

TODAY'S MEDIA TRENDS

CTV

MARCH 11, 2026

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

GLOBAL SHIFT: US IRAN VICTORY, ENERGY CRISIS & TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR U-TURN (MARCH 2026)

US-IRAN WAR & MUNITIONS STRAIN (OPERATION EPIC FURY)



IRAN'S MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE NEUTRALIZED IN 11 DAYS



US PATRIOT MISSILES: 1 YEAR'S SUPPLY CONSUMED IN 1 WEEK



STRATEGIC ASSET REDIRECTION FROM ASIA (PACIFIC VULNERABILITY)



TAIWAN'S POLITICAL & SOCIAL LANDSCAPE



KMT LEGAL VICTORY: "ILL-GOTTEN ASSETS" ORDER OVERTURNED

MAYORAL RACE



Li Sichuan vs DPP rival

NEW TAIPEI CITY MAYORAL RACE: LAWFARE & OPPOSITION CONSOLIDATION

TAIWAN'S ENERGY REVERSAL: FROM "NUCLEAR-FREE" TO "NUCLEAR-NECESSITY"



OIL HITS \$200/BARREL; LNG DISRUPTION

11 DAYS OF LNG RESERVES EXPOSED; DPP DISCUSSES RESTARTING NUCLEAR PLANT 3 BY 2028



AVIATION INDUSTRY CRACKDOWN: AI-GENERATED RESUMES BANNED

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT & IMPLICATIONS (TRENDS & RECOMMENDATIONS)

SHORT TERM (1-4 WEEKS)

FUEL PRICE SURGE, US-TAIWAN TENSION ON ARMS DELAYS

MEDIUM TERM (1-6 MONTHS)

NUCLEAR EXTENSION LAWS, ALLIES BOOST OWN PRODUCTION

LONG TERM (1-5 YEARS)

"NUCLEAR-PLUS" GRID, US "ISOLATIONIST-LITE" SHIFT, CHINA OBSERVES FRAGILITY

DIVERSIFY ENERGY RESERVES

AUDIT INDO-PACIFIC DETERRENCE

SHIFT TO MUNITIONS "WAR FOOTING" PRODUCTION

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THE UNITED STATES DECLARES A SWIFT VICTORY IN IRAN AMID A GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS AND A FORCED REVERSAL OF TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY.

DAY-AT-A-GLANCE

March 11, 2026, marks a pivotal shift in global security and energy dynamics as U.S. President Donald Trump announced the successful conclusion of "Operation Epic Fury," claiming the near-total destruction of Iran's military infrastructure within 11 days. While the administration touts a decisive victory, the conflict has exposed a severe crisis in Western munitions stockpiles, with the U.S. reportedly consuming a year's worth of Patriot missiles in a single week. This logistical strain has necessitated the redirection of strategic assets from East Asia to the Middle East, raising concerns about a security vacuum in the Pacific and the potential delay of critical hardware deliveries to Taiwan, such as the MQ-9B drones.

Domestically, Taiwan is grappling with the immediate economic fallout of the conflict. The disruption of LNG supplies from Qatar and the prospect of oil prices hitting \$200 per

barrel have forced the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) into a dramatic policy U-turn. After years of pursuing a "Nuclear-Free Homeland," the government is now discussing the restart of the Third Nuclear Power Plant by 2028 to ensure energy security. This shift occurs alongside a major legal victory for the Kuomintang (KMT) regarding "ill-gotten assets" and the formal entry of Deputy Mayor Li Sichuan into the New Taipei City mayoral race, signaling a consolidation of opposition forces ahead of future elections.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

- **Operation Epic Fury and U.S. Munitions Depletion:** President Trump has declared victory over Iran, stating that the regime's air force, radar, and 90% of its missile capabilities have been neutralized [within 11 days](#). However, the intensity of the campaign has depleted U.S. inventories, with 800 Patriot missiles fired in a week, exceeding [total annual production](#).
- **Taiwan's Nuclear Energy Reversal:** Facing a 1.5-fold increase in Asian LNG prices and a suspension of Qatari exports, Economic Minister Kung Ming-hsin indicated that [restarting Nuclear Plant 3](#) is now a viable necessity, effectively ending the "2025 Nuclear-Free" mandate [due to energy fragility](#).
- **Redirection of Strategic Assets:** To sustain Middle East operations, the U.S. is reportedly drawing Patriot and THAAD systems from [South Korea and Japan](#), leading to fears of weakened deterrence against China [in the Indo-Pacific](#).

