathy" after reports emerged of the East Kalimantan Governor [purchasing a luxury car](#) for Rp 8.5 billion during the crisis. Public pressure has forced the [return of the vehicle](#) to the state treasury.

**Labor & Industry** The Indonesian government is moving to protect consumer purchasing power ahead of Eid al-Fitr. The Ministry of Manpower issued a circular mandating the full payment of [Holiday Bonuses \(THR\)](#) for civil servants and private

sector workers. Notably, for the first time, [gig economy workers](#) (Ojek Online) and couriers are slated to receive bonuses through applicator companies like GoTo and Grab.

## LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

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Legislative activity in both the US and Indonesia is currently dictated by the emergency requirements of the conflict and the seasonal pressures of Ramadan. US lawmakers are specifically targeting the President's ability to sustain the war without congressional oversight, while Indonesian legislators focus on administrative accountability and labor rights.

- **BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:**

- **US War Powers Act Amendment:** The US Congress is scheduling a vote to [limit Trump's authority](#) to conduct military operations against Iran without prior approval.
- **Indonesian Law on Protection of Witnesses and Victims:** Discussions regarding the [revision of this law](#) are ongoing, spurred by high-profile cases of intimidation against whistleblowers.

- **HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:**

- **Ministry of Manpower THR Briefing:** Minister Yassierli announced a [Rp 124 trillion stimulus](#) for holiday bonuses to boost national consumption during the war-induced economic downturn.
- **DPR Commission II Session:** Focused on the [welfare of honorary teachers](#), demanding a mapping of authority between central and regional governments to resolve long-standing budget disputes.
- **Succession Briefing in Tehran:** Iranian authorities confirmed they would follow the [constitutional mechanism](#) for replacing the Supreme Leader, aiming for national stability.

## DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

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**The End of Strategic Ambiguity** The assassination of Khamenei marks a transition from decades of proxy warfare to [open, direct conflict](#). The calculated targeting of a sovereign leader by the US and Israel has removed previous escalatory inhibitors. Iran's response suggests it is prepared for a "long-term war" [targeting US global hegemony](#) rather than just regional containment. This is evidenced by the targeting of global logistical hubs and Western commercial infrastructure (e.g., Amazon data centers).

**Ramadan as a Conflict Variable** The timing of the strikes during the Islamic holy month has been leveraged by Iran for [ideological mobilization](#). Iranian diplomats have condemned the US for "disrespecting Ramadan" [by killing children](#) in school strikes. This narrative is intended to galvanize the broader Muslim world, making it difficult for neutral states like Saudi Arabia and the UAE

to maintain their security cooperation with the US without facing domestic backlash.

**Economic "Butterfly Effect"** The conflict illustrates the extreme sensitivity of the Indonesian economy to Middle Eastern shocks. Despite the distance, the [closure of a 3km-wide shipping lane](#) is directly impacting Indonesian Umrah travel and domestic food prices. The Indonesian government's attempt to counter this through [cash transfers and market interventions](#) (Pangan Murah) highlights a state in high-alert defensive economic mode.

## **STRATEGIC FORESIGHT**

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**Short Term (1-4 Weeks):** Global oil markets will remain extremely volatile as the Hormuz blockade is tested. Expect [intensified gold price surges](#) as investors flee to safe havens. The US Congress vote on the War Powers Act could create a constitutional crisis if Trump ignores a restrictive vote. In Indonesia, the primary risk is a [logistical logjam](#) as airlines struggle to reroute thousands of pilgrims.

**Medium Term (1-6 Months):** Iran will likely finalize its [leadership transition](#), with a "hardliner" successor almost certain to be chosen to maintain military morale. If the Strait remains closed, global supply chains for semiconductors and energy-dependent manufacturing will begin to break down. Indonesia may be forced to [raise subsidized fuel prices](#), potentially sparking domestic civil unrest.

**Long Term (1-5 Years):** This conflict could lead to a permanent fracturing of the Middle East security architecture. The US may face [irreversible damage](#) to its influence in the Gulf if its bases continue to be vulnerable to drone swarms. For Indonesia, this crisis serves as a catalyst for [energy sovereignty](#),

potentially accelerating the transition to biodiesel and domestic renewables as outlined by major energy firms.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS**

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### **For International Policy:**

- Support efforts to establish [neutral mediation channels](#), as direct US-Iran communication is currently non-existent.
- Prioritize the protection of [international shipping lanes](#) outside the Gulf to prevent the contagion of maritime insecurity to the Malacca Strait.
- Prepare for a [massive surge in refugee flows](#) and humanitarian needs from Iran and neighboring states.

### **For Private Sector/Investors:**

- **Supply Chain Hedging:** Companies reliant on Gulf-based energy or logistics should [immediately secure alternative routes](#) through land-based pipelines or Western-hemisphere sources.
- **Commodity Exposure:** Anticipate a prolonged [high-price environment](#) for gold and oil; industrial players should brace for "imported inflation" impacting production costs.
- **Cybersecurity Resilience:** Given the strikes on [Amazon data centers](#), firms must audit their cloud dependency and geographic redundancy to protect against kinetic strikes on digital infrastructure.

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

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**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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