- **KMT Legal and Political Resurgence:** The Supreme Administrative Court ruled in favor of the KMT, overturning an 1.1 billion TWD [asset seizure order](#). Simultaneously, Li Sichuan has accepted the [KMT nomination](#) for the New Taipei City mayoral race, immediately drawing fire from pro-DPP media [regarding past controversies](#).
- **Aviation Industry AI Crackdown:** China Airlines (CAL) has implemented a strict policy disqualifying any job applicants found using [AI-generated resumes](#), citing concerns over authenticity and [candidate screening integrity](#).

KEY GOVERNANCE TOPICS

Energy Security & Policy Pivot The vulnerability of Taiwan's energy structure has been laid bare by the Middle East conflict. With only 11 days of [LNG reserves](#), the government is under immense pressure to abandon ideological opposition to nuclear power. Critics point out that the DPP's previous decision to [decommission plants](#) has left the island susceptible to price shocks and supply chain disruptions, especially as TSMC is expected to consume [12% of total national power](#) by 2030. The European Union's recent classification of nuclear power as a "strategic error" to reduce has further [emboldened the pro-nuclear shift](#).

National Security & Defense Logistics The U.S. military's reliance on "cannibalizing" Pacific defenses to support the Iran conflict is a major strategic concern. Reports indicate that munitions destined for Taiwan, including the [MQ-9B drones](#), may be delayed as the U.S. prioritizes its own [active combat needs](#). Furthermore, the U.S. has reportedly asked Ukraine to provide drones to [intercept Iranian suicide drones](#), signaling a desperate search for low-cost solutions to high-volume threats.

Elite Politics & Leadership Dynamics In Taiwan, the recruitment of Li Sichuan for New Taipei City represents a high-stakes move by the KMT to retain its most significant municipal stronghold. Li's entry has triggered immediate "lawfare" and media attacks, including the revival of a [years-old case](#) involving his brother. Meanwhile, internal DPP friction is surfacing, with "Green" influencers like "486 Mr." drawing criticism for publicizing [private flights](#) from military airports, which some view as a [violation of national security protocols](#).

Labor & Industry Trends The aviation industry's ban on AI-generated resumes marks a significant pushback against the "AI wave" in recruitment. Airlines argue that AI-assisted applications prevent the [accurate assessment](#) of a candidate's true capabilities. Additionally, labor disputes continue to plague the medical supplies sector, with companies offering [100 million TWD rewards](#) to clarify "discrepancies" in strike voting numbers [reported by unions](#).

Domestic Stability & Health Public concern is rising over the safety of critical infrastructure following reports of [malfunctioning electronic smart locks](#) that opened spontaneously at night. Furthermore, a new international study has highlighted significant [cancer risks](#) for residents living within 30km of nuclear plants, complicating the political push to [restart decommissioned reactors](#).

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Legislative activity centered on emergency energy measures and the ongoing "Special Budget" for military acquisitions. Opposition lawmakers are leveraging the energy crisis to

demand a formal apology from the President regarding past [energy policy failures](#).

BILLS DISCUSSED/DEBATED:

- **Nuclear Plant Extension Proposal:** Legislation to allow the immediate [safety review and extension](#) of Nuclear Plants 2 and 3, bypassing the previous "decommissioning" schedule.
- **Special Defense Budget (1.25 Trillion TWD):** Debate continues over the [transparency of payments](#) to the U.S., with opposition members seeking to halt payments for [undelivered weapons](#).
- **Elderly Welfare Act Amendments:** Proposals to mandate "senior-friendly" features on high-speed rail, such as [automatic lower-berth assignments](#) and dedicated waiting rooms, modeled after systems [in mainland China](#).

HEARINGS & PRESS EVENTS:

- **Ministry of Economic Affairs Briefing:** Minister Kung Ming-hsin addressed the [fragility of the LNG supply chain](#) and the necessity of "energy resilience" through nuclear power.
- **KMT Asset Committee Presser:** The KMT celebrated a [Supreme Administrative Court victory](#) against the Ill-Gotten Asset Settlement Committee.
- **Aviation Recruitment Forum:** Industry leaders detailed the [ban on AI tools](#) in the hiring process for pilots and cabin crew.

DEEP DIVE: TRENDS AND THEMES

The End of Post-Cold War Munitions Assumptions The US-Iran war has shattered the assumption that Western industrial bases

can support high-intensity modern warfare without long-term preparation. The fact that the U.S. is "cannibalizing" Pacific defenses—pulling THAAD from South Korea and [Patriots from Japan](#)—suggests that U.S. military hegemony is entering a "decline phase" where it must "rob Peter to pay Paul" [to maintain active fronts](#). This creates a significant "window of opportunity" for regional adversaries in the Indo-Pacific who are observing these [logistical bottlenecks](#).

Energy Realism vs. Green Ideology The rapid shift toward nuclear energy in Taiwan, mirrored by recent [declarations from the EU](#), suggests a global trend where "Energy Realism" is superseding "Green Ideology." The threat of an [LNG "blockade"](#) or price surge has proven to be a more effective catalyst for policy change than decades of climate advocacy. However, this shift faces significant "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY) challenges, as the question of [nuclear waste disposal](#) remains unresolved and politically toxic.

The Weaponization of Information and "Lawfare" The entry of Li Sichuan into the mayoral race was met with an immediate, coordinated media strike involving [historical family legal issues](#). This reflects a broader trend in Taiwanese politics where "Lawfare" and investigative journalism are used as [pre-emptive tactical strikes](#) to damage candidates before a campaign even officially begins. Similar tactics are seen in the U.S., where Trump's "victory" narrative is being used to [consolidate domestic support](#) ahead of mid-term elections.

STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

Short Term (1-4 Weeks): Expect a surge in domestic fuel and electricity prices in Taiwan as "dual-track" price adjustments [fail to](#)

[absorb global costs](#). There will likely be increased diplomatic tension between Taipei and Washington over [delayed weapon shipments](#) (MQ-9B, F-16V). Civil unrest may spike in Iran if the U.S. claims of "military destruction" [do not result in regime collapse](#), as currently, there are no signs of a popular uprising.

Medium Term (1-6 Months): The Taiwan government will likely fast-track legislation to [extend the lifespan](#) of Nuclear Plant 3. Japan and South Korea may seek to increase their own independent munitions production, fearing that U.S. [stockpile redirection](#) is a long-term trend rather than a temporary anomaly. In the aviation sector, more companies may follow CAL's lead in [banning AI-assisted applications](#).

Long Term (1-5 Years): A permanent restructuring of Taiwan's energy grid is inevitable, with a likely "Nuclear-Plus" strategy replacing the "Nuclear-Free" goal. U.S. military strategy may pivot toward a "Fortress America" or "Isolationist-Lite" stance if the [financial and logistical costs](#) of Middle East intervention continue to drain the treasury at \$200M+ per carrier group [per day](#). Regional power dynamics in the Pacific will shift as China observes U.S. [munitions fragility](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLICATIONS

For International Policy:

- **Strategic Reserve Diversification:** Nations must move beyond 11-day [energy reserves](#) and consider multi-source fuel contracts to survive localized kinetic conflicts.

- **Indo-Pacific Deterrence Audit:** The redirection of THAAD and Patriot systems [from Korea/Japan](#) necessitates an immediate audit of Pacific deterrence capabilities to prevent opportunistic escalation.
- **Munitions Industrial Policy:** The West must shift to a ["war footing" for munitions production](#) to replenish stockpiles that can no longer meet the demands of modern attrition warfare.

For Private Sector/Investors:

- **Energy Investment Pivot:** Investors should pivot from pure-play "Green" energy toward [nuclear supply chains](#) and "Energy Resilience" technologies as governments prioritize security over emissions.
- **Supply Chain Vulnerability (Defense):** Companies relying on military-grade components or U.S. defense exports should [hedge against significant delays](#) as active war zones consume production priority.
- **AI Recruitment Risk:** The aviation industry's [ban on AI resumes](#) suggests a growing regulatory and corporate risk for HR-tech companies; human-centric verification will command a premium.

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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